The Sun.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1892.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamp for that purpose.

The Coming New York.

The lines of progress which Mr. GILROY, the Democratic candidate for Mayor, would have this city follow, and the ends toward which he would have it tend, are described by him in the masterly review of the present municipal situation and the future possibilities of the town which he presents in another part of THE SUN of to-day.

Within the last few years New York has shown marked signs of awakening to the need and the advantage of improvement in its own practical and artistic features. Mr. GILROY is a keen and persistent observer of municipal affairs. He has been trained in an exacting school, that of local politics. What he says elsewhere will amply repay attention.

United and Invincible.

In the Presidential contest of 1872 there was in this town a bitter and exciting local controversy over the Mayoralty and other offices, and a triangular battle of such dimensions that interest in the struggle for party supremacy in the nation was, to a great extent, obscured. In the clash of interests men since prominent in this day were on rival tickets, and there was not one more active and energetic than WILLIAM COLLINS WHITNEY, one of the Democratic candidates for the office of District Attorney.

In the Presidential election of 1876 strife and factional dissensions marked the course of many local Democrats, and the most vigorous battle of that year was waged unsuccessfully against the present conspicuous leader of Tammany Hall, RICHARD CROKER, then a candidate for re-election to a county office, and venomously opposed by many who arrayed themselves against the Democratic organization and its candidates.

In the Presidential election of 1880 the interest of many local Democrats was diverted from the Federal contest to other issues imported into the canvass by the nomination for the office of Mayor of our distinguished townsman, WILLIAM R. GRACE, and by the character of the opposition to his success. Antipathies and resentments which had no place in a controversy upon national issues were aroused thereby, and the Republicans, with the aid of some Democratic recruits, made a battle so vigorous and hearty against the local Democracy, that they nearly overthrew it.

In the Presidential election of 1884 there was a triangular Mayoralty race of great intensity and considerable uncertainty. The rival Democratic factions of that time strained every nerve to win, and in the tumult which ensued the horizon of Republican expectations was obscured by the outpouring of the local Democracy and the general smash-up of the Republican machine.

In the Presidential election of 1888 there was a similar battle, and great vigor and energy were thrown into the triangular fight for Mayor and other offices. It kept the Democrats moving and on the alert, and it added to the picturesqueness of the campaign if it did not materially augment the majority for the national ticket.

Below are given the majorities in Presidential years of the Democratic national ticket in New York city, the total vote increasing meanwhile from 134,000 to 272,000, more than double:

1872	22,138	1884	43,064
1876	54,069	1888	55,813
1880	41,282		

This year, for the first time since 1872, the sky of Democratic hopes is free from factional difficulty in New York city. There is harmony everywhere, and plenty of it. The local Democratic ticket has a clear field. There is no opposition to it, except such as, of course, comes from the Republicans, who by profession and interest are the inveterate and unconditional opponents of Democratic rule in this Democratic town, and necessarily, therefore, of the present Democratic administration, which has added so much to the fine record of the party in office.

A great issue of overshadowing importance has united all Democrats. It has caused them to subordinate all other considerations to one supreme question, and to sacrifice all personal interests to its satisfactory determination. This is an auspicious and encouraging circumstance, and an exceptional one as well, in a Presidential battle in New York city. The inspiring spectacle of all Democratic factions united, of absolute and cordial harmony on every hand, and of a positive and universal resolve to win, shows the firm hold which Democratic principles have here, the enthusiasm which their courageous support inspires, and the triumph which inevitably awaits and will reward the local Democracy when battling valiantly for the acceptance and extension of such principles.

Luxury and Sensitiveness.

MRS. JOHN SHERWOOD thinks that the luxury of the society of fashion, with its surfeit of pleasures, tends to harden the hearts of these fortunate people and make them forgetful of the poor. As she speaks from actual knowledge of that society by personal observation, the remark deserves consideration.

Of course, Mrs. SHERWOOD knows also that never before in the history of the world was the sensitiveness to human suffering so tender as it is now. People's hearts bleed more easily than formerly at the sight of pain in both man and beast. This feeling of sympathy has become a passion at this period. It leads to the formation of societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals and to children, which never before were thought of. The rod has been banished from the household and the school, and the whip is less used by the driver of horses. The amount of money given or bequeathed for the establishment of hospitals for the suffering is enormous. Every church parish is now a hive of charitable activity, and the novelty of Protestant sisterhoods has been introduced because of this tender compassion for the afflicted.

The resources of money for all these philanthropic and humane agencies come largely from the people of wealth and pleasure whom Mrs. SHERWOOD accuses of hardness of heart and indifference to the pangs of poverty. The softness of their own lives makes them peculiarly sensitive to the sharp suffering of the unfortunate. It may be a selfish feeling, due to their recoil from the disagreeable. They may simply want to get the ugly thing out of the way; but the result is the same as if they were actuated by the highest and purest altruistic motives.

