The Sun.

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## The State of Religion.

In the course of a paper before the American Society of Church History the Rev. Dr. LEWIS of Plainfield, New Jersey, recounted this remarkable conversation:

"Last July I said to Prof. ADOLPH HARNACK: 'Will the Protestantism of the next century be more spiritual than now, or less?' He said: 'It will be more spiritual or it will die.' I continued: 'If it dies, what will be the next scene in Church history?' He answered: 'Roman Catholicism will take possession of the world as a new form of paganism.'"

Father HUNTINGTON, the Protestant monk, took a different view of the religious situation in a recent address at Chicago. The danger of the future, he thought, lies not in the decline of spiritual religion, but in the loss of practical religion among Christians. He then proceeded to explain his meaning:

"The masses find the preachers of the great churches ready enough to talk of future happiness, but when it comes to doling out some of this happiness and peace in this world, they are too often dumb. The utterances of the preachers on the social ills of this world are weak and timid. Nor is it because the ministers are hypocrites that this is so, nor yet because the preachers are not awake to the importance of these questions. In most cases the preachers do what they think the wisest. They are dependent for their success, and for the success of the religion they teach, upon the wealth of men who made their money out of the existing order of things; and to speak against social evils means the loss of this patronage and the consequent diminution of their power for good."

The disagreement between the clergymen is therefore radical. Dr. LEWIS and Prof. HARNACK look for the downfall of Protestantism in the next century if it does not become more spiritual in its perceptions. Father HUNTINGTON finds that it is losing its power because it is not practical. The religious skepticism and indifference of the period seem to him to have their cause in the disposition of Protestants to concern themselves about abstract questions of theology rather than about establishing the Kingdom of GOD on earth by the actual regeneration of society in accordance with the practical principles and prescriptions laid down by CHRIST.

These two distinct and contradictory statements of the religious needs of the period are worthy of the serious consideration of all those who are lamenting the existing tendency toward infidelity. But whoever discusses them in the narrow spirit of hostility to Roman Catholicism displayed by Dr. LEWIS will only be helping to increase the distrust of the current Christianity which Father HUNTINGTON speaks of as so prevalent. He will be furnishing a new example of disobedience to Christian precept on the part of those who profess to be guided by it. This is not a time for Christians to be fighting among themselves.

## The Secretary and the President.

A peculiar theory of the relations between Secretary BLAINE and President HARRISON is attributed by the *St. Louis Globe-Democrat* to the Hon. STEPHEN B. ELKINS. It is worth examination.

Mr. ELKINS is reported as saying, in substance, that at the beginning of the present Administration Mr. BLAINE probably went to Gen. HARRISON and had a frank talk with him concerning his own position. He reminded the President that he had been many years in public life, and had incurred numerous and various obligations to political friends. These obligations could not be ignored, and yet they ought in no way to affect the HARRISON Administration. The President could not be expected to discharge the political debts of Mr. BLAINE'S previous career. The Secretary would, of course, make such recommendations concerning the distribution of patronage as seemed proper to him, and he would make them in good faith; but he wanted the President to feel that whenever he thought it best to set aside such recommendations there need be no hesitation. So far from interpreting reversals and refusals as an affront, Mr. BLAINE would understand that they were entirely proper under the circumstances. His position was different from that of the other Secretaries.

Such is the theory attributed by the *Globe-Democrat* to Mr. ELKINS, explaining the persistent and conspicuous manner in which the desires expressed by Mr. BLAINE have been disregarded at the White House. There is a private understanding between the President and the Secretary that the Secretary's recommendations of appointments to office are not to count. Thus Mr. BLAINE is able to accept rebuff after rebuff with the patient tranquility and dignified serenity which have marked his demeanor ever since last March.

We do not think that many friends of Mr. BLAINE will believe that Mr. ELKINS has ever offered or suggested an explanation which is in itself an insult to the foremost of living Republicans. To suppose Mr. BLAINE capable of entering into the private arrangement alleged, is to suppose him capable of playing false to his friends, and at the same time flinging his dignity and self-respect to the winds. It is much as if Mr. BLAINE were accused of giving open letters of introduction and warm commendation, and at the same time secretly instructing the persons to whom they were addressed not to honor those letters when presented.

Treachery of that sort is not characteristic of Mr. JAMES G. BLAINE.

## Post Office Subsidy.

The *Morning News* of Wilmington is another Republican newspaper which regards JOHN WANAMAKER as "a most valuable public official and the most prominent member of President HARRISON'S Administration." It labors almost as energetically as the hard-working *Philadelphia Press* to spread the fraudulent idea that WANAMAKER is attacked because he is a business man, and that the business men of America are insulted when he is rebuked for ridiculous and scandalous behavior in public office.

Rather curiously, the explanation of the *Wilmington News's* zeal in WANAMAKER'S behalf is supplied right alongside of its remarks upon the subject. For the purpose of exhibition we compress into one column's width two passages that are beautifully contiguous in the columns of our contemporary:

*From the Wilmington News of Jan. 1.*

90-inch French Leom Sheeting, at 65 cents.

