The Sun.

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THE SUN, New York City.

What Does This Mean?

The latest epistle to issue from the vocabulary-laboratory of consecration is addressed by the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND to the Hon. JAMES H. BIBLE of Chattanooga, and it contains this alarming passage:

"I have frequent misgivings as to the wisdom of again putting me in nomination."

Misgivings? Frequent misgivings? This is not the true spirit of consecration. True consecration has no misgivings, frequent or infrequent, long or short. It does not contemplate possibly adverse results. It does not concern itself with questions of wisdom or expediency. It simply consecrates, and stays consecrated, and lets everything else go to thunder.

Our own impression is that the misgivings clause is not to be interpreted literally. It has some esoteric meaning. It must be studied and read in the light of the context. It is a passage similar in character to Mr. CLEVELAND'S repeated declarations that his personal preference is for private life, not public office.

Misgivings on the part of the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND as to the wisdom of nominating him for President of the United States? Perish the thought! Sooner let it be supposed that Col. ABE SLUPSKY falters when he contemplates his mighty mission.

We cannot imagine the sensations of the Hon. JAMES H. BIBLE of Chattanooga when he perused this remarkable announcement. JAMES BIBLE must have felt as if the bottom were dropping out of the whole conservatory system.

The President of the Chicago Fair.

Chicago has just held an election for the locally important office of President of the Fair. This means the Presidency of the Illinois corporation known as the World's Columbian Exposition, the concern which is endeavoring to persuade Congress to pass an unconstitutional bill making the United States Government a subscriber to $5,000,000 of its very shady stock.

For some time past certain of the Chicago newspapers have rung with the praises of a mysterious Mr. HIGINBOTHAM, who has enjoyed a first-class boom for the Presidency of the Fair. HIGINBOTHAM was the coming man. He was a citizen with a special genius for running world's fairs. He was the man who was to straighten out the crookedness of past management, put the Fair on a sound business basis, command the confidence of the crowned heads of Europe, and, if necessary, pump the United States Treasury dry for the benefit of Chicago. Great hopes centred on HIGINBOTHAM.

We learn from our esteemed contemporaries in the City of False Pretences that the rainbow programme outlined above was destroyed by Mr. HIGINBOTHAM'S positive refusal to accept the office. The election of a President has resulted in the choice for a second term of Mr. WILLIAM T. BAKER, the author of the extraordinary private circular to Congressmen, and the gentleman who was unable to get within $4,692,000 of the truth when attempting to furnish Mr. DOCKERY'S committee with the cost of the work of preparation already contracted for. Mr. BAKER'S qualifications for the post are thus described by the *Chicago Herald:*

"Mr. BAKER, during his first year, following an able and judicious executive, did not succeed in winning confidence or commanding esteem. Mr. BAKER'S constitutional weakness, impetuosity of temper, and exaggeration of self must be held responsible for his inability to command spontaneous and unanimous reelection.

"Few men have enjoyed so great an opportunity to earn by justice, patience, and tact the good will of contemporaries and the friendship of colleagues. Had the post of President of the Directory been the private creation of Mr. BAKER'S brains, he could not have employed it with greater arrogance.

"Impatience, irritability, petulance, egotism, are never becoming; they are always less than manly. But in a position of public trust, where the incumbent of an office represents not himself in any proprietary sense, but others, who temporarily employ him as their fiduciary agent, arrogance and selfishness are as illogical as they are injudicious.

"Mr. BAKER has a year in which to overcome, if he can, the ungracious impression his narrow-sighted course has hitherto engendered."

From this and similar expressions of opinion concerning Mr. WILLIAM T. BAKER, we should judge that that gentleman is better fitted to be an exhibit at the Fair, for the astonishment of the natives, than its chief executive officer. We have been careful to quote a Chicago estimate of his intellect and temper, not a New York estimate or a Washington estimate. But let us wait and give Mr. BAKER another chance.

Meanwhile, we cordially congratulate HIGINBOTHAM.

England and Egypt.

This week attention will be again directed to Egypt by the reading of the Sultan's firman at Cairo and the formal investiture of the new ruler with the Khedival title and authority. It is understood that in deference to the protest of England, backed by the three central powers, the Sultan has changed his original purpose of excluding the Sinaitic peninsula from the territory recognized as belonging to his vassal. TEWFIK'S son, therefore, will rule over all of his father's possessions, and will succeed to the latter's pretensions to vast tracts in the Soudan, including the equatorial province to which EMIN Pasha has returned.

