The Sun

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THE SUN, New York City.

Why Does Not Gen. Alger Publish His Record?

We print with great pleasure a communication from Mr. WILLIAM R. MATTISON of this town, formerly Major of the Second New York Cavalry. Major MATTISON dwells upon the earlier military career of Gen. ALGER, and is inclined to regard THE SUN as harsh and unjust in its statement of the circumstances attending the retirement of that officer from the army of the Union on Sept. 20, 1864.

Major MATTISON'S friendship for Gen. ALGER has led him to misunderstand the exact point at issue. The question is one of fact, not of opinion concerning the value of Gen. ALGER'S military services or his conduct up to the time of his absence without leave, the recommendation of his dishonorable discharge from the army, and his hasty resignation at Washington while that recommendation for dishonorable discharge was pending.

THE SUN has made certain distinct statements about Gen. ALGER'S record, and Gen. ALGER'S friends are declaring on every side that those statements cannot be true. The record itself, showing whether THE SUN'S statements are true or false, is in the possession of Gen. ALGER. We have advised him to publish it to the world. He has not yet seen fit to follow our advice. If there has been any misrepresentation of the record, the simple and natural course for a gentleman in Gen. ALGER'S position to follow is to publish it at once.

Perhaps Major MATTISON can persuade Gen. RUSSELL A. ALGER to print it now.

The Whirligig.

No better illustration could there be of the changed condition of affairs within the Democratic party, than is afforded by the Hon. JOHN F. ANDREW'S remark on the possibility of defeating Senator HILL.

According to an interview reported in the *New York Tribune*, this typical Massachusetts Mugwump and Clevelandolater now holds that "there would be no one else as strong as Mr. CLEVELAND upon whom they could combine to secure the defeat of HILL."

The Stuffed Prophet as an available dark candidate for a combination "to secure the defeat of HILL"! Truly is it remarked in one of TERENCE'S comedies, "There are vicissitudes in all things."

Looking for Cincinnatus.

The California delegation to the remarkable concatenation of reforming talent assembled at St. Louis under the name of the Confederated Industrial Conference, passed the following resolution by way of restraining the boom of an eminent Californian currency reformer:

"*Whereas*, There are certain parties in the city of St. Louis booming LELAND STANFORD for the Presidency of the United States; and

"*Whereas*, The delegation from the State of California, representing the Farmers' Alliance, the Citizens' Alliance, Knights of Labor, Reform Press Association, and the People's party, emphatically declare that the people of California are not looking for a CAESAR, a CROMWELL, a railroad monopolist, or a millionaire, but rather for a CINCINNATUS; and when he is found we will know him by the character he bears and the work he has done."

As Mr. STANFORD is the advocate of a land loan for the benefit of the downtrodden farmers, it is hard to see why he should be hawed out from the honors of the Confederate Industrial League simply because he happens to be as rich as the downtrodden farmers hope to be when the Sub-Treasury bill is passed and the land loans are made and JERRY SIMPSON'S bank is ready for business. But perhaps Mr. STANFORD'S stable is too rich and rare for a CINCINNATUS.

Since, however, the Confederated Industrial Reformers are looking for a CINCINNATUS, and are sure that they will know him when they find him, we respectfully call their attention to the Hon. JEREMIAH RUSK of Wisconsin. He bears a good character, can ride a horse to hay wagon, can mow, can tell what the weather has been for the past week, and talk politics by the day. His greatest fault is in wearing a silk hat. CINCINNATUS never wore a silk hat even in Rome. But the Confederated Conferrers should overlook a trifle like that. If they will notify Mr. RUSK, they will be able to find him speeding the plough with one hand and holding specimens from the Seed Division in the other. It is true that CINCINNATUS RUSCUS might object to their platform, but CINCINNATUS must be his own platform. The Confederates must trust in him, make him dictator, and let him do as he likes. They are in favor of so many and so varied reforms that RUSCUS must sympathize with some of them.

A Refractory Grand Jury.

The recent experiences of the New Jersey Judges with the Grand Jury of Hudson county in that State illustrate the impossibility of making the administration of justice better than the people themselves want to have it.

A month ago the cases of a number of Hoboken theatre proprietors, who were charged with violating the statute prohibiting performances on Sunday, were laid before the Hudson county Grand Jury. The late Judge KNAPP fell dead in court just after addressing this same Grand Jury in reference to these matters, and in substance advising them to find indictments. On Tuesday of the present week Judge LIPPINCOTT ascertained that no indictments had yet been found, and he severely rebuked the Grand Jury for their disregard of the dying charge of Judge KNAPP. He even went so far as to declare that unless they saw fit to obey Judge KNAPP'S last instructions in relation to the case of a particular theatre proprietor, the Court would not again receive any presentments from the present Grand Jury.

