The Sun.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 26, 1889.

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

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

Great Expectations.

The civil service reformers held an experience meeting at Baltimore last week, and passed some amusing resolutions as to what they expect Gen. HARRISON and the Republican party to do for them. It is probable that Gen. HARRISON will be too busy for the next week and the next four years to read the Baltimore resolutions. He will walk about Washington without the awful knowledge that the Baltimore reformers do not permit him to make removals in the classified service for political or partisan reasons; nor to make appointments in the unclassified service "to promote the real or fancied interests of any party, faction, or person;" nor to dismiss anybody in that service "on account of his political opinions or party affiliations."

Four years is so short a space, the applications for office will be so numerous, the pressure of a great party makes the hobbies of a few individuals of so little moment, that Gen. HARRISON would find it impossible to comply with the demands of the civil service reformers did he wish to comply. His personal sympathies have been, it would appear, with the Chinese theory of the civil service. He has not longed for it as the hart for the water brooks, but has regarded it apparently as a harmless subject about which a statesman out of office may generalize prettily without being expected to do anything when he gets into office. We are not attacking Gen. HARRISON's sincerity. We are simply supposing him to be a man of common sense. And any man of common sense knows that a President who tries to resist the natural and proper demand of his party that the offices shall go to members of it will be crushed by his party. Gen. HARRISON has seen, in the case of Mr. CLEVELAND, how a President who resists his party fares. The way to a successful Administration does not lead through China.

Besides, the West is to be a great part of the incoming Administration. The West loves the Chinese civil service system as much as the Hon. JOHN JAMES INGALLS loves it. The reformers are likely to play in hard luck for the next four years.

The Times's Case and the Tory Government.

As Britannia beheld the thrashing administered by Sir CHARLES RUSSELL to that athletic perjurer and forger, the witness PIGOTT, she may well have said with ROSALIND, "Sir, you have wrestled well, and overthrown more than you wot of." It is truly inconceivable that the British public mind, recalling the official support shamelessly afforded to the *Times* throughout its campaign of reckless calumny, should not look with abhorrence and contempt on the motives and the methods of the Tory Government, and challenge it to an immediate trial by the popular vote on the ground that the mandate given in 1886 has been dishonored and exhausted.

Let us run over the chain of incidents which go far to justify the charge of conspiracy applied to the relations entered into between the Unionist leaders and the London *Times*. The triumph over Mr. GLADSTONE, won by the coalition of dissident Liberals with the Tories in the general election of June-July, 1886, was a dishonest victory. The verdict of the constituencies was delivered on a false issue. The chiefs of the new combination concealed or misstated their intentions. Events have shown that the Gladstonians were right in declaring that the people were called upon to choose between concession and coercion. This, however, was indignantly denied by Unionist speakers, who professed to be as anxious as Mr. GLADSTONE himself to grant liberal concessions to Ireland in the way of self-government. It was only some particulars, they said, in the home rule scheme framed by the Liberal Premier, to which they objected. As further proof of sincerity, they pointed to the fact that no Unionist had advocated a recurrence to coercion during the electoral canvass, and that it was a Tory Viceroy, Lord CARNARVON, who in the summer of 1885 had deliberately abandoned the coercive programme. These smooth pretences satisfied the majority of the constituencies and the Unionists obtained possession of the Government.

When the Parliament elected under such conditions convened in September, 1886, the Unionists began, though cautiously, to show their hand. On the plea that an elaborate plan of local self-government was in process of construction, and would be brought forward in the spring of 1887, they refused Mr. PARNELL's request that a palliative should meanwhile be applied to certain Irish grievances and hardships by a bill suspending evictions during the winter. This stiff-necked attitude of the Unionist Ministers, coupled with the energy and ardor with which the eviction mill was worked, forced Irish tenants to fall back upon the so-called plan of campaign. It is hard to believe that this desperate resort to irregular means of defence was not a calculated effect of the Tory rejection of the Irish appeal for temporary relief. For, mark the use made by the Government of the DILLON plan of campaign: After disciplining Lord CARNARVON and elbowing Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL and Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH out of the Cabinet, because these gentlemen were disposed to take seriously the pledges of concession given during the canvass, the Unionists announced that the promised scheme of local self-government for Ireland would be postponed to the Greek kalends, and that in the meantime it was the business of the Government to govern, or, in other words, stifle the clamors of a starving tenantry by recurrence to coercive measures of a rancorous type. So the Crimes bill was passed, and Mr. BALFOUR reigned at Dublin.