Reports of an attempt to reoccupy the Soudan have been current since the accession of the new sovereign at Cairo, and the execution of such a project is pronounced indispensable by Mr. HENRY NORMAN, who has made a careful study of the Nile country and has published the results of his observations in the April number of the *Contemporary Review*. Unlike most of his countrymen, this writer, while bearing witness to the economical and social benefits conferred upon Egypt by the English occupation, acknowledges that the present state of things cannot last, and that evacuation cannot be postponed a moment after it is plain that the reorganized Egyptian army is qualified to maintain internal order and to defend the country against foreign enemies. The only foreign enemy which Egypt has cause to dread is the Khalifa ABDULLAH, who still keeps at Omdurman a remnant of the power acquired by the Mahdi MOHAMMED AHMED. It should be remembered that the native troops under their English officers have already beaten the Mahdists twice, namely, at Tokar, where most of OSMAN DIGNA'S fierce Jaellin levies were killed, and at Toski, where NEJUMI, the ablest and bravest of the emirs who have fought for the Khalifa, lost his life. Those two engagements proved that the native army, as at present organized and officered, are capable of protecting Egypt against the Mahdists, and it is probably a recognition of the fact that has caused the Khalifa to announce, as we learn from the Austrian priest OHRWALDER, that he will not attack the Khedive so long as the British remain at Cairo.

It is because the efficiency of the Egyptian army wholly depends on the English officers, who have converted into trustworthy soldiers just such seemingly worthless levies as HICKS Pasha led to the shambles, that the gradual recovery of the Soudan is pronounced by Mr. NORMAN a condition precedent to the evacuation of Egypt by Great Britain. The secret of the influence and authority exercised by the English officers over the native recruits is the knowledge that behind them stands the British army of occupation in Cairo. If that army were withdrawn, the plans and orders of the Englishmen commanding the native troops would no longer be sure of being sustained by the Khedive; and the officers, instead of being all English, would soon be of various European nationalities, as was the case in the Egyptian army of which ARABI Pasha gained control, and which was subsequently dissolved by TEWFIK. A division of authority in the army would no doubt result as it did formerly, in intrigue, jealousy, and corruption; and the soldiers, who at present are regularly paid, well clothed and well fed, would be left without pay and often without food or clothing. Fallen into its former unorganized condition, the native Egyptian army would be entirely incompetent to defend Egypt against the Khalifa, and that is why Mr. NORMAN would have the Egyptians in their hour of strength forestall danger and disable the Mahdists for future aggression by an immediate advance into the Soudan. What he proposes, however, is a gradual movement which should at first confine itself to the occupation of Dongola. According to the information obtained by Mr. NORMAN at Wady Halfa, all the Soudanese except the Beggaras would welcome the first indication of a resolute intention to reassert the Khedive's authority along the middle and upper Nile. So significant a step as an advance upon Dongola would suffice, it is believed, to draw off a multitude of waverers from the enemy.

It is estimated that for the retaking of the Soudan only a comparatively small addition would need to be made to the present Egyptian army. This at present comprehends rather more than 12,000 men, of which 10,000 are infantry, 1,000 artillery, 750 cavalry, and 300 camel corps. The cavalry, artillery, and camel corps are all Egyptians; the infantry consist partly of Egyptian conscripts and of Soudanese (black) volunteers. This army is commanded by 75 British officers, and contains about thirty-five British non-commissioned officers. The period of service is six years with the colors, five in the police, and four in the reserve. There is now, it seems, a sum of over $1,500,000 in the Egyptian treasury only awaiting the consent of the French Government to be spent in increasing the native force. At present such an application of the money, like every other British proposal, is obstructed by the French on general principles, but Mr. NORMAN is doubtless right in saying that if the French saw that an increase of the native army would be a step toward British evacuation, their consent would be instantaneous.

The Case of Dr. Briggs.

The election by the New York Presbytery of a delegation to the forthcoming General Assembly distinctly and decidedly hostile to Dr. BRIGGS, is an indication that the judgment of the Presbyterian court of last resort will be against him, and hence against the Union Theological Seminary, his supporter and champion.

If Dr. BRIGGS is condemned by his own Presbytery, he cannot expect to be sustained outside of New York. Here he is stronger than anywhere else in the Union, so far as his own Church is concerned. He has back of him the richly endowed seminary, in which he holds a chair, and he counts among his stout friends some of the most prominent and influential of the Presbyterian ministry of this city and neighborhood. Many of the laity most relied upon for contributions for the material assistance of the denomination are also on his side. When he lectured last winter in defence of his methods of Biblical criticism his audiences were invariably large and remarkable for their high quality both intellectually and socially.

If, then, he is unable to carry the New York Presbytery with him, but rather demonstrates that he is almost powerless there against the flood of opposition to him, his fate at Portland next month seems to be sealed. He has shown himself to be weak where, if anywhere, he should have been strong. The sentiment of the last General Assembly was overwhelmingly against him, and during the past year nothing has occurred which suggests any turning of the tide in any part of the Union. So far as the result of Monday's meeting of the New York Presbytery is an indication of the drift of Presbyterian opinion, it is more strongly and decidedly against him than it was a year ago.

A final judgment against Dr. BRIGGS at Portland will compel the Union Theological Seminary to decide whether it shall remain a Presbyterian institution approved by the denomination, or shall cut itself aloof from the General Assembly altogether and become an independent school of divinity representative of a Presbyterian bolt.

