The Sun.

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 18, 1888.

Election Predictions.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Globe*, ciphers out the probable result of the election, and delivers its judgment in the form of a table, as follows:

CLEVELAND.		HARRISON.	
Alabama	10	California	6
Arkansas	7	Colorado	3
Delaware	3	Illinois	22
Florida	4	Iowa	13
Georgia	12	Kansas	9
Kentucky	13	Maine	6
Louisiana	8	Massachusetts	14
Maryland	8	Michigan	15
Mississippi	9	Minnesota	7
Missouri	16	Nebraska	5
North Carolina	11	Nevada	3
South Carolina	9	New Hampshire	4
Tennessee	12	Ohio	23
Texas	13	Oregon	3
Virginia	12	Pennsylvania	30
West Virginia	6	Rhode Island	4
New York	36	Vermont	4
New Jersey	9	Wisconsin	11
Connecticut	6		
Indiana	15	Total	182
Total	219		

Another Democratic journal, more orthodox if possible than our Massachusetts contemporary, also proclaims its view upon this interesting subject. We refer to the *Atlanta Constitution*, one of the most intelligent and thoroughgoing Democratic organs of the Southern States; and its conclusions we subjoin in its own language:

"The South, New York, and New Jersey are for CLEVELAND and THURMAN. We consider New York and New Jersey as safe as Virginia or North Carolina.

"The electoral vote will stand on this basis: For CLEVELAND, the South, 153; New York, 36; New Jersey, 9; total, 198. Necessary to an election, 201. The assured CLEVELAND States therefore leave him 3 votes short of a majority. The 3 needed votes he will get from either Indiana, Connecticut, or Michigan.

"We have great faith in Indiana, less faith in Connecticut, and still less in Michigan. The Democrats have an immense advantage in this. They need only one of the three doubtful States, while the Republicans need them all. The Democrats can concentrate on either of the three, and win if they capture that one. The Republicans must fight for all three of the States, and will lose unless they capture all three.

"We consider New York safe, because it is an overwhelmingly Democratic State. A dozen causes of Democratic defection and disaffection combined to cut CLEVELAND'S vote and increase BLAINE'S vote in 1884. Not one of these causes exists to-day. The Democracy is united on CLEVELAND and on HILL, and the fight over local candidates will only serve to bring out a fuller vote. A full vote in New York city and Brooklyn means a big Democratic majority. The registration points to a very full vote, and the best judges look for a Democratic majority below Harlem River of 80,000."

While we study with extreme interest these expressions from sources so worthy of respect and so remote from each other, we are bound to say that the reasoning upon which they are founded does not altogether convince us. For instance, the *Atlanta Constitution* considers New York safe, because "it is an overwhelmingly Democratic State." Now this position will not bear analysis. It is not possible to say that New York has been overwhelmingly Democratic in a square party contest since the election of Mr. TILDEN in 1876, when he carried the State by a majority of 32,742 over his Republican competitor and by a majority of 28,496 over all.

It is true that in 1882 CLEVELAND and HILL swept this State by nearly 200,000 majority over the Republican candidates, but this was due rather to Republican revolt than to Democratic superiority. Since then there has been no majority at all in New York. Mr. CLEVELAND carried it in 1884 by a plurality of 1,047, and Governor HILL has since carried it by a plurality of less than 12,000; but neither of them has had a majority. These facts show that New York is very uncertain, and that it is impossible to count with confidence upon the way it will vote.

Still we give place with pleasure to the confident predictions of our friends in other States. May the events show them to be not the exaggerations of excited hope, but the solid judgment of well-informed and unerring intelligence!

The Boldest of the Surplus Cipherers.

With the fatuous zeal of a superserviceable subordinate, Assistant Secretary HUGH S. THOMPSON goes dollars to Mr. FAIRCHILD'S doughnuts in figuring on paper an enormous surplus for the present year. We print elsewhere Mr. THOMPSON'S statement of the financial situation, as he chooses to view it. It is a curiosity worth preserving for future reference.

Secretary FAIRCHILD is now content with a prediction that the surplus revenue of the year will be "much nearer $56,469,206 than $25,000,000"—in other words, much over $40,000,000. But Mr. THOMPSON of South Carolina takes Mr. FAIRCHILD'S $56,469,206 and doubles it. He piles on unexpended appropriations amounting to "at least $37,000,000," adds all of the deficiency appropriations of the present year, amounting to $19,000,000, tacks on some $6,000,000 of the regular appropriations which he believes will be covered into the Treasury at the end of the year, and, on top of all, wonderful to relate, superimposes the whole of the $48,000,000 sinking fund appropriation required by law!

