The Sun.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1891.

The Schedule for 1892.

On Thursday, Jan. 21, the Democratic National Committee will meet in Washington for the purpose of fixing the time and the place for holding the National Democratic Convention of 1892.

In the month of May, or thereabouts, and subsequent, probably, to the adjournment of the Legislature, a Democratic State Convention will be held in this State for the purpose of choosing delegates to the National Democratic Convention at the time and place already fixed (four at large and two from each Congressional district). The delegates so chosen and upon whose action the determination of the National Convention will in large measure depend, will probably adopt the following resolution, as the State Convention of 1880 did before them:

"The Democratic party of New York hereby readopt their resolutions adopted in the State Convention of 1864, 1868, 1872, and 1876, as follows:

"Resolved, That the delegates to the National Democratic Convention, to be appointed, are hereby instructed to enter that Convention as a unit, and to act and vote as a unit in accordance with the will of a majority of the members thereof."

Or they may adopt as preferable in phraseology to the resolution of 1880, and as of more recent date, the one adopted by the Democratic State Convention of 1884, as follows:

"Resolved, That the delegates to the Democratic National Convention, to be appointed, are hereby instructed to enter that Convention as a unit, and to vote and act as a unit in accordance with the will of a majority of the members of the delegation. Every delegate, or alternate, accepting or occupying the place of a delegate, is to be bound by this rule."

On Tuesday, June 7, or thereabouts (full moon on June 10), the Republicans, assembled at Minneapolis, will nominate Presidential and Vice-Presidential candidates for the Democrats to defeat.

On or about July 4, the national anniversary, the Democrats will put in nomination at the place chosen on Jan. 21 their candidates for President and Vice-President, and, as has been the case at each preceding Convention, the Democratic nominee will be the candidate who receives the vote of the New York State delegates, chosen as aforesaid.

Between the hours of 6 A. M. and 4 P. M. of Tuesday, Nov. 8, in this State, and between such hours as the election law of other States may prescribe, the people of the United States will choose Presidential electors, a majority of whom will, on Monday, Dec. 7, cast their ballots for President and Vice-President.

The Revival of Shipbuilding.

We have several important despatches about the revival of shipbuilding in various ports of our country.

A contract has been signed for the construction of six mammoth Whalebacks in the main shipyard of the enterprising city of West Superior, at the upper end of Lake Superior, and the keels of two of them were laid there on Tuesday of this week. They are to be of an improved model, 320 feet long, and swifter than any of those now afloat. An interesting fact about this new fleet of a new style of steamers to be built in an American port is that it is for the service of the Canadian Pacific Railroad Company, a company owned and controlled by British capitalists. Truly interesting indeed is the fact; for it shows that we are now building Whalebacks for JOHN BULL, whose ships' flags have braved the breezes of the Atlantic at our expense for a good many years. Perhaps we will yet build all kinds of ships so much superior to BULL's ships that the old navigator will be compelled to spend his money here in buying some of them.

In the shipyards of Buffalo there is also unusual activity at this time. We hear of the progress of the work upon a new 3,000-ton steamship, upon an 18-knot twin screw steamer, and upon yet other vessels of various models and sizes. A shipbuilding company there is desirous of securing from the Navy Department a contract for the construction of one of the 1,200-ton war ships favored by Secretary TRACY, the ship to be built and launched at Buffalo, from which she can proceed by way of the St. Lawrence to our Atlantic seaboard. In our judgment it would be more advisable to have these projected ships built in this city or its vicinity than anywhere else; but of course the Buffalo company has the right to try to get a contract.

There are busy times just now in the shipyards of the seaport of Bath, up in Maine; and a letter in last Sunday's SUN from a Bangor correspondent gave the news of the yards. A steam whaler is on the stocks at Bath; Cruiser No. 6 will soon be launched there; the keel has there been laid of a sailing ship bigger than any of its kind afloat, a 4,000-ton ship of the registered length of 312 feet, and a large number of other vessels, to run by steam or by sail, are in course of construction there. In the shipyards of other Maine ports business is brisk, but in those of Bath especially, as our correspondent remarked, the outlook for 1892 is promising.

We need not refer again to the facts we recently recounted about the revival of shipbuilding at other ports besides New York, at Boston, Wilmington, Baltimore, and off in the Pacific, at San Francisco and Portland. The revival is not so active or so extensive as it ought to be, but it gives promise of growing in activity and extent.

It may be presumed that Secretary TRACY is interested in the new submarine steamer that has just been constructed at Detroit. It is novel in its design and in its method of operation, differing in several respects from every other submarine boat yet heard of. The main invention adopted by its builder consists in reversible propellers working on each side amidships, which are serviceable in regulating the desired immersion as well as in propulsion. We shall not be able to pass judgment upon the utility of this naval novelty until it is set agoing under water, with only an observing tower rising two feet in the air. We have favored the Whalebacks all along, and we are ready to favor other meritorious things in the seas and lakes.

