The Sun.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 18, 1888.

London office of THE SUN, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue. Address Mr. ARTHUR BRISBANE, sole representative in London.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, *issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before six o'clock.*

Political Consequences of the Panama Fiasco.

It must not be too hastily assumed that the Panama Canal has ceased to be a factor in French politics because on Saturday the Chamber of Deputies refused to help it even by deferring for three months the payment of interest on its bonds. The majority against the appeal of the bankrupt company for help was but 74, and more than a hundred members were absent or declined to vote. A change of forty votes from one side to the other would have reversed the decision of the Chamber. We should also note that the minority was made up of Conservatives and Ferryists, who will henceforth pose as champions of the multitude of small investors in the canal securities, whereas the Radicals will be held up to detestation as the merciless authors of their final ruin.

It is well known that in the Congress convoked to choose a successor to President GRÉVY the managers of the Panama Canal Company exerted a great influence. Their candidate was M. FERRY, and when his election was seen to be imprudent, owing to the threatening demonstrations of the Paris Radicals, the friends of LESSEPS were active in arranging the concentration of votes upon M. CARNOT. At that time, it was expected that M. FERRY would presently regain enough political strength to resume the post of Premier, in which event the canal company would probably have been saved by a Government guarantee of some of its securities. But owing partly to the sustained ascendancy of FLOQUET and CLÉMENCEAU over the thoroughgoing Republicans, and partly to the adoption of BOULANGER by the Conservatives, FERRY has found himself more and more isolated, and has been able to help his partisans in a surreptitious way only. Now, however, when the fate of the Panama Canal is the burning question of the hour in Paris, he can count upon Conservative cooperation, and it would not be surprising if his old enemy, BOULANGER, should, in the name of the plundered peasantry, array himself on the same side.

There is no reason to suppose that FERRY has ceased to command the confidence of President CARNOT, and he has retained a strong following among the Opportunist members of the Senate. Should it turn out, therefore, in the near future that the expediency of completing the canal at the expense of the nation would be a popular question on which to go before the country, it is not impossible that the Senate may authorize the President to dissolve Parliament and order a new general election. After the present storm of disgust at the misrepresentations and mismanagement of LESSEPS and his coadjutors has died away, their victims will be sure to clamor for the intervention of the State. It is one of the maxims of a highly centralized Government like that of France that the governed ascribe to it paternal responsibilities of the widest kind.

Because, then, M. FERDINAND DE LESSEPS seems irretrievably discredited, it does not follow that we are to witness the abandonment of an enterprise in which French national pride is to a great extent enlisted, and with which the interests of political factions are inextricably intertwined. So thoroughly distributed are the canal's creditors, that there is scarcely a department in France in which they do not constitute a ponderable fraction of the voters. Such an element cannot be safely overlooked by politicians in view of the momentous issues involved in the next general election, when France will be called upon to say whether the present republican institutions shall be upheld, or be supplanted by reaction in a some more or less specious guise.

Color Blindness and the Constitution.

There is no obvious relation between that form of defective vision known as color blindness and the Constitution of the United States; but that such a relation exists is made manifest by a case recently decided by the Supreme Court at Washington.

A statute of the State of Alabama which went into force a year ago last June, by its terms disqualifies all persons afflicted with color blindness from serving on railway lines within that State in the capacity of locomotive engineer, fireman, brakeman, station agent, switchman, flagman, gate tender, or signal man, or in any other position in which it is necessary to discriminate color signals. The Governor is empowered to appoint examining Boards of medical men, from whom these various classes of railroad employees must obtain certificates of fitness before being allowed to act as such; and it is declared to be a misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of from $50 to $500, for any railroad company to employ a person in any of the capacities mentioned who has not obtained such a certificate.

After this law took effect, a conductor who did not have the required certificate was employed by the Nashville, Chattanooga and St. Louis Railroad, whose line runs through Tennessee, Alabama, Georgia, and Kentucky. The corporation was duly indicted, convicted, and fined $50 under the statute, and on the affirmance of the judgment by the Supreme Court of Alabama, an appeal was taken to the Supreme Court of the United States.

That court entertained jurisdiction of the case on the ground that it involved a question of inter-State commerce.

By the final decision the Alabama statute providing for the examination of railway servants as to color blindness is upheld in all particulars. The Supreme Court holds that inasmuch as the State could lawfully require an examination as to the general fitness of a person to be employed on a railroad, it follows that the State can lawfully require an examination as to his fitness in some one particular. Color blindness being a defect of a vital character, it is clearly competent for the States to provide against accidents on railway trains running within their limits by exacting examinations which shall serve to prevent the employment of color-blind persons. Where a railroad runs through different States, Congress possesses power under the Constitution to legislate for the same purpose with reference to such a line; but in the absence of legislation by Congress the right of each separate State thus to regulate that portion of the road within its own bounds cannot successfully be disputed.