While this indignation on the part of Judge LIPPINCOTT may be very natural, it seems to us that a Judge has no right to say that he will receive no indictments from a Grand Jury, simply because they do not find a particular indictment which he thinks ought to be presented. The Grand Jury might as justly take the position that they would not go before the Judge because he refused to give a particular instruction which they thought proper as to some matter of law. Judge LIPPINCOTT is not responsible for the manner in which the Grand Jury do their work, except so far as that work is dependent upon clear and correct instruction from the Court in regard to the law applicable to the cases which come before them. If the law which he lays down for the guidance of the Grand Jury is stated with accuracy, distinctness, and precision, the Judge is in no wise to blame if the Grand Jury, in passing upon the evidence which comes before them, refuse to inflict even when he thinks they ought to find indictments, and even when many other good citizens share the same opinion. Within their own province the Grand Jury are just as supreme as the Judge is in his. They, and they alone, can effectively determine whether an indictment shall be found or not. If they finally decide against it, the Judge is bound to submit, and it is a childish act to decline to receive indictments from them in some cases because they will not indict in all cases where the Judge would have them do so.

Grand Jurors in this State, and we suppose also in New Jersey, are chosen in a manner which makes them as a rule fairly representative of the intelligent body of the community. So far as the administration of criminal justice is concerned, it never can be or will be any better than grand jurors as an average demand or approve. Of course, it may very well happen that a particular Grand Jury will be so constituted as to refuse to find indictments which would be found by almost any other Grand Jury; but if a case is presented to a number of Grand Juries successively, and they refuse to indict, their act may be taken as truly expressive of the wishes of a majority in that county. And if the matter happens to be one in which good morals would seem to require a criminal prosecution which the Grand Jury thus refuse to permit, the inevitable conclusion is that a majority of such a community prefer not to have the laws properly enforced.

In the Hoboken theatre case, when the Grand Jury of Hudson county persisted in refusing to indict men against whom the Public Prosecutor had presented what he deemed cogent evidence, the proper course was to proceed with other business in the ordinary way and lay the same cases before the next Grand Jury. If that body again refused to indict, the experiment might be tried a third time; and if on repeated trials the refusal was persisted in, this might be regarded as proof that the majority of the people of Hudson county would not tolerate the enforcement of the law in these particular cases. Such a conclusion would be unwelcome to the moralist; but the people themselves and not the Judges are to blame for the non-enforcement of those laws to which the community manifests its opposition through the repeated refusal of Grand Juries to set the machinery of justice in motion.

The Outcome of the French Crisis.

After spending several days in fruitless efforts to escape from the quandary in which he was placed by the unexpected downfall of the FREYCINET Cabinet, President CARNOT is said to have persuaded M. ROUVIER to undertake the formation of a new Ministry. As M. ROUVIER was himself Minister of Finance in the last Cabinet, and as it is expected that three of his former colleagues, M. DE FREYCINET, M. RIBOT, and M. CONSTANS, will retain their respective portfolios of War, of Foreign Affairs, and of the Interior, the new Ministry will in all likelihood be able to command the support of the 218 members who constituted the minority in last week's memorable division. Before it faces the Chamber of Deputies, however, the new Ministry must gain the good will or at least the transient toleration of one or the other wing of last week's hostile coalition; and the dropping of M. FALLIÈRES, the prosecutor of the Archbishop of Aix, from the place of Minister of Public Worship, looks like an attempt to conciliate the Right. It is also possible that M. CLÉMENCEAU may have agreed to temporarily keep his hands off the new Cabinet, for he is said to heartily approve of the management of the War Office by M. DE FREYCINET, and to be willing to leave the army in that Minister's hands until 1893, when Russia counts on being ready for war. But he wishes M. DE FREYCINET to confine himself to military affairs, and not to make himself responsible for measures tending to the reconcilement of the Catholic Church with the republic. It is probably his knowledge of M. CLÉMENCEAU'S attitude that has caused M. DE FREYCINET to firmly decline President CARNOT'S request that he should relieve him of embarrassment by constructing a new Cabinet.

The retention of M. RIBOT in the Ministry for Foreign Affairs as well as that of M. DE FREYCINET in the War Office will offer guarantees to Russia that there will be no change in the European relations of France and no lessening of her readiness to make good at the proper time her promises by concerted military operations. It is well understood at Berlin that these two Ministers are the most dangerous opponents which the Triple Alliance has in France, M. DE FREYCINET having shown himself better qualified than any of his predecessors since 1871 to organize victory, and M. RIBOT being an outspoken and implacable hater of Germany and a zealous promoter of the league with the northern autocrat. On the other hand, the reservation of the Ministry of the Interior for M. CONSTANS, who for the moment comes nearest to answering the French conception of a strong man, is calculated to discourage the Boulangists and Socialists and to reassure the mass of the bourgeois and peasant proprietors who shiver at the slightest interference with the fundamental rights of property and the safeguards of order. A Cabinet, therefore, in which these three men keep the places for which they are particularly suited, seems to be an ideal Cabinet, in view at once of the exterior and the internal requirements of France. Such ideal perfection, however, did not prevent a Cabinet, identical in the features just named with the projected Ministry, from being upset last week.