The reversal of the generous programme outlined by the Unionists before the general election, perplexed and startled not a few of the voters who had heedlessly deserted Mr. GLADSTONE. It was clear, therefore, to the chiefs of the coalition that much remained to do, if they meant to fortify their grasp of office. A chance triumph at the polls must be converted into a moral victory at the bar of public opinion. The Gladstonians had been defeated but not discredited. The Parnellites were cheated but as yet undefamed. It would be, they thought, a masterstroke of the peculiar statecraft associated with the name of MACHIAVELLI, if their dupes and victims could be in the public mind converted into criminals. This difficult exploit the London *Times*, in the blind fury of its hatred of Irishmen, undertook to perform. Hence the long series of artfully concocted articles entitled "Parnellism and Crime," which, beginning in the first half of 1887, continued for upward of a twelvemonth until the imputation to Mr. PARNELL of letters ostensibly implying the utmost baseness of character and conduct, was forced upon the notice of Parliament and of the courts. Mr. PARNELL demanded, what had never before been denied to a member of the Commons, namely, that public charges hurtful to his reputation should be subjected to a Parliamentary inquiry.

Then it was that the Tory Government, driven into a corner and forced to shield its newspaper agent, had to uncover itself in its true rôle of principal contriver of the conspiracy to traduce the Parnellites and make the cause of Ireland stink in the nostrils of Great Britain. The Unionist majority refused to Mr. PARNELL the Parliamentary inquiry which he wanted, and they insisted upon sending his case before an extra-Parliamentary Commission which he did not want. They placed on the Commission three Judges of known Unionist proclivities, and they defiantly admitted that the Attorney-General would appear for the *Times*. Here was an incredible exhibition of rashness, only to be paralleled by the amazing stupidity which neglected to scan the testimony of PIGOTT, upon which the whole fabric of defamation rested.

To sum the facts up in a word: By its brazen championship of the *Times*, from the moment Mr. PARNELL challenged that newspaper to prove its accusations, the Tory Government has burned its ships. But BALFOUR is no CORTEZ. More than one *noche triste* awaits the Irish Secretary; and his career, which in the eyes of Unionists looked but yesterday so brilliant, is doomed to disgraceful and swift eclipse.

Going for the Italian Venders.

The Law Committee of the New York Board of Aldermen, consisting of Messrs. STORM, FITZSIMONS, MORRIS, and NOONAN, has recently recommended, and the Board of Aldermen has referred with its endorsement to the Legislature, an ordinance especially directed against the Italian peanut and candy venders of this city. It is a measure empowering the city to fix and receive a monthly rent of not less than one dollar, and not more than twenty-five dollars, to be paid by the owners or holders of booths or stands for the privilege of maintaining, within the stoop lines, stands for the sale of newspapers, periodicals, fruits, and soda water, and providing, out of the moneys so received, for the expense of collecting same, the residue to be deposited to the credit of the sinking fund, toward paying the city's bonded debt.

Under the present law authorizing the Board of Aldermen to issue permits to persons to sell fruits, periodicals, newspapers, or soda water only, within the stoop lines, there are now in use six thousand permits, and at least seventy-five per cent. of the holders sell fruits, candies, and soda water. Last year an ordinance was adopted by the Board requiring all such stand owners to apply again for permits, which were to be granted only upon the condition "that it must appear to the satisfaction of the Board that no rent is paid to the owner or the lessee of the premises in front of which the stand is placed." Under this ordinance four thousand of the present stand owners applied for permits, and their applications, which are now on file, show that no rent is paid by them to any person.

These stands are for the most part located on the corners of popular thoroughfares, and are much more valuable to their owners than if situated in the middle of blocks or in out-of-the-way places. The committee says:

"If the law had been especially designed to benefit one class of our population, it could not have been more successfully accomplished than in the present instance, because it appears that only the people of a certain race have taken advantage of its provisions. They are not citizens, and the unjust manner in which they compete with our citizen labor would seem to indicate that at no time (unless their methods of living and labor change) will they be a desirable addition to our citizenship.

"An investigation lately had by a Congressional committee developed the fact that a large percentage of these people are paupers, who left their own country for their country's good, and the committee has made a report to Congress recommending the restriction of such emigration to this country. There is no city in Europe that would permit the wholesale invasion of the rights of its citizens by persons not citizens that we have permitted and expect to receive the approval of the people of such cities. The law under which these permits are granted is unjust in principle, and it has in it the worst elements of special legislation, because it confers upon a few persons valuable privileges and requires nothing in return."

It costs, says the committee, $34,000,000 annually to carry on our municipal Government, which is collected from the rent payers. The competition of retailers is already so great that the profits on the goods sold by them is reduced to the lowest possible sum, and it is unjust to require them to compete with people who are not citizens, and who do not pay rent for the places they occupy at the very thresholds of the retailers who do. The committee continues:

"If it is a good thing to allow persons, either citizens or non-citizens, to carry on business in the public streets without paying rent therefor, why not extend the principle so as to include all kinds of business, either wholesale or retail, and even to permit the building of houses in the streets so that tenants of the dwellings now built may live rent free?