The Alabama law compels the railroad companies to pay certain fees as expenses for the examination of those who apply for employment on railroads, and one of the points urged upon the Supreme Court of the United States was that this provision of the statute deprived the companies of their property without due process of law. But this objection was also overruled, the court holding that it was lawful to impose upon them such expenses as were necessary in order to ascertain whether their employees possessed the physical qualifications which the statute demanded.

Now that the constitutionality of State legislation as to color blindness among railway men is authoritatively established, no State should long be without a law on the subject.

Is Stanley a Captive?

On his march from Yambuga on the Aruwimi River to Wadelai, HENRY M. STANLEY was accompanied by four white men. They were Capt. R. H. NELSON and Lieut. W. G. STAIRS of the British army, Surgeon T. H. PARKES of the British Army Medical Department, and Mr. M. JEPHSON. The Arab traders who asserted at Tabora last fall that they met STANLEY'S expedition west of Albert Nyanza a year ago, said that one of his white comrades had died. There are good reasons for giving credence to this reported meeting, and the probabilities seem to be that STANLEY reached Wadelai with only three of his white assistants. If it is true that Signor CASATI, the companion of EMIN'S isolation, was murdered by King KABREGA early last year, there were probably five white men all told in EMIN'S province upon the arrival of the STANLEY party.

When STANLEY in his northward march reached the Monbuttu country, it is likely that he encountered there the Khartoum slavers once expelled from that region by EMIN Pasha, but who are said to have returned after EMIN, on account of his crippled condition, abandoned that part of his province. It is almost certain that STANLEY'S encounter with these slavers gave rise to the reports at Khartoum of the White Pasha, which resulted in two or three expeditions sent south by Khalifa ABDULLAH, movements which compelled EMIN to set out with the munitions STANLEY had brought him to defend his northern frontier.

There are reasons for believing that STANLEY would not accompany this expedition. It was important to maintain the station at Wadelai and EMIN'S authority over the tribes in that region while he was off in the north. STANLEY was also expecting the arrival of BARTTELOT'S expedition with the remaining 500 loads of EMIN'S supplies. BARTTELOT had been ordered to strike for Wadelai. STANLEY also had with him, it is supposed, at least 300 of the 400 Zanzibar porters with whom he left the Aruwimi. In the news from Khartoum we hear only of Egyptian and native soldiers among the captured force, and if any of STANLEY'S Africans accompanied EMIN they were probably only the few Egyptian soldiers in his party.

It seems improbable that EMIN and STANLEY would have imperilled both their lives upon the northern expedition when, if both were killed or captured, it meant complete ruin to the country and to their forces. Neither does it seem likely that they would have intrusted the vital interests at Wadelai to one of STANLEY'S subordinates. None of these men had had any previous African experience, except Capt. NELSON, and he only in the Zulu campaign. Only he who possessed the intimate knowledge of Central Africa that EMIN and STANLEY had acquired could deal with much hope of success with natives unsettled by a great war in the province, or be fit to take charge of the supplementary expedition upon its arrival.

The letter from the Khedive to EMIN, which that official doubtless had in his baggage, and which the Mahdists have obtained, affords strong evidence that EMIN is now in the power of his enemies. It is highly probable, however, that the other captive is not STANLEY, but is one of STANLEY'S subordinates. OMAN SALAH, the captor of EMIN, mentions STANLEY by name in his letter to Khartoum, but not as a captive. But even though STANLEY may have escaped for a time, the most serious apprehensions for his safety are justified, for if the Mahdists, after their early reverses, at last captured EMIN and his force at Lado, we know of nothing to prevent their further progress to Wadelai.

Journalism or Diplomacy?

The most interesting rumors now afloat are those concerning the future movements of the Hon. JAMES G. BLAINE of Maine. Whatever Mr. BLAINE does for the next four years—whether he goes into the Cabinet, or devotes his energies to the enrichment of American literature, or drives a coach across the continent for the benefit of his health, or turns his attention to the Nicaragua Canal, or remains at home beside the Kennebec, quietly supporting his dignity as Uncrowned King—he will continue to be a figure of impressive and picturesque personality. Mr. BLAINE is one of the best loved and best hated men in American political history.

We shall not be accused of straining after novelty if we remark that in every man's career there come times when he stands at the parting of the ways.

For several weeks, according to current reports, Mr. BLAINE has been hesitating between the temptations which journalism and diplomacy offer to an active mind. He has had more than one opportunity to return to journalism. Mr. BLAINE was a legislator before he was a diplomat, but he was an editor before he became a lawmaker. Both in the office of the *Portland Advertiser* and in that of the *Kennebec Journal* at Augusta, the traditions of Mr. BLAINE'S journalistic achievements are still cherished. At the bottom of his heart, doubtless, he often envies those other Republican chieftains of Maine, the Hon. NELSON DINGLEY, Jr., and the Hon. CHARLES ALLAGUASH BOUTELLE, the good fortune that has enabled them to keep, through all the vicissitudes of exterior politics, a firm hold upon the noble and ennobling profession to which his own early manhood was devoted.