80-inch Flemish Sheeting, at 75 cents.

**Handkerchiefs.**

Men's plain white Handkerchiefs, $2.50 a dozen.

Same, very fine $3 a dozen, or 25 cents each.

Women's Scalloped and Embroidered, slightly tumbled, 40 cents, from 50 cents, and 60 cents from 75 cents.

JOHN WANAMAKER.

THE SUN is certainly leaving the beaten path of respectable journalism when it rushes in the byways and hedges to attack our Postmaster-General. Its mean assaults upon Mr. WANAMAKER, and its persistent slapping in the face of every business man in the country by calling the great merchant a "shopkeeper" and the like, are not calculated to raise THE SUN very high above the horizon of popularity.

None of these subsidized and hard-working journals really believes that THE SUN is "slapping in the face every business man in the country" when it insists that WANAMAKER'S posters should not be plastered on a panel of the Cabinet. Whenever any newspaper pretends to believe that, the explanation can be found as above.

## The Democracy Must Stand by Universal Suffrage.

A considerable degree of mystery and uncertainty seems to surround the precise words uttered by Senator GORMAN at the Rennert House in Baltimore on Monday last. It was a private gathering of Democratic newspaper men, and Senator GORMAN is reported as having "avowed his uncompromising opposition to the Australian election law, and gone so far as to say that a bill introducing the essential features of that law in Maryland would be appropriately entitled, 'a bill to send the Democratic party to the rear.'"

The Maryland journalists who were present have had little to say on the subject; and those not present have not shown much enterprise or diligence in the matter. The *Baltimore Sun* remarks that a report of the matter "has been telegraphed and published throughout the country."

That a sensible and patriotic Democratic leader like Mr. GORMAN should be opposed to the Australian law, which, as he says, has just extinguished the Democrats of Boston, is perfectly natural. Changes in population, the bringing in of the tariff issue, and other causes, have already combined to reduce seriously the Democratic majority in Maryland. In the Presidential contest of 1876 the Democrats carried the State by 20,000; in 1880 by 15,000; in 1884 by 11,000, and in 1888 by 6,000. Should such diminution continue, this former Democratic stronghold might as well be regarded as Republican in 1892, or at least as doubtful. What alone prevents such a conclusion is the existing Democratic preponderance in the city of Baltimore, ten wards of which now furnish the whole Democratic majority of the State. So long as the strength of the Democracy can be preserved in the populous part of Baltimore, the centre of industry, activity, and intelligence, the State will be safe for the Democracy; but if, by any Australian device, the Democratic majority there can be either cut down or wiped out, through the wholesale disfranchisement of voters not holding diplomas from the Johns Hopkins University or other institutions of learning, the State will become Republican. What is intended by the proscriptive ballot reformers of Maryland, the lineal political successors of the Know-Nothings of other days, whose stronghold was Maryland, we already know from the columns of our contemporary, the *Times*. On Dec. 22, this despatch from the home of Senator GORMAN appeared in that journal:

"BALTIMORE, Dec. 21.—The Reform League is busy at work on a new election law. The idea decided on by the Committee on Legislation is a modification of the Australian system so as to fit the peculiar conditions of this State. In this modification the measure will be unique, and, should it succeed, it may become the model for other Southern States. The main trouble has been in making provision for the illiterate vote. The decision of the committee is that the tickets of the different parties be printed in groups, as, for instance, the Democratic party in a square, the Republican in a circle, and the Prohibition in a triangle, or some such marks as may be recognized by voters who could not read. The draft of the law will be finished next week, and copies will be printed for distribution in the Legislature on Jan. 1."

In New York we have not yet reached the circle and triangle phase, but Senator GORMAN perceives very clearly that the Chesapeake Bay reformers are after another 8 by 7, non-partisan, civil service, Republican scheme for the extinction of the otherwise triumphant Democracy. Being a far-seeing and astute Democratic leader, he is clearly aware of the fact that the Republicans are not devising and advocating schemes to cut down the Republican vote and keep up that of the Democrats.

To the judgment and foresight of the Senator from Maryland the Democrats of the nation are already indebted for warning words at various critical junctures; and at no time were his monitions more forcibly spoken than two years ago, when the free trade folly was about to be saddled upon the Democracy at the threshold of the contest of 1888. In the election of 1884 he shared with Senator BARNUM and DANIEL MANNING the executive management of the party; and to him probably more than any other man, with the exception of SAMUEL J. RANDALL, is due the success of that memorable contest, so barren of every good result for the Democracy.

## War Ships of the Future.

It appears that the plans of the 7,500-ton armorclad are at length completed, only to be marked with essential modification, or else abandoned altogether, so that another vessel may be asked for in place of the one authorized by Congress.