"Besides selling fruit these stand owners carry on the bootblacking business, and with this result they have driven out of business hundreds of boys who formerly supported themselves, and, in many instances, a helpless parent, out of the proceeds of their calling, and also the people who formerly carried on in small stores the confectionery business, often supporting a helpless family of small children. It was simply a contest between the rent payer and the non-rent payer, and, of course, the latter won, and drove the former out of the business. These stand owners do not, nor are they required to perform any of the duties of a citizen, and yet they enjoy all the advantages of citizenship, and more too; they bear none of the burdens of taxation and yet share equally with our taxpayers the benefits derived from the expenditure of $34,000,000 annually. The city spends yearly $50,000 in prosecuting suits for violation of corporation ordinances. These violations consist principally in exposing goods for sale, and in the placing of signs and business symbols within the stoop lines, and that is done by citizens paying rent for the stores in front of which these alleged offences are committed. Yet daily the goods and signs of these storekeepers are carried away by the Superintendent of Encumbrances at an annual expense of $15,000 to the city, while these Italian stand owners, from the superior locations occupied by their booths, gaze complacently on at such removals, secure in the protection which this unjust law affords them."

To abate the condition which this report discloses, it is proposed that the Legislature should empower the city officials to let out these stands at a stated rental, though we see nothing in the report of the Law Committee to indicate that when the city shall have set itself up in business as a landlord, its tenants must be citizens either of the nation or the State. It certainly seems a hardship for retail dealers to be placed in direct competition with those who, by immunity from any rent or taxation, are able to undersell them, while contributing nothing to the expenses of the municipality, whose protection they enjoy. As it is, the Italian venders are prohibited from paying the storekeepers, or store-owners, anything; they do not pay the city anything; and no one, therefore, is compensated for the privileges which, to the number of 4,000, are now confirmed each year to them by the Board of Aldermen.

Should the unanimous recommendation of the latter prevail in Albany, and the proposed measure become a law, the Italian peanut venders of this town will sustain the first commercial reverse which they have encountered since they became active participants in the prosperity of New York; while the city treasury will be replenished to the extent of about a quarter of a million dollars a year from this new source of municipal revenue.

A Symposium of Cranks.

We find in the *Boston Journal* an account of the third annual banquet of Washington Camp 1, Patriotic Order Sons of America. This feast was given at Boston on the night of WASHINGTON's birthday. The speeches of some of the feasters were full of narrow intolerance and bigotry which made them rather interesting. Their sole merit is in the glimpses which they give into the unexplored continent of Crankdom. They seem to reveal in the Patriotic Order Sons of America an original and unsuspected source of public amusement. Probably 99.999 per cent. of the sons of America have never before heard of the Patriotic Order Sons. It is communicating curious, rather than useful knowledge, to enlighten them.

A gentleman of the joyous name of Brother ZULUETTA GIBBS, District President and Chairman of the Social Committee, called the Sons to order. Among the Sons present from other States were Col. GEORGE P. SMITH, President of the Order, and Brother and National Inspector E. B. EVARTS of New Haven. The first speaker was the Rev. M. R. DEMING, pastor of the Bowdoin Square Baptist Church. He made a crazy address, which was crazily applauded. Here is a part of the same:

"He declared that the Romish Church to-day was the Jesuit Church. [A voice: "Correct!"] 'I have,' said the speaker, 'no sympathy with the extremists on either side.' [A voice: "Good!" and applause.] There are men in this anti-Catholic movement who are in it for dollars and cents, and I despise them from the bottom of my heart. [Loud applause.] They are doing the cause more harm than good, and I wish they were out of the way. [Applause.] I have also nothing but scorn and contempt for the bigots and the crafty men who lead the other side. The Romish Church is a political machine. This question never is going to be settled without a good deal of bloodshed. It will grow in this country until it will bring forth the same iniquities as it did in Mexico, and then law or bloodshed will be necessary to suppress those iniquities. We have got a great opportunity in Boston. Thank God we have a Protestant and an American Government in Boston. [Wild cheering and waving of flags.] I mean we have an American Government. [President SMITH: "That means Protestant," applause.]" Mr. DEMING then detailed at length the circumstances attendant upon the arrest of the Rev. A. J. GORDON, D. D., for preaching on Boston Common, and asserted that that act, by alarming Protestants all over the country, lost JAMES G. BLAINE hundreds of thousands of votes. He knew that to be a fact."

We infer from the Rev. Mr. DEMING's remarks that Mr. BLAINE was responsible in some way for the arrest of Dr. GORDON. Perhaps he has an explanation ready, but it is certainly remarkable. Dr. GORDON and the Rev. Mr. DEMING seem to have been even more injurious to him than was Dr. BURCHARD. Mr. DEMING, although not an extremist, as was evident from his restrained and gentle remarks, "was greeted with numerous invitations to join the Patriotic Order Sons of America." We hope he will accept. He is just the kind of man they want, and they are just the kind of men he wants.