Mr. BLAINE was not only an editor, but an able editor, more than a quarter of a century ago, and it is not surprising that the proprietors and projectors of magazines and newspapers should now be bidding high for his services. We copy from the *St. Louis Republic* the statement that Mr. BLAINE has just declined a salary of $25,000 and a block of $250,000 non-assessable stock, offered by a syndicate of wealthy Republicans as an inducement to take charge of a new illustrated weekly newspaper, to resemble the *London Illustrated News* in some particulars, but to be more aggressively political. It is evident from the tone of the note which Mr. BLAINE wrote last September, asking time to consider the proposition, that the tug at his heartstrings was severe; and it may be that the final rejection of the offer, after several months' hesitation, was solely due to a distrust of his ability to run the picture department of the proposed periodical with credit to himself and satisfaction to his subscribers. A man may be a great political and news editor and yet have no more idea of high art than a woodchuck.

Perhaps it would be hasty to assume that Mr. BLAINE rejects this offer because he has already contracted with Gen. HARRISON to edit for the next four years the *Consular Reports*, the blue-covered magazine established by Mr. EVARTS about a dozen years ago. There has been no authoritative announcement that Mr. HARRISON has decided to call Mr. BLAINE to the Department of State. Nevertheless, we may with propriety recall the fact that Gen. GARFIELD made up his mind to offer the portfolio of State to Mr. BLAINE as early as November in 1880; and Mr. BLAINE'S letter to GARFIELD accepting the office was dated on Dec. 29, just eight years ago day after to-morrow.

The text of that remarkable letter from BLAINE to GARFIELD is worth reading now, and we reprint it elsewhere. It will be observed that Mr. BLAINE assured Gen. GARFIELD that however much he admired him as a statesman he would not have decided to enter the Cabinet if he had not believed in GARFIELD as a man and loved him as a friend. Indeed, he put the acceptance almost altogether on the ground of warm personal friendship. Does anybody know whether Mr. BLAINE cherishes the same sentiments toward Gen. HARRISON? If the letter accepting a Cabinet office under HARRISON has already been written, does it promise, as in 1880 to GARFIELD, "not only political support, but personal and devoted friendship"? Does Mr. BLAINE'S heart still go with his head, and do heart and head accompany each other into the State Department again?

Or is Mr. BLAINE'S heart fixed upon a return to the noble profession of journalism, as soon as he receives from responsible parties a satisfactory proposition not complicated by any question of running an art department? We shall see.

The Excise Commission.

The great amount of time which the Commissioners for the revision of the Excise laws are expending on their work is an indication of the difficulty and complexity of the problem of regulating the liquor traffic by legislative enactment.

High license seems to have many advantages. It tends to lessen the number of drinking places, and at the same time increases the public revenue. So far, too, it seems to be working well in the States which have adopted the system. For the moment, at least, it is regarded as the most effective method of regulating the sale of liquor yet devised. But, after all, high license is only an experiment, and nowhere has it been in operation long enough for us to determine whether it is likely to be permanently successful.

To some minds it is a serious question whether the State ought to sell the privilege of dealing in intoxicating liquors at any price. The Rev. Dr. BACON contends in a striking argument that purchasable licenses are contrary to sound public policy and good morals. The more a man may be able to pay for a license the more dangerous may it be for the community to give it to him for, explains the clergyman, his wealth may enable him to make more alluring the temptations to drink. Because he has built up a liquor traffic extensive enough to make him rich, the State gives him the advantage over the small dealer, who dispenses less and does less harm. Therefore, Dr. BACON would grant the privilege of liquor selling solely with regard to the personal character of the applicants for licenses, charging nothing for it except a nominal fee to defray the expenses of the Excise Commission.

Under Dr. BACON'S proposed system the liquor traffic would be treated as a business of so much concern to the public welfare that only those who could present positive proofs that they had the requisite moral qualifications would be trusted to carry it on, no matter whether they were poor or rich.

The Excise Commissioners are finding that there are many things besides the mere prices of licenses to consider.

Edward Kennedy's Lesson.

EDWARD KENNEDY of New Jersey can not expect to get any sympathy from the public in his present misfortune, though the law will punish the crime committed against him, if there was a crime, for it protects and avenges even fools.

He is a man who, of all others, ought to know the ways of the world, for, young as he is, he has been much about the race track, and if a fellow's wits are not sharpened there it is not possible to put an edge on them. He is himself an owner of race horses, and constant association with those noble animals and the ignoble human beings whose greed is excited by their superlative abilities usually keeps a man pretty wide awake as to the lamentable possibilities of human nature, even if he lives down in Jersey.

Yet EDWARD KENNEDY spent Saturday night in an opium joint in Pell street, and was thoroughly sobered up when he awoke in the morning from his opium sleep to find that the $2,500 which he had had in his pocket was gone. For a man like KENNEDY, who had made the money out of racing and race horses, it is fairly astounding that he should be such a fool.