This revulsion of feeling against the suffering of life is carried to even a morbid extreme. People whose own way is smooth and prosperous are sometimes hurt in their delicate sensitiveness by observing the strain to which the run of society is subjected because of inevitable obstacles that really serve to develop the strength and endurance necessary for the perpetuation of the moral and physical vigor of the race. Because they would themselves be crushed by the burdens other people must bear, they imagine that the load is insupportable. Because they themselves are accustomed to the luxuries purchasable only by wealth, they imagine that those who must get along without such abundance are in distressful poverty. A man who gets up at midday to pursue pleasure only may wonder how his poorer neighbor can endure existence under the compulsion of rising with the dawn and working hard until nightfall. Rich young women who indulge in the often impertinent prying into the private domestic lives of the poor, called slumming, wonder how it is possible for anybody to bear such hardships, though their own maid servants are glad to exchange the luxury of elegant households for that very life, provided that they can pursue it as the wives of poor men. To a man whose muscles are weak and whose hands are soft even the sight of a laborer at rough work may be repulsive.

We think, therefore, that Mrs. SHERWOOD's remark was not profound, and that her observation of the society of fashion has not been acute. The tendency of the luxury of which she speaks is rather to impair the moral fortitude of those who enjoy it than to provoke in them indifference to the suffering of those to whom it is denied. They are apt to think that happiness is far more dependent on such material surroundings than it is in truth. They are not so rarely fortunate as they imagine themselves to be, and their methods of pursuing pleasure are not so attractive to others as they suppose. Luxury may breed a dependence on luxury which has a weakening influence on character. The man who has uninterrupted material fortune may not be as strong to bear the suffering in mind or in body, from which even he cannot be exempt, as the man whose path in life has been more rugged. Physicians say that those with wealth to buy everything else except relief from pain or sorrow are less capable of sustaining such misfortune than people who are habituated to the lean things of life rather than the fat. On the other hand, wealth gives the leisure and the opportunity for the outdoor sports which tend to increase the physical endurance of the race. At this time children brought up in affluence are more likely than others to be distinguished for their size and strength. Both the young men and young women are notably tall.

Indifference to the sufferings from poverty marks no society of this period. Extreme sensitiveness is the distinguishing characteristic of our day, and it extends among the delicately and luxuriously reared more especially and to a degree which oftentimes suggests weakness.

The Study of the Old Testament in England.

The Church Congress which has lately been sitting at Folkestone, in England, has devoted a great deal of time to a discussion of the Old Testament and of its value to Christianity. It was agreed that the controversy which will most occupy men's minds at the close of this century and the beginning of the next, will have for its subject the authenticity and date of the various books of the Old Testament. It was at the same time confessed that at present the English clergy are, as a body, but ill qualified to take part in such a controversy.

Speaking of the prevailing lack of competence to deal with this subject, the Very Rev. ROBERT PAYNE-SMITH, Dean of Canterbury, put some searching questions to his clerical friends. "How many," he asked, "know even the letters of the Hebrew alphabet?" Again, of the few who profess to be able to read Hebrew, how many could discriminate between the style of one writer and that of another? Those clergymen who are graduates of an English university can for the most part distinguish between a line of VIRGIL and a line of HORACE, but they seem to take for granted that all Hebrew is alike. Of course, there are many and subtle differences between one Hebrew writer and another, and the Dean of Canterbury insisted that henceforth the question of style should figure in the examination of the books of the Old Testament. It is largely by being alive to minute idiosyncrasies of style that the German and Dutch scholars have arrived at their well-known conclusions respecting the date and authorship of the various compositions included in the Hebrew scriptures. How can English clergymen undertake to test those conclusions unless they are thoroughly equipped in the matter of Hebrew scholarship?

The Dean of Canterbury had also a good deal to say about the text of the Old Testament and about the importance of textual criticism. For his own part, he acknowledged the merit of the Masoritic text, but he pointed out that in the Septuagint, the Vulgate, the Syriac, and the Gothic we have very ancient versions which need to be explored for the light they would cast upon the Hebrew scriptures. As a matter of fact, however, the Dean says that in England these remarkable versions are but little studied. He has some hope, however, of witnessing an improvement in this direction. From Oxford have lately come forth installments of the Vulgate, the Latin translation which cost JEROME the best years of his life, and there is reason to believe that the Peshitto Syriac version of the Old Testament will before long be issued from the Oxford University press, which has already under preparation the New Testament part of the same translation. It is further suggested that the manuscript of a part of the Septuagint, lately discovered in Egypt, may have the effect of turning the attention of scholars to that Greek version of the Hebrew scriptures which is so generally quoted in the New Testament. The Anglican clergy are warned that unless they avail themselves of these and other additions to their critical and exegetical apparatus, they will be unable to cope with the scholars of Germany. There will be no room for one-armed men in such a contest. Only those who hold in one hand the Greek Testament and in the other the Hebrew Bible, will be fitted to engage in the studies and controversies of the coming time.

