"IF YOU SEE IT IN The Sun IT'S SO."

The Sun.

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THE MISSISSIPPI LEVEES.

CONGRESS MAY BE ASKED TO TAKE ENTIRE CHARGE OF THEM.

Confidence in the Levee System Fortified by the Experience with the Present Flood—Millions Needed to Perfect It—Reasons for Asking the Government to Supply the Money.

NEW ORLEANS, May 29.—The success of the Louisiana levees in resisting the present flood in the Mississippi, much the worst ever known, has fortified confidence in the system, and makes it probable that the alluvial States will demand that the Federal Government take charge of their levees. In the earlier days of the high water, when there were so many crevasses in Arkansas and Mississippi the levees got a metaphorical black eye. The people who had been taught to believe in them as the only protection against the Mississippi, lost faith when they saw the dikes breaking at many points; and the outlet theory, which had been latent for four years, during which time the lower Mississippi Valley had altogether escaped overflow, showed considerable strength again. It looked, therefore, as though there would be a division of sentiment as to what ought to be done to prevent destructive floods like the present one. The lower Louisiana levees have held so well that they have dissipated all this outlet sentiment, and the people of the alluvial districts of Louisiana, Mississippi, and Arkansas are now unanimously in favor of rebuilding, strengthening, and raising the levees. The only division of opinion is on the question of turning the levees over wholly to the United States Government or of arranging for the co-operation of the United States with the several States and districts interested, as is done at present.

As soon as the present high water goes down a levee convention will be held at some point, probably Vicksburg, to settle on a line of policy in fighting future floods. The convention will declare for levees in emphatic terms, and will present a great many facts to show the efficiency of the levee system. It will be shown that only 1 per cent. of the levee line broke during the present flood, and that in all cases the embankments that gave way were weak and were constructed improperly years ago. In regard to the rise in the river, so much greater than ever before, an effort will be made to show that it was not due to any rise of the river bed, but to the greater volume of the river, resulting from the destruction of the forests and the better drainage of the upper Mississippi, Missouri, and Ohio. The amount of the river's discharge has been estimated carefully, and will be shown to have nearly doubled in the past thirty years, requiring the raising of the levees, so as to increase the capacity of the channel. Facts will be presented to show, furthermore, that the river is rapidly adapting itself to its new conditions; that it has greatly deepened its channel during the present flood by scouring out its bottom, particularly in Louisiana, where the levees held, and that it is now in a condition to hold the water pouring down it better than ever, so that even if there be another flood next year the river will not rise as high as it did this season. The river did not rise as high at New Orleans as the engineers predicted, and that is now explained by the fact that the channel was much deeper than it had been, and better able to hold all the water in it.

On all these points the Mississippi River Commission, the United States and the State engineers have been collecting data, and the statistics are said to be the strongest evidence yet presented in favor of levees as assuring protection against overflow and improving the navigation of the Mississippi. The facts collected will be made the basis of a demand that the United States shall largely increase the appropriation for the improvement of the Mississippi, and particularly for levees, if not take entire charge of them. Among the points said to be mathematically demonstrated are the following:

1. That levees, if properly constructed, never break.
2. That they increase the discharging capacity of the river, and a levee twelve feet high will render the river able to carry off twice as much water as it otherwise could, or as it is by nature designed to carry off, this increased volume being due to the settlement and better drainage of the country above.
3. That they lessen the duration and consequently the danger from the flood, the high water wave having taken only one-third the time to pass New Orleans, where the levees held, that it did to pass Vicksburg, where they broke.
4. That they deepen the river, reduce its flood level, sweep away bars, and thus improve the navigability of the stream, which is the point aimed at by the Mississippi River Commission.

It will be further argued that the Mississippi, after the thorough scouring out that its channel has received this year, will be in no danger of very high water for the next three or four years, during which time the break and low levees above Red River can be strengthened and the breaks closed, so that there will be no danger when the next freshet comes, in 1900 or afterward.