Such a figure-juggling performance, with its obvious intention to deceive, hardly requires serious treatment. In point of dishonesty it is on a level with any prospectus or annual statement ever issued by any fraudulent railroad corporation or wildcat mining company. In point of assurance it rivals the efforts of those free trade editors and orators who still insist, on the stump and in type, that this Government is wringing from the taxpayers from $135,000,000 to $150,000,000 annually in excess of the nation's expenditures. For Mr. THOMPSON deliberately invents for campaign purposes a new and perverted method of computing surplus, as when he includes the sinking fund appropriation; he deliberately ignores facts which would tell against his total, such as the fact that the annual aggregate of actual expenditures exceeds by many millions the annual aggregate of appropriations, as we showed in detail yesterday; and he deliberately misrepresents known facts, as when he seeks to explain away the falling off in the first quarter's revenue as a "decrease not more than usual during the few months immediately preceding a Presidential election," and which "may be more than made up by increased receipts during the remainder of the year."

In the Presidential year 1884 the ordinary receipts for the first quarter were $91,719,145; and for the whole fiscal year 1885 they were $323,690,706. The ratio of the first quarter's revenue to that of the year was 27.5 per cent.

In the Presidential year 1880 the ordinary receipts for the first quarter were $97,889,239; and for the whole fiscal year 1881 they were $360,782,292. The ratio of the first quarter to the year was 27 per cent.

In the Presidential year 1876 the ordinary receipts for the first quarter were $73,110,524; and for the whole fiscal year 1877 they were $269,000,586. The ratio of the first quarter to the year was over 27 per cent.

In the Presidential year 1872 the ordinary receipts for the first quarter were $98,388,397; and for the whole fiscal year 1873 they were $322,177,673. The ratio of the first quarter to the whole year was over 30 per cent.

This shows what ground there is for believing that the decrease in the first quarter will be "more than made up by increased receipts during the remainder of the year."

In the Presidential year 1888 the receipts for the first quarter are $97,526,252. The average ratio of the four preceding Presidential years applied to this year indicates a revenue of $350,000,000 instead of the $383,000,000 which Mr. FAIRCHILD assumes, and on which that Southern free trade sympathizer Assistant Secretary THOMPSON proceeds in his superserviceable zeal to construct on paper an artificial surplus to mislead our legislators and to produce unfounded apprehensions of financial convulsion and widespread disaster.

This Mr. THOMPSON of South Carolina is not worthy to hold an office of public trust.

Republican Disasters and Delusions.

The Republicans of the city of New York have had a rather mournful experience in their repeated efforts to elect county candidates in contests where the forces of the Democracy were divided. It is one of the traditions of our municipal politics, which commends itself most easily to the sanguine, the zealous, and the uninformed, that in a factional fight in this city a Republican running on a county ticket can slip into some municipal office which, without such Democratic division, he would stand no chance of gaining. The falsity of this tradition has been repeatedly proved, and it is also overthrown by two considerations of which the Republican district leaders seem entirely oblivious.

The first of these is that the normal Republican vote in this county is less, and has always been less, than one-third of the total vote cast; and, therefore, it can never constitute a plurality in any contest where three candidates are running, unless the Republican candidate should receive a considerable Democratic support. The second consideration is that, however bitter the fight may be between two Democratic factions, the vote between the two is never divided just equally, and what the candidate of one side falls short of getting in such a division, goes to make up the plurality of the other Democrat over the Republican. Thus in an ordinary municipal election, if 210,000 votes should be cast, 70,000 of them would commonly be Republican against 140,000 Democratic. But with two Democrats running, one of them is certain to get more votes than the other, and if the difference were but 5,000, this would be the result: First Democrat, 75,000; Republican, 70,000; second Democrat, 65,000. This computation makes no allowance for the fact that two Democrats being candidates draw naturally from their opponents twice as many votes as one Republican running for the same office will draw from the Democratic side, and it does not take into account the repeatedly proved unwillingness of Republicans in this town to follow the leadership of their party in local affairs.

In the triangular contest of 1874, the head of the Republican State ticket received 44,908 votes in this city, while the head of the Republican county ticket received for Mayor 36,953, or nearly 8,000 less.

In the triangular contest of 1879, the test candidate on the Republican State ticket, the Lieutenant-Governor (there were two Democratic candidates for Governor that year, ROBINSON and KELLY), received in this city 50,041 votes. The Republican candidate for Sheriff received but 48,089, and the Republican candidate for County Clerk but 45,852. Both were beaten, and the latter was third in the triangular fight.

In the triangular contest of 1881, the head of the Republican State ticket received 55,225 votes. The head of the Republican county ticket received but 52,113. The strength of the three organizations was brought out on the Coroner, where the Republican candidate received 48,049. This was 7,000 less than the State ticket had, though had he been able to hold that vote, he would have won, the successful Democrat getting but 51,465.

There was a triangular contest in 1882 on County Clerk, and in it the Republican nominee came out third, getting 38,930 votes, against 47,785 votes for the head of the Republican State ticket, or nearly 9,000 less. In the year following, 1883, the Republicans were again beaten, their county candidates running from 2,000 to 14,000 behind the head of the Republican State ticket.