Brother FREDERICK ATHERTON, District President-at-Large, responded to the toast "Our Country." Brother ATHERTON seemed to think that our country is in a bad way, and that even Boston hasn't the sort of Government for which Mr. DEMING had thanked GOD. "I am informed by a brother here," cried Brother ATHERTON, "that Mayor HART attended Boston College, a Jesuit institution, and congratulated them on the good work they were doing." This seems a very serious charge, and it may become necessary to suspend the Mayor from office during investigation. And while Brother ATHERTON is still At Large, will he not investigate the painful rumor which has reached us from a trustworthy source, that Mayor HART has a copy of JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY's poems in the third left-hand drawer of his desk in his private office in the City Hall? Is Mayor HART, after all the religious wars in the Boston School Board, only a Jesuit in disguise? Let the matter be searched and sifted.

Brother and National President SMITH of Chicago was received with six cheers and a tiger. He made one indisputable assertion. He said that the man who joins the P. O. S. A. to advance his own political fortunes will find that he has made a mistake. To Mr. SMITH succeeded many other orators whose words were "saturated with expressions of the most intense Americanism." The Utopia Mandolin Club gave selections, patriotic songs were sung, and the brethren of Washington Camp 1, Patriotic Sons of America, must have gone home sure that they had saved the country.

It has long been thought that there are more cranks to the acre in Boston than anywhere else in the known world.

The Crusade Against Slavery.

The most remarkable feature of the new movement against the African slave trade is the great interest it is exciting among the people of Europe. The impulse given to this agitation by Cardinal LAVIGERIE has resulted in the formation of anti-slavery societies in many of the chief cities of France, Belgium, Holland, Germany, Austria, Spain, and Portugal. Even little Switzerland, which has no colonies nor any direct relations with the regions where slavery reigns, has organized her anti-slavery society at Geneva. The *Anti-Slavery Movement* is the name of a periodical in Belgium that has just appeared in the interest of the new crusade. The German Catholics have established "The African Society for the Suppression of Slavery," and its branch organizations are founded all over the empire. A Berlin despatch informs us that this society has begun an almost unparalleled agitation through press and pulpit in behalf of its aims, which are to save the natives of Africa from slavery and endeavor to convert them to Christianity.

These societies are the result of a general belief that the Governments now making war on the export slave trade are likely to relax their energies long before they have extinguished the evil, unless they are stimulated by the strongest public sentiment at home. It is hoped by means of these popular agencies to fan the flame of hostility to the African slave trade as long as there is any life left in the odious traffic.

This widespread philanthropic movement is as interesting, and may prove to be as potent, as the immortal agitation led by CLARKSON and WILBERFORCE, which led to the abolition of slavery throughout the British empire, and finally killed the export slave trade of West Africa.

We notice the name of JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY in the roll of distinguished scholars who received the degree of LL. D. at the centennial celebration of Georgetown University on the anniversary of WASHINGTON's birthday. No man whose name appears in the roll was more worthy of being thus honored. As a bard, sage, author, and man of genius at large, JOHN BOYLE O'REILLY stands in the foremost rank even among Bostonians. Long may he flourish and blossom! Long may he bear rich, ripe fruit like that which he has already given us. Long may he enjoy halcyon days, under the honored title of Dr. O'REILLY!

We congratulate the managers of the German fair upon its wonderful success, which is shown by the fact that the treasury of the hospital in behalf of which it is held has been enriched by the amount of nearly $100,000 during the past week. The ladies and gentlemen who got up its captivating attractions, and who are taking charge of them, deserve the highest credit. We cannot recall any other fair in this city that has offered a greater variety of temptations to visitors or any one that has given them greater pleasure. It is about to close, and those of our readers who have not yet beheld it or promoted its worthy object will lose the opportunity of doing so to-morrow night.

The multitude of Irish-Americans who, by subscribing to the PARNELL Defence Fund, have enabled the Irish leader to sustain his case before the Commission, can now see the advantages that have been gained for Ireland through their act. But for the aid given to Mr. PARNELL that has enabled him to hold his ground and to expose the perjuries and forgeries of LE CARON and PIGOTT, these unconscionable villains might have succeeded in bringing evil, not only upon him, but also upon the cause of liberation which he represents. Both that cause and he himself have been saved by legal agencies which required expenditures far beyond his means. He needs to be sustained to the end, and the efforts in his behalf must not yet suffer any relaxation. It is not only a leader that is to be defended, but likewise the hopes of the long-suffering Irish people.

THE SUN *is the only paper in New York city which reports the proceedings of Congress with accuracy and with such fulness that the reader knows exactly what is said and done from hour to hour, and from day to day, in either House.*

The *Baltimore American*, in its report of the great civil service reform conference in that town on Saturday, thus describes one of the most celebrated reformers of the lot:

"Together with the white-haired and picturesque-looking DORMAN B. EATON, the calm and studious-looking WESTON FLINT, was E. LAWRENCE GODKIN, with his strong face and close-cropped gray beard. Mr. GODKIN is the proprietor of the New York *Evening Post*. He is rather a sad-faced man, with iron-gray hair and beard closely cut, and is more of a thinker than a talker."

