The Sun.

SUNDAY, APRIL 28, 1889.

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

The Union's Centenary.

What are we celebrating? How many of the two hundred thousand citizens who are to take part in the most imposing naval, military, and industrial processions that this country has beheld; how many of the millions who are eager to see or read of the tremendous demonstrations, have paused to ask themselves this question? What is it that the mighty energies of the American metropolis, of the Empire State, of a nation of continental magnitude, have been concentrated to commemorate?

Assuredly it is not—what the senseless clamor about trivial details of a ball and banquet might lead the unreflecting to suppose—our main intention to proclaim the unimportant circumstance that a few persons conspicuous in the homely society of a provincial borough in 1789 happen to have descendants living. Neither is it our prime business to extol the swift and splendid growth of New York city, for, however marvellous may seem the statistical phenomenon, the same hundred years have witnessed examples scarcely less amazing of urban development in Glasgow, Liverpool, and Berlin on the eastern hemisphere and in Melbourne and Sydney of a world even newer than our own.

Let us add—for there is another and more specious ground of misconception—that it is not the fundamental purpose of the memorable week on which we have now entered, to distinguish and exalt the august figure of GEORGE WASHINGTON, although, as the first President of the consolidated government which went into operation in April, 1789, he personified the hope, the faith, the self-effacement, and the steadfast resolution of those American patriots who made a stable confederation possible. Were it chiefly, however, the personality of WASHINGTON that we wished to solemnly call to remembrance, we could find other anniversaries no less appropriate than this. We could choose his birthday, or the day of his untimely death; the day when he received the sword of CORNWALLIS; the day when he bade farewell to his tried and loving comrades of the Continental army.

What looms on the imagination as we remember what took place in that eventful April of 1789 is something larger, loftier than any individuality. It is the surpassing merit and quenchless vitality of our institutions, not the virtues and the services of any single man. It is not, therefore, first or principally, the inauguration of WASHINGTON, but the Union's installation, the birth hour of a nation, that we are about to celebrate.

It is, in other words, the triumph of a grand political experiment that the people of this country are assembling to commemorate. To appreciate the wonder of a triumph, now age-long and indisputable, we must look back a century and remind ourselves that the experiment was new, intricate, and hazardous, regarded with skepticism by foreign onlookers, with apprehension and suspicion by nearly one-half of the American people, with profound anxiety by its best friends. For skepticism, hostility, misgivings, there was ample foundation, not only in the general nature of the tentative polity framed by the Philadelphia Convention and reluctantly adopted by the larger States, but in the specific circumstances under which it was essayed. If history taught anything, it was that republican institutions were inapplicable to a vast area of territory and the resultant immense complexity of usages and interests. That question seemed to have been settled once for all by the disastrous experience of Rome. Neither was the warning decisively qualified by the diversity of tongues spoken in the Roman dominions, nor the alleged absence of a representative principle. In the second century of our era there was scarcely any well-to-do and educated person under the ægis of the Roman peace who could not speak Latin or Greek or both languages, and since the Senate had been thrown open to provincials, it could not be said that the Roman State was wholly without the semblance of a representative assembly. The truth that seemed inculcated by the fate of ancient republics had been rather emphasized than challenged by modern European precedents. The English commonwealth had lasted but a few years. The Dutch system of self-government had given place to a Stadtholderate. The union of the Swiss cantons was attributed to external pressure; their liberty was ascribed rather to the jealousies of powerful neighbors than to any inherent power of resistance; and their independence, although in 1789 they knew it not, was on the eve of strangulation at the hands of France.

And could French lovers of progress have looked forward twenty years and foreseen the melancholy outcome of the hope and confidence with which the States-General were about to assemble at Versailles, they would have added a deeper shadow to the gloom which overcast the horoscope of the new-born American republic.

How, in fine, was it possible for a political structure, disredited by centuries of trial under the most diverse conditions, to succeed in a vast and thinly settled country, between whose extremities a community of interests was scarcely conceivable, and whose latent antagonisms must gather intensity with every year?

Such were the sober and deliberate convictions of disinterested Europeans who, from 1787 to April, 1789, had been watching the attempt to found on this side of the Atlantic a Union which should be at once republican and steadfast. Such was the view, for instance, of FREDERICK the Great. Americans had stronger reasons for doubt and discouragement than historical examples and abstract arguments. They knew by fresh and sad experience that the predicted process of disintegration and collision had already begun. They knew that the thirteen emancipated colonies were far less friendly and concordant, and collectively far less powerful, than they had been at the close of the siege of Yorktown, or at that, two years later, of the peace with the parent State. They knew that the Continental currency had been condemned as worthless, and that nothing but the devotion of ROBERT MORRIS and his personal resources, soon unhappily exhausted, had sustained for a brief season the shattered finances of the insurgent commonwealths. They knew that more than half of the thirteen States had vainly resorted to the desperate expedient of paper money, and that in nearly all of them civilization had taken the long step backward implied in a reversion to barter as the method of distributing products. In one State whiskey, in another tobacco, had become the clumsy medium of exchange; in a third salt pork had been suggested for the same purpose. Commodities would bring one price in one State, and another in another; and even within the precincts of a single community no man could say what they were worth.