Practically the only difference between the old Ministry and the new is that M. FALLIÈRES has been made a scapegoat and that responsibility for dealing with the Catholic question, which is the burning question of the moment, has been shifted from M. DE FREYCINET, who has had enough of it, to M. ROUVIER, who will soon get his fill. It must prove as impracticable for the projected Cabinet as for the last to avoid offending the monarchical Right on the one hand, and the Jacobin Left on the other, and thus to avert a second hostile combination of those elements. However willing M. CLEMENCEAU may be as a patriot to leave M. DE FREYCINET undisturbed in the War Office, he could not control his own followers, if he did not attack M. ROUVIER the instant the latter showed himself disposed to make concessions to Catholicism. On the other hand, no concessions that the new Premier will dare to make will satisfy the majority of the French prelates or of their monarchical supporters in the Chamber, who profess to understand the interests of the Catholic Church in France better than the Pope himself. It follows that in view of the distribution of party strength in the present legislature, a new ministerial crisis can be a question of only a short time. There can be but one definite solution of President CARNOT'S difficulties, and that is the signal change in the relative power of parties which would inevitably follow a new general election. A dissolution, therefore, which for reasons as yet undivulged the Chief Magistrate seems to shrink from, is but temporarily deferred. Yet even if the President had made up his mind to dissolve Parliament, he would have had to appoint a Ministry *ad interim*, with special reference to a vigorous management of the electoral campaign. Now for that purpose there could scarcely be a more efficient Cabinet than that which is projected, since in it M. CONSTANS retains the Ministry of the Interior, the post of supreme importance where a general election is concerned. We shall not, then, be surprised if it turns out that the present Ministry has been constructed, not with a view of its obtaining a long lease of life from the present Chamber, for that is essentially impossible, but with the distinct understanding that, when it is beaten in its turn, the President will refuse to accept its resignation and, instead, order an appeal to the electors. The cordial terms of the letter in which M. CARNOT has replied to the Pope's encyclical, urging French Catholics to support the republic, indicate that the President will sooner dissolve Parliament than connive at a perpetuation of the warfare upon Catholicism.

One Great Institution on Another.

That magnificent concatenation of economical and philosophical talent, the Wage Workers' Political Alliance of the District of Columbia, has brought in all the bills necessary for settling or unsettling the financial condition of the country, and has turned for the moment to questions of social reform. It contributes an instructive preamble and several amendments to the bill for the regulation of marriage and divorce in the District. "We want religious and legal scabs abolished by due process of law, whether they like it or not," says the preamble; and the amendments are in the same direct and summary style. One of them directs that persons wishing to marry shall draw up and acknowledge before witnesses articles of marriage, which shall be recorded in the office of the Recorder of Deeds for the paltry sum of fifty cents. Divorce for the same price. A husband and wife, between whom a true consent of minds exists as to getting a divorce, may get one for fifty cents a head. Thus religious and legal scabs are left without employment, so far as marriage and divorce are concerned, and the binding and the loosing of marriage are as easy as heart could desire.

A powerful intellectual machine like the Wage Workers' Political Alliance of the District of Columbia cannot run forever without showing signs of wear and tear. If we may indulge in reverent criticism of the labors of the master minds of the Alliance, we would point out that the Alliance has proven false to all its holiest traditions in not providing that marriage licenses and decrees and records of divorce shall be printed upon "hand-made paper," &c., &c., the same old paper which is recommended in all properly drawn Alliance bills, and upon which the Alliance scheme for currency reform and the abolition of debt are largely founded.

The appearance of the W. W. P. A. as a student, or rather a master and settler of the problems of marriage and divorce, revivifies interest in that extraordinary body. Is the Alliance BLAIR or is it PEFFER, or is it merely the alias of a manufacturer of paper of a certain kind? Is it an individual or a firm or a syndicate or an asylum? The world waits with open mouth and mind for the solution of the mystery.

Honor to the Brave!

We must give praise to the Board of Health for the invaluable service it has rendered to the community in its dealing with the various infectious or contagious diseases that have recently been brought here by immigrants from foreign countries.

The doctors of the Board are daily giving superb illustrations of that skill and that courage which are the highest characteristics of the medical profession. They deserve to be honored, and they are honored, by the people of New York.

They have shown themselves anxious to perform every duty, and ready to face any danger that may be incident to the public service in which they are engaged.

Without flinching for a moment, they traverse the quarters and enter the tenements in which the typhus fever, the smallpox, and other contagious diseases exist; they take means to relieve the sufferers and to prevent the spread of contagion; they inspect, they medicate, they vacciate, they fumigate; they see to the isolation of those who ought to be isolated; they do everything else that can be done to secure the safety of the city in a time of danger.