Despite these repeated discouragements and reverses, the Republicans ran a straight ticket in the triangular municipal fight of 1884. The result of it was that the Republican Mayoralty candidate was 35,709 votes behind the national ticket. The Republican candidate for Comptroller was 26,946 votes behind, the Republican candidate for President of the Board of Aldermen 27,549 votes behind, the Republican candidate for District Attorney 23,652 votes behind, and the Republican candidate for Coroner 28,472 votes behind. Every man on the Republican ticket was badly beaten.

Notwithstanding this overthrow of their fondest political hopes, the Republicans reappeared in 1885 with a straightout county ticket. It met with a similar disaster. The head of it, Mr. JOHN W. JACOBUS, who is again a candidate for the same office, that of Sheriff, received 65,506, against 75,364 for the head of the Republican State ticket, or nearly 10,000 votes less. Had he been able to hold the full vote of his party, he would have been elected, for the Republican State ticket received 1,213 more votes than did HUGH J. GRANT, the successful candidate. The Republican candidates for County Clerk, for President of the Board of Aldermen, and for Justices of the City Court and of the Court of Common Pleas, were beaten at the same time.

This crushing defeat, following the disasters which had preceded it, did not deter the Republicans from again seeking to win in a triangular fight. They once more challenged the Democracy in 1886. It proved a most unfortunate year for Republican prospects. The head of the Republican State ticket received in this city 78,986 votes, and the head of their county ticket, the candidate for Mayor, had but 60,435, or 18,551 less. The Republican nominee for Register was beaten by a plurality of 11,386, the Republican candidate for President of the Board of Alderman by 24,507, and the nominee for Judge of the Superior Court by 26,764.

Notwithstanding these bitter lessons, the leaders of the Grand Old Party in the city of New York have not yet learned what is entirely manifest to every one else. They have again put up a county ticket, abundantly supplied with Majors and Colonels, and having on it a number of good fellows who are entitled to something better than political slaughter. The fond basis of all the present Republican dreams is the fact that in the year 1872, sixteen years ago, a Republican Mayor of this town is said to have been elected through the divisions of the Democracy. It may seem harsh to overturn a tradition which has been accepted, uncomplainingly, for sixteen years, but the fact is that the gentleman who won in that contest was a Democrat of the old-fashioned, primeval school, WILLIAM F. HAVEMEYER, to whom all Republican notions were abhorrent, but who was supported by the members of that party, after he had been formally put in nomination by a Citizens' organization made up chiefly of Democrats.

The full knowledge and appreciation of this circumstance will, however, have no effect on the eglantine patriots who lead the Republican forces in this town. They will go on nominating straight tickets and losing local elections, and every one but the candidates will be happy while it lasts.

"Hope tells a flattering tale,
Delusive, vain, and hollow:
Ah, let not hope prevail,
Lest disappointment follow!"

A Mysterious Death.

The murders which occur among the Italians of New York are commonly committed with the knife, and they are usually the most mysterious of the crimes with which police, juries, and courts have to deal. The motive of the crime is evidently revenge, in the great majority of the cases, and the murderous assault is often made by a man who seems to be an agent of some secret society, while dread of the vengeance of the band shuts the mouths of the witnesses. Even the victim of such an assault who survives his injuries, may assist in shielding the criminal because of that fear.

The mystery which surrounds the death of ANTONIO FLACCOMIO on Sunday night is therefore not at all extraordinary, since he was an Italian of an irregular life, with all his associations with Italians, and some of them, unquestionably, of the class among whom crimes of violence are proportionately numerous. It seems that at about 9 o'clock on Sunday night FLACCOMIO and a companion, apparently an Italian also, were passing in front of the Cooper Union, and were engaged in an animated conversation, gesticulating freely. But their apparent excitement indicated nothing, since Italians who are on the best of terms may give the impression to a northern observer that they are quarrelling. As to whether there was any actual quarrel the witnesses of the affair differ totally. WILLIAM GARRITY speaks of having seen the two men scuffling, but ALBERT WEBER, the other witness, says that though FLACCOMIO had a big kitchen knife in his hand, he did not use it threateningly, and that the two men were arm-in-arm and friendly, to all appearances. According to both witnesses, FLACCOMIC suddenly staggered and sat down, his companion having walked rapidly away just before. The knife, which was found near the feet of the dead man, had apparently been the instrument which caused his death, and it seems to be identified as a carving knife belonging to an Italian restaurant in St. Mark's place kept by two Italians, named SABATINO and CANIZARRO.

Accordingly the police arrested these two men on Monday morning, together with a waiter in their employ named SCHEGGO. They all acknowledged that FLACCOMIO had been in the restaurant on Sunday evening from about seven to half past eight or a quarter to nine. The two proprietors were very chary in their testimony, but SCHEGGO related that after having drunk wine in company, FLACCOMIO and SABATINO went out together, and shortly after other Italians who were in the restaurant left also. SABATINO denied that he went with FLACCOMIO, declaring that he passed out of the back door alone and proceeded directly to his home. Another Italian, named AITA, was also arrested because of his having been in the restaurant on Sunday night, but no clue to the mystery was obtained from him.