We shall constantly watch the progress of the revival of American shipbuilding. It must be promoted in the coming year.

Leaving Europe.

Fully a million emigrants must have left Europe this year in the steerage of ships bound for various countries. About 440,000 of them have come to the United States; about 200,000 have gone to Brazil, nearly 100,000 to Australia, and the rest of the million to the British-Canadian provinces, to Cape Colony, to the Spanish-American countries, and to other parts of the world. Besides this large number of steerage passengers, not far from 200,000 cabin passengers of European birth have left their native countries for foreign parts. To the port of New York alone, for example, 56,000 of these passengers, not counting American-born travellers, have come in steamships during the year, and no doubt many of them intend to stay here.

It is a big emigration from Europe, an emigration averaging 100,000 for each and every month of the current year. Not in any past year has there been a movement of population of equal magnitude.

The emigration from Italy and that from Russia are especially notable features of the year's shifting of population. The Italian emigration of 1891 to the two Americas cannot have been less than a fifth of a million; and the calculation is based upon the latest statistics that we have at hand. It is chiefly the masculine population that is leaving Italy, as may be seen by the fact that only 12,000 of the 66,000 Italians who have landed here this year were females.

The Hebrew movement to this country just now is even more striking than the Italian. Jewish emigrants from Russia and from Poland have come here this year to the number of between 70,000 and 80,000, and about two-thirds of them were males. The *Jewish Messenger* of this city, after taking account of the Jewish newcomers of the past few years, says that "250,000 may not be an extravagant estimate of the Jewish population of New York." If this be correct, or nearly correct, we have a larger Jewish element than any other city in the world. The attempt of Baron HIRSCH to turn the tide of Russian-Jewish emigration away from the United States to South America has not thus far been successful, and it is very sure to swell high at this port during the coming year. The work of the American Jews in aiding the needy immigrants of their race is deserving of all commendation.

The growth of emigration from Europe in these times is becoming more and ever more interesting both to Europe and the rest of the world.

Phosphorus.

The magnitude and significance of phosphate mining and of the manufacture of artificial fertilizers can hardly be overestimated. The figures involved are enormous and almost incredible.

Phosphoric acid is one of the invariable constituents of vegetation, appearing at first chiefly in the tender leaves and buds, and finally almost wholly in the mature seeds. Over two billion seven hundred million pounds in weight of phosphoric acid are removed every year from the soil of the United States in the crops of cereals and of hay and straw, or about nineteen pounds an acre of cereals and twelve pounds an acre of grass. To maintain the fertility of the soil, this vast amount of this special mineral must sooner or later be returned to it. In early times this end was in part attained by allowing fields to lie fallow at regular intervals, so that the natural processes of decay and absorption might restore some of the lost phosphorus; or by the rotation of crops, which periodically substituted for a crop requiring much phosphoric acid a crop that needed less than usual. Subsequently various manures were employed as fertilizers, but not until some fifty years ago was it proved that only the phosphoric acid in them and nothing else, neither lime nor gelatine, renewed the exhausted land. Now there have been discovered in various parts of the world, in Spain, Portugal, Belgium, France, Norway, Russia, and North America, in rocks of different formations, deposits of phosphatic earths or rocks of various and disputed origin, which when cleansed and pulverized, or heated with acid, yield phosphoric acid in a form readily assimilated by growing plants.

The great wheat lands of the Mississippi Valley, that to-day are the granary of the world, owe their fertility probably to the number of centuries during which they have been deforested and accumulating from the overarching and the underlying influences of sky and earth a store of mineral plant food, which, according to Professor SHALER, will in no long time be exhausted. The slow disintegration of the glacier-crumbled granite rocks of New England may keep its farms, that for the moment are so much despised, permanently, if only moderately, fertile; but as the years pass agriculture in the middle Western States will depend more and more upon artificial fertilization as agriculture along the southern Pacific slope must ever depend on artificial irrigation. The question of the possible supply of phosphates becomes then of extreme importance.

Fortunately deposits of phosphates are numerous and extensive, whether derived from the remains of minute marine shell fish or from fossil guano as in Florida, from the bones of mammoths and the coprolites of beasts of extinct species as in Canada, from the bones and scales of aquatic creatures in the river drift beds of South Carolina, or from chemical compounds of possibly purely geological formation as in South Carolina and Canada. In Ottawa county, Quebec, and in five counties of Ontario, apatite, a combination of phosphorus with fluorine or chlorine, is mined to the extent of over 22,000 tons a year by companies with an aggregate capital of nearly four million dollars. In South Carolina the output of phosphate is over 600,000 tons by companies with a capital of over six million dollars, while the capital of companies engaged in the same business in Florida is over fifty million dollars. When it is remembered that phosphate mining did not begin in South Carolina until 1867, and not until 1888 in Florida, the phenomenal development of this industry is apparent; and although the capital of the various companies is often only speculative and artificial, its magnitude is amazing still and perhaps unparalleled. Other deposits have been found in rocks of the tertiary era that are formed of the sediment of a prehistoric ocean in Virginia, North Carolina, Alabama, and Georgia; but the vast beds of phosphate in South Carolina and Florida alone are deemed capable of producing more than enough to supply the demands of the whole world for many years, a demand that is calculated at several million tons a year of phosphates and superphosphates.