According to the opinion and resolution of the last General Assembly, that body has the veto power over the appointment of Dr. BRIGGS to his new chair of Biblical Theology in the seminary. According to the trustees of the seminary, the Professor having been merely transferred from one chair to another, it has no such power. They contend that as the privilege of vetoing appointments was granted by them voluntarily and without a consideration, the contract conferring the privilege must be construed strictly. Moreover, the trustees can withdraw from the contract and annul it at any time within their option. At any rate and at all hazards, they have insisted on retaining Dr. BRIGGS and continuing to teach in harmony with his views.

Consistently, therefore, the seminary will be obliged to stand or fall with Dr. BRIGGS, so far as the General Assembly is concerned. Its trustees and its faculty have sided with him against the General Assembly, not merely as to the interpretation of the contract granting the privilege of veto upon his appointment, but also as to the soundness of his views and teachings as to the Scriptures. The seminary is committed to his opinions. More than any other and more than all the others of the faculty he gives the institution its stamp. It cannot go back on him without surrendering completely and abjectly; and such a capitulation would force the rest of the faculty in self-respect to retire with him beyond the Presbyterian lines.

Hence the sending of an anti-BRIGGS delegation from the New York Presbytery is rather an indication of serious rupture in the Presbyterian Church than of the complete triumph and sway of the old-fashioned orthodoxy. Such a breach is the more inevitable because Dr. BRIGGS and the Union Theological Seminary are representative of a whole school of theologians and Biblical critics, among whom are many prominent ministers and teachers of divinity in the Presbyterian and other orthodox denominations. If he stood alone, he might be surrendered as a prisoner of war without uncomfortable consequences to anybody except himself. But Dr. BRIGGS is a leader of at least a powerful faction of the Presbyterians, and his followers must go with him or save themselves by recanting their declared opinions.

The question between him and the Presbyterian majority, however, is not a question of opinion and sentiment, but of fact. It is a scientific question, not a question of dogmatic theology merely. The soundness or unsoundness of his Biblical criticism, he and his followers contend, is demonstrable. Of course, then, they have nothing to recant. They can only be convinced that they are wrong by the demonstration that their scholarship is defective. They base their conclusions as to the Scriptures on facts and not theories, and the opposition will not meet the issue unless it disposes of their facts. Their argument is scientific and addressed to the reason alone. The dogmatism of the Westminster Confession and the General Assembly is addressed to faith, and hence can have no power against it. It is put forward as a matter of scientific demonstration, and it can be upset in the same way only. It must be proved wrong, not merely declared wrong, in order to overcome those who use it.

The Union Theological Seminary, by retaining Dr. BRIGGS as its foremost teacher and representative, even against the General Assembly's opposition, has proclaimed to all the world that it accepts his demonstration and the conclusions to which his scientific investigation of the Bible has led him. How, then, can it put him away and teach differently simply at the command of the General Assembly without displaying both moral and intellectual cowardice, and without losing public and even Presbyterian respect because of its pusillanimity? It has chosen its colors, and it must fight under them or else accept the odium which attaches to treachery. Even if Dr. BRIGGS goes of his own motion, his methods of Biblical criticism must be followed by his successor, for the institution has formally put its stamp of approval on them, in spite of their condemnation by the General Assembly; and the whole teaching of the seminary is in accord with them, if not based on them, as demonstrably true and sound.

Hence the issue before the General Assembly at Portland in far-away Oregon, next month, will not concern Dr. BRIGGS alone nor principally. It will involve the future of the whole Presbyterian Church. The probable, if not inevitable decision against him will make him the leader and the Union Theological Seminary the exponent of a powerful party of the Presbyterians standing out in revolt against it. Either there will be a large secession from the Church or the former division between the Old School and the New School will be revived, with the causes of separation far more radical, and with no chance of being healed otherwise than by the complete destruction of the arguments of one or the other party. The battle must be fought out until Dr. BRIGGS or his enemies are vanquished.

Bridging the Hudson River.

Senator BLACKBURN has introduced in the Senate, and Congressman COVERT in the House of Representatives, a bill "to authorize the New York and New Jersey Bridge Companies to construct and maintain a bridge across the Hudson River between New York city and the State of New Jersey;" and the House Committee on Commerce has reported the bill favorably.

The States of New York and New Jersey having granted the right to construct this bridge, it would seem to be but reasonable that Congress should recognize the act of these States, and grant the powers needed to give effect to their demands.

The Commissioners for the States of New York and New Jersey would scarcely lend their names to an enterprise of a merely scheming nature. We are sure that the men who have already subscribed for more than a million of the stock of the company have done so in good faith.

Terminal lands have been purchased on both sides of the river and ground broken for the work.

Important financial and railroad interests have asked Congress for the needed legislation. This has been promptly granted in similar but less important cases all over the country.