Each State, taken by itself, had at the beginning of 1789 but little credit at home and none abroad. On the other hand, the Confederation was so completely bankrupt in reputation that five years before JOHN ADAMS had found it impossible to borrow, except upon exorbitant interest, so small a sum as $300,000 from the bankers of Amsterdam, and two years later had to submit to the capture of American ships and the enslavement of American seamen at the hands of Barbary pirates, because he could not promise the million dollars demanded by way of blackmail. The civil officers of the Confederation had to put up with fair words in lieu of salaries, and the Continental army, to which the liberties of the colonies were due, had been dismissed unpaid. To defray the huge debt to France seemed out of the question, and neither from that quarter nor from any other could money be procured in the quite possible event of renewed embroilment with a European power. The people could not bear the thought of increased fiscal burdens, nor can we feel surprise at the impatience and disgust with which they surveyed the consequences of their rebellion, when we recall that even in the relatively prosperous State of Massachusetts the average annual tax imposed upon the head of a household was $200, a larger sum of money than a farmer's gross income for a year. No wonder that observant and far-sighted Englishmen believed the time not distant when the exhausted and disheartened colonists would contritely petition to be again admitted among the dependencies of the British Crown. No wonder that the English Government, marking the drift of things, delayed on one pretext or another to surrender the military posts on the northwest frontier, and by vexatious commercial regulations did their best to starve the whilom rebels into repentance.

Scarcely had the thirteen States been delivered from the fear of a new subjection to Great Britain than their conflicting claims and jealousies gave rise to friction which must in time have engendered positive hostility. The depreciation and dislike, which before the Revolutionary war had occasionally marked the relations not only of distant but even of neighboring colonies, were now aggravated by acts of discrimination and encroachment. There were quarrels about boundaries, often bitter, sometimes fierce. There were commercial harassments of the same kind, though not, of course, on the same scale as those which in the years preceding 1812 were to bring about a second contest with England. The dispute between Connecticut and Pennsylvania had, in 1784, culminated in guerrilla warfare and in such cruel treatment of the emigrants from the Eastern States as kindled a blaze of indignation in New England. About the same time the controversy between New York and New Hampshire, concerning the ownership of the Green Mountain region, had reached so acute a stage that war seemed unavoidable, and although a fratricidal conflict was for the hour averted by WASHINGTON'S intercession, the disposition to be made of Vermont remained a burning question when the new Constitution became the Federal organic law. Connecticut imposed duties upon imports from Massachusetts. Pennsylvania laid like burdens upon inter-State commerce with New Jersey and Delaware. A member of the Virginia Assembly did not scruple to advocate the encouragement of the British rather than of the Eastern marine. In New York a navigation act and a protective tariff discriminated against goods coming from New Jersey and Connecticut. The latter State, by way of reprisals, levied an oppressive tax on the lighthouse built by the city of New York at Sandy Hook, and the merchants of Connecticut agreed to forego all commercial intercourse with their western neighbor. This was a state of things more intolerable than anything which had been experienced before the Revolutionary war; a state of things certain, unless promptly arrested, to make the hopes of closer union and of joint defence against a common enemy entirely chimerical.

Within many of the States themselves there was open disaffection, which in some instances broke out in violent riots, and, in one memorable case, took the form of armed rebellion against the State authorities. In Rhode Island the agitators in favor of a paper currency gained in 1786 possession of the Legislature, and passed an act enforcing the acceptance of State notes as an equivalent for gold. Thereupon the hard-money men, by a popular demonstration of the most threatening aspect, coerced the Court into declaring the forcing act unconstitutional. Similar outbursts of popular discontent and anger alarmed New Hampshire and the Green Mountain settlements. Only a little while before the meeting of the Philadelphia Convention, the SHAYS insurrection in the rural districts of Massachusetts had looked so formidable that the Governor of that State called under arms a force of over four thousand men. Incensed at the weight and distribution of taxation, rebellious toward their own State Governments, unconciliating and unfriendly toward the citizens of neighbor Commonwealths, large masses of the population presented the dark spectacle of a people sinking into lawlessness, disruption, and decay.