As an armorclad the new vessel is thought to be needlessly small. In Secretary TRACY'S demand for forty new armored ships he mentioned 8,000 to 10,000 tons as the proper displacement for them; hence a beginning, it is suggested, might as well be made on that basis with the armorclad already authorized and not yet contracted for, instead of experimenting on smaller dimensions. When the Maine and the Texas were asked for, armored vessels of their class were new in this country, and a modest beginning was made with "about 6,000 tons displacement" for each. Still, the plans of the Maine were found actually to require 6,648 tons; and in the third armorclad the demand was advanced to 7,500 tons. This was intended to produce something like the English Warspite and the Impérieuse, which are of about 7,400 tons; but it was aimed to give the new vessel a little more speed and armor than theirs. As Congress, however, has made a liberal allowance for this vessel, sufficient, in fact, to build an armorclad of 9,000 or 10,000 tons in Great Britain, the Navy Department could easily increase the statute displacement in its plans, as in the case of the Maine.

But an alternative has been suggested. A new style of war ship is coming into vogue, that of the enormous protected cruisers Blake and Blenheim. In the Baltimore we have, as Secretary Tracy said the other day, the best and fastest cruiser of its displacement in the world. That is something to be proud of. But since the plans of "No. 27" were purchased by Mr. WHITNEY for the construction of the Baltimore, advances have been made in displacement. First come the Reina Regente; then, in a great leap to double the Baltimore's displacement, the Blake and Blenheim. The Blake is 375 feet long between perpendiculars, with an extreme beam of 65, and a displacement of 9,000 tons, which is double that of the Baltimore. Her engines are designed for an aggregate of 20,000 horse power, which is an enormous excess over the Baltimore's; and under forced draft it is expected that she can make the railroad speed of twenty-two knots an hour. Her great displacement furnishes her with a remarkable bunker capacity, 1,500 tons, and a possibility of 1,800. At ten knots she could go more than half around the globe without recoaling. With natural draft she is to develop 13,000 horse power and twenty knots speed. The largest of the Baltimore's guns are 8-inch, while those of the Blake are 9.2, and she also has ten 6-inch guns. Especially noteworthy is her curved steel protective deck, which has a maximum thickness of six inches, and extends on the sides six feet below the water line, so giving a protection to her machinery and magazines such as is furnished by no other vessels of her class. The difference between an ordinary protective deck of perhaps three inches maximum and one of six inches is very great. Her conning tower has twelve inches of steel armor. The deck, with the high engine power, and speed, and the great coal-carrying capacity of the Blake will account for her great displacement, like that of a huge armor-clad, while she is of the unarmored class.

The question has arisen why we should not, instead of the 7,500-ton armored cruiser, have a 9,000-ton Blake, with five knots higher speed, heavy battery, and good protective deck? The Blake and Blenheim only cost $1,840,000 each, and the allowance for the 7,500-ton vessel is $2,500,000. Should speed, taken in our Government's fashion, be substituted for horse-power requirements, perhaps a Blake might be contracted for here at from $2,000,000 to $2,250,000. Such a vessel could, except as against another of the same type and equal capacity in a foreign service, overhaul any adversary whom she was able to fight, and escape from any one which was more powerful. She could match the crack ocean racers upon which the various European Governments are relying for their service in time of war, which we cannot rely upon. A vessel or two of this type would be an addition to our navy, whether as a substitute for the 7,500-ton vessel, or as an addition to those already asked for by the Secretary.

## Hark from the Tomb!

The Hon. FRANK HURD of Toledo is noted for being no liar; and he writes out the tariff smashers' platform like a statesman, clear as to both his mind and his principles, through the columns of our esteemed contemporary, the *Globe-Democrat*.

"CLEVELAND," says Mr. HURD, "is the acknowledged champion of free trade."

Truth, says the poet, sits upon the lips of dying men; and the fact that Mr. HURD speaks from the mortuary recess of personal defeat, doesn't make his remarks on this question any less valuable.

Mr. CLEVELAND stands for free trade and for no other economic principle intermediate between that system and that long established in this country; and no additions to his programme of any "other reforms" to which, in the uncertainty of discouragement, he may say the Democratic party "is, or ought to be," devoted, can disguise the truth.

Mr. THOMAS G. SHEARMAN, one of Mr. HENRY GEORGE'S band of economists, made a speech to the Boston tariff reformers the other night. He wept over the Hon. ROGER QUARLES MILLS, who was present in full force. "He and we were defeated," said Mr. SHEARMAN; but they look for better luck next time:

"Now we can wait until Mr. MILLS introduces his great measure in the Congress of 1893 [cheers and applause], which will sweep away all taxes on wool, coal, ores, and all other crude materials. The Protectionists are—or were, some months ago—happy because they had elected BENJAMIN HARRISON President. We are much more happy, because we know that, unless death or some miracle intervenes, we shall elect GROVER CLEVELAND in 1892. The future is ours! The future, with tariff reform, civil service reform, and ballot reform."

O, let us be joyful, joyful, joyful, thinks Mr. SHEARMAN. "You are setting in motion," quoth he, "a tide which will not stop flowing when GROVER CLEVELAND signs the MILLS bill of 1894." There's a great time coming, if Mr. SHEARMAN is any judge of time.