Congress should enact the bill in question, and the quicker it is done the better for New York's future. No public man can afford to put himself against this great improvement. The whole subject of locating the bridge and approving the plans is left with the Secretary of War, and thus every public interest is thoroughly protected.

A Presentment.

"Owing to public and general charges having been made against the efficiency of the clergymen of New York city in suppressing vice, this Grand Jury has spent considerable time in investigating these accusations."

"It is conceded by all that the clergy of New York city are splendidly educated and not exceeded in ability. The large sums raised by them for foreign missions is proof of their ability."

"It must, however, be conceded that intemperance, incontinence, and gambling are not seriously interfered with by the clergy."

"The present situation certainly warrants the condemnation of the clergy. They are paid to make men temperate, to restrain their evil appetites, to promote purity and goodness and all virtue. Yet drunkenness and lust continue to exist in the town, and even among those directly under their teaching and influence. Though the Grand Jury have not precise evidence sufficient to justify an indictment of the clergy, they suggest whether such a state of things could exist if a body of men so able fulfilled the duty to which they profess to have dedicated themselves, and were really working to establish the spirit of CHRIST among the people, and to bring about obedience to the Christian law."

The GEARY Anti-Chinese bill is now in the hands of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, of which Senator SHERMAN is Chairman, and it is supposed that this committee will do something with it to-day. Mr. SHERMAN is opposed to those provisions of the bill that are in violation of our treaty obligations, though he favors Chinese exclusion. He himself, on the 9th of February last, introduced to the Senate an anti-Chinese bill, which, he said, had been prepared at the Treasury Department by an inspector of Chinese immigration, and which was not destructive of any treaty with China, but this bill was reported adversely by the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations. Very soon afterward the Senate adopted the bill which was introduced by Senator DOLPH of Oregon, and which bears a close resemblance to the SHERMAN bill.

Thus the case now stands. The Senate adopted the DOLPH bill, which was rejected by the House, and the House has adopted the GEARY bill, which is now before the Senate.

It is probable that a conference committee of the two Houses will have to be appointed, and that Senator SHERMAN will be a member of it. As Chairman of the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations it will be Senator SHERMAN'S duty to do his part in upholding the honor of the United States by resolutely refusing to sanction any measure which abrogates our treaty with the Chinese Government, and which authorizes that Government to act accordingly.

We hear from trustworthy sources in Albany that money is being used there freely to prevent the repeal of the speedway act. The Board of Park Commissioners of New York, the city alone concerned, has asked the Legislature to repeal the act. The solid delegation from New York is for repeal. The press of New York is unanimous for repeal. The Senate has voted unanimously for repeal. Yet we hear of opposition in the Assembly from members outside of New York. Why should they stand in the way?

An old correspondent living in Washington, whose habit and power of observing and understanding politics are exceptional, writes that "Democrats who think of victory are fast getting into line in the conviction that however they may differ in other respects, CLEVELAND must be dropped."

When the time for that momentous cadence arrives it should be perpetrated with great circumspection. If the Claimant's ex-Presidential ponderosity, inflated for years with the "hope of favors yet to come," should drop too hard, the break-up might be terribly disastrous.

To the name of THOMAS JEFFERSON (born April 2) a club of this city will do homage tonight. It were well for the lovers of democratic government to celebrate his birthday year after year. JEFFERSON was a great and wise American, a sagacious and courageous politician, the author of the grand Declaration, a man who stood among the very foremost of the patriots and philosophers who founded the American republic. Keep green the memory; hold aloft the principles; sound ever the praise of JEFFERSON, born 1743, died 1826.

The quarrelsome and acrimonious spirit that has been displayed in the New York and Brooklyn Conferences of the Methodist Church, and in the New York Presbytery of the Presbyterian Church, has had a disturbing influence on the minds of the members of these powerful denominations. The plain people of the Churches are racked by the conduct of their rulers, who are not only at loggerheads about questions of theology, doctrine, and polity, but who have had to deal with clerical scandals of a very grievous kind. The accusations of corruption and foul play that Methodist ministers brought against each other in the New York Conference were certainly more discreditable than the charge of unfair electioneering that has just been made in the New York Presbytery, but still it must be said that very hard words passed between the clerical leaders of the last-named body. How can such things happen in these two Church councils, both of which claim to be under Divine guidance, and the members of which are upright men, governed by the religious spirit, representing religion, and legislating in its behalf? By way of contrast, behold the spirit and the procedure of the Apostolic Council of Jerusalem, A. D. 50.

On two or three occasions, within a short time, the London papers have printed accounts of the warlike operations of the Sikh troops in the British service in eastern Africa. Ten days ago Parliament listened to a report from the British Consul at Mozambique, describing a campaign in which a body of these Sikhs has been engaged against the slave traders of Lake Nyassa. The Sikhs evidently fight as well in Africa as they ever fought in their native East Indies, for in one action spoken of by the Consul the enemy lost thirty-two killed, while only six of the assailants were even wounded. The British Government can procure any desired number of warlike Sepoys from its Indian possessions, and they are likely to be very serviceable hereafter in the campaigns in Africa.