On the same Sunday night, at a quarter before ten, two Italians went to a Bowery hotel to engage for one a room, in which he was found dead the next morning, asphyxiated by gas, which he had turned on, apparently, for the purpose of killing himself. His name was VINCENZO CARASELLA. This incident may have no relation whatever to the death of FLACCOMIO, but it is suggestive, and tends to increase the mystery of the whole affair. There is also another very remarkable feature of the case. It seems that in 1884 FLACCOMIO had killed CARMILIO FERRACH at Staten Island. The two had been partners in business, but had separated, and FLACCOMIO had been very bitter in consequence. He was discharged for the lack of evidence, and afterward declared to FERRACH'S brother that the killing was done in a duel. It was naturally suspected, therefore, that this brother, RAIMON FERRACH, might have revenged himself on FLACCOMIO, but a reporter of THE SUN, who has seen him on the subject, finds that apparently there is no ground for the suspicion. It was said that he had threatened FLACCOMIO with vengeance, but, according to him, it was only the vengeance of heaven. RAIMON FERRACH, too, was at home on Sunday evening. No solution of the mystery, therefore, is to be had from that source. Neither has the companion of FLACCOMIO, seen by GARRITY and WEBER, yet been found and indentified.

These, in brief, are the facts of the case, so far as the police have discovered. Whether they point to a murder or a suicide the reader can judge for himself. There is, as yet, nothing like a satisfactory explanation of the affair, though it unquestionably bears in some respects a general likeness to the mysterious assaults and murders which occur among Italians. A remarkable thing about the killing was that it took place at a comparatively early hour in the evening in a frequented thoroughfare, and under the bright illumination of the electric light.

The Decisive Point.

The most notable characteristic of JACK BUNSBY was his ability to rivet his gaze on points of the extremest distance in the horizon, while remaining absolutely oblivious to what was going on in his immediate neighborhood. This peculiarity of that nautical philosopher seems to be possessed by some landsmen who are politicians. A busy and even acrimonious dispute is going on among them now as to the probable size of the Democratic majority in the State of New Jersey this year. Some say that it will reach 10,000, against 4,412 given Mr. CLEVELAND in 1884. Others persist in declaring that the Democratic majority will now be less than 5,000; and each side is enforcing and seeking to sustain its position by arguments the most weighty, and by appeals to corroborative evidence the most voluminous. It does not seem to us that it makes a very great difference whether the majority of CLEVELAND and THURMAN be 5,000 in New Jersey or 10,000. If the Democrats win the State, which they will not do by arguing over majorities, and secure its nine electoral votes, that will be all that is necessary.

Similar controversies are in progress regarding the prospective reduction of the Republican majorities in Minnesota, Pennsylvania, Iowa, Michigan, Rhode Island, and Kansas. Whether each of these States gives 5,000 or 50,000 majority for Gen. HARRISON makes no difference so long as the electoral vote of it be lost to the Democracy. The State which we are most concerned in carrying is the great Empire State of New York, with its enormous shifting vote, its vast influence on the politics of adjacent States, and its thirty-six electors, whose vote, cast solidly for one or the other candidate, will determine, as in 1880 and in 1884, who is to be President of the United States.

An evidently impartial correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the *Herald*, has put himself on record as declaring that HARRISON will come down to the Harlem Bridge with a majority of 70,000. This is substantially what the best-informed Republicans claim, and what the less enthusiastic Democrats concede. It would not indicate any surprising revolution of sentiment, for in the same territory both BLAINE and GARFIELD had very nearly the same amount of majority. The question of the canvass is to what extent, and by how much, this Republican preponderance will be offset by the vote which the city of New York and the city of Brooklyn will give to the Democratic candidates. The result will be determined by the declaration of the Democrats of the city of New York, and upon them now, as in previous contests, falls the burden of deciding.

What will the harvest be? Will the Democrats of this metropolis, standing shoulder to shoulder, and meeting the common enemy face to face, attack and overthrow the Republicans, by a majority as decisive as it is overwhelming? Or will they fall short of this? This is something which will depend very much on the labors of the next ten days—labors which can be expended nowhere to better advantage than in this town. We need no BUNSBYS. The battle is now at short range.

All the teetotal orators now in the field against alcohol are at liberty to hold up the example of Governor HILL as that of a man who practises the principle about which they speechify. They can pour out oceans of eloquence on the subject. They can set him in contrast with other candidates who linger over the cup. They can show his firmness in resisting every temptation. They can hold him up as an illustration of uniform sobriety. They can sing pæans in his honor as a man whom even the promise of votes cannot allure from the path of total abstinence. After doing so, they cannot fail to urge their hearers to unite in supporting a candidate whose living example must command their undivided admiration.

