The Sun.

TUESDAY, MARCH 24, 1896.

LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the UNITED PRESS and NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS is at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

A Candidate in the White House.

Let us suppose the case of a supremely selfish and ambitious politician, holding for a second time the office of President of the United States, and greedy for a distinction which none of his predecessors had obtained. What would be the course and the conduct of such a person, under the political conditions which have existed during the past eight or ten months?

From time to time he would push forward some zealous and subservient friend to test the strength of the popular sentiment against a third term. These agents, each in his turn, would disavow all knowledge of the President's own views on the subject. They would attack, in a general way, the prejudice against a third term as an antiquated and unreasonable tradition. They would continually dilate upon the possibility of a state of affairs imperatively requiring the President to sacrifice his personal convenience to the public good. Any considerable issue likely to turn up soon would be good enough for their hypotheses: Foreign complications, a sound currency, or the preservation of what had been gained in the way of tariff reform.

The sounders of public opinion would govern their conduct according to circumstances. If they met with encouragement, real or supposed, they would keep up the discussion. If they found they were going too far, or too fast, or too soon, they would quietly withdraw, to resume the experiment later at a more favorable opportunity; and each successive period of quiescence on the part of the third term agitators would be attended by more or less definite announcements, bearing the marks of authority, that the President was unalterably opposed to a third term for himself and would soon make that fact evident.

But the conclusive statement from the White House would never come.

Meanwhile, from his own position of advantage, the White House candidate for unprecedented honors at the expense of American institutions, would watch and work with hungry eyes and agile digits. If his promoters seemed to be antagonizing or disgusting public opinion, he would call them in temporarily. If an unusually bold or persistent agent of the third term plot drew too much attention upon the White House, as the centre of operations, he would quickly launch a boom for some Cabinet officer as the "Administration's candidate," taking good care, however, that the fictitious boom did not gain much headway. If a foreign complication arose, he would seize upon it and turn it to his own benefit, even if the act involved a moral somersault; and, if he disposed of such a question at all, he would dispose of it in a way to provide for its recrudescence at or about the time of the nominating convention. If the currency question was uppermost, it would be as the champion of sound money ideas that the President-candidate would be most extensively advertised and admired by the apostles and organs of the third term. If, unexpectedly, the course of politics in the other party should bring the tariff again to the front, the sacrifice loudly demanded of the President would be for the sake of the great issue which he had created, and with which his name and fame were inseparably connected.

And all this time, throughout the difficult months preceding the National Convention, there would never come from the White House the one honest word that would relieve the President's party of its embarrassment and restore normal conditions within the organization.

This would be the policy, and these the tactics of a supremely selfish individual, eager to secure for himself a third term as President; or, at all events, to keep a way open until the impracticability of the enterprise should become manifest.

It is a singular coincidence that this is about what has happened during the past year. The history of human events, however, records many marvellous coincidences. Whatever may be inferred from his attitude and behavior since last summer, the facts do not yet demonstrate, absolutely and beyond the possibility of denial, that the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND is possessed with the evil and destructive ambition which would sacrifice both party and country to himself.

To-Day's Convention.

To-day's Republican State Convention at the Grand Central Palace, is held to choose delegates-at-large to the Republican National Convention at St. Louis. State Conventions of either party are rare in New York city. The Republican party has never before held one here. The last Democratic State Convention for the choice of delegates, that of 1888 at the Academy of Music, was the enthusiastic prelude to a disastrous defeat.

Although the duration of the Presidential campaign has gradually become shorter of late years, the date for nominating Presidential candidates does not vary much. The Republicans held their first National Convention to nominate FREMONT on June 17, 1856, and this year, forty years later, they will hold their Presidential Convention on June 16, in St. Louis. In 1860, when Mr. LINCOLN was nominated for the first time, and in 1868, when Gen. GRANT was the Republican candidate for the first time, the party conventions were held in May. All the other Republican National Conventions have been held in the month of June; the earliest of these on June 2, 1880, when Gen. GARFIELD was nominated, and the latest on June 19, 1888, when BENJAMIN HARRISON was made the Republican standard bearer in a convention restricted in its preferences to various candidates, all of them natives of the State of Ohio.

It has been customary for the Republicans of New York to choose in April their delegates to the National Conventions held in May or June. This year the Republicans, who selected delegates to the 1884 Convention on April 23, to the 1888 Convention on May 16, and to the 1892 Convention on April 30, will convene in March, one month or more ahead of schedule time. This change, which some of the Republican wiseacres deprecate as unwise and precipitate, is actually due to the fact that the Republican party in the Empire State has better prospects of securing New York's electoral vote than it has had in many years. Furthermore, it has a Presidential candidate in whose support the party is practically united. The leaders of the Republican party in New York have come to believe that after three years of triumph, unusual and unprecedented, they are at last in a position to force the fighting against their Democratic adversaries. In the preliminary skirmish they desire not only to repel the invasion of Presidential aspirants from other States who seek a foothold in New York, but, also, to invade the territory of these candidates, getting what help they can for the boom, formally launched to-day, of LEVI PARSONS MORTON of Albany, Ellerslie, and New York.