The planters and others interested are so convinced that they can make the strongest possible showing on this point that they anticipate no serious opposition. It is by no means certain, however, that there will be as strong or as unanimous a feeling on the question of turning the levees over to the United States and asking them to look after them. Mississippi and Arkansas will undoubtedly favor Government control of the levees. Five of the Arkansas levee districts have already met and passed resolutions in favor of turning all these levees over to the United States. This is the prevailing sentiment in Mississippi also. It is pointed out that the levees constructed by the United States, under the supervision of the United States engineers, are the best built and have held best. This is strikingly the case with the levees in what is known as the Tensas basin of Arkansas, including that part of the State front from the mouth of the Arkansas river to the Louisiana line. It is a very exposed district, which has always been overflowed before, but this year when, all the Arkansas levees above broke, these dikes, constructed by the United States, escaped.

Again, it is insisted that the several levee districts and boards are financially unable to rebuild the levees as the work should be done. They taxed themselves excessively to build such levees as they have, and yet could not get them up to the standard recommended by the United States engineers. Taxes were levied on the total assessment, on the land, on the acreage cultivated, on every crop produced, and special taxes were imposed on the railroads. During the fight this spring the districts exhausted their cash and tested their credit to the uttermost in order to get money to raise and strengthen their levees. The Orleans Levee Board has spent its revenue for two years ahead and will have nothing coming to it until 1899. The Tensas Levee Board borrowed money on its own credit and induced each of the four parishes composing the district—Tensas, Madison, Concordia, and East Carroll—to advance it money. The Mississippi and Arkansas levee boards have borrowed even more; and when it is further considered that these districts have lost heavily from overflow and are in no condition to stand more taxation, it seems almost impossible for them to raise the large amount needed to rebuild levees of the height and strength required to assure safety. As for raising money by means of bonds, this cannot be done. The levee boards have authority to issue bonds, but have already done so as far as their credit will allow.

These arguments are made in favor of the plan to ask the United States to take entire charge of the levees instead of only partial charge, as at present. The present system, moreover, is very complicated and confusing. There are no fewer than four interests involved, without including the planters. These are the Mississippi River Commission, the United States engineers under the control of the Secretary of War, the State engineers, and the district levee boards. Then there are big levee boards and small ones; the towns are independent of the district boards and look after their own levees, and in Louisiana the parish police juries have some of this decided authority over the levees. Finally, there are some parts of the river front unprovided for and left to the care of corporations and individuals. Thus the levee just below Baton Rouge is under the control of a lumber company. The entire country between that town and New Orleans, a distance of a hundred miles and containing some of the richest plantations in the State, was endangered by the neglect of this company. When a break finally occurred there and threatened the loss of many million dollars, the Pontchartrain Levee Board, the Illinois Central Railroad, and others interfered and closed the crevasse and built a levee, although there was no obligation to do so. The territory was out of their jurisdiction, and they could have been prevented from interfering. In the same way the Tensas levee district of Louisiana built at its own expense the big Possum Fork dike in Arkansas, not only outside of its district, but certainly in another State.

The private levees frequently mentioned in the flood despatches as having broken—(or all of them did break—are built to protect land, some of it very valuable, especially that at Davis Island and at Angola, for which no protection had been provided, and which was not included in any regular district. The same is true of levee Plaquemine, where the people were ruined by the overflow. There each farmer was expected to keep his own levee in order. Some of them did so, but their lands were none the less overflowed and their crops ruined by the carelessness of neighbors, who neglected the levees to the last minute.

Each Levee Board has different powers, and there is no arrangement for unity of action among them. Moreover, there are many antagonistic interests involved. The planters on one side of the river would be glad to see a break on the opposite side, as it would relieve the pressure against their levees. This has resulted in mutual distrust, and several of the worst crevasses are attributed to the cutting of the levees in one district by people from another.

There can be no doubt that during the extreme high water and when the situation was deemed critical, there was a strong sentiment in New Orleans in favor of cutting the levees opposite the city or just above it; and this plan was openly supported on the ground that a crevasse in the country parishes would entail a loss of only a few millions, whereas at New Orleans several hundred millions were involved; and it is firmly believed that the great Ameeville crevasse of some years ago was due to the levee being cut by a party from New Orleans to relieve the pressure on the city levees.

These mutual jealousies and fears necessitated the employment on the levees this year of a force of nearly 10,000 men armed with shotguns and rifles, whose duty it was to keep off the levee cutters. Five innocent men were killed by error by these levee guards. If the levees were all under the control of the United States and all were of the same standard, it would end these jealousies and distrust, it is argued, and the people on the left bank of the river would not want to cut the levees on the right bank because their own were weak and those opposite them strong.