He entered the opium joint at the hour when such crimes are most commonly committed. It was somewhere about 2 o'clock in the morning, and it is between that time and 3 o'clock that the petty and great thieves who steal from the person are most active in their business. Then the drunkards are very drunk and are an easy prey. In certain parts of the town the streets are filled with people who are more or less under the influence of liquor, and the disreputable resorts are attracting their victims.

EDWARD KENNEDY! go home to New Jersey, and thank your stars that you have had a lesson so impressive that you can never forget it. At any rate, we are sure that you will not soon again come to New York on a spree with your pockets stuffed with money; but your loss will be even greater gain if it teaches you the folly of drunkenness as a means of recreation in town or in the country, and the danger of opium smoking as a method of further stimulation. Either is bad enough, but both together are sure ruin, and if you escaped that, $2,500 is a cheap price to pay for rescue.

Senators Dawes and Reagan on Mr. Cleveland's Pledges.

A dialogue in the Senate last week between Mr. REAGAN of Texas and Mr. DAWES of Massachusetts contained the first attempt by a Democratic politician of prominence to state the reason for his party's defeat. It was contained in this passage:

Mr. DAWES—Does the Senator from Texas mean to say that the President's party deserted him because he would not break his pledges?

Mr. REAGAN—No, sir. I do not mean that.

Mr. DAWES—What do you mean?

Mr. REAGAN—It was the President's duty to carry out the law, but it was not his duty to extend the principle of the law to officers that were not covered by it.

Mr. DAWES—He said he would, did he not?

Mr. REAGAN—That is what I say was his mistake.

Mr. DAWES—Then you mean that the President kept his pledges, and that his party went back upon him because he did so?

Mr. REAGAN—I mean that there was discontent with the doctrine of civil service reform, and gentlemen on the other side will soon have evidence of that discontent.

In strict truth the pledges to which Mr. DAWES referred could have had no claim for recognition by the Democratic President elected in 1884. There was but one policy regarding the civil service which the chief of the Democratic party could consider, and that was agreed to by Mr. CLEVELAND when, in accepting the nomination, he wrote: "I have carefully considered the platform adopted by the Convention and cordially approve the same."

In the platform the civil service plank was this:

"We favor an honest civil service reform."

It is not necessary to state now the indisputable and documentary evidence that this in no wise was connected with civil service reform as understood by the Mugwumps. Hence Mr. CLEVELAND'S letter to Mr. CURTIS, published about Christmas, 1884, a pledge, no doubt, for the purposes of Senator DAWES'S interrogation, was merely the personal eccentricity of an irresponsible agent, inapplicable to the policy of a Democratic President.

In 1884, when THE SUN, being convinced that it would be an irretrievable error, endeavored to prevent Mr. CLEVELAND'S nomination, we expressed privately to Mr. MANNING our distrust of Mr. CLEVELAND'S political loyalty. Mr. MANNING replied that he had considered and discussed that point seriously with Governor GLEVELAND himself, and that the latter's understanding of its weight and importance was satisfactory. If Mr. MANNING'S impression had been justified by the facts, neither Senator REAGAN nor any other Democrat would have seen the occasion to give in public his theory of Democratic disaster in 1888.

Yet how paradoxical it seems that any set of men, even the irresponsible Mugwumps, would have applauded Mr. CLEVELAND for breaking the most solemn, in fact, the only pledge which he as a Democratic President could have consistently made.

Isn't "the Big Four" getting to be a big bore?—*Albany Journal.*

In like and alliterative speech, the Big Four can no longer bore, because it's busted.

It is now resolved into one pair of united fighters, PLATT and MORTON; a friendly observer and philosopher, whose rewards in this life are still of the future, Brother CHAUNCEY, and a young man seized with a sudden and rapidly intensifying determination to start out in New York political life on his own hook and the divvle take the hindmost, the Hon. WARNER HERKIMER MILLER.

The Big Four are now nearly as separate as the four seasons.

The Hon. GEORGE BAILEY LORING, sometime Commissioner of Agriculture, and several times not Governor of Massachusetts, has opened his Washington house, and is again ready for business. This grandiose Granger has the most delicate aural apparatus in the world, and hears the country calling him long before Sound has time to buy her tickets by the fast express. If the Department of Agriculture is established with a large Secretary at its head, Sorghum GEORGE would like to be that large Secretary.

Certain correspondents of the Hon. MELVILLE WESTON FULLER aver that his handwriting is like fossilized dinotherium tracks, and as easy to read as Chinese Courage! The Republic is Opportunity, and doubtless there are night schools in Washington. Besides, many antique worthies have trod the wine press alone without being able to write at all.