The Presbyterian Synod of South Carolina has taken decided ground against the gag law of the Charleston Presbytery, by which all debate upon the scientific question of evolution was prohibited. The State Synod declares that any restraint upon the freedom of opinion respecting that subject would be unwise, and this judgment was sustained by an overwhelming majority of the ministers and elders in the Synod. The Presbyterians of South Carolina who believe in evolution will not hereafter be subject to ecclesiastical discipline or regarded as enemies of the Bible, and it is to be presumed that the Rev. Dr. WOODROW will be reinstated in the professorship from which he was expelled on account of his scientific speculations. This marked victory for the evolutionists will doubtless lead to warm debate in the Presbyterian denomination everywhere, and the advance ground that has been taken by the South Carolina Synod will not be allowed to pass without challenge at the next meeting of the Southern General Assembly. At present, the Presbyterians of the Palmetto State are in the van of scientific progress in the Presbyterian Church.

The *Baltimore American* declares that Col. HENRY WATTERSON is the most picturesque of all the orators who advocate the election of CLEVELAND and THURMAN. This is true; and when the fight is won, no one will deserve a more cordial recognition from the President, whose election he has done so much to secure.

The discussion about the poem, "What My Lover Said," continues actively in the public press, and the *Scranton Truth*, in a little article which we reproduce this morning, treats Mrs. JONES with great roughness, and asserts the authorship of Mr. GREENE in a positive and dogmatic style. But our Scranton contemporary does not equal in argument the aggressiveness of its attack, for when it says that Mr. GREENE'S "claim has been corroborated by other effusions from his pen," we suggest that no such proof can be admitted in the premises. If Mr. GREENE composed the poem, let him show it by evidence which cannot be questioned; but until that is done his right must remain in doubt.

With regard to the authorship of Col. REALF, the *Post-Express* has something to say to the effect that he "was a man of genius, but an unscrupulous liar and adventurer, with a strong turn for bigamy as well as poetry." The same journal adds that REALF lived in Rochester for a time, and killed himself at Oakland in 1878.

Meanwhile, Mrs. JONES has not been heard from; but we imagine that when she comes forward her reply will be in the nature of a sockdolager. She seems to have the best of the case so far.

The French papers are still full of discussions in regard to the dreaded violation of Belgian neutrality by Germany, which was recently the subject of a long article in the *Nouvelle Revue*. The *Radical* prints a communication from a staff officer in the French army, in which he says: "The plains of Waterloo and Fleurens will see new struggles, but it is not there that our fate will be decided. Notwithstanding the superiority of her forces, Germany could not have the preponderance of numbers at the central point of Namur, in the fourth to the sixth day of mobilization. In this interval, should Germany invade Belgium, in which case we would have the right to do the same, she would run the risk of having the heads of her columns crushed by superior French forces. Beyond these two serious reasons there is a third that we cannot mention, but which inclines us to the belief that the principal effort of the German masses will not be on the Meuse, at least during the first eight days of the struggle."

Judging by the French newspapers it seems that the Germans are thinking of what they are going to do, while the French are considering what is going to happen to them: and this looks bad for the latter from a military and pugnacious point of view.

We are sorry to be obliged to report that our distinguished neighbor, the *New York Times*, does not appear to be taking any steps toward removing from the top of its new building the false and misleading title which has been put there.

If it is not practicable to cut out the stone which bears this false title, it certainly cannot be difficult to chip off the objectionable words, and leave the stone smooth and undisfigured. Or a painted sign bearing the true name, *The New York Times*—a name its owners need not be ashamed of—could easily be fastened over the delusive inscription.

A Thanksgiving Day Prediction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Please tell me on what date Thanksgiving Day will come this year. Oct. 11, 1888. J. B. S.

Thanksgiving Day is generally appointed for the last Thursday in November. This year the last Thursday is Nov. 29; we think that Thanksgiving Day will be appointed for Nov. 22; although in 1876 it was appointed for Nov. 30.

A Question of Grammar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Which is proper: You and me, or you and I? MILTON.

It all depends on the idea to be expressed. It is proper to say "He loves you and me" or "You and I love her." But to say "She loves you and I," or "You and me love her," would be atrocious.

No! No! Pay on Nov. 7.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: A bets B $5 that Grover Cleveland will be the next President of the United States, during the term of 1889 to 1893. A desires to know, in case G. C. is elected, if he has to wait four years in order to secure his money. JAMES H. MARTIN.

Good Enough for Anybody.

From the Memphis Avalanche.

The best and most comprehensive platform—"I am a Democrat."

Well, We Should Smile.

From the Salem Register.

The ablest Democratic paper in the country is THE NEW YORK SUN.

THE SURPLUS IN THE TREASURY.