The housebuilders hereabout are extraordinarily busy this spring, especially in the regions lying near the outer verge of the Greater New York, and outside thereof. Besides imposing structures, they are putting up a large number of modest houses for people of limited means, who will own them and the lots on which they stand. This is an excellent sign of popular prosperity. It is also an evidence of the prevalence of sound sense among people who have a little money. It is a good thing for a man to own the house he lives in; and it is not very, very hard for an industrious, careful, and successful man to raise, in course of time, the money that will procure it for him. A man feels all the better if he is the owner of a home for himself and family, even if the home is not a swell mansion.

As he laughs best who laughs last, the British have a decided advantage just now over the citizens of Tambi, in West Africa. Tambi is a large town on the Gambia River, whose people, never having seen anything bigger than their metropolis, decided last winter that they didn't care a continental for Queen VICTORIA, and that they would fill any Englishman with lead who had the impudence to travel up the river to trade. Thereupon the British sent a small force inland to admonish the Tambians. The soldiers thought it was a sort of holiday excursion, but a fortnight later all that was left of them arrived at the coast with the news that they had been beautifully trounced, that the Tambians were regular black devils, and that nothing but cannon would subdue the town.

A few weeks ago the British started inland again, in imposing array and with a good showing of artillery. This time they were more than a match for the saucy natives, and proud Tambi is now in ashes, and 25,000 black citizens of Africa are of the opinion that the British lion is a formidable animal when he gets real mad. He usually does eat up the foe in the long run, if that individual happens to be an untutored savage with nothing but a flintlock or an assegai in his hands.

If the belligerent statesmen of Brazil would inaugurate a campaign against the yellow fever, which has desolated a great part of their country, they might win the crown of triumphant statesmanship. It is not an unconquerable adversary. It has been driven from a good many places in the world through the enforcement of sanitary laws by courageous strategists.

It is to be regretted that the steamer of the whaleback type which has been tried in a storm on the Pacific did not bear the trial well. When it encountered a sou'wester between San Diego and San Francisco, it not only rolled and reeled as any other vessel might have done, but it behaved badly in every way, suffered damage on the outside, the inside, and at both ends, and was almost a total wreck on reaching port. Many experienced shipbuilders have always maintained that steamers of the whaleback type could not stand an ocean storm, that they could not be handled to advantage in a high gale, that they were dangerous to all aboard of them in any stress of weather, and that they were fit only for service on our inland lakes. They have been able to point to at least two unhappy experiences of whalebacks on the high seas. In our judgment, however, it is yet too early for shipbuilders to indulge in wholesale condemnation of this new and interesting type of American steamers.

The *Atlanta Constitution* is entirely mistaken in its supposition that Col. ABE SLUPSKY has become a writer of editorial articles for the *Charleston News and Courier*.

It is true that Col. SLUPSKY incidentally lends his powerful pen to journalism, but the fortunate newspaper is not the *News and Courier*.

This is official. We know thoroughly what we are talking about.

The truly religious people of the city will be pleased to observe that the Legislature, in making an extra appropriation for the support of the Museum of Natural History, expressly provides that this museum "shall be kept open free of charge on Sunday afternoons." This provision is excellent and desirable as far as it goes, but in truth the museum ought to be kept open all day on Sundays as on other days.

OPENING NEW LANDS.

The President's Proclamation Throwing 4,000,000 Acres Open to Settlement.

WASHINGTON, April 12.—The President signed to-day the proclamation opening to settlement on Tuesday, April 19, at noon, the unallotted portion of the Cheyenne and Arapahoe Indian reservation in Oklahoma, embracing nearly 4,000,000 acres of land. This land was ceded by the Indians to the United States in 1890. Each member of the tribes has received an allotment of 160 acres selected from any part of the reservation, except the land now occupied for military purposes, agency, school, school farm, religious, or public uses, or in section 16 or 36 in each Congressional township. Each settler on the land opened, before making final proof and receiving a certificate of entry, must pay $1.50 an acre, one-half of which must be paid within two years.

The proclamation gives notice that no person will be permitted to enter upon the land previous to its lawful opening under penalty of arrest and relinquishments of all rights to make entry. The proclamation names Kingfisher and Oklahoma City as the land office towns. All the lands lying north of the township line between townships thirteen and fourteen north, are attached to the Kingfisher office, and those lying south of the township line, between townships thirteen and fourteen, to the Oklahoma City office.