About one-third of the yearly production of raw phosphate in South Carolina is used by local companies for the manufacture of artificial fertilizers; while almost all the high-grade rock and the river drift phosphate is exported to Europe. The raw material for export or for use in an unmanufactured state, is treated by a simple and ingenious automatic process, whereby a continuous series of buckets full of the phosphate is hoisted by a derrick from the river, delivered to a crusher, then passed successively through a dry screen, a washing screen, and a rinsing screen, and thence very slowly through a drying screen that revolves in a heated chamber above a furnace. The processes for the manufacture of superphosphates are too complicated and various to describe; but the end in view is to transform as much as possible of the phosphoric acid present from an insoluble form into forms soluble either in water or in citrate of ammonia. This, speaking very generally, is effected by grinding the raw material exceedingly fine, blending it when necessary with a certain amount of carbonate of lime, and mixing it with sulphuric acid of sixty per cent. strength, or with dilute phosphoric acid. The result is a porous, friable mass, which is dried in hot air and passed through a disintegrator. One peculiarity of this process is that only half of the phosphoric acid is rendered soluble, and that only by almost doubling the bulk of the raw material.

This great business, that is of so recent origin and has already grown to such extraordinary proportions, is one of the most notable illustrations of the practical importance to mankind in general of abstract scientific research. Not until the actual part taken by phosphoric acid in the functions of plant life was positively ascertained, was it possible to utilize with intelligence the masses of natural fertilizers that lay unsuspected beneath the feet of the needy farmers of Florida and South Carolina. Even now the need of more careful attention and more accurate scientific knowledge is becoming all-important. Much valuable material has been wasted by ignorant manipulation. Chemistry is an exact science, of mathematical precision, and the proper treatment of the raw phosphate is a matter of pure abstract chemistry. The product of the different mines differs greatly in composition, and with every variation needs a different manipulation to form the most economical hypophosphate. Only in this way can the least bulk be obtained with the highest proportion of available phosphoric acid; and the freightage, on account of its bulk, is one of the chief items in the cost of this indispensable aid of the farmer. As yet the methods used have been crude and by rule of thumb. The business has been much injured by the variety of analyses, by the variations in the samples, and by the prejudices of farmers. Perhaps it is in the direction of scientific husbandry that science has still in reserve its greatest services to the greatest number of the human race.

The Opinions of a Beginner.

The *New York Times's* theory of GODKIN and Godkinism is not the less interesting because it is unsound. We regard it as a valuable and significant circumstance that our morning Mugwump contemporary should address itself at last, in the true spirit of scientific inquiry, to the serious consideration of the question whether the editor of the *Evening Post*, with whom it has been keeping company, as they say down East, for a term of at least seven years, is a wilful liar, morally responsible for his mendacity, or merely an irresponsible pathological specimen.

Speaking of the recent exposure of Mr. GODKIN's peculiarities, as displayed in the incident of the saloons alleged to be too near the public schools, the *Times* expresses these views:

"The untruths the editor of the *Evening Post* so frequently prints and so obstinately sticks to under correction, are not, in the proper sense of the term, lies. They are not uttered with the wicked intent to deceive others, but in the effort to relieve his own spirit, an effort, when it is successful, that works like the casting out of devils. * * * Lies have their origin in moral depravity, and we suppose every one will admit that the editor of the *Evening Post* is morally symmetrical and superb. It is plain to us that the *Post* does not consciously and wilfully lie, as THE SUN contends. The basis of its errors, we have long been convinced, is to be sought in a mental state of emotion, and back of that, of course in a physical disturbance. In short, when the *Post* is in pain it cries out and 'throws things' at those whom it supposes to be the cause of its discomfort, and of course it is not at such times very particular about the choice of its words or its missiles. That its irresponsible behavior should provoke controversies is inevitable, but we have always felt that these outbreaks called for the pathologist's microscope rather than for brickbats."

This is practically identical with the famous divvie theory of Mr. GODKIN's performances, formerly entertained by us as a working hypothesis, but long ago definitely abandoned because it was inadequate. The beginner in the study of this subject is always attracted by the notion that there really exists a good GODKIN, morally respectable and trustworthy when left to itself, but possessed with a malignant, malevolent, and phenomenally mendacious divvie, forever struggling for the mastery. At first sight the divvie, or dual-nature theory, seems quite satisfactory, but it does not stand the test of a profounder philosophy, or of prolonged observation. It is not borne out by repeated readings of the alethometer, covering a considerable period of time. That relentless instrument exhibits altogether too much divvie and altogether too little good GODKIN to justify the hopes of those who are naturally inclined to be charitable in their view of the *Evening Post's* characteristic performances, or reluctant to believe the worst of a fellow journalist.