Acting Secretary Thompson Says $104,000,000 will be Added to it this Year.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—Acting Secretary Thompson of the Treasury Department, in speaking yesterday afternoon of the probable condition of the Treasury at the end of the present fiscal year, said:

"The appropriation bills having all been passed by the present Congress, some estimate can now be made of the probable surplus of revenue for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1889, over the expenditures for the same year. Estimating one or two minor items, they amount in the aggregate to $360,000,000, with the estimated expenditures from the permanent annual appropriations, which are put at $115,640,798, making a total of $421,640,798.

"The total estimated revenues are $440,500,000, making an excess of revenue over the total of the appropriations of about $19,000,000. But this by no means represents the actual surplus of revenue for the current fiscal year. A careful estimate shows that of these appropriations, which are specific and continuing appropriations, there will be at least $37,000,000, which will not and cannot be properly expended during this fiscal year, making an actual surplus of $56,000,000, substantially the amount estimated by the Secretary in his annual report.

"But even this does not fairly represent the surplus revenues for the fiscal year 1889; for in the appropriations above stated there is included the sum of about $18,000,000 for deficiencies in appropriations for 1888 and prior years, which should have been appropriated for at prior sessions of Congress and paid out of the surplus revenues of former years. This, added to the above sum of $56,000,000, increases the surplus revenues of 1889 to $74,000,000. This does not include the balances which will be covered into the Treasury on the 30th day of June, 1889, of unexpended appropriations of 1887 and prior years, which, according to careful estimates made, will not be less than $6,000,000. In the expenditures there is included nearly $48,000,000 for the sinking fund, which is really a part of the surplus revenue, and, if added, will make a total of $122,000,000 of revenue in excess of the actual and necessary expenditures of the Government for the fiscal year 1889, which would make an actual increase of surplus at the end of this fiscal year of $104,000,000.

"The estimate of unexpended balances at the close of this fiscal year, given above, is extremely low compared with the actual balances which have remained unexpended in prior years. For instances, on the 30th of June, 1888, the unexpended balances of the appropriations for that year was $75,514,000; on the 30th of June, 1887, $84,371,895 for the fiscal year which ended on that day, and for each of the years 1886 and 1885 it was over $73,000,000. The above statement has reference to excess of revenues for the present fiscal year over expenditures for the same time, and is entirely independent of the surplus now in the Treasury, amounting today to $97,534,305.63, including $24,347,548.82 of fractional coin. Any portion of this present surplus not expended within this fiscal year for the purchase of bonds must be added to the $104,000,000, to arrive at the actual surplus which will remain in the Treasury on the 30th of June next.

"With respect to the probable revenues for the fiscal year 1889 the books of the Treasury show that during the present fiscal year, up to and including Oct. 15, the daily receipts have aggregated $113,986,566, as against $115,868,473 for the same period last year, a falling off of only $1,881,907, which may be more than made up by increased receipts during the remainder of the year, which decrease is not more than is usual during the few months immediately preceding a Presidential election. There is, therefore, no reason to believe that the actual receipts or the fiscal year 1889 will fall below the estimated receipts. In view of the increased activity in all branches of business, it is believed that they will fully equal if not exceed the estimate."

How Sam Jones Converted an Infidel.

From a Nashville Sermon by S. Jones.

Down here in a beautiful town south of us an infidel—and about as good a one as you will find—came to me and said: "Mr. Jones, I am an infidel. I don't believe the Bible; but you have got something that I have not got, and I wish I had it. I don't know what it is." I said: "I will prescribe for you and cure you if you take my medicine." He said: "I will do it." I said: "To-night when I get through preaching come up to the altar and say, 'God be merciful to me a sinner.'" He says, "But I——" I say, "Shut your mouth; your trouble has been your mouth, and if I could keep that shut twenty-four hours I will get you on the road to God." Sure enough, that night he came and knelt at the altar, and after the service I said to him: "When you go home read a chapter from the Bible and have family prayers." "But I——" says he. "Shut your mouth," said I, "your mouth has gotten you nearly to hell, and if I can keep it shut forty-eight hours I will cure you." He got his Bible that night and prayed. The next morning he came back. I told him when the door of the church opened for him to go up and join. "I—I——" he began. I said: "Shut your mouth, but do as I tell you." That afternoon he walked up to the font and joined the church. I put a padlock on each corner of his mouth and one in the middle, and kept his mouth shut forty-eight hours. He then said: "I believe in God and the Bible, and here is my hand to lead a Christian life."

Many people think if their views are not right they cannot be Christians. God never said: "Give me your head;" and if you give God your heart your head will come straight as nature as life. An infidel is an infidel because he will not take the medicine that will cure infidelity.