GUTHRIE, Oklahoma, April 12.—A despatch from Gov. Seay, who is in the Cheyenne and Arapahoe reservation, says that all of the new county seats are surveyed and platted. This insures the opening of these towns at the time the reservation is thrown open. There are six of these county seats, named Watona, Taloga, Roland, Cheyenne, Arapahoe, and Tulona, and each site contains 320 acres, all platted and staked off into lots. The main streets run east and west. The business lots are 25 feet and the residence lots 50 feet front. There are reserved in each town one block for a Court House, four blocks for a park, three blocks for school buildings, half a block for Post Office and City Hall, and six lots for churches. All of the rest of the lots are free to settlers, and the race for them over miles of broken and untravelled country will be a wild one.

Men with trained racehorses are gathering at the points nearest to each of the towns determined to get to one town first and obtain the business lots. Word has just been brought in from the northern line of the reservation that one wagon train of over 200 wagons and nearly 1,000 persons has just arrived there, having come overland from Texas by one of the old cattle trails through the Kiowa and Comanche reservation. These people intend going into one of the best counties and founding an immense coöperative community.

At El Reno the crowd has become unmanageable, and when a deputy marshal attempted to order a lot of campers off private property, they drove him out of the camp. The crowd is very much incensed at the unfair treatment they receive there, and say that unless the city drives out the thieves and gamblers, and the business men and lodging-house keepers quit robbing people by their extortionate charges, they will organize a government of their own and regulate things.

VENEZUELA'S CIVIL WAR.

The Causes of the Trouble that Has Led to Rebellion.

PANAMA, April 3.—Since March 19 it has been known here that there was a revolutionary movement in Venezuela, but no particulars could be obtained until the arrival of the French steamer France on Friday. By that vessel a number of fugitives left the country. Here is a summary of what they say:

Palacio had no sooner become President than he began to engineer to procure a centralized government. Rojas Paul and all true patriots protested, and Paul was exiled and others imprisoned. The next move of the virtual Dictator was to postpone the Constitutional elections from time to time until he could arrange matters so as to hold by force the Presidency and reëstablish the dictatorship as in the days of Moraga and of Guzman Blanco. That is the present situation in a nutshell. The constitutional elections not having been held, the people took alarm, and the result is the starting of a popular revolution under the auspices of Gen. Crespo.

At the first outbreak Palacio caused to be imprisoned a number of members of the Federal Council and prominent citizens whom he thought there was reason to believe were connected with the rising. Of course others took alarm and retired from the capital and joined Crespo in the western portion of the republic about Valencia. About the middle of last month a battle was fought near Caracas, and resulted in the defeat of those who had too prematurely opened the ball. Those concerned in this abortive demonstration immediately retired on Crespo's base to the westward of Valencia. So far as was known when the steamer left, the revolutionary forces were concentrating at that point.

The commercial life of the country is for the time completely paralized, and the gold currency has suddenly vanished from circulation. To offset this an agreement has been entered into between the leading mercantile houses to accept the notes of the principal bank, which supplies for the time being a circulating medium. All exportation is stopped and the crops must remain in the country to rot, for all that the patriotic belligerents care. The imports also have, of course, stopped, orders having been cancelled by cable.

Gone!

From the Courier-Journal.

Even to the least discerning of the spectators it was apparent that its last days had come, and intently they watched its passage into the great unknown. Its form withered and contracted. The head sank forward on the limp and nerveless neck. The yellow skin formed into masses of wrinkles, and rustled like paper as the wind blew over it. The heavy lids quivered and closed over the dull and sightless eyes, and the cheeks sank like those of the dead.

There were one or two faint motions of the hands, but at length they were still. The breathing died away and soon ceased altogether. The figure grew lighter and trembled in the breeze. At length it began to dissolve and melted into thin air like a dream. The watchers thought that they saw something resembling smoke or mist form itself into the shape of a barrel, but in a moment it, too, was gone, and the sun shone again, and the breeze blew as of old, and across the field the birds were singing among the trees.

The Alger boom had passed out upon the great unknown sea.

Dr. Parkhurst Shocks the Moral Sense Even of Chicago.

From the Chicago Tribune.

To an impartial observer at this distance from the scene of action it looks as if Dr. Parkhurst ought to have been run in.

Turkey and Claimant in Rhode Island.

"Gobble, gobble, gobble,"
Exclaimed a turkey fat,
As in a tall Rhode Island tree
He indolently sat;
"Gobble, gobble, gobble,
Where is the Stuffed One now,
Who lately came to claim and claim,
And conjure in the Mugwump name,
Oh, where are now his logic laws
And consecrated brow!

"Before November comes again
I, too, may be well stuffed!
I gobble bravely now, but then
My hide will have been ruffled!
Gobble, gobble, gobble,
The chestnut buds will flower
And bear; the blade be rudely laid
Against the necks now swollen and staid.
Eheu! No stuffed one may evade
The inevitable hour!

"There are no game birds in the land
That may compare with me.
Go down to Fulton Market, and
My frozen comrades see.
Gobble, gobble, gobble!
Soon will be lost to view,
The splendor of our rosy necks,
Our chins with stately double decks,
Our claims shall even cease to vex,
Eheu, eheu, eheu!"