At the same time, there is some opposition in Louisiana to complete Federal control of levees. There is a fear and distrust of Congress, which might fail to pass the river and levee appropriation at some session, leaving the lowlands at the mercy of the flood. If the State and district abandoned their levee organization in the meanwhile, because the Federal Government had taken charge, it would be impossible to reorganize them in time to do any work on the levees should a flood be threatened. Moreover, Congress might suddenly change its entire policy, as it has done with the tariff more than once, and a new Administration might decide to abandon levees and try outlets for a while, or indulge in some other experiment. For these reasons, in the river convention to be held later, Louisiana, or at least some of its delegates, may oppose an appeal to Congress to take charge of the levees.

In the meanwhile the Louisiana levee authorities have prepared to do greater levee work next year than ever before. The several levee boards have decided to increase their taxes for next year, and to issue bonds to the full extent allowed by the legislative acts creating them. A constitutional convention meets in Louisiana next year, and an attempt will be made to increase the State levee tax (Louisiana, by the way, is the only State which levies a State levee tax). There may be some objection from the hill parishes to paying higher taxes in order to protect the alluvial districts from overflow, but as a majority of the people in the State live on lands subject to overflow, they will probably be able to secure an increase in the amount of money raised by Louisiana for levee purposes.

The railroads, which have been among the heaviest sufferers from overflow in the past, and which, in Louisiana at least, escaped all damage this year, are among the most earnest and stalwart friends of levees, and will contribute liberally to their improvement. The Texas and Pacific has expressed a willingness to spend $400,000 on the New Orleans levees, and will spend $150,000 on those opposite the city. The Illinois Central has expended more money on levees during the present high water than any other road in the State. Its general agent is President of the Pontchartrain levee district, and during the high water it has been running a daily levee inspection train between New Orleans and Baton Rouge. It will be seen, therefore, that Louisiana will enjoy a large increase in its levee revenues from all these sources, sufficient to very materially improve and strengthen its levee line. But, none the less, it will heartily join with the other alluvial States in demanding from Congress a more liberal appropriation for the Mississippi and particularly for its levees.

It can be stated with the greatest certainty that these States will join issues to make the question of river improvement a leading issue before Congress, and that they will be found unanimous and emphatic in favor of a continuance, extension, and further development of the present levee system.

It is estimated that for the general Government to take charge of the levees would mean an original expenditure of $25,000,000 or more on levees, and a permanent annual expense of from $5,000,000 to $10,000,000.

DREDGING IN A DESERT.

American Enterprise Retracing Prehistoric Canals in a Southern Arizona Valley.

"During my last visit to Arizona I saw, in the Salt River Valley, a sight that would strike a stranger as queer," said a New York man who makes an occasional trip to the Far West. "A steam dredging scow, such as is used in deepening rivers and harbors for navigation, was voyaging slowly and steadily through a wide strip of arid desert. It had started landward from Salt River, and was excavating its own channel ahead, the river waters following and floating it as it advanced. But the work done was not, in fact, the making of a new channel, but the digging out of an old one, the irrigating canal made by a civilized people that lived and flourished and departed before recorded American history began. That there was a time when this wide valley, now being again redeemed to man, was a garden of plenty, teeming with inhabitants, is shown by the extensive and regular system of broad canals leading from the river, through which water for irrigation was conveyed out upon the cultivated lands. These canals, though choked for centuries with drifting sand and earth, still are plainly indicated on the face of the ground, and so skilfully were they planned and built that modern engineering science applied to irrigation can do no better than retrace their course and restore them.

"The region was well chosen by the primitive canal builders as a land of habitation. The climate is dry, sunny, and even of temperature, and the arid earth, at the touch of water, becomes fertile and productive. Here the apricots and oranges ripen long in advance of those fruits in California and Florida, and are of rare quality. What race laid out the canals and built the towns whose ruins are strung along the valley is a question not yet settled by archæologists. Aztecs or Toltecs, or each nation in turn, probably tarried here in their centuries-long migrations southward to the valley of Mexico, and the ruins may be of an older people than either of these.

"Near Mesa in this valley, six miles east of Tempe, is a particularly strange and impressive ruin—the ruin of an immense building, now fallen into a moundlike heap, covering an area of two acres. Its walls were of the fashion the Mexicans call *cajones*, built up compactly without layers or joints. It is believed that the material used was clay mixed with cactus juice, which hardened into a cement as durable almost as rock. The settlers in the valley come long distances to the ruin to get this material, which they use in making mortar for housebuilding, pulverizing it and then mixing it with water, as they would lime.