The MORTON boom will be launched under circumstances and conditions very favorable to its success in St. Louis. Not alone will the Governor have the practically unanimous support of all the delegates in the Convention, something which no previous Republican candidate in New York has been able to attain, but there may be also invoked in support of his candidacy the record of votes cast no later than the election of two years ago, when he was chosen Governor by a majority exceeding 150,000. Mr. MORTON, moreover, is a Governor still in office, and there does not attach to his candidacy that sinister fatality which has proved a barrier to the ambition of other candidates, in office as United States Senators, when seeking the nomination for President. It is an opportune and auspicious thing, as some of the MORTON boomers believe, that the first State Convention to put him in the field formally is in the shadow of the Grand Central Station, at the very beginning of the road which leads straight without a break or a change of cars to St. Louis, where the nomination of the Republican party is to be made.

Great preparations have been made by the decorators to give the auditorium of the Grand Central Palace to-day a cheerful and hospitable appearance. There are to be flags and festoons, Chinese lanterns, and streamers, flowers, and flowering plants. At either side of the stage are to be flags; the flag of the State of New York on one side, and the flag of the city of New York on the other, with the glorious Stars and Stripes above to inspire Republican partisans with patriotic fervor in support of a candidate for the Presidency, who, as every honest and patriotic Democrat must admit without grudging, deserves well of his party friends in New York.

To-day, the first gun for MORTON will be sounded. The reverberation will not be pleasant to Democratic ears. A New York city Republican to be put in nomination for the Presidency at a Republican Convention in this town!

"Spanish America" as a Bugaboo for Cuba.

We desire that Spain shall be expelled from Cuba, even though we are aware that the independent Government afterward set up there may turn out to be imperfect. The enemies of free Cuba are constantly assuring us that a Cuban republic would certainly be as bad as the other Spanish-American republics, and would be the scene of civil wars, race conflicts, and never-ending turmoil. The San Francisco *Argonaut* expresses this opinion:

"It is difficult to understand the enthusiasm shown by Congress and the newspapers for the independence of Cuba when the history of other Spanish-American colonies is considered. Bad as the government of Spain may be, it could never be so bad as would be the government of a Cuban 'republic' made up of mestizoes, mulattoes, negroes, and a minority of whites."

To begin with, it is an error of the *Argonaut* that only a minority of the Cuban population are of the white race. More than two-thirds of the people there belong to the white race, and there is a white majority in each one of the six provinces. The *Argonaut* is scared by a negro bugaboo, stuffed and blackened for the occasion. Nevertheless, mark you! if every inhabitant of Cuba were the color of a tinker's pot, or black as thunder, we would be as much opposed to Spanish rule over the island as if every one of them were white as a sheeted ghost. We are for freedom, regardless of race, color, or previous condition of servitude.

The Spanish-American republics already in existence are regarded by the *Argonaut* as frightful examples. Well, let us say that there are fifteen of them. They are not all so badly off the whole of the time. Every one of them is infinitely better off than it was when under the truculent, blighting, despoiling, and debasing rule of Spain. They are not plundered by Spain, as they were for generations; they are relieved from the cruelties which were inflicted upon them for centuries by Spain; they are free to work out their own salvation, mind their own business, make their own laws, govern themselves as they like, and form such constitutions as they desire. Their people enjoy rights and privileges which were denied to them under Spain. Slavery, which existed in all of them when they were Spanish colonies, was abolished in all of them when they had won their independence. They are incomputably more prosperous than they were under Spain. The most glorious and beneficent thing in Spanish-American history was the breaking of the iron yoke of Spain. Like Spain herself, they have wars at times and internal troubles; but surely Spain's record of civil wars, insurrections, conspiracies, foreign broils, and changes of government in the nineteenth century has surpassed that of any of the Spanish-American republics since they became independent. It was a bad legacy that Spain left to her American colonies.

We repeat that the Spanish-American countries are immeasurably better off as republics than they were under the despotic rule of Spain. Look at our friendly neighbor, Mexico, and think of what she has gained during her seventy-five years of independence from Spain. Spanish adventurers and relics of the colonial period kept her embroiled for more than a generation; but, as these were got rid of, she began her upward course. She has nearly doubled her population, which is mixed; she has greatly advanced in civilization; she has had for many years an orderly and liberal republican government; the freedom of her people is guaranteed; she has enjoyed a long peace; her revenues are just about equal to her expenditures; her resources are developing; her industries have multiplied; her commerce is on the increase; she has a system of popular education; she has constructed many great public works; and she has reduced the ravages of the plague, which were terrific under Spanish rule, as they yet are in Cuba under that rule. A few months ago we printed a summary of the last annual message of President DIAZ to the Mexican Congress. It was a most gratifying record of progress under republicanism during the past quarter of a century; and it set forth a number of designs of the Government, by authority of Congress, that are most encouraging for the future of Mexico. No more is Mexico crushed and plundered by Spain; no longer are Mexico's resources used for the enrichment of Spain; no more is the country ruled by rapacious and cruel Viceroys sent from Spain. Truly that part of Spanish America known as Mexico is better off as a republic than it had ever been under the Spanish monarchy.