As regards the literary problems presented in the Old Testament, the Rev. A. F. KIRKPATRICK, Regius Professor of Hebrew in the University of Cambridge, admitted that the attitude of reverent believers toward these questions differs almost incalculably from that which was general thirty years ago. It is now, he said, generally recognized that what may be called the traditional view of the origin and character of the Old Testament needs at least to be rectified. On the other hand, critical views have not yet won their way to universal acceptance. The attitude of the moment in many quarters is one of hesitation, of suspension of judgment, of waiting for further investigation and fresh light. No doubt such an attitude is incomparably better than narrow dogmatism on the one side or the other, but it has its dangers, and one of these is lest the sense of uncertainty in regard to the literary problems of the Old Testament should produce the feeling that its use must for the time remain in abeyance. Dr. KIRKPATRICK therefore agrees with the Dean of Canterbury in deeming it a matter of superlative importance to Christianity to arrest the neglect of the study of the Old Testament.

Prof. J. M. FULLER added his testimony to the urgent necessity of a reform in this matter. He told the Church Congress that an intelligent layman said to him the other day, "Can you seriously assert that the Old Testament has any evidential value at all?" The man who put this question had derived his notion of the Old Testament from the theories and ideas which had come to him from his studies of translations of foreign books. "I open those books," he said, "and I am told that the bulk of the Hebrew literature was the result of a free school of thought in the fourth century before CHRIST. I find that the events recorded there are declared to be pious caricatures, the projection of later ideas upon earlier ages. Or I take up the characters which are described in these books, and I am told I must no longer think of ABRAHAM as a creature of GOD, but as a creation of unconscious art. I am to believe that DAVID was no more than a mere composer of tunes. I must not think of any of the patriarchs, prophets, or psalmists as I have been accustomed." How, asks Prof. FULLER, is an English clergyman to convince his lay friend that there is another and a more just and fruitful way of regarding the Old Testament? Only by giving to the study and the exposition of the Hebrew scriptures the same intelligent and unremitting labor which has been applied to those writings by the German and Dutch scholars, from whose conclusions he dissents.

The Good Fortune of New York.

The great fire in Milwaukee brings anew to the consciousness of the people of New York the remarkable exemption from such great conflagrations which this city has enjoyed for many years.

It is true that during that time fires have destroyed in the aggregate vast amounts of property here, and on several occasions they have occurred in districts of the town and under conditions of weather which seemed to encourage their spread over a wide area, if not to make it probable; but in every instance they have been restricted to a limited space, and the loss as appraised by underwriters has been less than was expected when the flames were at their height.

Meantime, Boston has been devastated by a widespread conflagration, which started and spread in the most carefully built parts of that town, so boastful of the solidity of its architecture and the extraordinary efficiency of its municipal Government. Here in New York fires kindled in structures the least entitled to be considered proof against their ravages, and in quarters of the town favoring their spread to a peculiar degree, have been confined and conquered in every instance.

In actual experience New York has proved more secure against conflagration than any other city of the Union; and this demonstration has continued so long and so uninterruptedly that it cannot be attributed to mere good fortune, or the luck which sometimes saves even the improvident from the logical consequence of their neglect of sound principles of conduct.

This happy exemption can be attributed only to the thorough and admirable efficiency of the municipal Government of New York, and more especially of its Fire Department and its Water Department. Science and not luck has saved New York from the direful catastrophes which have befallen other great cities of the Union in so distressful a succession. The arrangements, the facilities, and the expert skill required for dealing with great fires are more perfect and intelligent here than in any of the other towns. A man's house or store is safer from destruction by fire in New York than elsewhere because here the municipal safeguards on which he can rely are the most trustworthy in the Union. The more inflammable construction which still prevails over most of New York may make fires more frequent than in the old capitals of Europe, but when they occur they are more skilfully handled.

The greater security which the citizens of New York enjoy against fire and its steady increase during the last generation has been accompanied step by step with the increased security of their persons and all their property. The improvement in the Fire and Water departments has not exceeded the improvement in the Police and the Judicial departments, and the Public Works Department has kept pace with it. Crime has decreased proportionately, its punishment is more certain, and the better paving, cleansing, and lighting of the streets conduces to both the comfort and good order of the town, and assists in the improvement of the public health which the increased efficiency of the Health Department further assures. Simultaneously the Department of Charities and Correction has bettered its methods and multiplied its usefulness. The Finance Department commands the absolute confidence of the whole financial world, so that to-day the credit of New York has no superior in the world. This improvement, moreover, has gone on without increasing the burdens of taxation, but with a coincident decrease in the tax rate. The people are far better off in their persons and property, in their health and their comfort, and at less individual cost in money.

This improvement, too, has been most striking and most rapid since Mayor GRANT went into the City Hall and the Democracy took entire charge of the business of municipal administration and conducted it wholly and consistently after Democratic methods purely.