A Political Blunder in Queens County.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

MAYOR Gleason of Long Island City says that his political followers will support Cleveland and Hill, but will oppose all the local Democratic nominees, including the candidate for Congress, Mr. Covert. The Mayor is confident that his opponents will be beaten. All this is the result of breaking faith. If the Gleasonites had been given the representation to which they were entitled, harmony, instead of discord, would prevail. It is unfortunate that this factional fight should occur in a Presidential year, but, in view of the treatment they have received, the Gleason men cannot be blamed for asserting themselves in the manner described. It is not in human nature, as a rule, to lick the hand that strikes the blow.

A Strange Fight at Sea.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I once saw at sea what I believe to have been a fight between a thrasher and a whale, but it was not carried on as described in "Blood on the Sea" in last Sunday's SUN. I was a passenger for Liverpool in the steamship Pacific of the old Collins line, and one morning after breakfast, when we either were crossing over or by the Banks, I was walking alone on the promenade deck, and I noticed to my great surprise away off on the side of the steamer's course what seemed to be two large brilliant white horns curved inward toward one another, crescent shaped, rise rapidly out of the sea and fall again. Almost immediately I saw the spouting of a whale. This went on for one minute and a half or two minutes, the spouting being followed by the rise and all of the two horn-shaped arms, which I judged from their appearance at that distance to be about six feet high. Unfortunately I had not my opera glass by me at the time. Whether because of a pause in the fight or of the steamer's rapid sailing, the curious sight disappeared. I told Capt. Nye, in command of the steamer, what I had seen, and he told me that it must have been a fight between a thrasher and a whale, and he added: "You might sail the ocean for fifty years and never see the like again." L. R. B.

Oct. 15, 1888.

The Sun on Long Island.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: In yesterday's issue of THE SUN there is a complaint regarding service of Sunday papers at Hempstead, L. I. The Long Island people have nothing whatever to do with service of Sunday papers at Hempstead. There is a party from another section who sells papers through the streets, but the village is served by our long-established news agency now conducted by Henry Agnew. An order left with him for regular delivery of THE SUN I am sure will be promptly attended to. We never fail to get ours regularly each Sunday morning shortly after 8 o'clock. I endorse everything your correspondent says of your most excellent paper, and I sincerely trust that notwithstanding he is considered an active Republican he will peruse THE SUN so attentively that he will yet be constrained to take its advice and vote for Cleveland, Thurman, and Hill. JAS. K. HOYT.

HEMPSTEAD, L. I., Oct. 17.

A Plausible Explanation.

"George, dear," said a young wife, seriously, whose husband had been off on a short trip, "some of the letters you wrote me while you were away were almost undecipherable. They were so wretchedly written. Is it possible, dear, that away from my wifely influence you so far forget yourself as to——"

"Never," he interrupted, hastily: "those letters were probably written on a train running forty miles an hour."

CLASSIFYING NAVAL VESSELS.

The Rating and Naming of the New Ships Added to the Serviceable List.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 17.—The launching and ceremonious naming of two more war vessels during the last fortnight—the Baltimore, a first rate, and the Petrel, a fourth rate, while the big Puritan, which at the same time was taken to Norfolk for completion, was called a third rate—has stirred up some inquiries about naval nomenclature. The Chicago is of 4,400 tons displacement and is a first rate, the Texas is of 6,300 tons displacement and is a second rate, the Vandalia is of 2,100 tons displacement and is also a third rate, the Terror is of 3,815 tons displacement and is a third rate, while so also is the Yantic, whose displacement is 900 tons, and, most remarkably, so is the Puritan, with a displacement of 6,060. It would look as if there was not only a good deal of elasticity in these ratings, but some confusion; in fact there is at present a confusion in the naming of vessels, but none in the ratings.

The changes in naval classification have been a good index of the changes in naval construction. In old times the rating was made to depend on battery power rather than on tonnage. In the British navy first rates consisted of vessels carrying 110 guns or more; sixth rates of vessels carrying fewer than 32. That reckoning would bring Italy's tremendous Duilio and Dandolo down to the sixth rate, and lower still were there a seventh rate. But when a single modern gun weighed more than fifty of the cannon in the old-time floating gunboxes the rating was changed so as to depend on displacement; and our own laws, which made steamships carrying 40 guns or more first rates, those carrying between 40 and 20 guns second rates, and all those of less than 20 guns third rates, were modified like those of other nations. It required one or two intermediate changes to get down to the present statutes, which prescribe that first rates shall include steamships of 4,000 tons or more displacement, and ironclads of 3,000 tons or more measurement; that second rates shall include steamers of from 2,000 to 4,000 tons displacement, and ironclads of from 2,000 to 3,000 tons measurement; that third rates shall include steamers of from 900 to 2,000 tons displacement, and ironclads of from 1,200 to 2,000 tons measurement; that fourth rates shall include steamers below 900 tons displacement, besides despatch vessels and store-ships.