Passing from Mexico to the southernmost part of the continent of South America, we find there, in Argentina, a great, strong, and prosperous Spanish-American republic. The development of the resources of the Argentine Republic may be spoken of as among the wonders of the age. We in this country have had occasion to know of the extension of her agricultural and pastoral products within recent years, and of the influences arising from their exportation. We know of the increase of her industrial establishments, her shipping, and her other activities. She draws over 50,000 immigrants annually from Europe, most of them from Italy, but not a few of them from poor old Spain. Let those who know the condition of Argentina when it was a part of the Spanish vicaroyalty of Buenos Ayres, or when it broke from Spain in the early years of this century, draw a contrast between Argentina as she was under the Spanish yoke and as she is under republican government. Truly Argentina, too, like Spain, has her troubles at times; but she is never hopeless.

All the States of South America are far better off in independence than they ever were in bondage. Even the quarrelsome little republics of Central America are better off. They are not maltreated and plundered by Spain.

The San Francisco *Argonaut* thinks that the republic of Cuba would resemble the republic of Hayti. Why talk in ignorance? Hayti is a black republic, with hardly a streak of white in it, a country of emancipated slaves, who were African savages. Cuba is an island in which the white race is predominant. We may say, however, that the inhabitants of Hayti, as also those of San Domingo, did a good thing for themselves when they broke from foreign rule.

The Spanish rule has been baneful to every American country in which it has existed. The quicker it is ended in Cuba, its last foothold, the better it will be for Cuba and for all the world.

"Gen." Booth's Defeat.

"Gen." BOOTH's effort to win back his son BALLINGTON to the Salvation Army is sufficient evidence that the American revolt against his despotic authority has caused the old man great alarm. His agents in this country have made a pretence of regarding the withdrawal of the American BOOTHS as a temporary sensation merely; but the London "General" declares that unless the seceders can be brought back, the disruption of the American division of the Army is inevitable.

Of course, the American BOOTHS cannot return without a surrender of avowed principle that would destroy their influence. They are now powerless to save the old organization from rapid disintegration, so far as this country is concerned; and it is not improbable that the example of their successful revolt will lead to other rebellions, and thus be the first step in a general decline. In any event, the Army could not have long outlived its founder, for there is in it no element of enduring vitality; but this American experience is likely to hasten its dissolution.

The reason why it has been superseded here by the movement started by the American BOOTHS is that the methods which proved so successful in England were entirely unadapted to this country. The more BALLINGTON BOOTH and his wife became imbued with the American spirit, the more thoroughly they must have become convinced of the necessity of changing the Army's tactics to suit American requirements. The tom-tom beating and rough-and-tumble performances which stirred up the soddenness of the English slums did not work well. "Gen." BOOTH's project was devised for the purpose of reaching the "lowest class." That is a distinct and definable social division in England, but it has no existence in this country; and hence the Salvation Army assumption, which was just and right there, was utterly false here. The members of the lowermost class in England regard themselves as at the bottom of a fixed social scale and expect to be treated as vile and brutalized; but here there is no such gradation and nobody is willing to be measured according to it. People may be poor and they may live in real or comparative squalor, but they will not tolerate the spiritual condescension that looks upon them as belonging to the social sediment, and therefore accessible only to sensational methods adapted to the lowest intelligence and the deepest moral degradation. They may be down, but they expect to get up, if not of themselves, at least in the persons of their children. They are not savages, but self-governing citizens.

Probably, as we have said, the American BOOTHS must have discovered that difference, and the consequent necessity of a corresponding change in the Salvation Army methods; but the old "General" in London resented such a suggestion as involving a flagrant denial of his assumed infallibility. A system that did for England, and that suited him, he insisted, should be made to go in America; but he has found by late experience that he cannot make it go, and that the rebellion here, of which BALLINGTON BOOTH and his wife are the leaders, is against the British prejudices and notions by which the Salvation Army is governed. That organization cannot live here in opposition to a movement of the same general kind which is conducted in accordance with the genius of America, and whose methods are made to harmonize with the American spirit and the tone of our civilization.

The Yuruan Incident.

There is some ground for surmising that the recent revival of negotiations between Washington and London on the Guiana dispute had to do primarily with the claim of Great Britain for damages on account of the Yuruan affair.

It is easy to understand how the time limit imposed by Lord SALISBURY on Venezuela for the payment of the indemnity thus claimed, made it desirable and perhaps necessary that our Government should seasonably learn what President CRESPO proposed to do about it, and to what extreme measures for enforcing her claim England proposed to resort.