The Rev. Dr. BOLLES of this city propounded a new idea of religion in his sermon of last Sunday. He said that but a small part of a church should be used for purposes of worship. "I would make of it a vast hive of human endeavor, in which there should be everything to stimulate the intellect, such as libraries and industrial schools, where children could be taught the mechanic arts. I would make all these things free, and let the church fill itself." But for work of this kind the clergy would require an entirely new kind of training, totally different from that given in the theological schools, and we fear that the labor unions would object to the teaching of the mechanic arts in churches. Still it would be interesting to see such a church as the Rev. Dr. BOLLES describes.

It is said that Lord SACKVILLE bought a pig, a bullock, and a heifer at her M-j-sty Q—n V-ct-ria's recent live stock sale, and has sent them to Mr. M-rch-s-n of the Utopia Ranch, Los Angeles, for a Christmas present. Christmas returns, but SACKVILLE nevermore!

St. Paul is trying to "raise" Chicago at the culture game. In the St. Paul Chamber of Commerce last night there was a "Russian Evening," which seems suited to the Minnesota climate. A Russian lectured on Russian literature, a *séance* with samovars followed, *vodka* and water was served, and the Hon. IGNISFATUUS DONNELLY wound up a pleasant entertainment by reading a paper showing that TOLSTOI'S works are the production of M. DE GIESS. When St. Paul gets started she makes the fur fly in a way to make St. Petersburg fatigued.

On Thursday last there was published in THE SUN the condemnation by the Tribunal of the Inquisition of the doctrine proposed by Mr. HENRY GEORGE, abolishing private property in land, and the further direction that, if the society of the Knights of Labor would be tolerated by the Catholic Church, they must correct any expression in sympathy with Mr. GEORGE. We find now in the *Catholic Universe* the following letter from Cardinal GIBBONS to Archbishop ELDER of Cincinnati:

"CARDINAL'S RESIDENCE, 408 NORTH CHARLES STREET, BALTIMORE, Sept. 25, 1888.

"YOUR GRACE: On receipt of the letter, of which the enclosed is a copy, I wrote to Mr. POWDERLY requesting him to come and see me. He came on the 24th inst., in compliance with my invitation, and cheerfully promised to make the emendations required by the Holy Office, and expressed his readiness to comply at all times with the wishes of the ecclesiastical authorities. Very faithfully your friend in Xto,

"J. CARD. GIBBONS.

"Most Rev. Dr. ELDER, Abp., Cincinnati."

Evidently, if Mr. POWDERLY has anything to say about the Knights of Labor, the latter organization cannot be put upon the list of the Anti-Poverty Society.

A bill was introduced at the last session of Congress to authorize the construction of a single-span bridge across the Hudson between New York and Jersey City. Grave objections were made to the bill as it was drawn up, and no action has ever been taken on it, though the subject has been brought before the Commerce Committees of both the Senate and the House. Where is it now?

A few days ago, when Col. ELLIOTT F. SHEPARD was interviewed by the *Post* in Washington, he said he was specially interested in the bill before Congress making the Commissioner of Agriculture a member of the President's Cabinet. Then the National Fishery Association desires the creation of a Government Department of Marine and Fisheries, with a Secretary entitled to a place in the President's Cabinet. Then Mr. W. O. McDOWELL of New Jersey has sent a letter to Senator CULLOM proposing the enactment of a law by Congress providing for another new Cabinet officer, to be known as the Secretary for Commerce and Labor. If to these new Cabinet functionaries be added the proposed Secretary of Public Health, President HARRISON will not suffer for lack of advisers.

The *Omaha Herald* reprints from the *Critic* a sonnet on MATTHEW ARNOLD. This seems a rather tardy act of reparation by a newspaper which, soon after Mr. ARNOLD'S death, published a profound editorial containing the exclusive information that he was the author of "The Light of Asia," and which still supposes that the Light of Asia is a pamphlet describing the oil fields of Burmah.

Politics Fills the Front Seats Too.

From the Commercial Gazette.

INDIANAPOLIS, Dec. 14.—It was a good card for the Y. M. C. A. to get Gen. Harrison to the theatre, as it filled all the front seats with local politicians who are anxiously expecting to get a lift from the new President when he gets in office. They would not dare to let slip so favorable an opportunity of having him gaze upon their beaming countenances.

THE COLOR LINE AT TAHLEQUAH.

The Strange Status of the Negroes Among the Indians.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The freedmen living among the five civilized tribes of the Indian Territory have always found more or less difficulty in procuring the recognition of their civil rights. The red men have persistently looked upon them as "guilty of a skin not colored like their own." Only last year Agent Owen's report showed the freedmen among the Chickasaws to be "in a deplorable condition," being "recognized neither as citizens of the United States nor as Chickasaws." The Choctaws kept their freedmen for many years in a like anomalous condition, but at length, under the legislation of Congress in 1882, adopted them and provided for their education. Among the Cherokees the question of the citizenship and rights of freedmen became very important when the tract of 6,000,000 acres, known as the Cherokee Strip, was leased to cattle men and the proceeds were divided among their nation.