Here it will be seen that tonnage displacement is applied to steamships in general, but tonnage measurement to ironclads, and this accounts for some of the apparent discrepancies already spoken of. The Puritan's tonnage measurement is only 1,875, although her displacement is 6,060 tons; and hence, under the rule, she plainly goes into the third class. So it is with the Amphitrite and the three other double-turret monitors, which have but 1,276 tonnage, though 3,815 displacement. The Maine and Texas, on the other hand, have above 2,000 tons measurement each, and 6,648 and 6,300 tons displacement, and thus go into the second class. The little Yantic manifestly scrapes into the third class, while the Petrel, of only 20 or 30 tons less displacement, falls into the fourth. One reason why these distinctions may be less obvious now than that for the last year or two the Navy Register has given only the displacements on its list of vessels opposite the names, while it used to give also the tonnage measurements.

As to names, however, there is an unquestionable confusion, the statutes prescribing that the names of States, rivers, cities, and so on, shall be given according to rates, having been neglected to a certain extent, and the difficulties being enhanced by the changes in ratings already spoken of. Probably this difficulty will be remedied in time by a revision of the laws and a renaming of some vessels.

WHO WROTE THAT DISPUTED POEM?

The Scranton Authorship Vigorously Affirmed.

From the Scranton Truth, Oct. 10.

And now Mrs. O. C. Jones of Abbeville, Vermilion Parish, Louisiana, comes forward to claim Homer Greene's exquisite poem, "What My Lover Said," as her own production. In a letter to yesterday's SUN, accompanying the poem in question, Mrs. Jones very modestly asserts that she sent the poem anonymously to the *Evening Post* about twenty-five years ago, and that she has felt much complimented since then by seeing it extensively copied and attributed to Horace Greeley. "As the true author is yet unknown to fame," says Mrs. Jones, "I think it would be but tardy justice to render honor to whom honor is due by republishing the poem under my signature."

Whoever Mrs. Jones may be one must naturally wonder after this declaration that she would be content to "bloom unseen" for a quarter of a century while she saw the fame of the late Horace Greeley in the full enjoyment of the laurels that she now claims as belonging to her. But justice is not a tardy as Mrs. Jones represents it to be in this case, since the real author of the disputed poem has established his rightful claim long since, and it has been and is recognized everywhere outside Vermilion parish.

The people of that place have probably been so busy painting the town red that they have not noticed the fact that Homer Greene of Honesdale, whose charming prize story of "Dick, the Door Boy," is still remembered with pleasure by readers of the *Truth*, has fully established his claim as the author of "What My Lover Said," and his claim has been corroborated by other effusions from his pen that are equally graceful. His prize story in the *Truth* was followed shortly after by a delightful prize story in the *Youth's Companion*, and Collier's *Once a Week* recently printed another story from his pen. He has also written several pleasing poems, and the Louis aun claimant cannot be conversant with current literature or she would know him as the author of the poem which she now claims as her own.

If Mrs. Jones wanted to claim something that was in doubt, why didn't she enter her name for "Beautiful Snow," or that poem entitled "Solitude," which is the subject of such bitter contention between Ella Wheeler Wilcox and Col. Joyce. In the present case there is no room for dispute, as Mr. Greene's authorship has long since been fully established and generally recognized.

The Woman Died.

From the Buffalo Courier.

A strange case occurred at the General Hospital last week. A woman had a serious operation performed, and after it was all over she began to grow rapidly weak from the shock. At 12 o'clock at night life was so low that the pulse was scarcely to be felt, and a rather unusual resort was made of injecting a quart of salt water into her veins. This revived her almost instantly, but it was only for a time. Then a pint more was injected, and one of the doctors drove off rapidly to a milkman, and had him fill some warm clean bottles with fresh milk, for which the cow had just been milked. The bottles were put in warm water, and upon arrival at the hospital, a pint of the warm milk was injected into the circulation, and shortly afterward another pint. This made three pints of a saline solution and two pints of milk. Still the patient did not permanently revive, and as a last resort, a transfusion of a small quantity of human blood from the arm of one of the doctors was made. All the efforts of the physicians were in vain, however, and the woman died twenty-four hours after the operation.

Killed by a Fist Blow.

From the St. Louis Republic.

MARLIN, Tex., Oct. 14.—Thursday morning J. H. Powell rode over to Mr. J. B. Jones's house to make some inquiries about a set of harness, when a discussion arose about Powell's cattle being permitted in Mr. Jones's cotton field. One word brought on another until Powell became abusive and Jones struck him with his fist, landing a blow on Powell's face, who took to his bed and died that night. Mr. Jones was placed under $1,000 appearance bond.

Mr. Bowlly's Queer Will.

From the St. Louis Republic.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Oct. 5.—One of the most unique wills on record was admitted to probate to-day. It reads as follows:

KANSAS CITY, Sept. 12, 1888.—I start for Crystal, Col., to-day at 10 o'clock. In case I should die or be killed, or, in other words, switched for the other shore—heaven, I hope—I want all my deposits in Clay & Frankhauser's bank ($3,000) and all