That is why Mr. GILROY, a man who has been among the foremost in effecting this happy and indisputable result, is going to be elected Mayor of New York by an overwhelming majority a week from Tuesday.

Against a Change.

Dr. CHAUNCEY DEPEW would seem to have had enough oratory lately, commemorative and political, to keep his lips employed on full time; yet we observe that he finds time to whistle. From the beginning of the campaign he has been airy and humorous. He and the Hon. THOMAS BRACKETT REED, who was somewhat late in mounting the Republican platform and is still painfully uncertain as to the name of the Republican candidate, are about the only patches of brightness in the Republican canvass. We are duly grateful to them, and especially to Dr. DEPEW, whose persistent optimism must require a good deal of effort. It is not everybody who can keep up his courage by whistling or talking through his tile.

Dr. DEPEW was interviewed at Chicago on Monday, and announced with absolute cocksureness that "HARRISON will be elected." General apathy is going to elect him. "General apathy," quoth the Doctor, "helps the party in power. It shows that the people don't want a change."

Unfortunately for Dr. DEPEW's predictions, the only means of preventing a change is to turn the Republicans out. Republican success means the enactment of a Force bill, and that means a stupendous change in the Government. Nobody who does business with citizens of the Southern States or has investments there can wish for such a change. And above all considerations of business is the consideration that there will be only such freedom of elections as the Republican party chooses to grant. Government by packed Returning Boards will take the place of self-government.

So every vote for HARRISON and REID electors will be a vote for change, for a reversion to the revolutionary and scandalous proceedings of the worst days of reconstruction. Dr. DEPEW is a very busy man, and must have got his ideas of the issues of the campaign from the Republican campaign text book.

We might have a poet laureate in the United States. It might be provided by law that the American poet laureate should be elected by the popular vote under universal suffrage, women as well as men being entitled to the ballot in such election. It might be better to elect a poet laureate in that way than by the vote of both Houses of Congress, subject to a Presidential veto.

If the people had the right to elect a poet laureate, and if candidates had the right of self-nomination, and if the field were open and free to all comers, and if all the poetical factions were properly awakened by the spellbinders, we are disposed to undertake to guess that there might be about ten thousand candidates for the office in the field.

The American poet laureate ought to be a New Yorker, for there are more poets in the State of New York than in any other State of the Union or perhaps in any ten other States. But who would be elected?

It was a piquant letter of the distinguished musician, Dr. JEROME HOPKINS, which we printed in THE SUN. We must say, however, that, in our judgment, he spoke too slightingly of the Guildhall School of Music in London, which has certainly done service in extending the knowledge of the musical art among the masses. He also spoke too slightingly of our American Opera Company and of our Church Music Association; and, finally, he spoke far too slightingly of the Cooper Union People's Singing Class, which has just been organized by Mr. FRANK DAMROSCH. It is not fair to say that Mr. DAMROSCH ever promised to "guarantee choral singers after thirty lessons." He has made no such promise. We can hope that, under his instruction, the class will be able to learn what choral singing or musical notation is, and will gain at least an elementary knowledge thereof. Even a small amount of knowledge is better than total ignorance, and even a brief training may be advantageous to those who obtain it, though it merely aid them in appreciating the nobler expressions of vocal harmony.

Children must know the alphabet before they can learn to read; and Mr. FRANK DAMROSCH merely teaches the alphabet of choral singing in his popular class. Even among people who can read there are but few persons who become masters of style in literary composition; and even among the members of the popular class there may be few first-rate choral singers; yet, for all that, it is better to get a smattering of the reader's or the singer's art than to remain in ignorance thereof.

Suppose we admit that the bold Norwegian navigator, LEIF ERIKSEN, discovered America five centuries before COLUMBUS discovered it, we must ask his admirers to permit us to remind them that he did not let us know of his discovery. That is the trouble in his case. That is the difference between him and COLUMBUS. He ought to have circulated the news. He ought to have made some use of his discovery. He ought to have set up regular communication between Europe and America. There have been plenty of men who made discoveries that brought no advantage to mankind, because they did not let mankind know about them.

The Norwegians of Chicago have just celebrated the memory of LEIF as the predecessor of KIT. They had a grand festival in his honor, at which there were songs and speeches, and they had a procession with flags and a brass band; and they glorified the Norseman who, so far as we know, was one of the first Europeans who ever saw Vinland, supposed to be the coast of New England; but they could not say that he gave any such account of his voyage as COLUMBUS gave of his voyage. All that we know about him is in the Icelandic sagas, which tell of other Norsemen who, before his time, had seen this continent.

If LEIF had let us know of his discovery, and if he had taken possession of the country, we might now have been Scandinavians mixed with Indians.