Doctors are brave men. A few days ago, when there was a report that more of them might be needed by the Board of Health, it was found that plenty of them were ready to volunteer for duty at once.

We praise Dr. CYRUS EDSON, the President of the Board of Health, and his professional assistants. We praise the doctors of the Bureau of Contagious Diseases, who have done hard and risky work this month. We praise the doctors in the typhus fever and small-pox hospitals. We praise the inspectors of the sanitary squad.

In the name of the whole community, by which their services and sacrifices are appreciated, we say to them, WELL DONE!

Bishop JOHN M. WALDEN, the resident Bishop of the Methodist Episcopal Church, was yesterday made a thirty-third degree Mason.—*Cincinnati Enquirer.*

We suppose that this raises the Right Reverend prelate to the exalted dignity of a Grand Prince Kadosh. Long may he live!

Our honored and charming contemporary, Mrs. FRANK LESLIE, complains that we have done wrong in crediting to the *Argonaut* a poem about COLUMBUS, written for one of her publications by JOAQUIN MILLER. We apologize accordingly, as Mrs. LESLIE requires that we should; and we submit that the sin and the punishment both belong to the *Argonaut*, and not to us. We found the poem in the columns of that journal without indication that it was original in any other paper; and we gave credit accordingly, that being a rule from which THE SUN does not vary.

The two gangs of negroes from the Southwest who have been stranded in this city within the past few days have displayed traits that are pleasing, and that have stirred up popular sympathy for them. Though they found, when they got here, that they could not get to Liberia, in Africa, by a ferryboat or a horse car for ten cents; though they and their pickaninnies were hungry, homeless, and helpless in the strange city; though they did not know what to do or where to look for anything, it is interesting to learn that they did not whine or howl, or threaten to raise a rumpus, or to play havoc with most things, or even to let loose the dogs of war. They stood out near the dock in the cold patiently; they held dialogue about the unknown; they were overjoyed when a policeman gave them advice; they blessed the good Lord when they got shin-bone soup for nothing; they grew merry and sang the old melodies of the plantation when they were offered a free place to sleep in; and they laughed, prayed, grew humorous, and exhorted each other because things were going quite tolerable in the country for which they started out on their way to the happy land of Liberia.

All of which is somewhat refreshing as things go in this world.

This account of things in New York comes from our esteemed Mugwump contemporary, the *Boston Herald*:

"The protest against the midwinter Convention was contemptuously set aside, though it was offered in the name of thousands of the leading Democrats of the Empire State. But the representatives of the protesters were in no way discouraged by the rebuff. They held a meeting at Albany yesterday, and decided to call another Convention for May 31, and to send a contesting delegation to Chicago."

Our comment is merely on the point of numbers. Who and where are the thousands of the leading or led Democrats of New York that are in favor of the bolt and the kick? If three delegates and three alternates can be found in each Assembly district for the Snapper Convention on May 31, the kickers will be lucky.

Esteemed contemporary, the kick is not as numerous as it is noisy.

The London *Chronicle* takes occasion to remark that the Danish West India island of St. Thomas is now "merely a commercial province" of the United States. The remark is pretty true. Furthermore, it is likewise true that the British West India islands, especially those of the Bahama group, are also commercial dependencies of the United States. Still more, the Spanish West India island of Cuba is another of our commercial dependencies, as this country is the chief market for its products. In short, all the islands of the West Indies now under foreign domination are commercially dependent upon the United States in large measure. They sell most of their products in this market, while they buy most of the wares that they need in foreign markets.

The Democratic party of New York is divided.—*Boston Transcript.*

This is a mistake. The Democratic party of this State was never more truly united than it is now. A limited number of Mugwumps have set themselves up against it, as they have often done before. Their census has repeatedly been taken in our elections, and the numbers of the Democracy have been increased rather than diminished owing to their opposition. There has been no change in the situation to cause anxiety to any Democrat.

An eminently proper and advisable use of public money will be the appropriation of $25,000 for the naval militia of New York. The bill for that purpose, now before the Legislature, should be passed soon.

It is only the second month of the year, yet the Atlantic steamers have begun to break their records. The Majestic has crossed the Western Ocean at the speed of 20.4 knots an hour, one-tenth of a knot more than was ever sustained throughout a voyage. How incomparably better for ocean travellers is a boat of this speed than an old-fashioned ten-knotter; and how much better yet, at some indefinite time in the future, will be a thirty-knot ship than the Majestic!

SIR: Can a meal be refused to a colored man at a restaurant, provided he is able to pay for the same? If so, what redress has he? S. T. LEWIS.

Certainly, to a colored man or to any other man. The keeper of a restaurant may determine that any applicant for a meal is not suitable for entertainment in his house, and he may refuse him accordingly. The only redress would be to bring against the restaurant keeper a suit for damages.