About two years ago such a division was made of the accrued rents, under leases which had been running for three years at $100,000 a year; but the freedmen and also the whites who have been adopted into the Cherokee Nation were ignored in the distribution. The ground on which this action was taken seems to have been a legal decision making the Cherokee Nation the judge of citizenship for this purpose. On this decision Commissioner Atkins, in his last report, made this comment:

Under that opinion the department recognizes the exclusive right of the Cherokee Nation to admit or readmit Cherokees to the rights of citizenship and accepts its results so far as these claimants are concerned who have gone into the nation since the 11th of August, 1886 (the date on which Agent Owen was instructed as to the effect of said opinion), and also as to those who may hereafter enter, but the department declines to be governed by the decisions of the Commission as to those who went into the nation, claiming the rights of Cherokees, prior to that date. The status of such persons therefore remains unchanged.

The particular question then at issue was the right to expel persons not recognized as citizens; and since some of these had made improvements on lands, the Interior Department was bent on resisting the injustice of their ejection without compensation. The same desire for equity recently disposed the department, it is said, to declare the freedmen entitled to a share in the rent money obtained under the lease of the Cherokee Strip, at present expired.

To most of the Cherokees such a decision is naturally distasteful. But it becomes particularly so because the Interior Department has notified Chief Mayes not to make a new lease of the Cherokee Strip for five years at double the old rent, as the Legislature had authorized him to do. The ground on which this notice is put is that the land belongs to the United States, and not to the Cherokees. The Cherokee mind cannot quite get at the logic of all these proceedings. It cannot understand how the Washington Government during five years did not abrogate the old lease, but allowed the Indians to get the benefit of the Cherokee Strip, yet now objects to its renewal on terms more favorable. On the other hand, if the old lease was unlawful, it does not appear quite clear why Government officials should interfere to have a part of its proceeds given to the freedmen, as if by implication sanctioning it. Perhaps there may be some error in the statement of facts coming from the Indian Territory as to the Government's action. In any case, the need of legislation both upon the Cherokee Strip and the Public Land Strip is apparent.

IMMIGRATION.

English and Scotch Outnumbering the Irish.

From the Week.

We referred on a previous occasion to the decline of the comparative power of the Irish vote in the United States by reason of the growing importance of the English, Scotch, and Canadian elements in the population. Recent statistics rather strikingly illustrate this view. From these it appears that during the months of September and October last the number of emigrants from England and Scotland to the United States was very nearly three times as great as that from Ireland. Taking a somewhat larger view, it is shown that during the ten months of the years 1887 and 1888, ending Oct. 29 in each case, the numbers of English and Scotch immigrants were 119,363 and 118,511 respectively; that of Irish immigrants during the same two periods, 66,248 and 63,531. Commenting on these statistics the *British-American* says: "As citizens of these States we may look on these facts and figures with great satisfaction, and feel greatly encouraged in our work of naturalization and organization."

Aunte Pixley's New Kiss Act.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

Miss Annie Pixley gives an invitation to the newsboys in this city, every time she comes here, to see her act. Last night the gallery of the Grand Opera House was packed as full as it could be with newsies.

To mark their gratitude to her, the newsies clubbed together and bought a big bouquet. One of their number was chosen to make the presentation, and he went out on the great stage with a blacking box on his back and the big posey in his hand. The boy he gave with the bouquet made Miss Pixley laugh, but she didn't forget to make her usual request of her small admirer, a kiss. Last year she had difficulty in stealing the salute, and for a moment it looked as if the deadlock would occur again but, by a fine stroke of strategy, Miss Pixley caught the boy and kissed him before he knew where he was. His companions in the gallery applauded enviously.

Riddleberger Says He Will Resign.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I am going to resign from the Senate," he (Mr. Riddleberger) said to-day to the *Courier-Journal* correspondent, "and give Gov. Lee the opportunity of appointing some one to fill out my unexpired term. I feel that I am disarmed, as it were, by the Republicans, and, from their actions toward me, I think it best for me and perhaps for them that I should retire. They (speaking of the Republican Senators) treat me in a manner that I cannot stand without feeling that I am compromising myself to longer associate with them. I have telegraphed Gov. Lee that, I will forward my resignation between now and the first of the year, which I intend to do."

The Sun's Great New Features.

From the Scranton Truth.

THE SUN announces that it will shortly begin the publication of Rider Haggard's forthcoming novel, "Cleopatra," for which it has obtained the exclusive right in the United States. One enterprising contemporary will also publish a series of letters of travel written by Robert Louis Stevenson, describing his experience among the islands of the South Pacific. THE SUN pays Mr. Stevenson $10,000 for this piece of journalistic work—a princely price, worthy of the paper and of the illustrious writer whose services it has secured.

From the Louisville Commercial.

THE SUN is no laggard in the metropolitan journalistic race. It has purchased the exclusive right to publish Rider Haggard's new novel, "Cleopatra," in this country, and has also paid, $10,000 for a series of papers by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Senator Vest's Remark About Gen. Harrison.

From the Washington Post.