We hope that Mr. MALCOLM FORBES, the lucky owner of Nancy Hanks, will withdraw his interesting offer to pay $6,000 to see a horse trot a mile in two minutes, and make another one with different conditions. Why should trials for this purse be open only to horses in the 2:05 class? That would bar Nancy Hanks, whose record is an even 2:04. Or, if Mr. FORBES did not intend this, why should he burden himself with the obligation to go and see the trial, and to that extent limit the opportunities of the various flyers to try for the prize? Any trials over the tracks of the National Association are to be credited.

Mr. FORBES's offer was truly sportsmanlike, but we suggest that he make it a little more liberal still and withdraw the condition of his own presence. Then, when the two-minute mark is reached, which we are confident it will be some time within five or fifty years, may he be there to see!

CAMPAIGN PHILOLOGY.

The Meaning of Candidate Gilroy's Name Further Investigated.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reading THE SUN of to-day I was very much amused by the letter of "Ology" on the names Gilroy and Purroy. We are gravely told that Gil is merely the English of Cresta, a crest or plume, and roy means king, and so the Democratic candidate for Mayor of New York is a crested king. Oh, shade of Gilhooly!

Now, if Ology will look up one of the ologies he will learn that there is such a language as the Gaelic, or Irish, and he will find there and not in English the meaning of the name Gil in the modern form of the Irish word Gillá—a servant. The Scottish form gillie is in common use yet. As Gilroy is an Irish name, the latter half of it might as reasonably be derived from the Irish as from the French. From Ruadh, pronounced Rua, we get Giolla Ruadh, red servant; from Riagh, pronounced Iliá, we get Giolla Riagh, king's servant. That one or the other of these forms—more especially as to the first part, is the correct one can be seen by comparing them with the following Irish names: Giolla Christ (Gillchrist), servant of Christ; Giolla Muira (Gillmurry), servant of Mary; Giolla Phadrig (Gillpatrick or Kilpatrick), servant of Patrick; Giolla Martin (Gilmartin), servant of Martin. This list could be lengthened considerably, but is enough to show that the word Gil, instead of being the English for Cresta, is the Irish for servant. The English word Gil has an ancient and fish-like smell.

Let any one prefix the word crest or plume to any of the foregoing names and the absurdity of Ology's theory will be at once apparent.

I have taken up too much of your valuable space already, and will not attempt to grapple with Purroy except to ask, how in philology is pur the English of fire?

M. F. O'C.

BROOKLYN, Oct. 28, 1892.

A Powerful Glass.

"Chicago is going to have a larger telescope than the Lick."

"Really?"

"Yes. It will be so powerful that it will enable a Chicago man to see defects in Chicago itself."

THE SUPREME ISSUE.

The Force Bill the Power that is Urging the Democrats to Victory.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have been a constant reader of THE SUN during this political campaign. I have from the first been impressed with the wisdom of your course in seeking to make the Force bill the paramount issue of the canvass. It is the paramount issue. Notwithstanding the declaration of the Minneapolis platform in its favor, Mr. Harrison, in his letter of acceptance, sought to obscure the issue, and he has been followed by all the leaders of his party. This of itself should have taught us its importance. The policy of the Republican party before the election has been and is to dwarf this question, but in the event of the election of a Republican President and House, and the continued maintainance of a Republican Senate, we will then soon see that the Force bill will become the great object to be consummated in the next Congress.

Let us look at the history of the Republican party on this question in the past. We did not hear of the issue during the campaign preceding the election of members to the Fifty-first Congress. The members of that Congress were elected in November, 1888, and the House was organized in December, 1889. In the interval after the election, when it was ascertained that the Republicans had secured a majority in the House, and now for the first time in fifteen years were in control of both the Senate and the House, and the executive department of the Government, their policy was no longer concealed. It was now openly proclaimed that the House would be organized, not under the rule of the previous House, but under ordinary parliamentary law. Mr. Henry Cabot Lodge, then one of the chief lieutenants of Mr. Thomas B. Reed in his canvass for the Speakership, published an article in one of the leading periodicals of the country, in which he announced that it would be the duty of the Republican party now, when it has the opportunity, for the first time in fifteen years, through its control of the Presidency, the Senate, and the House, to pass a Federal election law. The country recollects how well this programme was carried out so far as the House of Representatives was concerned.

We hear but little from our Republican friends now, before the election, about the Force bill, but can any sane man doubt that if they succeed again in obtaining control of both the executive and legislative branches of the Government, that after the election this policy will be revived?

The Force bill is aimed, of course, in the first place, at the South. The South understands the situation. The South knows that a Force bill means to the South a revival of the reconstruction era—negro supremacy in State Governments, the overthrow of its material prosperity, and the destruction of all its industrial interests, agricultural, manufacturing, and commercial. The South is therefore once again solid.

But does the North understand how thereby her prosperity will be affected—how the South, instead of being a rich and prosperous customer, is to be reduced to poverty and rendered utterly insolvent?