J. P. S.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Republican primaries for the choice of delegates to the Republican State Convention in Albany are to be held on Friday, April 15.

Since the knock-out administered to the radical tariff reformers in Rhode Island on Wednesday there has been a decided breakdown in the activity of the May enrollment canvasses. They find the task of getting names to their pads harder than it was before, and in a majority of the districts the idea of having a headquarters or of circulating any papers for signatures has been almost abandoned.

Although the present Legislature has added to the number of wards in various cities of the State, notably Rochester, Brooklyn, Yonkers, and Troy, and thereby enabled the voters in these cities to obtain a fuller measure of representation, locally, nothing has yet been done toward an increase in the number of New York wards. At the present time the Twelfth ward of this city extends from Eighty-sixth street to the end of Manhattan Island, on both sides of town. Its population was returned by the Porter census as 293,000, but the actual population is now nearer 350,000. Its population is as large as that of Cincinnati or San Francisco, and considerably more than that of New Orleans, Cleveland, Washington, Pittsburgh, Detroit, or Buffalo. Notwithstanding that fact, the ward boundary continues as established on April 6, 1850, although at that time the whole territory contained only a few houses.

The New York city Republicans, who have not had many crumbs of comfort lately, have found some melancholy satisfaction in studying the results of the spring town elections in many parts of the State, although in the metropolitan end, where Republican gains are most needed, they are not forthcoming, and in Queens and Suffolk counties they have sustained losses. How little is the actual importance of spring township elections the case of Oneida county clearly and aptly shows. Oneida is a populous and closely contested county, centrally located, and the home of many distinguished leaders in times past. In the spring elections of 1890 the Democrats had a majority of thirteen in the County Board of forty-three members. Encouraged by that they awaited the State election of 1890 with much confidence, but it resulted, contrary to their expectations, in a Republican majority for 1,292 on Congressman. At the spring election one year ago, the Republicans of Oneida trained their political guns with better success, and captured the Board by a majority of 13, exactly reversing the previous year's record, but their hopes were dashed, because Fassett carried the county by only 266 votes, a Republican loss of more than 1,000.

If John E. Milholland, recently from Brooklyn, could within a week stir up so much disturbance among the Republicans of the Eleventh district, which is now the only Republican district in town, how much time would be required by a resident New York Republican to put the members of the other twenty-three districts to fight and into panic? The answer does not display the discipline of the Republican machine in town, within eight months of the Presidential election, in a very good light.

The absence of Oliver Sumner Teall from the May Convention movement of the Provisional Committee of Fifty Mugwumps is suggestive. It was supposed that his familiar visage would be seen at the helm. One explanation of his absence is based on the declaration that the present movement of stationery-consuming Mugwumps has neither prow nor helm, point nor purpose, head nor tail.

That sociability pays better than politics on the east side was shown in Pythagoras Hall a week ago, when the O'Brien Association (motto, "We Neither Bend Nor Break") had a reception as successful, in point of attendance and enjoyment, as any enjoyed by the association since the redoubtable John J. O'Brien was at the zenith of his success as a statesman in de Ate. Another evidence of the same proposition that good fellowship is a more enduring bond of membership for a club than political triumphs was furnished by the election of officers of the Steckler Association on the 5th inst. Nearly 1,000 votes were cast by the members.

With the Alderman's term two years, as proposed by the Legislature, there would be a decided falling off in the sale of ball tickets, and a corresponding increase in the happiness of those who are fortunate enough to be able to represent the people in the Board. It would reduce campaign expenses, too.

The proposition to wipe out the Fifth Assembly district by attaching the lower part of it to the First district and the upper portion to the Third district, does not meet with much favor in the Eighth ward, which used to be famous for its local statesmen. Few of them remain now, some having died and the others having moved away. There has been much friction in the Tammany Committee of the Fifth ever since the death of Judge Norton, and the leaders of the organization will be glad of the opportunity of putting an end to any difficulty in the future by dividing the district.

It costs the city more than $100,000 a year for stenographic services. The five stenographers in the Supreme Court receive, collectively, the annual salary of $12,000, the five stenographers employed in the Superior Court receive a similar amount, and so do the five stenographers employed in the Court of Common Pleas. The four stenographers employed in the City Court get $10,000, the three employed in the Court of General Sessions get $7,500. The eleven stenographers of the District Courts get $22,000, and the Coroners' stenographer gets $2,500. To these items may be added $8,500 for the Surrogate's stenographer and $10,500 for those employed in the police courts and the Court of Special Sessions.

Years ago, and in fact until recently, political workers of both parties were glad to procure naturalization papers for friends and neighbors who desired to become citizens. The service, small in its way, led generally to good results, because the intending citizen would seek the aid of a member of a party with which he expected to identify himself, and thereafter he could be counted on generally to vote its ticket. Nowadays, however, the decline of the standard of emigration has been so great that a majority of the new citizens do not know any difference between the two political parties, and, therefore, so little dependence is put on their support that it is not thought worth while by the workers of either party to go to the trouble of getting out papers for the new voters. This year's naturalization has been, thus far, extremely light for a Presidential year.