The Catholic Clergy and the Government of France.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. E. Masseras, at one time in past years editor and proprietor of the *Courrier des Etats Unis* of this city, whose letter was published in THE SUN of 20th inst., classes in it the clergy of France among the "functionaries" of the Government on the ground that, "paid as they are out of the public treasury, they are in fact the employees of the State." He seems to be unacquainted with the origin and grounds of the present financial relations between the French Government and the Catholic clergy of France as settled by the concordat established by agreement between Napoleon I. and Pius VII., which is in force in our day.

Before the first French Revolution the Catholic Church in France and certain religious orders owned a great deal of productive real estate held under a perfect title confirmed by centuries of undisputed possession. The nation was not taxed for the expense of public worship. The Church had means enough to relieve it from all burdens in that regard, besides doing a great deal for educational and charitable purposes. After the revolution of 1789 had taken place, the clergy were either driven into exile or put to death, and all Church property, as well as that belonging to the religious orders, was tyrannically confiscated and sold by the revolutionary Government. It is plain that the Church had a right, just as good as that of the *émigrés*, to who, in 1815, a *milliard* (one thousand millions) of francs was awarded for their losses, to claim an indemnity for the property of which it had been despoiled by confiscation. This question, of course, came up in due time in the negotiations for the concordat, but so overjoyed was Pius VII. at the prospect of the restoration of the Catholic faith to France and her return to the Church, so impressed was he by the domination and the irresistible power of Napoleon, that he consented under pressure of both to consent to waive the matter of indemnity and accept in return, as the best compensation obtainable, the obligation of the Government to pay in perpetuity salaries to the Bishops and secular clergy. The religious orders got, I think, little or nothing. The Protestant denominations in France who had not been sufferers by confiscation were subsequently placed on a similar footing to that accorded, on the ground of indemnity, to the Catholic Church. A gentleman in France, who is well informed on the history of his country, informs me that at a period before the negotiation of the concordat, the claim of the Church for indemnity had been recognized as a national debt. I shall endeavor to get, through him, the text of the concordat having reference to the settlement of the indemnity question. SENEX.

Take Out the Stuffing.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The logical and reasonable outcome of the work of the Albany Convention, which instructed the New York delegates chosen to the National Convention at Chicago to present the name of David B. Hill for the Presidency, is the withdrawal of the candidacy of Grover Cleveland. The Convention was a "snap" Convention, but there is no doubt of its regularity, nor of the duty of Mr. Cleveland to call off his friends and bow to the mandate of his party in his own State.

Senator Hill.

From the Blocton Courier (Ala.)

It looks very much like Hill at present.

From the Augusta Chronicle.

If the Democrats do not play the fool by fighting the most available candidate from New York, we can elect the next President in the person of David B. Hill.

From the Gadsden Leader (Ala.)

No, Cleveland is politically dead. Third termism is "dead," emphatically dead.

From the Memphis Appeal-Avalanche.

If there was anything needed to increase Mr. Hill's chances of success, it was an assault upon him by ex-Lieutenant-Governor Jones.

From the Boston Daily Globe.

The man who can win such a tribute as that accorded to Mr. Hill yesterday at Albany, can afford to be hated by the partisan leaders whose schemes he has so often set at naught.

No, Not Even the Basoo.

From the Indianapolis Sun.

The *Selalia Basoo* is still on Cleveland's side.

A Popular Man After All.

From the Boston Journal.

"Tom Reed is having great fun in Congress," said a gentleman lately back from Washington. "He is a favorite with both sides, though the great majority of Democrats are actually afraid of him. Whenever he speaks, members, without regard to politics, gather about him and listen with a queer combination of awe, admiration, and amusement."

THE BOTANICAL GARDEN.

An Unnecessary Addition to the Number of Its Scientific Managers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At a recent meeting of the Council of the University of the City of New York it was resolved to memorialize the State Legislature to amend the act of 1801 naming as managers of the scientific department of the Bronx Botanical Garden the President and two professors of Columbia College and the Presidents of the Torrey Botanical Club and the Board of Education, so that, by the amendment, there shall be added nine other persons as scientific managers, to be appointed by the faculties of the University of the City of New York, the College of the City of New York, St. John's College, St. Francis Xavier's College, Manhattan College, Normal College, and Barnard College. A bill to that effect has been introduced in the Legislature. The effect of it would be to vest the control of that department of the garden in college faculties that have not before taken any part in the enterprise. They are not now even members of the corporation, have not contributed anything, and are not required to contribute anything to its support. The proposal is as extraordinary as it is without precedent. What is its pretended justification? In the reports of the meeting it is stated that the step is declared to be taken in the interest of the Commonwealth, and in order to secure justice to all educational institutions in the city. The phrase "interest of the commonwealth" is vague, and its meaning obscure as applied to this case. It would appear that its only meaning would rest upon the assumption that the general public interests are threatened by the appointment of an incompetent or untrustworthy Board of Managers. Inasmuch as the proposition to amend was made without consulting the incorporators who adopted the charter, such an imputation can be looked upon only as an intentional affront to them and to the managers selected. It assails, moreover, the intelligence of those who stand ready to intrust their money to the existing Board, but are not ready to intrust it to a promiscuous foreign Board, without unity, head, or responsibility to the corporation.