MRS. WAITE LEAVES HER HUSBAND.

She is a Daughter of Ex-Gov. Hoyt of Arizona, and Charges Her Husband with Cruelty.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., May 29.—Robert Waite, one of the leading business men of Adams, a handsome man and a social lion, three years ago married Miss June Hoyt, daughter of ex-Gov. Hoyt of Arizona, for several years a member of the Supreme Court of Washington, and now practising law in Seattle. On Friday Mrs. Waite, through alleged cruelty on the part of her husband, left him, and now resides with her wealthy uncle. She is a most beautiful woman, highly educated and accomplished, and a society leader. Mr. and Mrs. Waite have a boy of two years.

When she left her husband the little boy was kept by his grandparents. On Wednesday Mr. Bartlett, her uncle, drove up to Willis Waite's. The little lad was out on the lawn, and the mother leaped from her carriage, took the child and drove rapidly away.

CLUB SUES A DELINQUENT.

Colonial Collects a Bill of $88.08 by Law from Joseph P. Bickerton.

The Colonial Club obtained judgment yesterday by default for $88.08 against Joseph P. Bickerton in the City Court for club dues, café, and other charges. The defendant is a merchant and lives at 318 West Eighty-second street. The charges, aside from club dues, are as follows: 1896—Aug. 5, due restaurant, $1.50; bar, 50 cents. Aug. 7, telegram, 25 cents. Aug. 9, bar, 15 cents. Aug. 11, carriage, $3.50. Aug. 12, restaurant, $3.55; carriage, $3. Aug. 26, restaurant, $4.65; bar, $2.25. Aug. 29, restaurant, 70 cents. Aug. 31, telephone, 31 cents. Sept. 12, restaurant, 60 cents; bar, 10 cents. Sept. 13, restaurant, $1.30; bar, $1.75. Sept. 20, cigars, $1.

Lawyer J. M. Littlefield, attorney for the club, said that the club was not suing other delinquent members. He would not speak further about the matter.

CHIEF JOSEPH'S CAPTOR.

TO GEN. HOWARD THE CREDIT IS DUE, SAYS LIEUT. WOOD.

A Circumstantial Account of the Nez Perce Campaign—He Denies that Gen. Miles Was Its Hero, and that Gen. Howard Was Known as the "Bible Chief."

The visit to New York of Chief Joseph of the Nez Percé Indians on the occasion of the dedication of Gen. Grant's tomb, and his alleged refusal to ride near Gen. O. O. Howard in the parade, have stirred up a discussion among the army men who saw service in the Nez Percé campaign as to the relative credit due to Gen. Howard and to Gen. Miles for Joseph's capture. Lieut. Lovell H. Jerome, who was with Gen. Miles's command at the time of the capture, said in an interview recently that Gen. Miles alone was entitled to the credit.

"Gen. Howard," he is reported as saying, "has made a misstatement relative to Joseph's surrender. As I commanded H troop, led the charge on the Indians and was, moreover, captured and exchanged for Chief Joseph, I feel that I know whereof I speak. When Joseph was here at the Grant ceremonies I met him a number of times and talked over the whole matter with him. The fact of the case is that Gen. Howard had absolutely nothing to do with the capture of Chief Joseph. The man to whom the credit is due is Gen. Nelson A. Miles, who located Joseph's camp with the aid of his scouts, and by a series of hard marches and three days of desperate fighting finally captured the warrior. Gen. Miles, at that time Colonel of the Fifth United States Infantry, took desperate chances, and his success shows that he was justified in doing so. He had positive orders from Gen. Terry, Department Commander and President of the Sitting Bull Commission, to detach a battalion of the Second Cavalry and send it to Fort Benton to act as an escort to the Commissioners. He felt, however, that he was justified in keeping his men.

"Gen. Howard could and should have prevented the whole campaign, which cost thousands of dollars and the lives of many valuable officers and men. The Nez Percé chief and his tribe were so well off in their own country, so attached to their homes and farms, where they had actually adopted agricultural pursuits, that they would have surrendered to Gen. Howard on his first demand had he not accompanied his summons with a sinister promise that should they surrender they would be subject to the decision of a military commission to be appointed immediately.