It is idle to discuss the details of such a bill. Let it once become a law, it will be easy at any time to amend any of its features so as to adapt it to any section of the country. Suffrage, it has been well said, is the life blood of a free Government. Give the Federal Government, through such a measure, the control of the elections of the country, and free suffrage ceases to exist. It will be impossible to dislodge the party in power. The Force bill, in its last analysis, means the perpetuation of the Republican party in power, and the perpetuation of any party in power through Government agencies means and is the overthrow of free institutions. It is no wonder that Senator Teller, a Republican Senator, pronounces the Force bill the most infamous proposition which ever passed the threshold of the Senate.

GEORGE T. BARNES.

AUGUSTA, Ga., Oct. 27.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am not given to flattery, but as one among 5,000,000 young men of the South, who have grown to manhood since the war, I cannot refrain from complimenting THE SUN upon the grand fight it is making against the Force bill.

In my opinion, it is the gallantest, clearest, most intelligent, most effective battle for true Democracy now being waged in this country.

You have seized the very soul of the situation, and the hats of the young men of the South are doffed to THE SUN as standing between the people of my section and tyranny. It swings its glittering battle axe for liberty!

Two points against this infamous Force bill cannot be too much stressed:

First—Its enactment would be most disastrous to the colored element at the South, the very element which it has been designed to benefit. It would lead to attempted negro domination at the South, and that means a bloody struggle from which those battling for white supremacy would emerge triumphant!

Second—Its enactment would cripple commerce between the North and South, for men, brought up to the pitch of maintaining the ascendancy of virtue and intelligence in the control of their section, would be in no humor to trade.

This state of affairs would surely damage the pockets of the merchants of New York city, New England, and the West by tending to greatly narrow the wide stream of millions which yearly flows upward from the South to the North in

Trade, the calm health of nations!

SMITH CLAYTON.

"Idler" in *Atlanta Journal*.

NEW YORK, Oct. 28.

From the Richmond Times.

We of the South owe THE SUN an immense debt of gratitude for the noble, unselfish way in which it has thrown its immense influence steadily against the horrible suggestions to subject us to a Force bill. There hardly ever appears an issue of THE SUN wanting in a vigorous attack on this infamous measure. Look at it when you will and you will see an editorial concluding with this pretty phrase: "No Force bill—no negro domination." In fighting the Force bill, therefore, THE SUN is fighting for popular rights in all parts of the country. In fighting the Force bill THE SUN is distinctly fighting our battle. "No Force bill—no negro domination," is the true text of its efforts, and this fully expresses its infamous purpose.

From the Indianapolis Sentinel.

The Force bill is the most wicked, the most dangerous, the most far-reaching measure of centralization and consolidation ever seriously proposed in the United States. If it becomes a law it will revolutionize our form of government. It will Russianize our institutions. It will leave the United States a republic only in name. It was justly pronounced by Henry M. Teller, Republican Senator from Colorado, "the most infamous measure that ever crossed the threshold of the Senate." That it is the determined purpose of the Republican leaders to make this bill a law at the first opportunity there cannot be the slightest doubt. The party is fully committed to it—committed by the repeated declarations of its nominees for President and Vice-President, by the terms of its national platforms, and most of its State platforms since 1888, by the almost unanimous expressions of its newspapers, by the record of its Senators and Representatives in the Fifty-first Congress.

From the Chicago Times.

"No Force bill" is the Democratic cry. It will be on Democracy's banners so long as there remains a possibility that a Lodge and a Hoar may foist their measures on a free people.

From the Yorkville Union.

A measure so full of implements of strength to advance personal power is not likely to be allowed to sleep if it can be successfully resurrected, and the way to kill it for all future time is to retire the author and advocate to private life as speedily as possible. This can be readily done at the approaching election.

Two Faithful Democrats.

From the Philadelphia Insurance Echo.

We consider great praise and credit are due to the authorities everywhere, especially at our ports of entry, and most especially at the port of New York, for the manner in which they have fought back Death in one of its most fearful shapes—that of a common scourge. We have kept posted, and in no place has such brainy activity and zeal been displayed as by the New York State health authorities. The disposition to decry Dr. Jenkins and his work because he is a "Tammany Democrat" is one of the most ridiculous displays of puerile vapidity we now recall. The writer, politically, is a Republican, but if a good majority of Tammany Democrats are made of the same kind of stuff that Gov. Flower and Dr. Jenkins are, why a little more Tammany in ours, please.

THE NEW EAST RIVER BRIDGES.

Hearing the Views of Experts as to What Their Height Should Be.

A meeting of the Board of United States Army Engineers was held in the Army building on Whitehall street yesterday forenoon to consider if it will be necessary to raise the proposed East River bridges higher than the Brooklyn bridge in order to admit of the passage of vessels with high topmasts beneath them. Gen. H. L. Abbott presided. The present Brooklyn bridge is 135 feet above the water at flood tide and 120 feet at the towers.