"LARRY" GODKIN is not always sad-faced, and he has frequently been known to do more talking than thinking. His lugubrious silence while in Baltimore was no doubt due to the hated proximity of the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT, who has publicly said of Mr. GODKIN: "I do not believe that he has the wish, nor perhaps the power, to tell the truth."

Mr. FREDERICK LOCKER-LAMPSON, whose graceful verse is well known in this country, calls Mr. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, in intended compliment, "our TULLY on the banks of Charles." This seems rather severe. TULLY's attempts at poetry were a laughing stock to his contemporaries, and his florid eloquence is probably not the model of Mr. LOWELL's after-dinner speeches. It may be suspected, however, that these latter will hardly last as long as those of the MCSWELL EVARTS of Rome.

Five ex-Governors of Vermont are already in Washington, and more are on the road. One division of the inauguration procession will consist entirely of ex-Governors of Vermont.

It is interesting to read in the Montreal and Quebec papers the accounts of the prodigious snow storms and snow drifts in Lower Canada. In this locality we have not, thus far, been favored by the snow, but it is making up to the Canadians for all its shortcomings hereabout. It is satisfactory to know that, by a day's journey, barring blockades, and at slight expense, New Yorkers can enjoy an old-fashioned winter to their hearts' content, along with tobogganing, sleighing, and skating that are exhilarating beyond imagination.

Khartoum still figures in newspaper despatches, though there really is no Khartoum at the present day. The town was practically wiped out of existence in the days of horror following GORDON's death. The forts are still maintained, but the rest of the town was razed to the ground and the material used in the most important buildings was taken across the river to build a big mausoleum and mosque over the remains of the late Mahdi. Omdurman, across the river from Khartoum, is now the seat of the Mahdist power, and when we read that Khartoum is alarmed over White Pasha rumors, it simply means that Omdurman is in a panicky state. By destroying Khartoum the Mahdi meant to show the Soudan what would become of any other wicked city which, accepting an infidel's aid, attempted to keep the hosts of the Prophet outside its walls.

Two hundred and sixty pairs of boots have been made for the Emperor of China. The young gentleman has not, we are informed, more than the ordinary quota of feet. The members of the Imperial Board of Civil Service Commissioners are naturally getting very nervous.

It is evident by the despatches from Arkansas that the people of that State are as anxious for the arrest and punishment of the murderers of JOHN M. CLAYTON as they could be for the administration of justice in any other criminal case. There has been no attempt to shield the guilty parties, and no outside influence is needed to secure the enforcement of the law against them in the State of Arkansas.

Every year about the time when spring, in mackintoshes and galoshes, is getting ready to do a brisk spring trade in coughs and colds, notice is served that that eminent Friend of the Indian, Col. SITTING BULL, is getting ready for his annual spring campaign for scalps. As CRE-MA-TA-TA, the gifted poetess of the Snake Agency, sings in her poem, "The Indian Tennyson," which was read at the third annual reunion of the Alumnæ of Crow College last week:

"In the spring the blithesome bluebird in a rapture falls and faints,
In the spring the young brave reckless decorates himself with paints;
In the spring the noble savage from the reservation walks,
In the spring doth Col. SITTING BULL hone up his tomahawks."

Brother BULL is now said to be at the grindstone. He is a man of intolerable activity. Cannot Gen. HARRISON give him a consulship, say in Western Africa? Climate not so much an object as change of scene.

The ebullient Gen. ROSSER's recent symptoms indicate that harmless and not uncommon ailment known as *fortitudo Batavienses*. Glass is the more usual conductor of this malady, but it is caught not uncommonly from the wood. The patient is subject to the delusion, or illusion, that he is a big chief capable of licking somebody. Treatment: Turkish bath, bromide of potassium in small doses.

The announcement that Mr. JAMES ANTHONY FROUDE is writing a novel ought to be true. Readers of Mr. FROUDE's so-called historical works are aware that he is a master of the art of fiction.

Our Kentucky esteemed contemporary, the *Newport State Journal*, has the courageous candor which befits true sporting blood. "We would, individually," he says, "sooner see a good cock fight than any other sport on earth." It is clear that base ball is not yet recognized by Kentucky as the legitimist candidate for king of sport.

Blackwell's Island Bridge.

Ex-Assistant Corporation Counsel Scott appeared before Justice O'Brien in Supreme Court Chambers, yesterday to move for the appointment of a commission to condemn lands required for the proposed cantilever bridge to Long Island from East Fifty-seventh street and across Blackwell's Island. Everett P. Wheeler was ready to oppose upon behalf of the city, but Judge O'Brien said that he had publicly spoken against the measure, and was disqualified. Presiding Justice Van Brunt will hear the motion to-day.

Representing Princeton at Athens.

PRINCETON, Feb. 25.—Leave of absence has been granted to Prof. S. Stanhope Orris by the university Board of Trustees to enable him to accept a call to be resident director of the American Classical School at Athens for one year. He will go as the representative of Princeton. It is said he speaks modern Greek fluently.