The *Times*, therefore, stands just about where THE SUN stood several years ago, when our attention was first drawn to the mysteries of the *Evening Post's* mendacity. It is no disparagement of the intelligence or the candor of this new Mugwump investigator of Godkinism to say that his present opinions on the subject correspond, chronologically, to the crude theory of electricity which prevailed at the beginning of the last century, or even to the pre-Pythagorean conception of the universe.

The Hates of the Mugwumps.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Herald*, always humorous in its politics, is particularly good fun in some of its recent remarks about the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL. It has the true Mugwumpian frothing at the mouth whenever the name of the present Governor of New York is mentioned. It has also the true Mugwumpian belief that the one chance of the Democratic party is to seek support in Republican States. It has the true Massachusetts Mugwumpian delusion that without Massachusetts the Democratic party is doomed. Consequently its remarks upon these subjects are rich:

"To state the case plainly, it is becoming a question whether the Democratic party is or is not to be controlled by the influences represented by Governor HILL. If it is, it bids farewell, and a long farewell, to hundreds of thousands of voters who have lately become attached to it. In the New England States there are a very large number of men who have for the last few years voted the Democratic ticket. Many of them have never voted for any other than Democratic candidates. They would regret exceedingly to have the choice limited to voting for either JAMES G. BLAINE or DAVID B. HILL as President of the United States; but if this choice was forced upon them, they would vote for the former without a moment's hesitation."

The aversion of the Mugwumps to Governor HILL has never had a more ludicrous manifestation than in this opinion of one of the ablest of their organs that they would rather vote for Mr. BLAINE than for him. Mr. BLAINE was their innocent founder. It was the recoil from Mr. BLAINE as the unspeakable sin and the sum of all villainies that produced the Mugwumps. They hated Mr. BLAINE because he was the most popular and successful member of his party, a politician of genius, who sought the advancement of the principles of his party, and interpreted and represented faithfully the convictions of a majority of its members. Naturally the esoteric kickers transferred their uncomfortable support to GROVER CLEVELAND, whose exaggerated egoism and unequalled capacity for getting his party into trouble filled their souls with admiration and fill them yet.

Governor HILL at the head of the New York Democracy soon made the Mugwumps as unhappy as they had been made by Mr. BLAINE, and perhaps unhappier. Governor HILL displayed the talent for leadership, the popular instincts, and the capacity to understand his party and to fill it with enthusiasm. He represented his party. He didn't get up on a pedestal, and bid his party fall down and worship him. The Mugwumps fought him bitterly, and the more they fought him the more successful he was. Finally, it seems, he has come to enjoy the distinction of being more detested by them than is the man who created them. It is just to say, however, that Governor HILL is not more hated by them than is Senator GORMAN. Mr. GORMAN's ideas of party discipline and leadership, and of the means of party success, are the same as those of Governor HILL. They are the same, we suppose, as those of Mr. BLAINE or of any other man who is capable of leading a party. The political principles of Mr. GORMAN and Governor HILL are diametrically opposed to those of Mr. BLAINE. We presume that their ideas in regard to party management and the essentials of party success are not widely different.

It is a great honor for Mr. GORMAN and Governor HILL to have earned the hearty hatred of the Mugwumps. We are by no means sure, however, that in the event of the nomination of Governor HILL or Mr. GORMAN by the Democrats, and of Mr. BLAINE by the Republicans, the Mugwumps would support the Republican candidate. Moved by the occasion for a grand Mugwump movement and a Mugwump candidate, say, Mr. CLEVELAND of New Jersey or Col. CHARLES R. CODMAN of Massachusetts, the Mugwumps might then be willing to stand up and be counted; and it would require no great mathematical ability to count them. Still, they are so conscious of their numerical weakness, and so full of fire and slaughter against Governor HILL and Mr. GORMAN, that they might prefer to vote for Mr. BLAINE. There is no political absurdity of which a Mugwump is incapable.

President MONTT of Chili is to be congratulated upon his inauguration as President, notwithstanding the conspiracy to assassinate him. He was inaugurated on Saturday last at Santiago under the protection of cavalry, infantry, and artillery, and he received the acclamations of the populace afterward as he rode through the streets of the city, which were lined with troops.

The republic of Chili is to be congratulated upon the fact that the change of administration has been brought about without precipitating the country into civil war, notwithstanding the threats that have been made by the Balmacedista. Chili needs peace. Both the Monttists and the Balmacedists will be the better for it.

President MONTT has the reputation of being a man of reason and good intent. We trust that his administration will be wise, pacific, beneficent, and successful.

The seven writers in the *North American Review* who give their opinion as to which book of the current year is "The Best Book of the Year" differ from each other in their choice of the book that deserves to be thus characterized; and we cannot say that we accept the choice that has been made by any of them. After studying the essays of all these writers, it seems proper to remark here that the man who, on Friday next, shall possess the best book of this year, will be he who is the owner of a bound volume of THE SUN for 1891. We say it with due modesty, but what a book of knowledge, thought, power, and quality that volume has been to its readers, and will be to all the people who may peruse it in the years to come—in the closing years of the nineteenth century, in all the hundred years of the twentieth century, and in the radiant centuries after that, as long as the volume shall be preserved, perhaps a thousand years hence.