"Gen. Howard followed the Indians. He never pursued them. The regard the Indians had for him was expressed at the Big Hole fight with Gibbon, when they said: 'What kind of an outfit is this? This can't be the Bible chief.' The same remark was made when Joseph met Gen. Miles's command."

Last week another officer who went through the Nez Percé campaign was in this city, and to a SUN reporter he gave a very different version of Chief Joseph's capture. He is Lieut. C. E. S. Wood, a West Pointer, who served with the Twenty-first Infantry until the battle of the Clearwater on July 11, 1877, when he became aide-de-camp to Gen. Howard. Mr. Wood resigned his commission in 1884, and has since practised law in Portland, Or. He passed through New York on his way home from Washington, where he appeared recently as counsel for Senator Corbett of Oregon, whose right to a seat in the Senate is in question. Although he was on Howard's staff, Mr. Wood can hardly be considered prejudiced, for in his talk with the reporter he did not hesitate to criticise Gen. Howard for his arrest of Chief Too-hool-hool-sote, and warmly praised Gen. Miles for his part in the campaign.

"The war began," said Mr. Wood, "through an absolute and positive order of the Government, through the War Department, to Gen. Howard that if the non-treaty Nez Percés, comprising the bands of Joseph and White Bird among others, did not voluntarily go on to the Lapwai reservation in Idaho he should put them on it by force of arms. Joseph, White Bird, and Joseph's brother, Ollicutt, were the important war chiefs of the tribe. Too-hool-hool-sote was the religious leader, a sort of priest chief, not being really a chief by birth or election, but through his hold on the religious fanaticism of the people. He held the theory common to Indian superstitions that the earth was the Indian's mother, and that every tribe belonged upon that portion of the mother's breast where they were born. He opposed all efforts to remove the Indians from the Imnaha and Wallowa valleys. At council after council efforts were made to persuade the Indians to give up these valleys and to go peaceably to the reservation; but Joseph and White Bird took this position: 'The valleys were ceded to us in the original treaty; afterward a supplementary treaty giving them up was signed by other chiefs, who were parties to the first treaty. The Government holds that we in the minority are bound by this, but Indians recognize no right on the part of one chief to bind another or of a majority to bind a minority. It is as if a man wanted to buy my horses and, upon my refusal to sell, he went to my neighbor and bought from him my horses, and the Government took them and turned them over to the buyer?' This was the illustration used by Joseph himself.

"At the final council, held near Lapwai, at which Gen. Howard represented the Government and the Indians were represented by Joseph, White Bird, Too-hool-hool-sote, and others, Too-hool-hool-sote addressed the Indians and exhorted them to fight rather than to go to the reservation against their will. Gen. Howard ordered that Too-hool-hool-sote be taken away to the military guardhouse and be confined for insubordination and inciting to rebellion. In this, I think, he was in error, violating the sanctity of freedom of speech in council. The upshot was that the Indians said that they would go to the reservation, and they asked for thirty days in which to make preparations. Joseph tells me that this was a genuine submission, though from the subsequent events many think it was a ruse. Joseph tells me that he and White Bird gathered their bands on the edge of the reservation preparatory to moving upon it. Tending to confirm this is the fact that they were at White Bird Cañon when the war broke out, and there was no reason for them to go there for any military purpose. Joseph tells me that he had to go across the Salmon River to kill a steer which was his personal property. While he was absent on this mission a couple of young men of the tribe got to taunting each other because of their submission to injuries on the part of the whites. Each recalled to the other that his father had been killed by the whites, and that their deaths had never been avenged. One of them said that he had put the matter into the hands of his chief.

"'Let's take it into our own hands,' said the other, and, inflamed by this discussion, five of the younger men started out and began massacring and committing outrages through the Camas Perry country.

"Joseph says that he returned and found that cause for war had been given. He knew he could not control his own people and induce them to give up murdering; besides Too-hool-hool-sote and the war party were in a great majority. Joseph was unwilling to desert his people, and in consequence of the situation he assumed the leadership of the united bands, and war began almost to a day on the expiration of the thirty days' grace. This has led to the idea that the submission was not genuine, but, personally, I believe Joseph implicitly.