What all the States, however, and all classes concurred in distrusting and despising was the simulacrum of a national Government, established some ten years before by the Articles of Confederation. That imperfect bond of union had proved but feeble when it was strengthened with the cementing influence exerted by a concerted struggle for independence. No sooner was the exterior pressure relaxed than the bond lost the semblance of unifying power. The considerable influence which had been possessed in Europe by the States collectively, while the war continued, had disappeared with peace, owing to the patent incompetence of the Confederation to make a binding bargain, and the humiliating straits and shifts of its financial agents. As early as 1782 there was not a single dollar in the national Treasury, and two years later the amount raised by the States to meet a war expenditure of $170,000,000 had not reached in the aggregate more than $30,000,000. In 1786 even a State so comparatively opulent as Massachusetts was still in arrears some $7,000,000 to the Federal Government. The Congress of the Confederation was incessantly clamoring for money, but as it had no means of enforcing its requisitions, these, however reasonable, were seldom heeded by the States. Even at the lowest ebb of dignity and influence, it might have learned the secret of self-invigoration could it have acquired authority to pass a general navigation act, and to levy uniform duties on account of the Federal Government in all the States. In 1785 it seemed that the old Confederation would have a chance to enter on this path of redemption. Ten out of the thirteen States gave Congress the power to regulate commerce for a term of years, but these grants, upon inspection, were found to be so stinted and trammelled by restrictions that Congress was constrained to reject them, and thus to abandon the last hope of self-assertion. After the miscarriage of this scheme for providing the Federal Government with a revenue, it was universally recognized that union upon the old basis was impossible, and that only a reforging of the weakened Articles of Confederation could avert the dismemberment and anarchy that seemed at hand.

But would the new instrument of government forged at Philadelphia prove more efficient and enduring than that which it superseded? Would not this, when subjected to the strain of local interests and sectional rivalries, prove in turn a rope of sand? Was it not chargeable with dangers and defects still graver than those of the discarded Articles, though of a less patent kind? These were questions which the country had anxiously been asking, through the twenty months preceding that eventful April of 1789; and they were questions to which as yet the country had returned a hesitating and divided answer. Such men as SAMUEL ADAMS, PATRICK HENRY, and RICHARD HENRY LEE had refused even to attend the Philadelphia Convention; YATES and LANSING, two of the delegates from New York, soon left it; ELBRIDGE GERRY of Massachusetts and MASON and RANDOLPH of Virginia had refused to sign the outcome of its deliberations. The opposition, however, to the Constitution, in the bosom of the body that constructed it, was faint indeed compared with the storm of criticism which broke on it in many of the State Conventions to which it was referred for inspection and approval. The Pennsylvania farmers in the districts west of the Susquehanna declared that their Legislature had illegally convoked the Convention, and the inference was that the adoption of the new Federal compact by the latter assembly was not binding. In Massachusetts the Constitution had been ratified, after nearly a month's debate, by the narrow majority of 19, and even on the final ballot the sturdy farmers of Worcester and Berkshire counties and of the District of Maine recorded their votes against the new-fangled government. In Maryland such men as LUTHER MARTIN and SAMUEL CHASE had set their faces against the proposed organic law. In South Carolina Gen. THOMAS SUMTER and the Whig farmers of the upland counties had taken the same side. The yeomen of New Hampshire after two months' delay assented to the questionable instrument by a majority of but eleven votes. In the Virginia Convention the anti-Federalists were marshalled by PATRICK HENRY, RICHARD HENRY LEE, GEORGE MASON, BENJAMIN HARRISON, and JOHN TYLER, and but for the timely conversion of EDMUND RANDOLPH to Federalism, they would probably have won. As it was, the Constitution triumphed by a preponderance of only ten votes. In New York its opponents were headed by GEORGE CLINTON, by YATES and LANSING, and up to a late stage of the proceedings by MELANCTHON SMITH. Two-thirds of the members were anti-Federalists when the Convention met, and notwithstanding the tremendous efforts of HAMILTON there was merely an excess of three votes in favor of the "more perfect Union" at the end of forty days.

Even when the new Government went into operation in April, 1789, two States, North Carolina and Rhode Island, had not yet assented to the Constitution, and it was questionable whether they would ever do so. So strong was still the opposition in New York that no steps had been taken to name Presidential electors, and accordingly the Empire State had no voice in the first election of a President. The resistance which the projected polity had met with in the most important States, and from a large proportion of the most distinguished patriots, had discouraged the Federalists themselves. Although the time fixed for the opening of Congress was March 4, 1789, there were not enough Representatives present in New York city to organize the lower House before April 1, and the electoral votes were not canvassed until five days later. It was April 14 when WASHINGTON was officially notified of his election, and April 23 when he reached New York. Another week elapsed before he was inaugurated and the new Federal Government was definitely established.

Thus deep and thus widespread were the doubt and the despondency with which thoughtful people in this city and this country beheld the oath of office administered to WASHINGTON on the balcony in front of Federal Hall. Never was a great experiment begun with less confidence and with a degree of approval so far from unanimity. Remote, indeed, was the divided and timid attitude of American opinion from the universal outburst of hope and enthusiasm with which only five days later the opening of the States General was to be acclaimed in France. Yet the outcome of the States General was a grievous disappointment, and the hopes which its convocation had kindled have repeatedly been frustrated during the last hundred years. On the other hand, the Union, founded with misgiving and anxiety, escaped the rock of bankruptcy which wrecked the constitutional monarchy designed by NECKER. It has withstood all the dangers predicted by American critics of its principles and tendencies. It has emerged victorious from the shock and agony of a stupendous civil war.