But the reason why there can be no happy future for the Democratic party if it follow the MILLSES or the SHEARMANS is thus stated by Mr. SHEARMAN:

"When you have swept protection out of the tariff the American people will be logical enough to sweep the tariff after it."

But the American people are not sweeping the tariff. They prefer sweeping the tariff sweepers.

The Hon. JOHN QUINCY ADAMS BRACKETT, who has just been inaugurated Governor of Massachusetts with glorious pomp and a glittering staff of heroes with padded shoulders, said in his inaugural address that the Bay State wants housing for 1,000 more lunatics. Between IBSEN, BELLAMY, and civil service reformers the old State seems to be growing as mad as a March hare or the Hon. HENRY WANTWIT BLAIR.

"THACKERAY'S famous lines:

"'The Pope he is a happy man,
His palace is the Vatican.'"
—*New York Times.*

They are not THACKERAY'S lines. They came from an old German song which begins *Der Sultan lebt in Saus und Braus.* THACKERAY only made a translation of it.

If BENJAMIN HARRISON didn't kill GIL WOOTEN'S fat hog, then the report that GIL WOOTEN is a candidate for the Russian mission is probably a pretty invention. Ditto the report that the hog will be exhibited in the principal cities and towns this winter.

The winter overcoat seems to be a back number.

## THE PAN-AMERICANS AND WANAMAKER.

**Their Opinion of the Bargain Counter Trick.**

*From the Panama Star and Herald.*

The Pan-American visitors were not, however, either much benefited or edified by their extended and "personally conducted" tour through that world of Wanamaker's creation. They were being utilized as an advertisement, but, judging themselves "in for it," submitted with becoming grace, and tried to be cheerful and comfortable while marching along like stock on exhibition before the seething multitudes who had been gathered together to view the "lions" by special advertisement in the morning papers. As an advertisement, the success was complete; but as a hospitable entertainment it was simply a swindle.

**Foreign Notes of Real Interest.**

Prof. Bruns of Tuebingen has made experiments with the small-bore rifle, which is just about to be introduced into the Belgian army, and finds that the wounds made at all distances are much less dangerous than those inflicted by other guns. At short ranges the laceration of the flesh is not so marked and the soft parts are not so much injured, while at long ranges the shattering of bones decreases. The wounds resemble cuts, and are therefore easy to heal.

There are in France 877 associations of employers, 891 of workingmen, and 587 of farmers. The workingmen's associations, which were formerly political organizations, have become for the most part purely mutual benefit societies of late years. The agricultural associations do not agitate politically like our Grangers. They are to a large extent coöperative and technical. The farmers' association near Fontainebleau, for instance, owns a slaughter house at which every member has his cattle killed at very low prices. This and other similar coöperative devices of the French farmers' associations show that the French peasant is not so stupid and helpless as he is generally supposed to be.

In the case of the Church Association against the Bishop of London, to get the new reredos in St. Paul's removed, on the ground that it included too large and too prominent a figure of the crucifix, another decision has been made by the Court of Appeal, Lord Esher and Justices Findlay and Kepes sitting and agreeing. The Bishop refused originally to consider the application of the Church Association, and they obtained a mandamus from the Queen's bench, Lord Coleridge and Justice Manisty agreeing and Baron Pollock disagreeing, directing the Bishop to give a hearing. The Court of Appeal have reversed that decision, holding that the Bishop's discretion upon such a question was absolute. An appeal will be taken to the House of Lords.

The *Glasgow Herald* publishes returns from all the principal shipbuilding centres throughout the United Kingdom. The output during 1889 is the largest on record. In 1883, the year when the last shipbuilding "boom" was at its height, the total output throughout the country was 1,250,000 tons. This year the vessels launched approach very closely to 1,272,000 tons. The Clyde heads the list with a total tonnage of 586,201 tons. Next comes the Tyne, with 261,710 tons. The Wear is third on the list, with 217,356 tons. Then the Tees, with 110,436 tons. The shipbuilding yards in Belfast have launched tonnage to the amount of 80,000. There are now on hand in the various yards on the river Clyde, and in different stages of construction, vessels aggregating 800,629 tons. Last year there were at the same time vessels on hand having a total of 598,881 tons.

## THE TARIFF ON WOOL.

**Wool Growers Ask for Sufficient Protection to Shut Out Foreign Carpet Wools.**

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3.—The House Committee on Ways and Means opened its session this morning by listening to Representative Carter of Montana, who spoke in relation to sheep husbandry, particularly on the eastern slope of the Rocky Mountain country. He thought if there was no tariff on wool the wool industry of Montana would be destroyed.

Mr. Shepherd, a wool grower of Texas, read a paper to prove that, with sufficient protection, the United States could raise all the carpet wool consumed in the country. He gave figures to show that in Texas it costs from 15 to 18 cents a pound to produce fine wool, and that it cannot be laid down in Boston at less than 19 cents a pound, while the Australian wool could be laid down there, if there was no duty on it, at 6 cents a pound.