The marking system of the primary schools will be introduced into the Treasury Department on Jan. 1. A daily report of the habits, behavior, and general efficiency of each clerk will be kept by the chief of his division; and according to these marks and examinations promotions will be made. Presumably proctors and monitors will be appointed, and we may hope that corporal punishment will be introduced in time. The Secretary of the Treasury will ring the bell every morning, and the exercises will begin, after the names of the scholars have been called, with readings from the *Civil Service Record* and the Chinese works of the Hon. DORMAN BRIDGMAN EATON. A school uniform is sure to be adopted in time, and a commons of milk and water established. Parents of clerks are requested not to supply them with pocket money, except for car fare; and they should be positively forbidden to smoke cigarettes on their way to and from the Treasury.

The Banana Belt has been having a blizzard of healthy proportions, a tired feeling on the part of the thermometer, and much beauty of driven and drifted snow. But the undaunted poets of the Northwest will not cease to sing of its Sorrento climate, and perpetual summer will reign in their hearts, although the frost may pluck their ears. Minnesota in particular has a thoroughly bracing climate, a little too cold to make sleeping out of doors in January advisable, of course, but still a winter climate which the polar bear would find oppressive and enervating. The Northwest is all right, and will not slip up on native banana skins for some time yet; but the Banana Belt is one of the noblest creations of the imagination, and long may it span the great N. W.!

The celebrated Prof. NORTHNAGEL of Vienna, who has made a special study of the grip that prevails to an alarming extent there, has given his views of it, which are not cheering. He holds that the malady is miasmatic, infectious, and probably contagious, and he says that no specific agency for the cure of it is known, though the sufferers from it may be relieved somewhat by various drugs. The views of Prof. NORTHNAGEL are like those that are held by the most studious, skilful, and experienced physicians in the United States.

Our esteemed contemporary, *Vanity Fair*, says that Prince ALBERT VICTOR will be appointed Major-General, Supernumerary without pay, after his marriage. The general, but we hope erroneous, opinion of the young man is that he is a born supernumerary, filling no long or short felt want, superfluous, unnecessary, and uncalled for. But as he is poor, and wants to be a breadwinner, what earthly use is there in making him an unpaid Major-General? Make him a paid private, and it would be money in his pocket besides the saving on uniforms. He will be honorary Colonel of many regiments, but what he needs is less ornamentation and more money. The English ought to give him a chance or pass around the hat.

The laborious attempts to induce the colored people of the South to emigrate to Liberia that were begun early this year have come to an end, and have ended in failure. The emigration boomers held meetings in many States of the South, especially in Florida, Louisiana, and Mississippi. They told the colored people all about the woes they endured in this country, and all about the attractions of Liberia, and in midsummer they declared that hundreds of thousands of them were aflame with the desire to rush to the continent of their ancestors. The movement culminated in a farcical way two months ago, when, as the grand result of the agitation, sixty-eight emigrants, most of whom were preachers with their families, sailed from this port on a trim little bark for the African port of Monrovia. The tale has been told. They got to Liberia; they found it to be unlike Florida or Alabama; several of them raised enough money to pay their passage back to this port, and most of the others would like to be able to do the same thing. The Liberian boom in the South has collapsed; the emigration boomers do not hold any more agitation meetings; the multitudes of colored people who were said to be anxious to get away from this country must have changed their minds.

Why is the grip more prevalent in one locality than in another adjacent thereto? Why are there so many more cases of it in proportion to the population in the State of Connecticut than in the State of New York, or in the city of Newark than in this city? Why do the types of the malady differ so greatly from each other in different places not far apart from each other? How does it happen that the grip microbes or germs are so irregular, or apparently so irregular, in their method of operation? The doctors are trying to get answers to these and other interrogatories about the grip, but thus far their trials have been in vain. Yet they are able to do a great deal to alleviate the sufferings of the victims of the grip.

Mrs. JOHNSON, the prophetess of Kansas City, is very unhappy. She had arranged to have the world come to an end at 5 o'clock, sharp, on Christmas afternoon, but couldn't keep the engagement. Many of her customers were as much disappointed as was the prophetess, and yet this is not half a bad world, and there seems no especial reason why one should be so anxious to leave it or have it go out of business. Of course, there may be special reasons why heaven should be preferred to Kansas City, but no journal in that town will admit them.

CHANGING STREET NAMES.

The Last Piece of Absurdity by the Board of Aldermen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Would it not be well for the Board of Aldermen to cease rechristening our old streets? It seems that Bayard street is to be obliterated from our city maps to make way for the compound name of Harry Howard street. What benefit is to be derived from such a combination?