Among those present at the meeting yesterday, besides the members of the Board, were Frederick Uhlman, President of the Brooklyn Bridge Company; Gen. George W. Wingate, Superintendent C. C. Martin of the present Brooklyn bridge corporation, Gen. Woodward, one of its trustees; Chief Engineer Cornell, and Corporation Counsel Jenks of Brooklyn. Mr. Cornell and Mr. Jenks spoke strongly against any change in the plans. Capt. Snow, President of the Board of Pilot Commissioners, gave it as his opinion that there was no necessity for having the bridges any higher. Vessels could lower their topmasts.

A letter was read from the Maritime Exchange stating that at a meeting the members had passed a resolution stating that in the opinion of the meeting the bridges should be 150 feet clear above high water. The last man to give his opinion was Eli F. Conine, a practical pilot. He thought that in the bridge to begin at Broadway, Brooklyn, the height should be at least 150 feet on account of the way that part was affected by the tides, which drifted vessels toward the shore, where the bridge would be the lowest. He admitted that he would undertake to pilot a vessel through if a bridge were constructed of the height of the present Brooklyn bridge.

The opinion and recommendation of the board will be sent to the Secretary of War. It is believed that they are not favorable to increasing the height of the bridges.

LIBERTY'S NEW NIGHT DRESS.

It Isn't Quite Done, but She Wears Her Diadem of Fire Already.

Evening strollers on the Battery have missed for some time the lights of the Goddess of Liberty on Bedlow's Island. About two months ago the authorities concluded to make some decided improvements on the lights, and the statue was shrouded in darkness while they were being completed. For the past week, however, a partial notion of the whole new lighting has been afforded by the sight of so much as has been accomplished by the electricians who have the work in hand. The goddess now wears a fiery diadem every night. It is composed of two parallel rows of incandescent lights, whose globes are of white, red, and blue glass arranged in regular succession. Each of these rows is made up of twenty-seven lights, every one of which has a power of fifty candles, making a total power of 2,700 candles. The general effect as seen from the Battery is a fiery crown upon the brow. The torch is illuminated with a single arc light of 1,000 candle power, which is to have a large reflector to magnify its brilliancy. In addition to this a skylight is to be inserted in the top of the torch. The effect of this will not be observed on a clear night, but whenever the air is misty, or contains dust or fog in any quantity, the skylight is expected to throw the light high up in the air and to cause an intense luminosity everybody. This skylight will contain glass of different colors, which will make a general effect of a softer and more genial light than the ordinary electric carbon affords. To crown the whole a powerful searchlight, placed on the ground in front of the statue, will be turned full on the face.

MUSICIAN BISCHOFF'S WILL.

His Sons and Daughter Contest It, Alleging that It Was Scarcely Unsound.

Adam Bischoff, a clarinet player in the Seventh Regiment band, died on Oct. 1 at his home, 862 Bushwick avenue, Brooklyn, leaving the bulk of his property, estimated to be worth about $25,000, to his widow, who was his second wife. He was 77 years old. His first wife died in 1878, and he married his housekeeper a year later. He declared in his will that his children had neglected him, abused their stepmother, and had not visited him since his second marriage.

One of his sons, William, to whom he left $500, died recently. To his sons Gustave and Louis he bequeathed $500, and to his daughter Maria, a widow with three children, he leaves $2,000.

The old musician's sons and daughter are contesting the will on the ground that he was mentally unsound. His death certificate shows that he died of softening of the brain. The case will be up before Surrogate Ransom on Nov. 14.

ACCUSED OF INCITING A RIOT.

The Editor of the Arbeiter Zeitung Arrested and Held for Trial in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 29. Benjamin Feigenbaum, editor of the New York *Arbeiter Zeitung*, was arraigned before Magistrate Kane today on the charge of assaulting a policeman and inciting a riot, and was held in $600 bail for court. Nathan Taggan, a Russian, was also held in $500 bail to keep the peace. Feigenbaum was wildly addressing a Socialist Labor party meeting in Cosmopolitan Hall, 521 South Third street, last night, when Policeman Caspar ordered the place to be closed. The proprietor of the hall dispersed the meeting, and when Feigenbaum reached the street he struck the policeman over the head with a cane. The policeman grappled with his assailant, and when Taggan interfered grabbed him also. A mob of 400 was closing in on the policeman, and he would have fared badly had not a squad of police appeared on the scene and dispersed the excited crowd.

Plans for a Great Episcopal Church in Philadelphia.

PHILADELPHIA, Oct. 29.—A plan is being formed to establish in Philadelphia an immense Protestant Episcopal Church, which will rival in strength any Protestant church in America. It is proposed to consolidate the parishes of Epiphany, St. Stephen's, Grace, and the Covenant, and to build on Epiphany's $500,000 property, at the corner of Fifteenth and Chestnut streets, a great modern edifice, which shall be the pride of Philadelphians and churchmen throughout the country. The movement was started by St. Stephen's, which, with property and endowments aggregating in value $800,000, is handicapped by its close surroundings and the distance from the homes of its parishioners.