By Mr. Carlisle—How many sheep have you? A.—About 18,000.

Q.—How much land do you use? A.—Eighty thousand acres.

Q.—What is that land worth per acre? A.—The Government land is worth $2 per acre.

Q.—How many acres are required for the care of one sheep? A.—About five acres.

Q.—You have set out quite a number of advantages which your part of the country possesses for the production of carpet wool, and yet you say that, notwithstanding these advantages, you cannot produce it without adequate protection. What rate of duty do you consider adequate protection? A.—Enough to raise the price of carpet wool to the price of fine wool.

Q.—Is it your idea that the Government should impose a duty that would enable you to have as much profit on carpet wool as on fine wool? A.—I would like the same duty on every pound of wool.

Q.—What do you mean by the same duty? A.—I mean that one class of wool should pay the same duty as another class. I would have the same duty on all wool, say ten cents a pound.

By Mr. Grear—What would have been the effect on the wool-growing business in Texas if the Mills' bill had gone into effect? A.—We would all have gone out of the business, I reckon.

Mr. Mills put a series of questions designed to make the witness admit that the ten cents a pound duty on wool was the protection of capital, not of labor, which was being robbed, he said, to that extent. The witness replied, with much warmth, that he would like to rob, not the poor sheep, but the rich man, such as Congressmen and Senators, who were robbing the sheep raisers by not giving them their dues. He declared that he was a Democrat—all but free trade. He could not stand that. He had voted for President Cleveland the first time, and would have voted for him the second time if he had not sought to slaughter sheep raisers for the sake of free trade.

By Mr. Bayne—Are the farmers and wool growers of Texas generally in favor of protection? A.—I cannot speak for the farmers. I know that the wool growers are.

Q.—Without regard to party? A.—We are going to drop the question of party.

By Mr. Mills—Did not you try a little of that philosophy last campaign? A.—Not as much as I wish we had done. There was another feature in that campaign—prohibition—which elected some gentlemen.

By Mr. Breckinridge—Is the Democracy of Texas strongly in favor of prohibition? A.—No, sir. I am sorry to say that the Democracy of Texas is in favor of free whiskey. (Laughter.) I am a Prohibitionist myself. We did not try to centralize the wool interest in the last campaign, but the next time we will try.

The Hon. William Lawrence of Ohio said that wool growers generally believed that a sound policy required the imposition of such a duty on so-called carpet wool as would in due time enable American wool growers to produce all the wool required for consumption in the United States, shutting out foreign importations, and giving to the American wool growers the privilege of supplying all the carpet wool required for consumption here. Either the protective policy should be abandoned and the policy of free trade adopted, or else the protective policy should be made effectual, so as to give the whole American market to home producers.

Mr. Lawrence said that the duties which he had been instructed by the National Wool Growers' Association to ask to have inserted in the bill were not at all prohibitory and only to a limited extent protective. He made the point that if the carpet manufacturer had an adequate compensating duty on carpets, as the wool grower asked he should have, a protective duty on the wool could not injure him. An adequate duty on wool and manufactured woollen goods would not ultimately increase the cost at all, because home competition would prevent unreasonable charges, while, if the protective policy were abandoned, and all such products were imported from abroad, the result would be that the American people would be at the mercy of foreign trusts and corporations.

Mr. Carlisle—That argument rests on the assumption that the home industry would be abandoned.

The Witness—Yes, the effect of the tariff of 1883 has been to cut down vastly the number of our sheep, and with free wool, the wool industry would be practically abandoned in the United States.

Mr. John T. Rich of Michigan said that he was the representative of the Michigan Merino Sheep Association, and that that Association desired that there should be no reduction of duty on wool; that there shall be substantial protection, and that frauds in importations of wool shall be prevented.

Mr. James Dobson of Philadelphia, carpet manufacturer, next addressed the committee, criticising what he called "the violent tirade" which Mr. Lawrence had indulged in against carpet manufacturers, and denying the correctness of many of his statements. There were no men, he said, who would go further in the protection cause than the carpet manufacturers; but they did not want to be hounded, as they had been for years, by the wool growers and wool dealers. If there was to be free trade let it be free trade, pure and simple, and the carpet manufacturers would take their chances. They asked nothing more than to be put on the same level as woollen cloth manufacturers. Mr. Dobson argued that the wool growers of the United States would not and could not produce the quantity of carpet wool used in that industry, because where they received $1.50 for the fleece of a fine wool sheep they would not receive 25 cents for that of a coarse wool sheep.