We already have Howard street, and at the junction of Canal and Walker streets we have the name of Harry Howard square painted upon the street lamp on that corner. To have another Howard street will certainly make more or less confusion.

If it is absolutely necessary that we must have a Harry Howard street to please some of the friends of Harry Howard, who seem to manifest more zeal than discretion in the matter, there are other short streets of no particular prestige that can be chosen from. For instance, City Hall place or Park street would answer equally as well, or any other of the down town byways that are not named after our oldest families.

Probably some of the Board of Aldermen have not read the history of our city, if they had they would have more respect for our old family names, landmarks, and traditions. Landmarks, of course, must make way before the progress of time, but names of streets should remain as they are, for they cannot be improved upon with any particular benefit.

In looking up the history of the Bayard family we find that Nicholas Bayard arrived in this city with Governor Peter Stuyvesant, of whom he was a relative, in 1647, during the old Dutch period. He and his descendants have always been identified with the growth of the city, both socially and politically. The family were large land owners in the early days of our city, and for the above reasons the street named in their honor should remain as it is.

This mania for changing our streets by the Board of Aldermen the past few years, does not meet the approbation of older citizens and local historians. A short time ago an attempt was made by a certain Alderman in one of the down-town wards to alter the name of Baxter street; probably not being a New Yorker by birth, he was not aware that it was named after Col. Baxter, a brave and accomplished officer who fell fighting for his country in the Mexican war, or the war preceding that. This same Alderman was instrumental in having the time-honored and popular name of Chatham street changed to Park row for no material reason.

We hope if we ever get a Board of Aldermen who can comprehend the natural sentiment of the community, we shall have the old-fashioned name of Chatham street restored to us, a name that old New Yorkers would rejoice at. If our streets must be altered from time to time, choose streets whose names have no material significance—I have reference to the streets in the lower parts of the city—and choose names of old historical standing.

We have plenty of good material to choose from. Take Jacob Leisler, the first martyr to constitutional liberty in this city, who was executed directly opposite THE SUN office on the commons in 1691. Take John Peter Zenger, who fought valiant for the liberty of the press previously to the middle of the last century; Lord Sterling, who fought so nobly in the American ranks during the Revolution; John Randel, Jr., the distinguished civil engineer who laid out our up-town streets with strict arithmetical precision; D. T. Valentine, that distinguished historian who did more to preserve the city archives than any other public man. Any of the above names, or any others too numerous to mention that have been identified with the rise and progress of the city in days gone by, will be a link toward keeping up our ancient history. In conclusion, I subject to a body of politicians who are not in sympathy with and have no interest or respect for our ancient history, changing and obliterating with an iconoclastic hand the old historical street names dear to us. As the New York SUN has always been an exponent of our city history and the writer has been a steady reader of THE SUN for thirty-three years, I would like to hear what THE SUN has to say on the subject.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. TRIBUNUS DE LA MONTAGNE.

In the Young Men's Christian Association.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You lately spoke of the "bowling alleys, billiard tables, gymnasiums, swimming baths," &c., of the Young Men's Christian Association. If THE SUN knows of a Y. M. C. A. branch where there are billiard tables at all, where there are bowling alleys sufficiently well maintained and managed that expert bowlers would be satisfied to use the alleys, where there is a gymnasium or a swimming bath as good as can be found in the athletic clubs, or any kind of diversion whatever which is not better conducted somewhere else, I wish that THE SUN would tell me where that Y. M. C. A. branch can be found.

From what I can see of the Y. M. C. A., the managers are narrow-gauge men. They do not command the confidence of the public, and in consequence are not able to get sufficient contributions of money to employ experts in the various departments, or to make the departments cover a wide field, or to maintain the departments which exist in any except a poverty-stricken way.

That the Y. M. C. A. has little or no effect in keeping down the number of liquor saloons does not prove that it would be impossible to fight most of the saloons out of existence, if able men would take hold of the project of providing resorts where everything found in the saloons can be had except the hard liquors, especially if these resorts went further than the saloons, doing not only what the saloons do, but doing it better, and having, besides, baths, fencing, boxing, wrestling, and all manner of athletic and social sports. SAM'L BUEL, JR.
344 WEST EIGHTEENTH STREET, NEW YORK, Dec. 26.

Read and Appreciated.

From the Bloomfield Citizen.

THE SUN's editorials are read, enjoyed and appreciated. They usually embrace four essentials—brevity, pith, wit, and wisdom. THE SUN believes in and teaches the dignity of manhood. Its vigorous opposition to so-called ballot reform schemes is consistent with the principle that the majority of men can be relied upon to vote honestly. It is its treatment of men that has made THE SUN so popular. To every man who wishes to keep intelligently informed on all the leading topics of the day, the editorial page of THE SUN is commended.

From the Gibson Courier.

THE SUN is recognized as one of the greatest newspapers in the country. It is Democratic in politics, though very independent in its notions, and very ably edited. During the exciting political campaign which will be upon us next year THE SUN will be very lively reading.