It is a political success by the wise deemed impossible and even by the optimist undreamed of; it is an institutional triumph without precedent or parallel; it is the immense accomplishment of the last hundred years; it is the no less splendid possibilities of the new century; it is the Union, tried by fire, yet intact and indestructible, that all of us, instinctively or consciously, will this week celebrate.

The Women's Convention.

The women who want to vote have been holding their twenty-first annual convention at the Masonic Temple in Twenty-third street. There were only about one hundred of them at the meeting, and their names afford evidence that as time passes they are gaining few recruits.

The great obstacle in the way of accomplishing the revolution proposed by these very serious ladies, is that their sex generally refuse to come to their assistance. Miss SUSAN B. ANTHONY, a veteran in the ranks of the woman suffragists, was present, but she could hardly have been proud of her associates on the platform. Forty years ago the leaders of the movement, among whom she was so conspicuous a figure, were much more deserving of respectful attention.

During that period the legal emancipation of women has been made nearly complete. So far as the laws are concerned they are better off than men. They have also won social advantages which are not less remarkable. The question of sex no longer determines employment. In all occupations for which they are physically fitted women have as good a show as men, and in many they are beating men in the competition. It is easier for a girl to earn her living in New York at the present day than it is for a man. The census of the State of Massachusetts for 1885 shows that many more women than men are engaged in the manufacture of cotton goods, of clothing, and of articles of raiment in general. Though the number of scholars in the schools is about the same for both sexes, women greatly preponderate as teachers, and as domestic servants they have an even more decided advantage. The development of the telegraph, the telephone, and the typewriter has also opened to them avenues of employment in which they have the advantage over men. As clerks in shops, too, they are displacing the ruder sex, and more and more of them are entering the public service.

Yet meanwhile, as we have said, the ranks of the agitators for woman suffrage grow thinner in this country. Miss DODGE has distinguished herself as a Commissioner of Education, but she is careful to keep aloof from Miss ANTHONY and Mrs. BLAKE. Miss ROSALIE BUTLER has demonstrated extraordinary executive capacity in the management of charitable enterprises, but she kept away from the convention at the Masonic Temple. Presumably neither of these ladies wants to vote, and the same is the case with Mrs. LOWELL, so remarkable for the soundness of her judgment as a philanthropist. In all the great churches, too, there are ladies of distinction in movements for social reform, but they refuse to ally themselves with that small body of their sisters who are striving for the political enfranchisement of their sex. The Masonic Temple convention protested against the exclusion of women from places of prominence in the centennial proceedings, but those ladies seem to be satisfied to have things remain as they are. They are content with the part to which they are allotted at the ball, for it will be the chief part.

It is useless, therefore, for Miss ANTHONY, Mrs. BLAKE, and their small company of followers to talk about the political discrimination against their sex. Women generally pay no heed to them, and without the support of women they are powerless. Woman suffrage continues to be very unfashionable in this republic, and it will never become a question of practical politics while it so remains. When Miss DODGE, Mrs. LOWELL, Mrs. AGNEW, and Miss ROSALIE BUTLER gather in convention to demand the privilege of voting, they will get what they want in short order, and because they are representative women. The present woman suffragists are eccentricities only.

Difficulties Removed.

The official proclamation of Governor HILL making Wednesday, May 1, a legal holiday in New York and Brooklyn, renders unnecessary the agreement entered into between the Civil Justices of this city on Thursday last. They then determined, on account of the centennial celebration, not to hold court on that day for the purpose of granting dispossess warrants against such tenants as might hold over; but now the Governor's proclamation secures the safest and most satisfactory solution of what promised at one time to be a very serious difficulty. Through an acceptance so general as to have the force of law, the first of May is the common moving day in New York; and it marks the beginning and termination of all leases not containing an express stipulation of a different term. To have attempted to move on Wednesday next would have been a perilous and profitless undertaking. On account of the procession on that day, no cart, truck, or vehicle will be permitted to cross the line of march, which extends from Pine street to the Central Park, through the heart of the city, and practically cuts the east from the west side. Again, according to the applications already on file, the number of trucks which will be standing at street corners in New York with sight-seers during the parade, will be in the neighborhood of 6,000, and, as express wagons and trucks must be licensed to do business, those from other places would be unavailable, and there would be, practically, a corner in vehicles for the transportation of household effects.

For the purposes of the celebration, horses will also be in great demand, and the large body of men who have no given trade, and who find profit in assisting at the annual May moving, will now be engaged as waiters, venders, porters, and cabmen in far more lucrative business than as helpers in the loading of furniture trucks.