Harrison is not a tall man, and what length he has is not in his legs. This fact once brought out the cutting and characteristic retort from Senator Vest that "Harrison was the biggest man sitting down and the smallest man standing up he ever knew."

Butterworth Gives Way for McKinley.

From the Globe-Democrat.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 12.—Representative Butterworth has withdrawn from the race for Speaker of the next House. To-day when asked how his canvass progressed he replied: "I will not be Speaker this time. Ohio must not have too many candidates, and as Brother McKinley is in the race, I will give him a clear track."

The Night Before Boston's Election.

From the Boston Courier.

A manly youth and a maiden fair
By the parlor fire were sitting;
He twirled his mustache with a restless air,
And she was softly knitting.

For a word or a glance from her he pined,
As pine for it lovers do;
But far away from the lovers behind
The maiden had flown, we know.

"You are very thoughtful to-night," he said,
The painful silence breaking;
The beautiful maiden raised her head
As if from a dream awaking.

"Excuse me, please;" from her chair she rose
A smile on her face bestowing.
Then she m[illegible] the youth bestowing,
At four— armured. "They open at seven and close
Why, you can't be going?"

"Yes, going" he answered in accents stern,
As he s[illegible] save his grief to smother;
"I am for [illegible] again I can discern
You are thinking about another.

"If not to [illegible] other your fancy strays,
You are [illegible] hanged, I can plainly see;
I've heard [illegible] vou mutter—oh, vulgar phrase!—
Yes, th[illegible] are the ticket for me!"

"While [illegible] night you have made me wait,
I hav[illegible] heard," he hoarsely hissed.
"Such [illegible] gar words as 'taking it straight'
From [illegible] the lips I have often kissed.

"Farewell! I'm going," he wildly cried,
As he [illegible] trembled with agitation;
"You [illegible] have made a mistake," the maid replied,
"Pray [illegible] for an explanation.

"To-[illegible] morrow," she said, as she held him fast,
"[illegible] election day in the city,
An[illegible] I was thinking how I should cast
My vote for for school Committee."

* * * * * *

Now changed is the scene in the parlor there,
As the golden hours are fleeting;
Two forms in a single rocking chair,
Two hearts that as one are beating.

WHAT DID MR. BLAINE DO?

His Reputed Declination of a $25,000 Salary as Editor of an Illustrated Paper.

From the St. Louis Republic.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.—The recently published story that Mr. Blaine had been invited to become connected with a literary enterprise in New York city had a foundation in solid fact, although none of the statements as to the enterprise itself have been correct. It can be positively stated that when he was in New York ten days ago Mr. Blaine received one of the most munificent offers ever made to any writer for literary work. The offer was made to him in his home, in Augusta, last September, at the end of the Maine election canvass, on behalf of a syndicate of wealthy Republicans. It was held under consideration until Mr. Blaine's visit to this city on the occasion of the death of Mrs. Gen. Sherman, when Mr. Blaine declined the proposition. The refusal to accept the offer is believed by the statesman's friends here to be a certain indication that he will go into Gen. Harrison's Cabinet as Secretary of State.

The project was the publication of a high-class illustrated journal, similar in type to the *London Illustrated News*. The definite objects of the journal were to be political. It was to be devoted to American interests, whose advocacy and advancement were to be given preference over everything else. The gentlemen of the syndicate were to have furnished $500,000 for the project, with Mr. Blaine as editor-in-chief and Mr. Carson Lake general manager. Col. Lake was interviewed to-night about the project. He said:

"After the Chicago Convention I talked the matter over with several friends, all prominent men in the Republican party. There was a unanimous verdict that if Mr. Blaine was willing to retire, or ready to retire, from active politics in the sense of administrative or legislative statesmanship, his pen and name would make such an enterprise a success from the outset. The matter was finally brought to his attention as a business proposition, and the assurances given that ample capital was ready were satisfactory to him."

"Was a stock company to have been formed?"

"Yes; with $1,000,000 capital stock."

"What was the offer made to Mr. Blaine?"

"He was offered $25,000 a year, with a five years' guarantee. It was also agreed that he was to be given $250,000 of non-assessable stock. Another fourth of the stock was to have been left in the treasury and the balance was to be subscribed for at par; that is $500,000, which was to have been the working capital. Mr. Blaine, under this arrangement, would have received one-third of the profits in addition to his salary, and I do not hesitate to assert that the profits accruing to him would have been double the salary. Walker Blaine was to have been engaged as assistant editor, which may account for the hints you have seen that he might give up law for literature. He has a liking for literary work.

"Mr. Blaine took the matter under consideration. I spent three days in Augusta, much of the time with him. The matter was discussed in its various phases quite fully. He was so full of the election that he was unable to get his mind down to anything else. Just before I left for New York he sent me a note at the Augusta House, which probably reflects his mind quite accurately." The note was as follows:

DEAR MR. LAKE: You almost took my breath away with the statistics you give in the matter of your projected pictorial and political journal. I am deeply impressed with all you have said to me; and while quite unable to give a positive answer, I do not wish to reply in the negative at this time. I am thinking just now of the election of Harrison and Morton so absorbingly, and especially of the close election to day, that I do not take in facts and figures with perfect clearness. I will be out of the fog in clear daylight in a short time. Very sincerely, JAMES G. BLAINE.