"The war was attended at the outset by much of the blood-curdling cruelty that is incident to Indian warfare, but it was due to irresponsible bands away from the main command. When Joseph was present the prisoners were spared, and in two instances in the Yellowstone Park they were released and sent back to the whites. At the opening of the Lo Lo trail into the Bitter Root Valley, near Missoula, Mon., Joseph made a compact that if the settlers would allow him to pass without provoking hostilities he would respect their rights. This compact was adhered to, the only exception that I ever heard of being the taking of a few cartridges from a store without pay by some young braves.

"From these circumstances it is not apparent how Gen. Howard could have prevented the campaign, as Lieut. Jerome suggests. Aside from the arrest of Too-hool-hool-sote, Gen. Howard's express orders from the War Department to remove the Indians by force made the campaign inevitable. The statements that Gen. Howard was called the 'Bible chief,' and that his command rested and had religious ceremonies every Sunday are fictions that for a long time have been prevalent among those utterly ignorant of the facts, and, if the language were not intemperate, might best be characterized as absolute lies. The facts are that never once was a halt made on Sunday in the entire campaign, except after the battle of the Clear Water, a two days' hard fight under a July sun, in which both sides suffered severely in killed and wounded and after which the Indians began a retreat across the Lo Lo trail. The military, having pursued them to Kamia Ferry, on the Clear Water River, and into the mountains, where a skirmish took place, was obliged to halt for one day in order to arrange for the pursuit and permit the soldiers to wash themselves and their clothing and repair the damages of a two days' fight. The halt would have been made on any day of the week, but it happened to be on Sunday. There was only one other halt in the entire campaign and pursuit, made at Henry Lake for a day or two to repair the damage caused by Joseph's night attack and capture of a portion of the pack train. This was not on a Sunday. The fight at Camas Meadows, caused by this very night attack, took place on Sunday. I desire neither to extenuate nor to eulogize Gen. Howard when I say that he pays no more attention to Sunday or to religion when he is in the field than the most hardened pirate who ever held a command.

"Gen. Howard's command again overtook the Indians at Rocky Cañon, Mon. A stern chase is always a long chase, and it was admitted that he was pursuing the Indians. He pursued them with such continual forced and night marches that nothing but superior discipline kept the command from almost open mutiny. When it is considered that from July 15 to Oct. 5 Howard's command, mainly infantry, marched about 1,200 miles, crossed the Rocky Mountains twice, lived on the country, already swept bare by the Indians, and three times overtook and fought the hostiles, military critics can judge whether it was a pursuit or not. Gibbon's onslaught at the Big Hole, Mon., was a terrific blow to the Indians. In the mêlée in the early dawn men, women, and children were slaughtered, the women and children not intentionally. This side attack gave Howard's flying column additional impetus. When on Clark's Fork, Mon., I myself wrote Gen. Howard's letter of information or order to Col. Miles informing him of our whereabouts, the location of the Indians at that time, and their daily rate of march, and asking him to use every endeavor to intercept them. Miles was in a department different from Howard's, and ordinarily he would not have been under Howard's command, but Sherman, then General of the Army, had ordered him to pursue the Indians until they were driven out of the United States or captured, and placed all troops in all departments at his disposal. With the orders given to Gen. Howard any other military plan would have been hydra-headed and absurd.

"Miles, on receiving this information—and I have never heard it intimated that he acted upon any other—promptly jumped upon the trail and headed and stopped the retreating column of Indians, for which act he has always been by every one, I believe, deemed worthy of the greatest credit. Miles did not, however, send back to Howard, his superior officer, any report of this fact, which made Howard so uneasy that he took a handful of scouts and pushed ahead of his command to find out what had become of Miles. In this way he reached Miles's camp, where firing was going on in a desultory and harmless fashion, the Indians being well intrenched in pits; and here Gen. Howard, in my presence, told Col. Miles that he had given him most gallant assistance and the sort of co-operation he had longed for. He added that he didn't intend to deprive him of any of the glory and if it would help him to a star he should have the entire credit.

"Miles had captured the Indians' band of horses and set the Indians afoot, so that it was difficult for the women, children, and wounded to move, but the military cordon or circle was of necessity so open and loose that at night, under cover of the darkness, the Indians passed freely in and out. The fact is that when White Bird found that Joseph was going to surrender he took his own immediate following and joined Sitting Bull, who was but thirty or forty miles away.