The difficulties of the situation, now happily removed, were already sufficient, in a purely mechanical way, but complications of a legal character also presented themselves. It is a general construction of household law that where a tenant, whose term expires on May 1, holds over beyond that time, he elects, by that act, to prolong or renew the tenancy, whether it be monthly or yearly, for another term at the same rent. Thus the failure of tenants to move on the First would deprive the landlord of the summary remedy of dispossession, and would preclude him from delivering the premises to the new tenant who might have contracted for them.

The first of the Civil Judges to recognize the difficulties of the situation was Judge GOLDFOGLE of the Fifth District Court. "I cannot speak for my brother Justices," he said, "but I shall, in view of the circumstances and the general celebration of the important event, exercise such discretion in the granting of warrants on that day as may be reasonable, and consistent with the existing statutes." The act of the Legislature, ratified and made effective by the proclamation of Governor HILL, relieves the centennial celebration of an incident which, in the amount of discomfort, anxiety, and household disturbance it would have caused, would have greatly diminished the pleasure which the people will derive from the hearty enjoyment of the day.

The Non-Saluting Troops.

Since the publication of Gen. SCHOFIELD'S order forbidding the parading troops on April 30 to salute the President in the accustomed manner, we have received this communication:

"Your editorial on Gen. SCHOFIELD'S orders regarding salutes is timely.

"Such an order is an insult to the President, and a direct violation of the tactics, which prescribe the honors to be rendered to every officer, and state explicitly that the President shall be 'saluted with the highest honors.' (Upton's Tactics, sec. 763.)

"Gen. SCHOFIELD has no power to restrict the honors due the Commander in Chief. "N. G. S. N. Y."

The point that we would most wish to impress upon Gen. SCHOFIELD is that his plan of securing uniformity of salutes by suppressing the greater part of them, is in conflict with the spirit of the occasion. It will be the representatives of the States first united who will pass in review on Tuesday next. Each body of State troops may have its own military style as distinct from that with which Gen. SCHOFIELD is most familiar, but that is not the commanding General's fault, nor, in proper courtesy to the national militia, is it his concern how it shall be displayed upon the centennial day. We have had reviews in New York before, even by the President. President CLEVELAND was the recipient of the usual honors on the Decoration Day of last year. It is certainly undesirable upon this coming day of days to subject the troops of other States to different regulations from those which have always prevailed here at other times, and, under like circumstances, everywhere else.

With regard to tactics, Gen. SCHOFIELD will see on reflection that his order would practically limit the honors paid the President to the same meagre observances which would be paid to him were he, after getting some distance beyond the reviewing officer, to station himself in position to observe the passing column. That should not be.

At any great celebration in Paris the municipal authorities take the utmost pains to provide relief in any case of accident, and during the coming Exposition there an abundance of ambulances in charge of medical men are to be always stationed at convenient points. The preparations of the same nature in this city for the three days of the centennial celebration have been made by the Police Department. Eight patrol wagons, with surgeons in attendance, have been assigned to those quarters of the city at which the crowds will be heaviest. The twenty-two surgeons of the department, each of them wearing a scarf, will ride along the lines, and additional surgeons will be held in reserve at many of the police stations. We expect that with thorough order along the lines of march there will be few accidents, if there are any at all; but, in the event of anything of the kind, the means of relief will always be at hand.

The policy of prohibition has just been defeated in Massachusetts by an overwhelming vote; but the new High License law was yesterday enforced upon the Bostonians in a surprising way.

Everybody would like to know what sort of weather we are going to get for the Centennial, but Gen. GREELY and all his men are unable to tell us. They have made a bold prediction, as they have done on similar occasions within recent memory, but experience can offer no warrant for anybody to put faith in what they say. It is a great pity that this should be so. With an extensive telegraphic service, an elaborate signal system, and a corps of observers scattered all over the country who ought at any rate to be men of approved skill and experience, it would seem reasonable to expect that the signal service should foretell the weather rather more accurately than the average man can guess it. But such an expectation is not fulfilled, and the Government prophets are every day falling further away from public confidence.

So everybody must keep his weather eye open for Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday, and trust to the good luck that generally attended GEORGE WASHINGTON.

Not long ago the Canadian Government was spending $500,000 a year in promoting immigration to its provinces, but this policy was modified last year, when less than half that sum was expended for the purpose. It was found that the New Dominion could not compete with the United States in offering attractions to immigrants, and that many of those who went there drifted across the border and struck out toward our domains in the West, where they find a better climate and enjoy better times than the Ottawa Government can give them. Some of the political leaders in Canada are now opposed to the whole scheme of expending public money to stimulate immigration.

Those of our contemporaries that are giving pictures of GEORGE WASHINGTON about this time ought to see to it that they bear some resemblance to the authentic portraits of the Father of his Country.

Of the attractive institutions of this city that are free to all visitors there is a long list, upon which may be found titles ranging from the Metropolitan Museum of Art in Central Park and the American Museum of Natural History at Seventy-seventh street and Eighth avenue to the Astor Library, the Lenox Library, the Cooper Union, and so along to the end of the roll, which can easily be procured. No intelligent centennial visitor needs to find any trouble in making all his days and hours here both profitable and pleasant, or in carrying away many memories, apart from those of the great parades, that will remain with him through life.