From the Manhattan Mercury.

THE NEW YORK SUN shines for all, and is one of the leading newspapers of the world.

A Hint to Chicago.

From the Globe-Democrat.

If Chicago wants to borrow $5,000,000 for World's Fair purposes, and has good security to offer, she can easily get it at a low rate of interest in any large city, without asking the Government for it.

A Pathetic Retrospect.

From the St. Louis Republic.

Mills's defeat was due to his alignment with Mr. Cleveland.

So Will the Billy Goat.

From the Philadelphia Times.

When the question of doing away with circus posters and show bills, as means of advertising, comes up for final debate, the bill poster will be dead against it.

The Banner Grip Town.

From the Norfolk Landmark.

We believe that every man, woman, or child in the city has the grip in mild or severe form.

Enough to Make Any Millionaire Prominent.

From the Philadelphia Record.

A prominent millionaire of this city wears paper collars and cuffs.

Move to Adopt.

From the Boston Herald.

Resolved, that resolutions be kept.

More to His Taste.

Miss Elder (literary)—Do you like "Crabbe's Tales," Mr. Hojack?

Hojack (of epicurean tastes, but somewhat puzzled)—I can't say I do, but I'm very fond of the meat in lobster's claws.

WHO WILL BE THE NEXT POPE?

Elements Which Complicate the Election—How the Situation Has Changed—The Vatican, the Quirinal, and the Triple Alliance—Pope Leo's Health Excellent.

ROME, Dec. 5.—The Powers, the Holy See, the Catholics, and public opinion in Europe are all occupied with the question of the successor of Leo XIII. Never before, perhaps, has the Conclave had so much interest for politicians and men of intellect. This question is, in the words of the poet:

Mise au centre de tout, comme un écho sonore.

The interests of general politics, the future of the difficulty between the Vatican and the Italian State, the future form of the central Government, the relations between the Pope and the German Catholic cabinets, the destinies of Italy and the development of the Papacy, are all so many problems turning upon the future choice of the Roman Catholic Cardinals, as upon the pivot of moral and human affairs. The accredited ambassadors both to the Holy See and the Quirinal are making investigations and preparing their pointings. The Triple Alliance has concerted its plan. Russia has gathered all possible information on the subject; France has a national interest in it; Portugal, Spain, and England openly profess their preferences and sympathies. At the Vatican and in the Catholic world it is the dominant question. At the present time the different groups are engaged in their calculations. Newspapers and books have dealt with the question, and we see everywhere political pressure, diplomatic movements, and campaigns.

But this delicate subject has not yet been treated with competence and wholeness. Its very complexity arrests, so to speak, the commentators. One must have a knowledge based on constant study of the elements which constitute the problem, to be able to follow with interest and benefit the unfolding and the secret action of all the factors that will influence the choice of the Conclave. Moreover, these contradictory interests and political passions obscure the true evidence. It is true attempts have been made to set forth the nature of the problem. One of the first came from M. de Cesare, a liberal Italian writer who has made a specialty of ecclesiastical affairs, a sort of journalistic Paolo Sarpi. In 1886 he wrote a heavy volume on the last and the next Conclave, just at the moment when the Government of Italy, unable to bend the inflexible political conscience of the Pope in the matter of conciliation, broke with Leo XIII. and began to concentrate all its anxious hope upon the chosen one of the next Conclave. But, after all, this work is only a chronicle of more or less good taste. It is a mixture of vague hopes, fantastic conjectures, and poor portraits of the Cardinals considered *papabili*, the whole enhanced by a dissertation on the liberty of the Conclave, which, in his opinion, proves the liberty of the Pope.

On the 1st of October, 1891, the same anticlerical anecdotist published in the *Nuova Antologia*, a sort of Italian *Revue des Deux Mondes* minus the ability and classic elegance, an article upon the next Conclave. This article is of high importance; it is a manifesto. The Italian Government in this way tries to enlighten the public on this important subject, and to present the judgment of political minds. Its programme consists in the affirmation that it is Austria, a Catholic power in the Triple Alliance, which must in the name of the latter play the rôle of the Holy Ghost and the Grand Elector in the future elective assembly of the Sacred College.

The Pope preferred by the Italian Government would be a good old man, gentle and pious, somewhat timid, not too brilliant, who would do the Italian Ministers the favor of disappearing from the scene and making the solitude of the Vatican into a Trappist monastery, cloistered and shut against all the storms and aspirations of the century. The lofty stature of Leo XIII., his modern spirit, his great diplomatic intellectuality, his intervention in favor of democracy and of republics; his active, incessant, and enlightened participation in the problems and preoccupations of the present hour; all this work of social recomposition and moral orientation on the part of the Church, vexes and exasperates the hostile and *frondeur* Italian Government far more than any claims in favor of the temporal power, the restoration of which no superior and intuitive mind dreams of now in Rome, either in the Vatican or anywhere else.