If current accounts are correct, Lord SALISBURY's demand for damages was at first received with great disfavor by the Caracas Government. When, therefore, the period set for acceding to or refusing that demand approached, a few weeks ago, it became for the interest of the United States that our main concern, the enforcement of the Monroe doctrine, should not be complicated by any minor controversy of this sort. It was important that England should not have an excuse in the Yuruan affair for active measures which might give her military and naval forces an advantage against Venezuela in the boundary dispute.

The ground taken by Mr. CLEVELAND'S Administration seems to have made this matter specially important to consider; for it will be remembered that we entered no protest against England's actual seizure of Corinto by her naval forces, in order to enforce against Nicaragua a claim for certain damages inflicted at Bluefields upon her citizens. That very recent precedent would have been a difficult one for Mr. OLNEY to get over, and yet it was out of the question that the Corinto incident should be repeated in the present controversy on Venezuela's coast.

Although no official documents on the subject have yet been laid before Congress or Parliament, it is asserted that the course adopted by Mr. OLNEY has been to secure, first, the most absolute severance of the Yuruan damages from the boundary dispute, as if the injury complained of had occurred in Caracas itself, and, secondly, a reduction of the damages. On this last point we now get a confirmation in the London despatches that "Great Britain has reduced the Yuruan claim, and Venezuela has agreed to the reduction."

It must be recalled that when BARNES, the British Guiana officer, was seized by overzealous Venezuelan guards and hurried off as a prisoner, the Caracas Government promptly ordered his release. It has repeatedly been asserted, we think, that compensation was at that time offered to BARNES, and the Venezuelan Government's prompt disavowal of the acts of its local officers is conceded, as well as its willingness to make any proper reparation which should not be excessive, and should be utterly devoid of significance as connected with the boundary dispute.

If it be true that Venezuela has obtained a satisfactory guarantee of this sort, and also a reduction of Sergeant BARNES's claim to a reasonable amount, it may be frankly admitted that the elimination of this minor incident from the main controversy is a subject of congratulation. The time which England is understood to have fixed for Venezuela's settlement of the Yuruan claim passed by without her attempting to play the Corinto game. And in fact it is said that the actual payment of the claim has not been made yet. Still, it might be a cause of anxiety if England retained an excuse for moving her forces toward Venezuela on the ground of this claim. The matter could, so far as its intrinsic importance is concerned, have awaited the settlement of the main dispute; and yet, as a possibly perilous factor in the problem, it is perhaps better to have it ciphered out now on any terms satisfactory to Venezuela and the United States.

Whether this matter has proved the stepping stone, as is rumored, to the resumption of negotiations on the boundary question, is not quite clear, since the recent announcement in Parliament on that subject was vague. It would be a pleasant supposition, however, that the report of Mr. OLNEY'S agreement to England's reduced claims in the disputed tract really grew out of Venezuela's acceptance, with his approval, of England's reduced claims as to the damages due to BARNES.

Platt and the Future.

The Raines bill just signed by Governor MORTON was a very uncommon measure, in respect of the opposition to it. The rich owners of clubs and the poor keepers of grog shops both pleaded with Governor MORTON for a veto. The brewing interest, which is immense in the State, was against it with vengeance in its heart. Republican politics outside of New York has looked with a shudder and doubtless with remonstrance on the violent stirring up of the liquor question on the eve of a Presidential election.

All this makes more conspicuous the part played in enacting the Raines law by the Hon. THOMAS COLLIER PLATT, the Republican leader. To begin with, it ran counter to Mr. PLATT'S habits. He was against the high license of WARNER MILLER in 1888. He looked on that scheme, we believe, as a venture of blundering unsophistication. And if WARNER MILLER'S campaign for high license made Mr. PLATT frown, the Roosevelt crusade, certainly more of a friend than a foe of the Raines bill, is said to have made him dance with rage. Yet, intense and double-dyed politician as he is, Mr. PLATT throws aside all former prejudices, deals a tremendous blow at the liquor interest, and goes in for a high license reformatory policy, which promises to be explosive for either good or evil in the national and State election.

As nothing succeeds like success, Mr. PLATT stands to win the glory of a sensational achievement in the teeth of opposition which would stagger a leader of ordinary nerves; and, on the other hand, he stands to encounter a corresponding disaster. If he wins, he will be credited with one of the boldest and most original bits of statesmanship that has ever graced the annals of New York. We must wait and see.

The Hon. GEORGE WASHINGTON ALDRIDGE is expected by every Republican to do his duty. He is not here for the purpose of comparing his proportions with those of the Fifth Avenue Hotel or to swap views as to spring neckwear with the Hon. ABRAHAM GRUBER, or to beam among the 4,114 other candidates for Governor on exhibition in the Grand Collier Palace this day and evening. Where are those $4,000,000 or $9,000,000 of canal patronage? There are plenty of Republicans inside and outside of the PLATT Palace who want a few slices of those noble bunns. It is true that Mr. ALDRIDGE may regard himself as a trustee for the use of his own boom, but the faithful grow impatient. The Erie Canal begins at the Fifth Avenue Hotel and empties into the Treasury at Albany, or rather the Treasury empties into it. It is for Mr. ALDRIDGE to irrigate the Republican party with that fructifying stream.