For some time past there has been a large emigration from Ireland to the Argentine Republic. The papers of its capital, Buenos Ayres, judging from the arrivals there since January last, make the estimate that nearly 100,000 Irishmen will be added to the Argentine population this year. The republic comprises a territory of 1,250,000 square miles, while its people number only 4,500,000, so that there is an abundance of room for all the immigrants that can be obtained from Ireland or elsewhere. The great majority of the Irish settlers in the Argentine Republic are farmers or farm laborers, and it is for the purpose of tilling the soil that they go there. The Government has established a liberal land policy, under which farms can be obtained by immigrants upon easy terms. Most of the land of the republic is fertile; the climate of the greater part of it is temperate and healthy; the government is pacific, and the political institutions are remarkable for their freedom. There are good reports of the condition of the Irish immigrants who are finding places of abode there.

Secretary PROCTOR, in his boyhood, was an enthusiastic coon hunter.—*Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

Then he must still be a first-rate fellow. The coon hunter is not constituted by any special power or accidental skill of eye or hand. He is such through being at once reflective, hopeful, patient, cheerful, fond of his friends, a lover of nature and of the sport which she half-unconsciously offers to whomsoever will traverse her face after she has been left lonely by the sun. The coon man's field of operations needs the night, and he must indeed be fine as a hunter and good as a companion, who, with torch in hand, in the company of a few sympathetic spirits, can plunge cheerfully into the pathless darkness and tramp the night out with a cur's bark for his only guide. The love of these things is why a man hunts coons.

The Hon. BENJAMIN HARRISON, who probably never gave much attention to coon hunting, is to be congratulated upon being associated with such a qualified expert as Secretary PROCTOR.

The Dearest Book in the World.

From the Bulletin de l'Imprimerie.

What was the highest price ever given for any book? We may venture to say that we know of one for which a sum of 250,000 francs (£10,000) was paid by its present owner, the German Government. That book is a missal, formerly given by Pope Leo X. to King Henry VIII. of England along with a parchment conferring on that sovereign the right of assuming the title of "Defender of the Faith," borne ever since by English kings. Charles II. made a present of the missal to the ancestor of the famous Duke of Hamilton, whose extensive and valuable library was sold some years ago by Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge of London. The book which secured the highest offer was a Hebrew Bible, in the possession of the Vatican. In 1512 the Jews of Venice proposed to Pope Julius II. to buy the Bible, and to pay for it its weight in gold. It was so heavy that it required two men to carry it. Indeed, it weighed 325 pounds, thus representing the value of half a million of francs (£20,000). Though being much pressed for money, in order to keep up the "Holy League" against King Louis XII. of France, Julius II. declined to part with the volume.

What Kind of a Divorce is That?

From the Springfield Republican

The Rev. John B. Haskell of Billerica has obtained "a New Testament divorce," as he termed the one he wanted, from Mrs. Mary L. Haskell, his wife, by Judge Mason.

A Country Editor Loses His Shears.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

FRANKLIN, April 23.—The residence of A. P. Whitaker of the *Spectator* was burglarized and the most valuable articles in the house stolen.

Russian Fashion Note.

From the Washington Post.

The Czar has returned to St. Petersburg and changed his winter suit of boiler iron for a light spring suit of coat steel.

Georgia Claims the Oldest Man in the World.

From the Henry County Times.

Henry county still claims the oldest man in the world. He was 97 years old when Kossuth came through this country.

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

There never were so many people on Governor's Island as will be there on Monday next. Happy are those who have tickets by the use of which they can behold the naval parade. It will be a spectacle the like of which has never before been beheld in our harbor, and it will be enjoyed by landsmen and landladies, as well as by the marines. It is to be hoped that the weather prophets can give assurance that Monday will be all sunshine from dawn till dusk.

Those who listened to the feminine orators at the annual luncheon of the Brooklyn Woman's Club on Wednesday last are agreed as to the excellence of the speeches that were delivered by nearly a dozen members and as to the fine quality of the original poems that were read by three other members. The ladies, who took up a variety of themes, spoke without embarrassment, and, in some cases, with fine elocutionary effects. They were rich in ideas and suggestions; they were wholly free from pretence of any kind; some of them spoke seriously and others humorously, and there was no lack of independence of thought among them. The business of the Brooklyn Woman's Club, which is now twenty years old, is conducted in a practical way, and the officers and members deserve high credit for the success it has now as well as for the work they have performed.

The crooks living in other cities than New York, who have had the notion that this city would be a fat field for them during the centennial celebration, had better stay away from here for the next ten days at least. The photographs of many of them are to be seen in this city.