Mr. William Whitman of Boston, President of the National Association of Wool Manufacturers, presented a memorial and resolutions adopted by that association. The association took the position, he said, not to attempt to fix the duty on wool, but to leave that to the committee, without remark or comment. He would say, however, that the prevailing sentiment among the manufacturers connected with the organization was a preference for the maintenance of the existing duties, and that the present rate should not be increased. They would certainly oppose any attempt to restrict the importation of foreign wool, and he did not believe that the committee would attempt such a thing, because it would be impossible for wool manufacturers to produce all the goods necessary for home consumption unless they could have foreign wool. The wool manufacturers were willing to have a protective duty on wool, but not a prohibitory or restrictive duty.

After a long examination the witness was asked by Mr. Breckinridge whether, if the wool manufacturers of the United States had free wool, they could enlarge their market by sales to foreign countries, and he replied that, under no circumstances, would free wool enable wool manufacturers to make an impression on the foreign markets.

Mr. T. C. Search of Philadelphia, representing the Manufacturers' Club of that city, declared himself in harmony with the views expressed by the last witness, and argued to prove that the duty on carpets and woollen cloths should be just four times as great as the duty on unwashed wool, which was now ten cents per pound—with 40 and 50 per cent. additional ad valorem.

Mr. John F. Plummer of New York made some remarks on the subject of woollen fabrics worn by men, and said that he did so not as a manufacturer, nor as a wool grower, but as an enthusiast in favor of American wool products. The country was suffering under a popular prejudice that better clothes could be got abroad than here at the same price. He declared that there was no country where a man could get as good a suit of clothes for as little money as in the United States.

The committee adjourned until 10 A. M. to-morrow.

**Proposing to Revive the Whipping Post in Virginia.**

RICHMOND, Jan. 3.—In the Virginia House of Delegates to-day Mr. Downing of Clark introduced a bill providing for the punishment of petit larceny by the infliction of stripes. The bill proposes that the stripes shall not exceed twenty in any one day, and not over twenty-nine, the limit under the old ante-bellum régime. The whipping post existed in Virginia as far back as about 1670, and flogging was resorted to as a punishment for petty thefts. The criminal records show that the great majority of these offenders are negroes. The commitment to jail and other penal institutions of this class of offenders is not regarded by them as any great punishment. When Mabone came into power one of the first measures he advocated was the repeal of the law authorizing corporal punishment. It is this law that Mr. Downing proposes to revive.

**The Wool Supply of the United States.**

BOSTON, Jan. 3.—The Boston *Commercial Bulletin's* annual telegraphic canvass of the wool supply in the United States shows a heavy increase over that of last year. The detailed and classified reports from the markets and the growers show a total supply in dealers' hands of 70,000,000 pounds of domestic and 15,000,000 pounds of foreign, against 50,000,000 pounds of domestic and 17,000,000 pounds of foreign in 1888. The New York and Philadelphia stocks are less than those of last year, but Boston shows an increase of 11,000,000 pounds of domestic wool, and most of the smaller markets follow the lead of the chief wool market of the country. The imports of clothing wool coming from abroad show a decline of nearly 70 per cent.

## THE BARNWELL LYNCHINGS.

**Gov. Richardson Says he Will Do All he Can to Punish the Murderers.**

COLUMBIA, S. C., Jan. 3.—At 12 o'clock today Gov. Richardson was waited upon by sixteen colored men appointed at the Convention last night to present an address and ask the Governor to use every effort to secure the punishment of the Barnwell lynchers. The Governor met the delegation at the door and asked them into his private office. When they were seated Gen. Lee of Charleston stated the object of the visit. He outlined the position of the colored people, and said that the negroes had serious complaint to make against many of the whites of the State, who believed that any treatment of the negroes that would impress them with the white man's superior power in a conflict of force was justifiable. Irresponsible whites had imbibed the idea that the negroes had no rights that they are bound to respect. The inhuman butchery of eight men at Barnwell, in the presence of agents of the law, is an unprecedented instance of barbarity unbecoming a civilized community, and they appealed to the Governor and to all citizens, regardless of race or color, to unite in a common effort to uphold the majesty of the law and the fair name of South Carolina.

The Governor then addressed the delegation for fifteen minutes. He assured them that not one of their number more deeply regretted the horrible murders at Barnwell than he, nor could any one condemn it more strongly. It was a most brutal and horrible murder, and every good citizen of the State must condemn it. He gave them his sacred word that nothing that he could do to have condign punishment reach the perpetrators would be left undone. He only regretted that in this case the executive arm was not long enough or strong enough. Such lawlessness must and shall stop. The good people of the State will rise up and crush the guilty. In conclusion, he earnestly thanked the colored people of the State for their noble and most commendable conduct in the whole matter. He did not hold the race responsible for a few hotheaded and misguided negroes, and would expect the negroes not to judge the whites by a few men who did not represent their race. The whites of the State were with the negroes in this matter, and they appreciated the conservative, dignified, and proper conduct of their colored friends.

While the Governor was talking Senator Hampton entered the chamber, and as the delegation rose to depart he rose to his feet and said that he had not heard all that Gov. Richardson had said, but that he had already talked with him on this subject, and fully coincided in all his opinions, and that they could consider the expressions from the Governor as representing his views on the subject.