OUR TEN NEW ARMORCLADS.

Progress Made on Heavy Fighting Vessels as Well as on Fast Cruisers.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—The interest felt in the unarmored cruisers and torpedo craft, now one after another approaching completion, has naturally diverted attention from the more slowly progressing armorclads. Of these there are no fewer than ten authorized or already under construction, without taking account of the thirteen single-turret monitors in ordinary, which could perform some service, if needed, in harbor defence.

The five double-turret iron monitors, the first of which is nearly ready, have side armor not as thick as it should be, except in the case of the Puritan, but their turrets are covered with eleven and a half inches of steel. They all carry four 10-inch steel breech-loading rifles, firing projectiles that weigh 500 pounds with a powder charge of 250 pounds. This gun will pierce 23 inches of wrought iron at the muzzle and 17¼ at the distance of a mile; and at this latter distance the 30 inches of freeboard exposed by the Puritan makes a hard mark to hit, while in the other four the exposed side is only 25 inches. This is the real source of the reliance which may be placed even on the four which have but seven inches of side armor. As to the Puritan, which has twelve inches of side armor, as a harbor defence vessel she need not fear to attack any opponent. Their guns, which are of the best modern type, can be brought into play at a distance which gives the enemy a most difficult target, with shots likely to glance from the low cylindrical turrets. Double bottoms, water-tight compartments, and protective decks aid their defensive efficiency, and their light draught will give them an advantage in manœuvre in many harbors over deep-draught hostile armorclads.

Indeed it may be said that the monitor type modernized gives the basis for a nearly perfect harbor defence vessel. As there is no necessity for those great space allowances for coal and provisions which the seagoing armorclad must have, everything can be made to turn on armor and armament, supplies and fuel being furnished from the shore up to the time of conflict. In the sixth coast defence armorclad, authority for which was given two years ago, a sum of $2,000,000 being allowed for its construction, we find the best features of the monitor type introduced. The bids for it will be opened in a few weeks, as the specifications have just been completed at the Navy Department. She is to have a length of 250 feet, a breadth of 59, and a depth of a little over 11½, with a displacement of 4,000 tons. Her steel armor will be 16 inches thick at the maximum, and her engines are to develop 5,400 indicated horse power. She is to carry a 16-inch breech-loading rifle weighing, exclusive of the carriage, at least 107 tons, and throwing a 2,000-pound projectile with a powder charge of 1,000 pounds. This will be capable of penetrating at the muzzle more than 36 inches of wrought iron. She will also carry a 12-inch high-power rifle, having a projectile of 1,350 pounds, propelled by a powder charge of 675 pounds, and having a muzzle penetration in wrought iron of 32 inches. A dynamite tube and a powerful secondary battery will complete her armament.

Besides these six harbor defence vessels we shall have four seagoing armorclads. Two of these, the Maine and the Texas, are building at Brooklyn and Norfolk. A third, larger than either, has been authorized but not yet fully planned. The fourth is the one designed by Congressman Thomas, to which both the Senate and the House have now agreed, though with some differences in detail, now the subject of conference. The Maine will carry four 10-inch and six 6-inch guns of the type already spoken of. The difficulty in securing proper steel materials for this vessel has been great, so now to this country is the industry of building large modern ironclads wholly of domestic materials. Even the use of the materials, when properly furnished, is not always skilful, and losses are thereby occasioned. The Texas is much less advanced than the Maine, because incongruities were discovered which have required the modification of her original plans in order to carry out the purposes of the department in her construction. She will carry two 12-inch and six 6-inch guns. The third armored vessel, provided for last year, will have about 7,500 tons displacement, and will carry four 12-inch guns. Her engines will give her probably about 17 knots speed, and with 16 inches of solid steel armor on a water-line belt extending clear fore and aft, she will be one of the most valuable fighting ships to be found anywhere. The tenth of our new armorclad vessels will be the seagoing, partly submerged monitor. Its speed and other details cannot be positively described until an agreement is reached on this subject by Congress, but its plans in general have been mainly approved by naval experts.

THE ARBITRATION LEAGUE.

Senator Stanford of California Issues a Call for a Conference this Year.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 25.—Senator Leland Stanford of California, the President of the World's Arbitration League, has issued a call for a conference of that body, which desires "to inaugurate the reign of universal justice and finally of universal brotherhood." The conference is to be held in Washington on the 1st of next September. Here is a copy of the document as signed by Senator Stanford:

THE WORLD CONFERENCE CALL.