Mr. S. P. C. HENRIQUES, formerly Commercial Agent of the United States at Cardenas, Cuba, dedicates an interesting pamphlet, "Cuba," to the memory of JOSÉ MARTI, the Cuban martyr for liberty. Mr. HENRIQUES has brought together in his unpretentious pamphlet many facts about Cuba that are not generally known. He casts an interesting side light on the relations between the United States and the Pearl of the Antilles by the statement in his introduction that the Cubans are the real founders of Florida's present condition; when they brought the cigarmaking business to Tampa and Key West they founded an industry that is now of great value to the State. Mr. HENRIQUES's pamphlet will commend itself to all those who wish well for Cuba.

The Hon. WILLIAM ALFRED PEFFER made a spirited assault upon barbers yesterday. In his view the Senate barber is a superfluity and even worse. It is impossible not to sympathize with the Senator from Kansas, whatever may be one's private opinion of the lords of the razor and the comb. Mr. PEFFER has spent his life in raising hair; the Senate barber in mowing hair. They are natural enemies, although both of them may be right. However that may be, it is a joy to see the pogonist of the Kaw stand up for his principles and his most precious possessions.

On account of the abundance of Republican talent it becomes the Hon. WILLIAM O'CONNELL BRADLEY of Kentucky and the Hon. HENRY CLAY EVANS of Tennessee as wise and prudent men to decide which is to have what. They cannot both be nominated for President or for Vice-President; and considerations of geographical etiquette forbid that one shall have first and the other have second place. Which shall be taken and which shall be left, provided both are not left? There ought to be a council of their friends; the decision should be left to arbitration or lot, if the distinguished principals cannot come to an agreement; and then united Tennessee and Kentucky should support one of them with all the heart and all the throat.

Candidates for Governor whose booms have been retired from circulation are requested to remain in the Palace after the adjournment this afternoon for the purpose of passing resolutions of sympathy with themselves and emitting eulogies. Active candidates will be examined in squads of 600 by Mr. PLATT on Wednesday, Friday, and Saturday of each week in Madison Square Garden. All candidates are expected to bring satisfactory recommendations. Buffalonians are requested not to apply without consulting Dr. ROWLAND BLENNERHASSETT MAHANY, or some other competent physician of the PLATT school. Owing to the large number of applicants Mr. PLATT, the chief examiner, will devote a part of his time each day after to-day to the inspection of certificates and to the preliminary examinations. Ohio men not eligible.

The Hon. THOMAS BRACKETT REED continues to keep under control his moustache and Congress. He will be a little cheered at his task this week. Massachusetts will send out his boom, strong, long, and hearty; and from other points of the compass favoring winds may come. Mr. REED has been doing a good deal of work for the benefit of the other candidates. He will keep on working, but at last he is going to have a little fun of his own and receive a little gratitude for his labors.

An esteemed correspondent asks us to describe the probable effects of the free and unlimited coinage of silver, at the ratio of 16 to 1, if that measure should be adopted by the United States. We are also asked to give details as to who would be benefited by it and who would suffer, and all the rest. We are sorry that neither our time nor our imagination will suffice for the task. All we can say is that, in the event mentioned, the dollar would become in purchasing power the equivalent of the present half dollar or thereabouts; and the consequences every one can work out for himself.

Whether our bicycle policemen use pneumatic saddles or metallic toe clips, scorchers' handle bars or rat-trap pedals, or whether they have developed a knee and ankle motion to be surpassed in effect by wings only, the celerity with which they emerge from where they were and arrive elsewhere, where they would be, is very striking. Nine prisoners were arraigned in the Yorkville Police Court on Sunday as the result of the bicycle squad's efforts. Five of them had undertaken to scorch away from the officers, two counted on the superior racing ability of their horses, and the other two took to their heels. One of the last class was trying to cross the street when his pursuer took a flying leap from his wheel and grabbed him by the collar. The fugitive was completely exhausted from the chase, while the officer was just limbering up. The last few weeks have thoroughly demonstrated the usefulness of the cycling bluecoat, and fugitive wheelmen, reckless drivers, and fleet-footed pedestrians may as well save their wind when they see him coming for them.

It is an æsthetic mistake, after all, for the Hon. COLLIER PLATT to substitute the Hon. EDWARD LAUTERBACH for the Hon. FRANK HISCOCK as a member of the Big Four. Mr. LAUTERBACH is brighter than a bridegroom's face, livelier than the grasshopper, more astute than the serpent, more active than a Columbus avenue car jumping around Fifty-third street, and shrewder than shrewdness, but nobody who has ever seen the indolent and comprehensive magnificence with which the NARCISSUS of the Onondaga Reservation smokes a cigar at the Fifth Avenue Hotel would dream for a second of comparing him with Mr. LAUTERBACH. There will be MORTON missionaries, and plenty of them, at St. Louis, and Mr. HISCOCK will be one of them, but he should be allowed to have the larger patent and dignity of a delegate at large, a missionary at large of beauty. Work is great, but greater is Loveliness.