The delegation thanked the Governor for his assurances of assistance, and after shaking hands with Senator Hampton and Gov. Richardson took their departure.

## THE CHECK TO OUR COCOANUT TRADE.

**Owners of the Seized Ships Say They Had Complied with All Forms of the Law.**

The troubles growing out of the seizure of American vessels on the coast of San Blas are rapidly becoming serious. If the requirement, now for the first time made known, which compels vessels to go to Carthagena in South America, and there to pay heavy duty before proceeding to San Blas, is persistently enforced, the New York merchants say they must abandon all traffic with the coast.

Mr. Foster of Foster & Co. said yesterday that he proposed soon to send a vessel, properly equipped, to take possession of the firm's property on the coast of San Blas, and to bring it to New York in spite of interference. He had received no further response from the State Department to his complaints. Overtures have been made to Mr. Foster from an unofficial source for the release of his vessels, the Julian and the Willie, upon payment of several hundred dollars. Mr. Foster regards this as a fresh attempt to extort money, and is trying to learn the real meaning of the offer.

It was reported yesterday that the schooner Frederika Schepp, belonging to L. Schepp & Co., had been seized. Mr. Schepp says he has received no information to that effect. Mr. Schepp has written to Secretary Blaine a detailed account of the measures taken by the gunboat La Popa, together with a statement of the Colombian law as it is understood by merchants here. He accompanies his letter with the reply of the Colombian Vice-Consul to Mr. Schepp's request for an official interpretation of the law.

As the Vice-Consul had given this opinion on Dec. 24 last, he issued to the Captain of Mr. Schepp's schooner, George W. Whitford, which was about to start for the San Blas coast, a certificate addressed "to the representatives of the Colombian Government, and in particular to the commander of the Colombian gunboat La Popa," in which he quoted the instructions he had given Mr. Schepp, and said: "I have advised him that by complying with these regulations his vessels engaged in the traffic on the Isthmus will be exempt from seizure or any other trouble."

After having taken all these precautions Mr. Schepp believes he is fully justified in instructing the crew of the George W. Whitford to fight if they are interfered with.

**A Legacy to Vassar Cut Down One-half.**

POUGHKEEPSIE, Jan. 3.—The matter of the legacy bequeathed to Vassar College under the will of Jacob P. Girard, Jr., deceased, came before Judge Barnard to-day on a motion to construe the will. The amount bequeathed to Vassar was $30,000. William H. Meeks, the executor, brought the action on the ground that the legacy to the college was void as to Vassar taking the whole amount named, as under the statute of 1860 a testator cannot bequeath to any literary, scientific or benevolent institution more than one-half of his estate. It appearing that the Girard estate is valued at but little more than the legacy to the college, the Court held that the college can take one-half of it only, or $15,000 instead of $30,000, as given under the will. In two codicils the testator bequeathed to Vassar $2,000 in trust, the interest of which is to be applied for the purchase of a species of North American birds, and $250 per annum for the same purpose. The Court decides that the $2,000 can be taken by the college, but refuses the $250 per annum.

**Bishop Coxe's Quarter Centennial.**

BUFFALO, Jan. 3.—A double ecclesiastical ceremony is in progress here to-day—the dedication of the restored St. Paul's Cathedral and the celebration of the quarter centenary of Bishop Coxe. The celebration began last evening with an organ recital. The ceremonial at this morning's service formally reopened the church. A large number of the clergy of the diocese and visitors were present. This afternoon and to-morrow the Bishop's twenty-fifth anniversary will be celebrated. Bishop Coxe was consecrated to the diocese of western New York in 1865. Since his incumbency the value of church property has more than doubled, aggregating at present $2,353,051. The rectory of St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral is said to be one of the finest in the country. The cost of its restoration exceeded $100,000.

**Has Twenty-four Hours to Get Back to New Jersey.**

Judge Brown of the United States District Court yesterday sent to Sheriff Flack an order releasing from Ludlow street jail Simon Baruch, the Austrian, who is held in default of $3,000 bail in a suit brought by his brother Daniel to recover certain bonds. Baruch was first arrested on a charge of stealing the bonds from the Austrian Government, and was brought from New Jersey to this state. He was discharged, but was rearrested on the brother's charge before he could return to the State from which he was taken. Judge Brown gives him twenty-four hours to get back to New Jersey.

**Did Meisner Steal the House?**

Mrs. Louise Thomas of 198 Broadway, Brooklyn, owned a little frame house in Sheppard avenue, near Liberty, in the new ward. It had been vacant for some time and on Thursday she sent a friend to look at the house and see if any repairs were required. He soon returned and reported that the house had disappeared, every stick having been carried off clear to the foundation. Mrs Thomas communicated with the police, and Louis Meisner, who is suspected of having cut the house to pieces and carried it away for kindling wood, has been arrested. Another little frame house in East New York is said to have disappeared.