What is the direct evidence as to the trustworthiness of the existing Board? Columbia is the oldest, the most widely known, and the most responsible of the city colleges. She has been identified with botanical pursuits to a degree higher than any other college in the country save Harvard. She has expended large sums of money for many years on her botanical library and herbarium. The latter is scarcely second in importance to any on the continent. With unlimited means, it could not be duplicated in a century, while its botanical library is second only to that at Cambridge. She has expended the inheritance of her present trust, and her interest in the enterprise, by voting to it $25,000, and it is expected that her vast and priceless collection of botanical books and plants will follow. Plainly, if the management of the scientific department of the garden may not be directed by the means of frequent elections by the incorporators themselves (the usual custom in all corporations), and if that management was to be intrusted to any single institution, Columbia was the one that offered the highest guarantees of ability, of interest, and of success in that department. Let the public say whether the facts so far do not justify the judgment of the corporation in their selection.

The Torrey Botanical Club is an organization which, considering its limited means and the heavy sacrifices required of its members, has for a quarter of a century done a work in the promotion of botanical science which ranks second to that of no other similar association, here or abroad. These two institutions can justly claim to represent fully 75 per cent. of the botanical activity put forth in this city, leaving out the economical work done by certain other institutions. The Board of Education, through the institutions under its control, can fairly be said to represent the greater part of the remainder. Any charge that any one of these institutions has been controlled selfishly in its work furnishes just ground for resentment by its friends.

The statement has appeared that the President of the Botanical Club is a professor in Columbia. That is a mistake. He has not, and never has had, any relation with the college, nor have either of the Vice-Presidents. It is doubtful if ten per cent. of the members of the club are connected with Columbia, even as alumni, and the two institutions have no connection. Yet the Torrey Club, than whom there is no better judge in the case, feels that every interest of botanical science is secured by the present arrangement. Let it be understood that Columbia has claimed and sought nothing in the premises. She was selected by the promoters as a controlling custodian of the scientific interests of the garden because it was believed that its scientific work and aims would be prosecuted and accomplished thereby with more constancy, more efficiency, and with more complete success and honor to the city and the nation than under a system of yearly elections by the incorporators, with its liability to fluctuation in purpose and in time to degeneration. Columbia has generously, rather than selfishly, accepted the trust. Aside from the exact degree of safety enjoyed by the scientific side of the garden under the existing arrangement, it is difficult to see just how it is to be increased by the proposed addition to its Board of Managers. What special degree of qualification for the position of manager of a botanical garden is conferred by the institutions named in this amendment? Let us begin with the University itself; it has a long history of educational work. What botanical collections and library does it possess? Money is not necessary to secure a fairly good herbarium; it requires only that some one be assigned to the duty of preparing it. There are hundreds of young men in the country, and many district schools, that possess more of an herbarium than the University of the City of New York possesses. That indicates a lack of interest in the subject, and certainly it has never, as an institution, given proper encouragement to this department. Indeed, it directly declared its lack of interest by failing even to reply to an invitation to the Chancellor to meet with the committee for inaugurating the movement for this very botanical garden. But now that the garden promises to be a success, with its benefits to be open to all alike, with not a single special privilege to any class, sect, institution, or individual, the University, with its attendants, comes forward and demands that it be put in control as manager of the scientific department on the transparent pretext of the "interest of the Commonwealth" and "justice to all educational institutions."

The writer has the best of wishes for the University, but in her own interest he might protest against an amendment by the managers which is calculated to bring her into disrepute with the public, on whose favorable consideration her success depends. The City College and the Normal College could in no other way be so properly represented as through the Board of Education. Its President is now among the garden managers. Barnard, it is understood, entertains no desire for any other representation. As for the three other colleges, their excellent educational work has never been directed especially toward botanical science. The writer has been connected with nearly every botanical movement in this city for the past fifteen years, and has never yet met therein with a representative of any of them.

But a more important point remains. If it were true that the interests of the Commonwealth and justice to educational institutions are not sufficiently guarded by the charter, and that they would be rendered safer by the enlargement of the Board of Scientific Control, then the relief proposed by the University would be wholly insufficient and as unjust as the present. If an inquiry be made in regard to what institutions represent most largely the really important interests of the public in the conduct of a botanical garden, other than those of a purely educational or æsthetic nature, the answer must be colleges of medicine, of pharmacy, and of veterinary science, not one of which is included in the amendment proposed. It is impossible to enlarge on those interests here, but it is easy to show that in direction does the work of a botanical garden touch the people in so vital a part as in the host of grave questions relating to the medicinal properties of plants, and the safe and economical feeding of our domestic animals. Ignorance or disregard of these facts does not seem to indicate any special fitness to become a manager of a botanical institution. All of these medical, pharmaceutical, and veterinary colleges are satisfied that their highly prized interests are at present in safe hands. But if the Board of Control is to be increased for the reasons alleged, it cannot be said to secure justice to all the educational institutions of the city" until the list of managing representatives is very greatly extended beyond that proposed. In short, the Board of Control would become so large that it would be unwieldy. Responsibility could not be fixed; agreement and harmony in administration, so desirable and necessary, would become extremely improbable and public confidence would be destroyed. The required money would not be forthcoming, and the charge that the effect of this amendment would be to rob the city of the great boon which now seems about to be offered would be sustained. The enterprise would fail, as all preceding ones have failed, and it is doubtful if the present generation would see another garden project.