The voice of the Hon. RUSSELL ALEXANDER ALGER has a queer, broken, raucous sound as it is heard saying: "I would infinitely prefer being a private citizen than to undergo" the ordeal of being a candidate for President. What sublime renunciation of the unattainable! What a weight of disappointment to Gen. ALGER'S staff of campaign biographers.

Reed on Getting Delegates.

From the Springfield Union.

PITTSBURGH, March 20.—In a letter to Thomas B. Reed recently D. W. English of this city stated it was proposed by the Republican County Committee to submit the names of McKinley and Quay to the voters of Allegheny county in order that they might have a chance to show their preference for Presidential candidates and suggesting that as he had many warm friends in this county his name be submitted as well. This morning Mr. English received the following reply from Mr. Reed:

I have not the slightest desire to have my name submitted in the way you suggest. While I might have been glad of an opportunity under other circumstances, under the present I would not. In no State where there is a candidate have any friends of mine interfered with local wishes, nor will they with my consent. I am very much obliged to you for the personal kindness involved in your suggestion, and have very pleasant memories of your previous kindness.

The Roll of Great Names.

From a Correspondent in St. Mary's, Pa.

You have entirely disregarded the claims of the Hon. Samuel States of Punxsutawney, Jefferson county, Pa. He is the only Democratic member of the Board of County Commissioners, and owes no small part of his popularity to the fact that he gave to his first-born son the name of United. United is now a grown man and teaches school in his native town. With all due respect to Col. Abe Slupsky, I hereby ask, "What is the matter with Prof. United States of Punxsutawney?"

From a Correspondent in Wigton, Pa.

How does Theophilus Tan Iron Lewis strike you?

An Explanation.

Everywhere
The air
Is filled with a blare;
Resounding
And bounding
And crashing
And smashing
And sweeping
And creeping
And swelling
And yelling
And roaring
And soaring
And reaching
And speeching
And clanging
And whanging
And booming
And looming
And rapping
And snapping
And tapping
And ringing
And singing
And pealing
And squealing
And chinkling
And tinkling
And rumbling
And tumbling
And rustling
And hustling
And whizzing
And sizzing
Vociferous,
Horriferous,
Thunderous,
Wonderous,
Thickly and thinly,
It's Forsker whispering the name of McKinley!

Their Romantic Meeting.

From the Syracuse Journal.

The meeting of James Geddes with the girl who became his wife at Pompey Hill, while she was standing on a stump blowing the horn for dinner, was quite romantic

DISGRACE TO JOURNALISM.

The World's Untruthfulness Denounced by Self-respecting Journals.

From the Richmond Times.

The New York *World* is a disgrace to journalism. The *World* has no sort of regard for truth, for morality. The idea of the *World* is that the prurient tastes of the multitude are to be catered to.

A year or two ago, when discussion of the discoveries that had been made of matters pertaining to the planet Mars was very active, the *World* printed a pretended interview that the eminent Italian astronomer Schiapperelli had had at Milan with one of its correspondents concerning the planet. The interview was a fake. The astronomer had had no interview with a *World* correspondent, and the pretended interview had been written in New York, in the office of the *World*. THE SUN got hold of all the facts in the case, and made a complete exposure of the *World*.

And now, within the past ten days, the *World* has undertaken to impose a similar fraud upon the public. Some ten days back it printed what pretended to be a communication to it from Señor Canovas del Castillo, the Spanish Premier, in regard to our relations to Spain and Cuba. It now turns out that Señor Canovas has never had any interview with a correspondent of the *World*, and has sent no communication of any sort to it. This is just as disgraceful as any crime the *World* is capable of committing, and that is putting the case as strongly as it can be put.

From the Buffalo Commercial.

The New York *World's* name should be changed to the *New York Fake*. A Senator bitterly assailed Señor Canovas del Castillo for communicating his sentiments and intentions to the *World* instead of to Washington. Now we read: "Señor Canovas never telegraphed to the *World*, nor authorized anybody to use his signature." The *Daily Fake* is a daily pest.

Police Commissioner Roosevelt fired a broadside at Pulitzer's *World* that blew the lying sheet to tatters. The *World* has set out to lie the Police Commission out of office. It has worked diligently for nearly a year, but the Commissioners still live.

From the Utica Daily Press.

The scoring which Police Commissioner Roosevelt administered to the *World* is refreshing in its vigor, mingling keenest sarcasm with truthful statements. Such wholesale and unreliable sensationalism as the *World* indulges in is no credit to American journalism, and is calculated to bring undeserved reproach upon other papers innocent of such offences. Commissioner Roosevelt will have the thanks of the better papers throughout the country for his arraignment of the *World*. The sort of journalism of which it is an exponent is not commendable, nor the kind to be approved. The *World* stands almost alone in this sort of thing, a fact which should be generally understood and appreciated.