**Anniversary of the McAuley Mission.**

The eighth anniversary of the McAuley-Cremorne Mission, 104 West Thirty-second street, will be celebrated on Sunday. In the afternoon the speakers will be the Revs J. S. Paxton, D.D., and S. H. Virgin, D.D., and there will be a musical programme under the direction of Spencer W. Cone. Mr Bushnell, baritone, of Dr. MacArthur's church, Mr. Graff, tenor, of Dr. Parkhurst's church, and other singers will form a male quartet. In the evening the speakers will be the Revs. Henry Van Dyke, D.D., and Frank Russell, D.D., and Gen. Clinton B. Fisk.

**Dr. Nichols's Will.**

The will of Dr. Charles H. Nichols, the late Superintendent of Bloomingdale Asylum, written by himself on July 5, 1868, the day before he sailed for Europe, makes the widow, Sallie L. Nichols executrix, and gives her the entire estate except $2,000, which she is directed to pay to Dr. Nichols's son, Lieut. Maury Nichol of the Sixteenth United States infantry. Lieut. Nichols is also to have plate, jewelry, pictures, and furniture which belonged to his mother, Ellen G. M. Nichols.

*Kate Field's Washington* is out, at ten cents a copy and $4 a year. It is Kate Field's *Washington*, and nobody's else; but it is an uncommonly handsome, vivacious, and rewarding periodical, and we dare say a good many thousand men and women will be glad to get hold of it once a week.

## TO IMPROVE THE POSTAL SERVICE

**Mr. Van Cott Hopes for Authority to Introduce Horse and Wagon Collections.**

Postmaster Van Cott believes that he can give the new perambulating Post Office system of Berlin a good start and still beat it in the collection and despatch of the mails if the general Government will only give him the assistance for which he has asked. His plan is less cumbrous and elaborate than the German one of having a regular branch Post Office on wheels galloping about the city to collect the mails and sort it as it runs. Postmaster Van Cott says that this may do in Berlin, but in New York it would waste more time than it would save. The sorting of the mail, he says, can be done best at the branch stations where it is received, and the great thing is to get it out of the boxes and into the branch stations as quickly as possible.

After convincing himself by actual experiment that there would be a large saving of time by adopting the system of collection by carts, the Postmaster figured awhile on the expense. He had estimates made of the cost of equipping and maintaining the horse and cart system by the Government directly, and also asked for offers from private individuals for the furnishing of the animals, carts, and drivers. The result indicated that the work could best be done by contract. Two responsible men offered to furnish the required 75 carts and 175 horses for $67,000 per year. Out of this the city saves, the Postmaster estimated, $50,000, through the reduction in the number of men required to do the work of collecting under the present system. The net expense of the more rapid service would therefore be but a trifle of $17,000 per year.

All these figures and a full report of his experiments Postmaster Van Cott transmitted to the department at Washington in September. He has since heard nothing of them, but supposes that authority to make the change recommended will be among the things for which the department will ask Congress when it reassembles and settles down to business. Congressional action will be necessary before the expense necessary to the adoption of the new system can be incurred.

Postmaster Van Cott has another new scheme which he hopes to get authority soon to carry out. He wants to establish a new branch in Thirteenth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, especially for second-class matter, which includes newspapers and other periodicals. At present all the matter has to come to the general office, and as it is very bulky and a vast amount of it is turned out by publishers above Bleecker street, the expense, delay, and inconvenience to the public is very great, while the business of the general office is impeded by the immense issues of periodicals of various sorts continually pouring in upon it.

## PREPARING TO GO TO CONGRESS.

**The World's Fair Legislative Committee to Receive Mr. Hewitt's Memorial To-day.**

Congressman and Iceman Charles H. Turner, who has been spending the holidays with his parents in New Hampshire, visited the rooms of the World's Fair General Committee in the *Times* building yesterday. He is on his way to Washington, to be present at the reassembling of Congress on Jan. 6. Congressman Turner has been studying the history of the World's Fair popular movement. He says he believes there will be a big opposition in Congress to giving the fair to New York for 1892, but that New York will win.

The Guarantee Fund was increased yesterday by $1,850, returned on the Mayor's subscription blanks. The record of the fund to date is as follows:

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| Yesterday's subscriptions | $1,850 |
| Previously credited in THE SUN | 5,257,037 |
| Remainder of amount pledged by the brewers | 43,133 |
| Total to date | $5,302,020 |

Yesterday's subscribers:

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|---|---|
| J. Curley & Brother | $1,000 |
| Charles P. Linquest | 500 |
| James Reilly | 500 |
| Daniel Newman | 250 |
| Wm. G. Koch | 100 |
| Joel Genovese & Towle | 100 |
| Clarendon, Moore & Co. | 100 |
| Hezekiah King | 100 |
| Robert H. Ramsgate | 100 |
| Gove & Heuss | 70 |
| A. Ackerman | 25 |
| Wm. J. Kiernan | 20 |
| N. Tyson | 5 |

There will be a meeting of the Executive Committee of the Committee on Legislation today to receive the memorial to Congress which has been prepared by ex-Mayor Hew