The Free Masons who have been holding their jubilee in Masonic Temple made a show that was worth looking at when they gathered in the beautifully decorated chamber of the Grand Lodge, and the jubilee ceremonies of the fraternity were interesting to every spectator. One could see well known citizens possessed of titles and grandeur ranging from Grand Master and Grand Pursuivant to Grand Chaplain and Grand Tiler. The speakers boasted of the great names that had adorned the membership of their lodges in the United States, and the Rev. Dr. Collyer, Grand Chaplain, wore a smile of unusual grandeur when he reminded his hearers that George Washington and every other American General in the revolution of 1776 had belonged to the Masonic fraternity. It is over a century and a half since the first Masonic lodge was opened in this country, and the order has flourished here from that time till now, when it is reported to have over half a million members in the various states of the Union.

It is obvious to an observant New Yorker that the crowds of strangers who are now pouring into town find plenty of things to look at in their peregrinations through the streets. Some of them will be able to tell more about New York when they go back to their homes than could be told by many of the people who have lived here ever since they were born.

But little has been heard about the centennial preparations of the old patriotic revolutionary Society of the Cincinnati the New York State branch of which is yet in existence. The society will, however, in its own way, take part in next week's celebration. Its original members were the "officers of the American Army" of 1776, and the constitution which they adopted provided that the society should be perpetually recruited from their eldest male posterity, or the collateral branches thereof. Several of our prominent citizens are now in its ranks.

Brooklyn seems about as enthusiastic as New York over the coming centennial, although on the great days of next week she will be a deserted city. Most of the street car lines have adorned horses and cars with flags, portraits of Washington, draped with the star-spangled banner, are to be seen all through the outlying districts in every corner grocery and bake shop, and the smallest thread and needle store has its roll of tri-colored bunting on sale. It is reported that on Tuesday next there will not be a truck horse left in the city; they go over the bridge wholesale to assist in the great panorama. This information is calculated to keep the man who expects to move at that time awake o' nights.

Said a New York lawyer and a man who knows the ropes as thoroughly as most metropolitans: "I shall celebrate the centennial festivities in my own quiet home in upper Brooklyn and read all about the grand processions in the next morning's SUN. That is the way I have taken in the big crowds for the last ten years, and it has saved me a great amount of wear and tear."

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Paris has personified the single eyeglass. The names of the single "eyeglasses" present at any event are given, as for example: "Comte de X., un de nos monocles les plus sympathiques."

The original Boulanger hat was very large, with a curve of brim like the three-cornered riding hats of the last century. It is now much modified both in size and shape. It is hardly more than half the size.

The Matthew Arnold fund now amounts to £7,000, £1,000 of it having come from America. Six hundred guineas will procure a bust for Westminster Abbey, and the remainder will be given to Mrs. Arnold.

Woman flogging exists as a punishment in the Transvaal. All the South African press is violently opposed to it, but only recently a woman was sentenced to receive fifteen lashes for using obscene language.

A capitulation of considerable moment has been that of London to French landscape art. The new rage is described as fast and furious. There has never yet been a modern French landscape in the National Gallery.

Donavan, the Duke of Portland's three-year-old, has won the sum of £25,000 and not counting the Two Thousand Guineas, has engagements amounting to £25,000 before the next Derby, for which he is the favorite.

The report that the Berlin court will adopt the dress of Frederick I. (1701) is confirmed. Emperor William will wear that dress at the visit of the King of Italy and the Czar. The costume consists of knee breeches, buckle shoes, a sword, a three-cornered hat, and a periwig.

In the future every great iron clad will have its suite, composed of a small fleet. This will consist of two first-class torpedo boats, a fast gunboat ram, generally towed, and a very fast 240 ton "turn-about torpedo catcher," fitted with the latest improvements for destroying torpedoes.

The "Nestor of English scholarship," Prof. Kennedy, died at Torquay on April 8. Dr. Kennedy had carried off almost every classical honor at Cambridge, was head master at Shrewsbury, and Professor of Greek at Cambridge. His authority on points of philology was regarded as unrivalled.

A variation of roulette appears under the name of "Sandown." The wheel resembles that of roulette, but the divisions are unequal in size. There are thirty-seven of them, one of which is in favor of the table. They are all named after horses instead of being numbered. "Bolter" corresponds to zero.

The shortest game on record of first class racquets was the third in the recent match between Major Spens and Capt. Tower, competitors in the amateur championship contest of this year. Major Spens, after winning the second game with a run of seven aces, served a love game in the third in 2 minutes and 30 seconds, a straight run of 22 aces. His total aces for three games were 45 to 6.

Aphasia in a most extraordinary form is at present under treatment by Dr. Charcot. A Frenchman, aged 60, learned English through living seventeen years in North America, and then Spanish after his marriage with a Spanish woman. He lost his command of these languages in the inverse order. First he was unable to speak Spanish, then English went from him, and lastly his native tongue, French. The affection was ascribed to the softening of the third left lobe of the brain, and by a methodical practice in conversation he regained his normal ability, recovering the languages in the order of French, English, and Spanish.