STICKY FLY PAPER.

Most of the World's Supply Manufactured in Secret in a Michigan Town.

GRAND RAPIDS, Mich., March 23.—The world's supply of sticky fly paper comes from this city. There are three or four other small factories scattered about the country, but none of them makes enough to cut much of a figure in the market. The great producer is the single factory in this city, a big concern employing 400 to 600 hands all the year round, and its product is shipped to every land.

The factory is surrounded by a high board picket fence, and guards are on watch day and night to keep out intruders. The best friends of the proprietors meet with as cold a reception, when the matter of going into the factory is mentioned, as any stranger. The sticky preparation with which it is expected the flies will form entangling alliances is prepared by the proprietors personally, and they alone know the exact formula. The preparation is not patented nor copyrighted, as to gain the protection of the Government it would be necessary to reveal the materials that go into it and thus make the formula known to the world and give trade pirates a chance to operate. The secret is protected by not letting it out, and it has been kept successfully for nearly twenty years. The machinery used in the factory is guarded in the same manner against infringement instead of being patented. Most of the machinery was designed for the special purpose to which it is put, and the four brothers engaged in the business made the designs for it themselves and had different parts of it constructed at different machine shops. The fly paper factory occupies four large two-story brick buildings, and the employees in one department are not allowed under any circumstances to visit any other department. None but trustworthy men are employed, and once engaged they have substantially a life job; but even the most trusted is not allowed to know more than one branch of the business.

The fly paper is made by spreading certain balsams and gums on a sheet of sized manila paper. The sheet has a narrow border of wax to prevent the sticky stuff from oozing out. The border of wax is put on, the sticky preparation is spread, and the sheet is folded ready for inspection and shipment by one machine, and this machine has a capacity of about 50,000 sheets a day. From the machine the sheets pass to inspectors, who see that the stuff is of the right consistency, and then to the packers, to be put into boxes for shipment. The paper goes to Africa, Asia, Europe, Australia, and South America, besides all parts of this country.

The manufacturers of the sticky paper began business about twenty years ago on a small scale, occupying a lean-to in connection with a suburban drug store which the brothers had established as a branch of their city business, one of the brothers carried on the fly paper manufacturing as a side issue, and at first only enough was manufactured to supply a limited local demand. The demand gradually grew, and the factory is now one of the big institutions of the city, and the four brothers all devote to it their entire time.

Some time ago the brothers had occasion to discharge one of their employees, a man who had been with them several years and had unusual facilities for learning the inside of how everything was done. It was suspected that it was his intention to sell the secrets of the manufacture of fly paper, or such of them as he possessed, to a rival manufacturer doing business on a small scale in another town. The brothers immediately brought suit against him by injunction to restrain him from telling what he knew, and from himself engaging in the business. The suit has not yet been decided. It involves a question of law never yet adjudicated in this State, and one that is specially interesting to manufacturers and attorneys.

Come Back, Hanna! Don't Leave Us.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I protest at the exit of Hanna! Simply because a citizen of Akron, O., born without a sense of humor, should object to THE SUN'S fun regarding him, must we lose sight of this most interesting person?

Some one will be saying soon that our old friend Dink Botts, of whom we yearn to hear more, does not exist. This we could not endure. The loss of Dink and his crowd of euphonious competitors would be too much. Do not take them away from us!

The children have their Bluebeard and their Jack the Giant Killer. We have Abe Slupsky and the rest. They are the joy of our lives. God bless 'em!

NEW YORK, March 22. TOBY HOWEY.

Why He Is Against the Raines Bill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Your admirably instructive, albeit somewhat tentative correspondent, "Democrat," in to-day's issue on the Raines bill, loses sight of a factor which will be found all-important and decisive in the next election. I refer to the feeling which is paramount among all classes, Republicans as well as Democrats, that the tendency to restrict the liberty of the citizen and legislate in the interests of the Church is too apparent.

The parson has had his day, and it will be many a long one before his influence will be felt again in local or State elections. The Raines bill is only one of many mistakes my party has made of late.

CHRISTIAN LANGDON.
409 WEST END AVENUE, March 21.

Poor Drug Stores!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: THE SUN has wrought some reforms, and it always sets people to thinking. Try this: The drug stores of this city are the people's bureaus of information. At least, they should be. There is a reason for it. They "keep open" day and night and keep a City Directory on tap. Did you ever refer to one of these directories, and if so, did you ever find one that was less than four years old? If so, I would like to know where. I promise you I will go blocks out of my way to patronize that drug store, and you can well afford to advertise it.

HOBO.
MARCH 23.

Spring in China, Any Way.

From the Chicago Record.