The members of the World's Arbitration League, knowing the great value of a friendly conference on and in the reconciliation of differences among individuals who honestly all to agree regarding the smaller things of life, are assured that the constantly recurring controversies in many portions of the earth over non-essential religious differences, which sometimes even now require the presence of a standing army to prevent a sacrifice of life, are owing to the lack of a common and mutual understanding among them and the want of knowledge of each other and the true aims of life. Therefore we suggest that the interest of true and practical religion, and to promote in a much higher degree the interest of all classes, that great advantages for progress would follow by the assembling together of delegates from all of these organizations for the purpose of deliberating as to the meaning of their great common platform, which requires service to God by serving humanity to the greatest extent possible. The World's Arbitration League, therefore, have determined to invite representatives from these organizations to meet at Washington, Sept. 1, 1889, for the purpose of formulating measures necessary to inaugurate the reign of all needed reforms that will hasten universal harmony and peace.

This conference will be preliminary and preparatory to the approaching culmination of the aims and efforts of the World's Arbitration Leagues and Peace Societies, by the true means of educating every nation to the self-evident fact that an enormous benefit would ensue to mankind by the beginning of a common and gradual disarmament in 1892, when a great convocation of the world's philanthropists shall assemble at Washington on the anniversary of America, and thus not only aid in the establishment of arbitration to settle differences between men and nations, but it is believed will eventually result in bringing to every Government all other great measures necessary to inaugurate the reign of universal justice, and finally of universal brotherhood. On this encouraging prospect we most earnestly invoke the aid and blessing of God and co-operation of angels and men. LELAND STANFORD, President.

Then follow the names of other officers of the league and of its Vice-Presidents in every State.

Minisink Valley Historical Society.

MIDDLETOWN, Feb. 25.—The Minisink Valley Historical Society has been founded with headquarters at Port Jervis, and having a local membership of about fifty men conspicuous in professional and business circles. The objects of the society are stated by the constitution to be: "The collection of a library and cabinet of natural history, and of papers and information, historical, genealogical, biographical, and topographical, relating to the Minisink country, including the valleys of the Delaware and Neversink rivers, and the States of New York, Pennsylvania, and New Jersey generally."

The society organized for the current year with the Rev. S. W. Mills, D. D., President; W. H. Nearpass, Corresponding Secretary, and Charles I. Van Inwegen, Treasurer. Among the notable names in the list of corresponding members chosen are the Hon. William Bross of Chicago, Judge Marius Schoonmaker of Kingston, James Renwick Gibson, Jr., of New York, the Hon. Charles H. Winfield of Jersey City, the Rev. A. A. Hayes of Hamburg, and R. F. Goodman of Trenton.

Nearly all of the men connected with the society are descendants of early settlers of the famed Minisink region, and they enter upon the work of gathering and preserving its treasures of traditionary and documentary lore with intelligence and enthusiasm. The society will hold a stated meeting each year on Feb. 22 for the election of officers, and the annual banquet, and another on July 23 to commemorate the battle of Minisink.

A Challenge to the Mediums.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I see that Mr. Herrmann has accepted Spiritualist Lawrence's challenge to explain mediumistic manifestations, such explanation to take place when Mr. Herrmann's season closes, which will probably be some time next summer. I am willing to meet Mr. Lawrence and his mediums at once, and serve to explain any spiritualistic phenomena they may produce. I also hereby challenge any medium or spiritualist in this country or in Europe to present any manifestation or materialization that I cannot explain and reproduce by natural means, the said manifestations being presented in my presence. If I fail I will forfeit $1,000 to any charity Mayor Grant may nominate. If I succeed, the medium will have to forfeit will be his or her time. H. KELLAR.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.

The March number of *Scribner's Magazine* opens with an article by Postmaster-General James upon the "Railway Mail Service," and this is followed by a chapter of Mr. Stevenson's novel, the "Master of Ballantrae." A most interesting account of the old German city of Treves is given by Mr. W. B. Scott. Mr. W. F. Apthorp discusses the "Heroes and Heroines of Wagner." Mr. Thomas A. Janvier writes of "Mexican Superstition and Folk Lore," and Mr. Henry James has a story in dialogue form, which ends the number.

THOMAS C. PLATT AND THE NEW YORK REPUBLICANS.

A Western View of the Peculiar Relation Between Them.

From the Iowa State Register.

Mr. Platt two years ago began the work of unifying the Republican party in New York. He was about the only man who had at once the touch of fellowship with all interests, and the genius and willingness to take up and accomplish the work of unification. Others helped in it, of course, but he was the spirit that started it, that carried it out with ceaseless energy, and that finally, with the actual genius of political organization, accomplished it. That was the first thing he did by way of preparing for success in 1888. The result was such a delegation to the National Convention from the State of New York as surprised and delighted Republicans, and dismayed the Democrats. For it came as a unit, a unit seeking only the candidate who would insure party success. New York had never been united before in the National Convention in its history, and this great fact put more hope in the National Convention than any other one thing or any other dozen things. It was Mr. Platt who organized for this unity. Who will say that he is not to have credit for that?