Considerable excitement pervades court circles in London regarding a certain letter. After the Duchess of Cambridge died the Queen desired to communicate with the Grand Duke and Duchess of Mecklenburg-Strelitz, who could not be found. It was learned that a lady well known in society had received a letter that morning from the Grand Duchess, and the Queen sent a request that it should be forwarded to her. But there was a passage in the letter which could not be shown to her Majesty. The owner was forced to say that it had been burned by mistake. Every one who doesn't know wants to know what was in the letter.

The famous kohinoor is demanded of the Queen by Dhuleep Sing, the Indian Prince once held as a hostage in England and lately escaped to India. His letter to her Majesty is as follows: "It will be useless for me to demand the restoration of my kingdom swindled from me by your Christian Government, but which I hope shortly, by the aid of Providence, to retake from my robbers. But my diamond, the Kohinoor, I understand, is entirely at your own personal disposal. Therefore, believing your Majesty to be 'the most religious lady' that your subjects pray for every sunday, I do not hesitate to ask that this gem be restored to me, or else that a fair price be paid for it to me out of your privy purse."

A prominent Episcopal clergyman of New York is quoted abroad as saying that the Bishops of the American Episcopal Church are rapidly coming to believe that a distinctive episcopal dress is desirable. "Before long the shovel hat, knee breeches, and black silk stockings of the Anglican prelate will be the prevailing dress of our Bishops. The movement in this direction received a great impetus last summer when the American Bishops attended the Pan-Anglican Synod in London. One or two of our Bishops have already ventured to appear in the English dress, but they have been somewhat discouraged by the irreverent American small boy. Some of our right reverend fathers are also said to be anxious to wear a mitre when officiating and to have an episcopal pastoral staff carried before them on all ceremonial occasions. Americans used to boast that they were above such things as uniforms, but the day when such a boast was possible is long since gone."

The Stuyvesant Dramatic League.

At the Lexington Avenue Opera House, on Wednesday, May 8, the Stuyvesant Dramatic League will present "A Celebrated Case." Mr. Sol Frost will direct the performance. Mr. Ed O'Brien of the Sagamore Club, Mr. Mason, Mr. McCullough, Miss Kitty Ela, Miss Holt, Miss Poland and others will make up the cast. A reception will follow the play. The proceeds of the entertainment will be for St. Cecilia's Church.

You can cure a sore throat with the help of Dr. Jayne's Expectorant, a good remedy for coughs and all throat and lung diseases.—Adv.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The Easter sun did its duty by the Easter brides, for Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday, which Hymen claimed exclusively for his own, were as bright as if they had dawned over the shores of the Mediterranean. To an uninterested observer, who was neither sister, cousin, nor aunt, the ceremony attending Miss Ashmore's marriage on Tuesday would have appeared the most picturesque, as there is a stately grandeur about old Trinity which lent itself as an appropriate background to the youth and grace of the newly wedded pair as they turned from the altar and walked hand in hand down the broad stone steps. The surpliced choir and the nuptial hymns and anthems also gave novelty and interest to the occasion, and repaid relatives and friends for their almost perilous journey down town, through the blocked and crowded streets.

The smartest wedding of the week was undoubtedly Miss Jackson's, and it was also the one that made the best show of young and beautiful women. The bride is a handsome girl, and her superb lace veil, falling over a train of richest brocade, greatly added to and embellished her natural advantages. The group of bridesmaids in their pale pink costumes, with wide straw hats almost bending under their weight of roses, was extremely pretty, and Miss May Randolph looked especially lovely, as did also the young lady walking with her, who is a dark brunette, while Miss Randolph is very fair. Mrs. Charles Carroll Jackson, formerly Miss Mary Van Nest, was beautifully costumed and looked more than usually handsome, while Mrs. Willing, who was a Miss Ashurst of Philadelphia was quite regal in a Worth gown of crushed strawberry color and a very "fetching" bonnet. Miss Frazier, who is also from the Quaker City, attracted a great deal of attention, and is an exceptionally pretty girl. There was a cluster of Philadelphians and Virginians in the church and at the reception, as the bride's mother was Miss Willing, and her father is closely connected with the Bayards and the Carrolls.

Of the other Easter weddings, that of Mrs. Sarah Jewett and Mr. Julian Robbins was the most quiet, as the ceremony was performed at home, and the outside crowd and tumult was thus avoided. It might almost have been called the orchid wedding, as those delicate blooms were used largely in the decorations, and the bride carried no other flower in her bouquet.

The superstition about the merry month of May as being inimical to wedded bliss is fast dying out, and already invitations have been issued for two prominent marriages. Mr. Samuel D. Babcock has issued cards for the marriage of his daughter, Miss Fanny Morris Babcock, to Mr. Henry Alexander Murray, to take place on Wednesday, May 8, in Calvary Church, at half-past 8 o'clock, and the wedding of Miss Mabel Channing Wright and Mr. James Duane Livingston is announced for one week later in the same church at the same hour.

A new engagement has also been made known which has awakened un