The following paragraph from a recent Tien Tsin paper describes a curious custom that prevails in China:

"On Tuesday last, being the spring solstice, the local mandarins went out in state in the early hours 'to meet the incoming spring,' which is supposed to come by way of the south gate. The official cortège went as far as the temple 'dedicated to the reception of spring,' and after the usual obeisance before the improvised image of the T'Aieu (presiding god of the year), appointed by the Great Pearl Emperor (God of heaven), the mandarins returned to their yamen, bringing back the 'spring of 1896' with them."

THE FLORIDA NEGRO.

How He Spreads as a Green Bay Tree in Duval County.

JACKSONVILLE, Fla., March 17.—Gen. Winfield Scott Hancock, in a burst of confidence, when he was a candidate for the Presidency on the Democratic ticket in 1880, declared that "the tariff is a local issue." When the election was over he found that it is and that it isn't, and that it isn't as much as it is. It depends upon where you live, and how you look at it. There is a local and a national point of view, and the interests of the whole will always overshadow the interests of any of its parts. The local view of any question affecting the whole people is well enough as far as it goes.

The race question in the Southern States is in many respects just like any other question of national concern. It is local in some respects and national in more. It comprehends both races, and it is misnomerical in the extreme to confine it to one. The white masses of the South are as perplexing a problem as the black masses. They are both at the bottom of the social ladder, and it is nip and tuck between them as to which has the advantage of the other in the race of life. True, the North hears more of the depravity of the blacks than of the whites, but that is because the whites write most of the special articles and send out most of the telegraphic despatches. As the Indian Sagamore put it, when his attention was directed to the fact that in the dime novels the white men always got the better of the Indian: "White man write 'em; white man read 'em, ugh!"

The fact remains, however, that while the flower of the Southern ruling class before the war steadily drifts from the farm to the city, the old slave class remains behind and takes possession of the abandoned farms and raises the cotton and the hog and hominy, and is steadily becoming the controlling factor in the back counties of the Southern States. The man who owns the soil will own the man who works it. If he owns it himself he owns himself. There are many counties in the States of the South owned almost entirely by Afro-Americans. It is becoming more general every year, as the white men leave the country districts and seek their fortunes in the large cities of the country. There are more brainy Southern white men to-day hustling for keeps in the cities of the South and North and West than remain in the country districts of the South and cultivate the broad acres of their sires, which were the bases of their hauteur and power before the calamity finally overtook them at Appomattox Court House which humbled their pride and sapped the foundations of their power. Equality of manhood, of an equal chance to make a living, or to accumulate a million dollars and to be protected in the pursuit of enjoying it, is of vastly more importance than equality of citizenship. This has been demonstrated in the social conditions of the Southern States since the war.

The Southern whites have grasped after political power with the avarice of Shylock and the cruelty of Nero, while the blacks have gradually taken possession of the farms, and Northern capitalists have taken possession of railroad, telegraphic, steamboat, and manufacturing enterprises. It is nothing unusual to find a Southern Marius in the ruins of a Carthage where his fathers once ruled as absolutely as a Roman proconsul. But the days of chivalry have taken to the woods in the Southern States. When every man has to dig his daily bread out of the sweat of his face he has not got the nerve to put on as many frills as when he has a hundred other people doing the sweating for him.

I do not mean to say that a great many blacks do not crowd into the cities of the North and the South. Too many of them do it, especially of the falsely educated sons, youngsters who think that the occupations their fathers follow are beneath their dignity. Indeed, a large majority of the Afro-American youngsters who have been educated since the war have been spoiled by too much Latin and Greek and philosophy, which a man has no great deal of use for in a blacksmith shop, a carpenter shop, on a farm, or even behind a store counter. A man educated to look with contempt upon his father's occupation will very likely develop into a loafer, a thief, or a pauper. I believe in higher education, of course, but I think there should be a demand for it before it is given in large doses.

Here in Florida, as in other Southern States, there are too many black people in the large towns and cities who should be on the farms, where they were born and where they are needed. They make, by their numbers, a scarcity of employment where there should be an abundance, and pauper wages where there should be living wages, and because of the manner in which they live, the squalid tenements and insufficient food and clothing and inadequate medical attendance in times of sickness, they help to swell abnormally the annual death and criminal rates. But nothing but natural laws, epidemics, and financial depression can clear the cities and the blacks of the rural districts from crowding into the large towns and cities. The phenomenally low prices of farm products which have prevailed during the past few years help on the tendency. There is enough uncultivated land in Florida to feed and clothe the people of one-half of the Southern States, while thousands of people gradually starve and freeze annually in Pensacola, Jacksonville, Ocala, and Key West. Observation as well as statistics show this.

The original Florida negro was a very independent, thrifty, and robust character. There was much of Spanish and Indian impulse in his blood and temperament. But he has been pretty well wiped out in the past decade and a half by an invasion of his tribe from South Carolina, Georgia, Alabama, and the Bahama Islands. These latter are very numerous in south and east Florida. They are usually very black, those of them who go to Florida as well as New York. They bear no comparison to