The new apportionment of Congress districts in the city gives the Democrats the following majorities: Seventh district, represented by John R. Fellows, 6,600 majority; Eighth, represented by E. J. Dunphy, 6,000 majority; Ninth, represented by Timothy J. Campbell, 10,600 majority; Tenth (new), 4,600 majority; Eleventh, represented by Amos J. Cummings, 5,400 majority; Twelfth, represented by Bourke Cockran, 5,900 majority; Thirteenth, represented by J. J. Little, 6,400 majority; Fourteenth, represented by John DeWitt Warner, 8,200 majority; Fifteenth, represented by Ashbel P. Fitch, 8,000 majority. The Twenty-fourth Assembly district, under the proposed new apportionment, continues to form a part of the Westchester district. The Twenty-fourth has a Democratic majority of 3,000. Westchester gives the Democrats usually 1,200 majority.

Notes of the Hebrews.

The city of Cincinnati has for many years been a favorite abiding place of Jews. At a recent Jewish celebration there, Rabbi Wise said that "Cincinnati would hereafter be the Zion of Judaism in America."

The convention of delegates from all the Jewish literary societies of this city, for the purpose of preparing a scheme of amalgamation, will be held on April 24 at Clarendon Hall. The promoter of the convention is Mr. Moses H. Grossman.

The *Jewish Tidings* gives the names of a number of notable rabbis in the United States who are preachers of "liberalized" Judaism. Not one of the rabbis whom it names is in this city, and yet it says that "in no city are the Jews more intelligent and progressive than in the city of New York."

Notwithstanding the opposition of the Turkish Government to the settlement of Jews in Jerusalem a good number of them are getting there somehow. According to a writer in the *Jewish Intelligence* there has been more progress in Palestine during the past twenty years than there had been during the previous five centuries.

It appears by the "Bulletin of Churches" from the Census Office that strict orthodoxy predominates among the quarter of a million Jews in New York. Out of 135 Jewish congregations in this city, 126 are orthodox and only 9 reformed. In Philadelphia, Cincinnati, Chicago, and other cities, the two branches are about equally divided. Under "orthodox" are put those that adhere to the Shulchan Aruch, while those that depart from this authority are put as "reformed."

A Woman on Dr. Parkhurst.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Ever since reading extracts of Dr. Parkhurst's sermon printed in THE SUN I have wondered why some woman has not expressed an opinion of his actions. I am a young married woman, not very religious, seldom go to church, and don't pretend to be very good, but I would like Dr. Parkhurst to know my opinion of him.

What good does it do to arrest, fine, and imprison those women? Many have been known to commit suicide and others to sink still lower on account of the terrible disgrace. Why don't they endeavor to show them their folly and give each one a chance to lead an honest life? Kindness and assistance, in my opinion, would have much more effect, and would be more to the credit of the prosecuting parties.

I don't doubt that many would reform, with the aid of some good minister and a little assistance toward honest employment. Of course, all will not, but if there were no sinners what need would we have of ministers, lawyers, or Judges?

There will be sin as long as the world lasts. A. W.

As Fait.

From Puck.

Mrs. Van Neering (hiring her first butler)—And you are sure you are fully conversant with the duties of a butler and will not need any instructions?

Bunery (Oobs (reassuringly)—That's hall right, me lidy. No von shall hever know but vhat you're been used to a butler hall yer life.

SUNBEAMS.

—A sloop loaded with codfish sank off the California coast the other day, and savants will soon be racking their brains to account for a sudden increase in the saltiness of the Pacific Ocean.

—John Prinkney, in Springfield township, Pa., caught a bald-headed eagle in a trap he had set for sheep dogs. It was the first eagle of the kind ever caught there, and it measured six feet from tip to tip of its wings.

—Mr. Julius Ornstien, the manager of the Imperial Tobacco Corporation in Persia, has sent to a New York firm a large order for American agricultural implements. He proposes to introduce ploughs, harrows, and other machinery to take the place of the very poor implements in use now in that country.

—All authorities say that Pekin, the present capital of China, and Nankin, the ancient capital, are hardly half so large as they were a hundred years ago. They show all the symptoms of decay. The more enterprising and energetic individuals are found now in the seaports, that offer a marked contrast to the more conservative and literary communities of the interior.

—Nine tailoresses struck work and went out in Brandon, Manitoba, last week, refusing to go to work "by an impassable alley and filthy backyard," as the local newspaper states the case. The girls had asked to be allowed to go through the front shop until proper approach could be made to the workshop, but that proposition was received in surprise and refused promptly by Mr. Laughton, the proprietor.

—B. R. Young and his family were travelling in a prairie schooner near Palomas, Mexico, when a loaded gun in the wagon in