It is proper to remark that the writer has no connection with Columbia, not even as an alumnus; he has never received, and never expects to receive, any favors at its hands other than the facilities for research which are granted to every scientific man.

H. H. RUSBY, M. D.,
Professor of Botany, College of Pharmacy of the City of New York.

IN PRAISE OF ALGER.

A Brother Officer who Makes a Better Defence than Alger Has Made Himself.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Wide apart as we are in politics, I have been so long accustomed to accept your judgment of the men and events connected with the war of the rebellion as final that it seems rebellious to differ with your conclusions concerning Gov. Alger's military history. All that I have heard or known of his valuable services and of his distinction among his fellow soldiers opposes your animadversions.

In your recent articles, passing lightly over the fine record of Col. Alger during the first three years of the war and his career in the field, you assert, in spite of his denial and explanation, that his resignation was hastily offered to prevent his threatened dismissal for an unauthorized absence from his command. You reject his statement that he first learned of the unfavorable recommendations of his superior officers while Gen. Sheridan was on his deathbed, and long after Gen. Custer's untimely death, when it was too late to secure their retraction. Pardon me for thinking you are unnecessarily harsh and unjust, for I want always to regard you as the impartial historian of the time.

You well know that often officers were recommended for dishonorable discharge for "absence without leave," it afterward transpiring that they were sick in hospital, and the field surgeons had failed to report to their commanders the act of sending them there. No authorization appearing on the regimental reports of "present and absent," the commanding officers had no recourse but to recommend dismissal from the service. An officer as conspicuous as Col. Alger could not escape this condemnation were he so reported.

In an affidavit from the brigade surgeon that officer swears that early in the Valley campaign, just after Custer's battle of Shepardstown, finding Col. Alger incapacitated for duty, he ordered him to hospital, promising to attend to the necessary formalities of the transfer. Had the surgeon fulfilled his promise there would have been no occasion for the confidential recommendations of the brigade commander, endorsed by the division commander and the General commanding, as a matter of course, recommendations which the War Department never acted on, for Col. Alger, in a low state of health, tendered his resignation, and it was accepted, which was an honorable discharge.

Those who knew the proud young Colonel will not doubt that he would have made a vigorous effort for vindication had he received the least intimation of the unfavorable action of his commanding officers, caused alone, it would seem, by the omission of the medical staff to notify the proper headquarters that he had been sent to hospital. Certainly it would not have been difficult for Col. Alger to have had a hearing at the War Department.

You remark that the brevets of Brigadier and Major General were obtained somehow by Col. Alger long after he had left the army, to wit, in June, 1865. At that time the troops had just begun to disband, and the War Department was still dominant. Would the Secretary have issued such high commissions to an undeserving officer without proof? Alger's power was so great that he could get these honors over your heads, would not the same power have been all-sufficient to secure a retraction of the charges had he known their existence?

I submit these deductions to you with all modesty. There are a few facts in my memory tending to show that Gen. Alger well earned his brevets.

Previous to the Wilderness campaign, in 1864, Gen. Judson Kilpatrick commanded the Third Cavalry Division, then consisting of Davies's brigade and Custer's Michigan brigade, in which was Col. Alger's regiment. I was then but the youthful acting Adjutant of Kilpatrick's old regiment, the Harris Light Cavalry (Second New York Cavalry), in Davies's brigade. By compact with the Hon. Henry C. Kelsey of New Jersey and others, Gen. Kilpatrick exercised a sort of guardianship of me, and I was much with him when off duty. I often heard Gen. Kilpatrick speak of Col. Alger, and always with praise. He regarded Col. Alger as one of his best officers, and that opinion he always maintained after the war. I know that in our regiment, and, I believe, in all the division, the name of "Alger of the Michigan Brigade" was almost as popular as that of Custer, "the Boy General with the Golden Locks," whom we looked upon as a prodigy. There was no envy or jealousy to color our admiration of these gallant cavalrymen. We rejoiced at their growing fame, and were freshly inspired when we saw either of them riding by. Long after Kilpatrick was succeeded by Gen. J. H. Wilson, and the Michigan brigade had been transferred to the First Division, we heard of the brave deeds of Custer and of Alger with equal pride, and boasted that they had been a part of us. It was in the very act of helping our division out of a "tight place" that Custer incurred the severe flight at Shepardstown, in which everybody talked of Col. Alger's splendid conduct.