In organizing for it he put self last. That is something even to his credit. He was one of the prominent figures of New York. All the prominent figures were put forward before himself. Dr. Depew had his chance for the Presidency, and he had it in a dramatic way. Mr. Morton had his chance for the Vice-Presidency, and gained it. Mr. Miller coveted the nomination for Governor, and he secured that. He not only secured it, but he received what no other candidate for Governor of New York had received, a unanimous nomination, thus largely increasing his chance for success at the polls. It was Mr. Platt more than anybody else, more than any half dozen others, who organized for this unanimity at Buffalo, just as he had organized for unanimity at Chicago. Mr. Miller did not want to be Vice-President; he wanted to be Governor. He said that with a unanimous nomination he could be elected. The members of the National Committee knew very well how in the days and weeks after the National and preceding the New York State Convention Mr. Platt worked to secure for Mr. Miller the unanimous nomination. He devoted all his energies to it and accomplished it.

This is his work by way of helping to nominate a National and State ticket. At Chicago he was not a self-seeker. He was not a factional seeker. All who talked with him know that he was influenced solely by the one consideration, to gain a successful candidate. He was ready to accept Senator Allison, for he believed he could be elected. Then he was ready to accept Gen. Harrison, and succeeded in linking his State to him. The best answer to the general cry of feud in New York as made now, is that the feud in Indiana did not prevent Mr. Platt from urging his delegation to go to Harrison. He acted solely from the sense of party interest.

After the State and National ticket had been nominated Mr. Platt settled down and worked for the success of both tickets as loyally, as earnestly and effectively, as any man ever worked for a party. There was nothing of selfishness in the campaign shown by him. He did as much for the success of the State ticket in New York as for the National ticket, and with wonderful energy and organizing ability he grouped together forces and powers for the success of both, with remarkable ability and successful results. At Chicago he had asked for no pledges. He had secured for all the other more important figures in New York some sort of recognition. He had thought of any chance for himself he took the last chance, and gave all the others a chance before him. If he had any thought of a chance of a Cabinet place, he first put before him the whole work of the campaign before saying anything about it. The writer of this was with him almost every day in the campaign, and so can speak from actual knowledge of his work and his merit. Senator Miller made a splendid canvass in New York, a courageous and magnificent campaign, for which no Republican can praise him too much. But his work was no more effective, and contributed no more in help to party success in New York, than did Mr. Platt's equally splendid work.

These are the facts, and we suppose Mr. Platt is entitled to have them known. In any event, his conduct was so unselfish, so single for party interest, so great in its characters and in its results, that we do not feel like remaining silent when he is slandered.

A Faithful Friend and No Fool.

From the Spectator.

I used to stay with a friend in Wiltshire, whose park is separated from the house by a lake which is about 150 yards broad at the narrowest part. I became intimate with two delightful dogs belonging to my hostess, a large collie, called Jasper, and a rough Skye terrier, Sandie. The pair were devoted friends, if possible always went out together, and, sad to relate, even poached together.

One afternoon I called them, as usual, to go for a walk, and, making my way to the lake, I determined to row across and wander about in the deer park. Without thinking of my two companions, I got into the boat and pushed off. Jasper at once jumped into the water and gayly followed the boat. Half way across he and I were both startled by despairing howls, and, stopping to look back, we saw poor little Sandie running up and down the bank and bitterly bewailing the cruelty of his two so-called friends in leaving him behind.

Hardening my heart, I sat still in silence and watched. Jasper was clearly distressed; he swam round the boat and, looking up into my face, said unmistakably with his wise brown eyes, "Why don't you go to the rescue?" Seeing, however, that I showed no signs of intelligence, he made up his mind to settle the difficulty himself, so turned and swam back to forlorn little Sandie. There was a moment's pause, I suppose for explanations, and then, to my surprise and amusement, Jasper stood still, half out and half in the water, and Sandie scrambled on to his back, his front paws resting on Jasper's neck, who swam across the lake and landed him safely in the deer park.

Novel Wedding in Richmond Colored Society

RICHMOND, Feb. 25.—A novel wedding in colored society here took place at the church of the Rev. John Jasper, the famous author of "De sun do move" theory. The bride waited at the pulpit, while ten virgins with their lamps burning went down the aisle to meet the groom, who stood at the door. As they walked the lamps of five foolish virgins went out, whereupon they were summarily expelled from the building, and were forced to stand on the pavement outside during the entire ceremony. This was, of course, according to programme. Then the five wise virgins, whose lamps were burning brightly, escorted the groom up the aisle, where he was met by the bride, while the choir sang, "Behold, the bridegroom cometh."

"Whole World Soul Communion."

All the readers of THE SUN may not be aware that to-morrow is the day for the "Whole World Soul Communion," as established by the Society of the World's Advance Thought, which has its headquarters at Salem, Ore. The time for the communion is the hour of noon at Salem, and the time table there published shows that that hour corresponds with 3:15 P. M. of the clock in this city. The object of the Whole World Soul Communion, we are informed from Salem, is "to invoke through co-operation of thought and unity in spiritual aspiration, the bl