The American Institute Exhibition.

New York has gradually awakened to the fact that the American Institute's sixty-first exhibition is a good one. Exhibitors have done well, the management has been good-natured under difficulties of getting things in order, and the addition of important exhibits in food products has put the fair on the way to a renewal of its success. There is music every afternoon and evening. There are people to see, and there is a friendly spirit pervading the exhibition hall on Third avenue. There is a fair worth more than the 25 cents charged for admission, and New York people appreciate the American Institute every year.

A Poacher He Was.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can the Rev. Mr. Dixon of broken limb fame properly be called a poacher? I ask to decide a bet.

ZENAS.

To poach, says Webster, is "to steal or pocket game or to carry it away privately, as in a bag; to kill or destroy game contrary to law." In killing robins the other day the Rev. Dixon broke the law, and, therefore, for betting purposes, he is so far forth a poacher.

An Open Letter.

The Rev. Thos. Dixon, Jr.

MY DEAR PARSONS: Sang birds at $[illegible] each are a very expensive luxury, especially when the birds are eaten by somebody else. I have listened to several of your splendid oratorical efforts to utterly demolish Ingersoll many times, and imagined how the audiences must have trembled in their shoes. This distinguishes your bird business will complete your ruin as a public speaker, unless you can [illegible] your previous work, unless you can [illegible] and so on, pull down the pillars of Samson, or [illegible] in the attempt. The Tammany Tiger [illegible] bones of these birds with a gusto unparalleled in the annals of gastronomy.

I forgive and implore you, dear preacher, for the dignity of effort which the [illegible] yours truly,

A REPENTANT SINNER.

The Late H. Vane Milbank.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems a great pity that Harry Vane Milbank's talents should have been so misdirected and engaged in such depreciable practices. That he had remarkable courage is to think, be granted. One imagine what he might have accomplished had his means and abilities been turned in the channels of virtue and usefulness to mankind. Instead, he set an example to be shunned by all, in his case the possession of great wealth was surely detrimental to an extraordinary degree.

ROCHESTER, Oct. 28. ALEXANDER MACAULEY.

Don't risk anything with a stubborn cough when a safe remedy may be had in Dr. Jayne's Expectorant. Sore lungs and throats are specially helped by it.—Adv.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Everybody says that there never was so dull an autumn, but precisely the same thing has been said every year at the fall of the leaf since the city was settled. Each Newport summer is declared to be duller than the last, while all the time breakfasts, dinners, luncheons, picnics, yachting parties, and every conceivable device for spending money, impairing digestion, and fighting off the blues are preceding at railroad speed. Then comes the winter season, when fortunes are spent in dress, jewels, and entertainments; but it is never exactly what it should be. "There are too many public balls and not enough private ones," or the balls in gentlemen's houses are insufferably hot and crowded, while the subscription dances are "just too mixed and common for anything." The middle of February finds the whole fashionable world on the wing. Men are tired of their clubs, women of their artistic and luxurious homes. They must have a change. Monte Carlo looms up in the far distance, with its blooming flowers, its soft zephyrs from the Mediterranean, its overwhelming population, and the excitements of rouge et noir. Florida and Bermuda also have their attractions within reason, the latter especially to the young, from its fascinating colony of British officers and its sentimental and flirtatious possibilities. Money being no object with those favored mortals, off they go, and Northern towns are given over to the poor and pious, the working classes in every grade of life, to the old, the weary, and the heavy laden. In point of fact, society is always pessimistic, and the higher the civilization and the more wealthy, luxurious, and self-indulgent it becomes, the further is it removed from that old-fashioned quality of contentment which the good book tells us is "great gain."

In spite of all the grumbling, however, there has really been no tameness or inertness in the bright skies and brisk airs of these autumn days which no other climate under the sun can produce in such perfection. If people linger at Newport, Lenox, and Tuxedo, or summon house parties to make their country homes bright and gay, it is greatly to their credit that their tastes and inclinations lead them to do so, and that they appreciate and make much of country sports and country pleasures. Tuxedo has never been so pleasant as this year; dinners and dances follow each other in quick succession; house parties of young people fill all the cottages; and the club house, with its endless provision for comfort and amusement, relieves matrons and housekeepers of half their perplexities. Every other day the Republic brings up as visitors its load of belles and beaux, and their arrivals and departures are notable events in the life of the place. Mr. Pierre Lorillard, with his customary generosity, is already planning for a new cottage as a wedding present for his young daughter, which will have every conceivable advantage and adornment that his purse can supply and the artistic taste and judgment of Mrs. Lorillard suggest. Another young matron will thus be added to the colony of beautiful married women for which Tuxedo is already famed, and among whom are Mrs. Fernando Yznaga, Mrs. George Griswold, Mrs. Lawrence Turnure, Jr., Mrs. William Rhinelander