A few weeks after this event Gen. Wilson was promoted to a higher command elsewhere and we welcomed Gen. Custer as the new commander of the Third Division, at the head of which his greatest laurels were won. But for the retirement of Col. Alger meantime, he doubtless would have succeeded to the command of the Michigan brigade, vacated by Custer's promotion.

It is not at all consistent that Gen. Sheridan and Gen. Custer should have maintained friendly associations with Gen. Alger afterward had they not changed their opinion that he had forsaken them at a time when they most needed the services of every officer fit for duty. They had no use for sick men, and were anxious to get them away.

There was another General, a sterner disciplinarian, who, after the war, held Gen. Alger in high esteem. That was Gen. Sherman. Four and a half years ago this grim warrior assumed the direction of the funeral obsequies of Gen. Kilpatrick when the remains were brought from Chili and buried at West Point. I assisted Gen. Sherman, who, in his emphatic way, told me he wanted Gen. Alger for one of the pall bearers. The latter was in New York under treatment for a throat difficulty. Gen. Sherman sent a messenger to bring him to his room in the Fifth Avenue Hotel. Gen. Alger responded, and I was for the first time introduced to the soldier whom, a long time ago, I had known so well by sight and by good repute. Several conferences followed, in all of which I did not fail to notice the affectionate familiarity which the great General displayed toward Gen. Alger. Throughout the pilgrimage to West Point, the reception by the commandant and his officers, the escort of the corps of cadets and the battery of artillery, the honors paid to the dead General, and the courtesies extended to the highest military chieftain of the nation, Gen. Alger received a full share of attention, not only from Gen. Sherman but from many other distinguished men.

Gen. Alger is a generous and charitable man. His reputation as a true and loyal soldier must be dear to him. It ought not to be lightly aspersed. In attempting to disarm your criticisms I have no other purpose than to be just to a former brother officer, to whom I am not, and never expect to be, under obligation for any personal favor whatever.

NEW YORK, Feb. 22. W. R. MATTISON.

The Sun That Shines for All.

From the Telegraph Age.

A rather excited appearing man rushed into the depot at Greenwich, Conn., the other evening and startled the station operator with the unexpected information that he wanted to send 1,000 words to THE SUN.

"To the sun?" exclaimed the astonished railroader.

"Yes; can you rush it?"

"Yes, you bet I kin!" answered the operator, recovering his nerve and slinging aside his coat. "You bet I kin rush it!" and he sailed out of the door and grabbed the questioner by the collar. "Only a thousand words, eh?" and he shook him. You bet; "and we've got special facilities for business with Jupiter" and he banged the victim's head against the door jamb. "Working a duplex with Saturn for two months (thump); thump)! Sending direct to Mars on a copper wire (thwack)! with Venus on the blind side of a repeater (thwack, thwack)! Been receiving Mercury through a pneumatic tube for three weeks (thwack)! and I'd be working with the moon to-night if it wasn't full (bump)! An even thousand words to the sun, eh (bump)? This is the way to settle you cranks!"

"Good Lord!" groaned the man, "stop! it's THE NEW YORK SUN!"

"What!"

"The New York morning Sun; a special despatch!"

"Oh, gosh! I thought you was one o' them dynamiter cranks."

Scribner's Magazine for March contains what is believed to be Mr. Lowell's last poem, "On a Bust of General Grant," left unfinished and printed with Charles Eliot Norton's conjectural completions; it is most interesting. Charles C. Rogers, U. S. N., describes the "Water Route from Chicago to the Ocean," and Samuel Parsons, Jr., superintendent of our city parks, gives hints about the æsthetic improvements of small country places. Mr. Coffin, ending his consideration of "American Illustration of To-day," gives examples of work by Abbey, Reinhart, Frost, Remington, Gibson and others—an interesting group. Mr. Apthorp continues his description of the Parisian theatres; Mr. Stevenson's "Wreckers" is continued, and Mr. Robert Grant begins a short novel, "Reflections of a Married Man." There is a short story by Alice Morse Earle, and three qualified railroad men discuss the question of "Speed in Locomotives." Mr. Walter Wellman telling about the run of the New York Central train from this city to Buffalo in September last, which THE SUN described at the time so vividly.

PATIENTS TOO POOR TO PAY.

Dr. Gibier Will Close the Pasteur Institute Unless Help Comes from Outside.

When Police Justice Preisel and Dr. Ludwig R. Sattler of Newark called on Dr. Paul Gibier at the New York Pasteur Institute, 178 West Tenth street, the other day to see about the admission of a poor woman whose arm had been badly bitten by a dog, Dr. Gibier told them he would admit the patient free of charge, but that he would have to close the institute unless he received material assistance. On