Col. Lake said further: "I have no question that Gen. Harrison will offer Mr. Blaine the portfolio of the State and none that he will accept it. Mr. Blaine has been known to say that he preferred the place of Secretary of State to that of President."

Blaine to Garfield, Eight Years Ago.

MY DEAR GARFIELD: Your generous invitation to enter your Cabinet as Secretary of State has been under consideration for more than three weeks, although it had really never occurred to my mind until at our late conference you presented it with such cogent arguments in its favor, and with such warmth of personal friendship in aid of your kind offer. I know that an early answer is desired, and I have waited only long enough to consider the subject in all its bearings, and to make up my mind definitely and conclusively.

I now say to you in the same cordial spirit in which you have invited me that I accept the position. It is no affectation for me to add that I make this decision not for the honor of the promotion it gives me in the public service, but because I think I can be useful to the country and the party, useful to you as the responsible leader of the party and great head of the Government. I am influenced somewhat, perhaps, by the shower of letters I have received urging me to accept, written me in consequence of the unauthorized newspaper report that you had been pleased to offer me the place. While I have received these letters from all sections of the Union, I have been especially pleased, and even surprised, at the cordial and widely extended feelings in my favor throughout New England, where I had expected to encounter a local jealousy and perhaps rival aspirations.

In our new relations I shall give all that I am, all that I can hope to be, freely and joyfully to your service. You need no pledge of my loyalty in heart and in act. I should be false to myself if I did not prove true both to the great trust you confide in me and your own personal and political fortunes in the present and future.

Your Administration must be made eminently successful and strong in the confidence and pride of the people, not at all directing its energies for reelection, and compelling that result by the logic of events and by imperious necessities of the situation to the most desirable consummation.

I feel that next to yourself I can possibly contribute as much influence as any other. I say this not from egotism or vainglory, but merely as a deduction from the plain analysis of political forces which have been at work in the country for five years past, and which have been significantly shown in two great national conventions.

I accept it as one of the happiest circumstances connected with this affair that in allying my political fortunes with yours, or, rather, for a time merging mine in yours, my heart goes with my head, and that I carry to you not only political support, but personal and devoted friendship. I can but regard it as somewhat remarkable that two men entering Congress at the same time, influenced by the same aims and cherishing the same ambitions, should never for a single moment, in eighteen years of close intimacy, have had a misunderstanding or coolness, and that our friendship has steadily grown with our growth and strengthened with our strength.

It is this fact which has led me to the conclusion embodied in this letter; for however much, my dear Garfield, I might admire you as a statesman, I would not enter your Cabinet if I did not believe in you as a man and love you as a friend. Always faithfully yours,

WASHINGTON, Dec. 20, 1880. JAMES G. BLAINE.

Even All in 1892.

From the Providence Journal.

At the end of President Cleveland's term the Democrats will have held the Presidency just fifty-two years, beginning with Jefferson; and at the end of Harrison's term in 1892 the various parties opposed to the Democrats will have had the Presidency fifty-two years.

Wherein the Quaker City is Greatest.

From the Philadelphia Call.

More costumes for theatrical performances are made in this city than in the remainder of the country put together.

An International Annexational Fantasy.

With blandest smile, with kindest bow,
"Wilt thou be mine?" says Uncle Sam;
The damsel puckers up her brow,
With sembled anger, while a frown
Of feigned surprise most coyly slips
Between the edges of her lips,
And off she flies, a fawn or lamb.

But not *ferus natura*. No!
She only flies to be pursued;
'Tis that his love may greater grow,
And be time tested, she is rude.
A leap-year look lurks in her eyes;
Because she loves she still denies;
She would not yet she would be wooed.

No love-lorn suitor he, but strong,
Great-thewed and tall as fits a man;
He pipes no lay of amorous song,
He does not blush beneath his tan.
He says: "My gal, I know yer tricks;
Yer're willin', 'spite o' all your kicks.
Be skittish, prance roun' all ye can.

"I know the critters. Ef yer chase
They'll run and break jest like young steers;
But jest yew turn away yer face,
An' say, Wall, thar ain't no one keers,
I don't want yew ef yew don't me,
Thar's jest's good fish left in the sea;
They'll turn and chase yew, then, the dears!"

So Uncle Samuel turns his heel,
And whittles out a few more States.
The fair Canucknees cries, "I feel
My soul adores more than it hates
This Yankee, though I'm o'er young yet
For marriage. He must not forget
The woman's lost who hesitates."

She hies her to her icy lakes,
Her sombre forests grand and frore;
Love in her bosom boils and bakes,
She strives against him most fort