The future will create a new sovereignty and a Pope adapted to the needs and conditions of the contemporary world. The manifesto of M. de Cesare has been widely commented upon, because it gives undeniable proof that official Italy and the Triple Alliance will put everything in motion to prepare and dominate the coming Conclave.

Beside these inspired political essays, we have some literary attempts. Take, for instance, the work of M. Berthelot, *L'Elezione del Papa*, written in concert with the Italian Government. It is a collection of documents taken out of old and dusty libraries, intended to furnish the anti-Pontifical journals with arguments against the Pope, to revolutionize public opinion, and to familiarize it with the idea of making the next Pope. I will not dwell now upon this piece of tactics on the part of official Italy, having to come back to it at a later period. In January the organs of Crispi opened the campaign, showing that the part of diplomacy for Italy and the Triple Alliance must consist henceforth in preparing the election of the successor to Leo XIII. Among Catholic journals only one, the *Moniteur de Rome*, had the courage to discuss this eventuality, and that for reasons of delicacy easy to be understood. This journal, whose mission has often been to sound public opinion and to bring out ideas of presentiment, unmasked during the past summer the tactics of the Government; but the pressure of the Triple Alliance finally brought it back to silence. A great number of persons were interested in keeping the debate from growing into contradictory polemics. Nevertheless the shot hit the mark. The anger of the officials proved that the Government was concentrating all its diplomatic energy upon this point: to elect the next Pope.

This literature on the subject of the Conclave has not the merit of impartiality and serenity. It consists in timid attempts or prejudiced manœuvres. Up to the present time we find in it no objective point, no clear exposition, no accurate photograph of the question; and this is the work which I would like to undertake. No doubt it is impossible in a few brief articles to give a résumé of the entire situation, or to trace even an imperfect sketch of the tableau of facts contained in what I will call the question of the Conclave. But, for all that, it will be useful to follow the discussion somewhat closely, and to indicate to the intelligent public the elements that compose the entirety of the problem. The work is not easy. It is necessary to point out the respective positions, the part of the Italian Government, the connivance of the Triple Alliance, the attitude of the Powers less interested perhaps, whose interest, however, is aroused; the current of ideas in the Catholic world, the sentiment of the Sacred College, and the conduct and preoccupations of the Pontifical Chancellery. It will be necessary, also, to point to the probable candidates, to show the influence of the Roman question on the Conclave, and the transformations, moral and political, of the Roman hierarchy; and, finally, to discuss the hypothesis of radical and profound changes to be brought about either by the possible election of a foreign Pope, or by the location of the Conclave abroad. A whole world opens up before us, and it is no exaggeration to say that among all the Continental questions of the moment not one is more interesting or more universally studied, because the international grouping of the Powers depends upon it; and perhaps, also, the political future of Europe in the grave perspective of probable international complications.

What shows the importance of this question is that, not being open, it engrosses the whole diplomatic, ecclesiastical, and political world. Leo XIII. is a hard man to bury; he is an intellectual man. It was once said of Joubert that he was a soul that had by chance met with a body. Leo XIII. belongs to that sort of a family. He is almost purely spirit. He has preserved all through his immense labors the full vigor of his intelligence and of his moral and mental faculties. He is an oak or a pine from the mountains of his native country, where the race has a tenacious fibre. Dr. Ceccarelli, his medical attendant, said to me one day: "Leo XIII. will die very late in life. He has no infirmities. Time has had little influence upon his nervous body, which is inhabited by an indomitable soul. He will go out like a flame unless some great misfortune or some great emotion should carry him off in an instant." All who are familiar with Leo XIII. share this conviction, which has become a sort of religion among the company of his friends. They love to speak of the advanced age of his relatives, the almost indestructible constitution of the Pecci, which astonishes the whole country by its freshness and longevity. Living with the monastic sobriety of the earlier days, his body has the immateriality and the diaphanousness of a flower. He is transparent, like a soul covered with a thin veil. Those who have approached him in one of his happy moments, when his mind is full of energy and elasticity, have been amazed at his power, his facility of conception, and his extraordinary memory. Mr. Dana, the editor of THE SUN, when speaking upon Dante and literature with Leo XIII., had a chance to admire this intellectual power, for the Pope, carried away by the enthusiasm with which the Florentine inspired him, recited with splendid effect some of the most beautiful passages in the Divine Comedy. It was probably the first time since the days of St. Peter that a Pope displayed so much emotion before an American journalist.

The place for holding the next Conclave is the first question. Where will it be? Will it be in Rome? Will it be abroad? The tradition is in favor of Rome, but the Piedmontese invasion of the city has modified the situation. Immediately after the occupation, Pius IX. drew up a bull indicating the new conditions of the future Conclave. This bull, amplified in 1876 and later on in January, 1878, immediately after the death of Victor Emmanuel, declares that the rule of exclusion of States is suppressed, and leaves to the majority of the Cardinals present at Rome the choice of the meeting place of the Conclave. It is entirely new legislation that Leo XIII. is perfecting, we are told, at the present time.