"Lieut. Jerome in his little interview has talked so much of things that he knows little about that I do not want to fall into the same fault. Hitherto I have confined myself to matters within my own knowledge, and of which I believe my memory is substantially exact. I was told at this very time and in Col. Miles's camp that every effort had been made to induce Joseph to surrender, that he had come in to see Miles under a flag of truce, but had felt so well satisfied with the situation that he had refused to surrender. Emissaries had gone to Sitting Bull from Joseph, and if there had been only Miles to deal with, Joseph, with assistance from Sitting Bull, would not have been in so very desperate a situation. Moreover, I know the fact to be that when Howard arrived at Miles's camp, firing was going on and no surrender was contemplated. Then, also, it was currently stated as fact, and had not been disputed, that instead of being captured by the Indians, Lieut. Jerome without authority had gone wandering among the intrenchments of the Indians during the truce, and when he started to return to camp the Indians quietly informed him that he had better stay with them until they got Joseph back, and it was said universally at the time that Miles was furious at Jerome's placing himself in such a position without authority. These parts of the story I give only as what was said without dispute in the camp at the time. I will now return to matters within my personal knowledge.

"Gen. Howard arrived in Miles's camp in the evening, and with his slender escort were two old men, George and Capt. John, full-blooded Nez Percés, who had daughters and families with the hostiles. The morning after Howard arrived these two went to the hostile camp with a flag of truce and arranged the terms of the surrender, which, as they told us, and as seems probable, was brought about only through their assuring Joseph that Howard's entire command was but a short distance away, and that one more day would see it around him if that were necessary. I have understood from Joseph also that this was the inducement that persuaded him to surrender. However that may be, the surrender was agreed upon that day, Joseph saying in a speech, which has been many times printed and quoted, and which I took down myself:

"'Tell Gen. Howard that what he told me before, I have it in my heart. I am tired of fighting. He that led the young men to battle [Ollicutt] is dead. Too-hool-hool-sote is dead. Taut-lum-mox-mox is dead. The chiefs are all dead. It is for the young men now to say yes or no [meaning to decide matters in the council]. It is cold and we have no blankets; my people are starving to death; my little child has run away upon the prairies and I do not know where she is. Perhaps she, too, is among the dead. Hear me, my chiefs: From where the sun now stands, I will fight no more forever.'

"I have given this speech from memory. The original is in the War Department. It was made late on a wintry afternoon, the ground covered with snow, shortly before sunset. It was in effect promised to Joseph as a condition of his surrender that he should be returned to his own home in Idaho—at least I wrote as aide-de-camp to Gen. Howard his order to Col. Miles, saying, in effect: 'As it is so late in the season, you will keep securely the Indian prisoners until the mountain passes shall be clear of snow in the Spring, when you will send them under a strong guard to the Department of the Columbia' (in which the reservation was situated). The warrant for this was an order received by Gen. Howard from Gen. Sherman, directing him to care for and dispose of the Indians in his own department when captured. Perhaps it cannot technically be said to have been a hard and fast condition of the surrender, but the order as printed shows the intention and belief of all the parties. Notwithstanding this, and from what cause I do not know, probably the belief that it would be unwise and cruel to the Indians themselves to send them back where there was so much feeling against them, the prisoners were sent to the Indian Territory, and only after much supplication were returned to their native mountains, after they had been more than decimated, Joseph losing every child he had from malarial fevers.

"These, I think, can be stated, without undue arrogance, to be the exact facts, and when Lieut. Jerome departs from them he is in error. I have had much speech and intercourse with Joseph since his surrender; my son has lived in his camp and has slept in his tepee, and I profess to be fairly intimate with his thoughts on this matter. That he considered himself outraged in being taken to the Indian Territory, I know, and no one can explain the intricacies of law to him sufficiently to satisfy his mind. But that he has any contempt for the military genius of Gen. Howard, for the ardor of his pursuit and the recklessness of his fighting, I do not believe, but know to be untrue. I doubt if he knows Gen. Howard on the religious side at all, and the term 'Bible Chief,' like the Sunday school meetings that Gen. Howard was supposed to have held during the campaign, are the absolute lies of clever newspaper writers during the campaign of '77, and like most lies have a surprising vitality."

OUT FOR THE SIX-IN-HAND RECORD.

Lawson N. Fuller to Speed His Trotters for a Charitable Purpose.

Lawson N. Fuller gave his eight-horse team three or four trial spins last week and feels pretty confident now that he will be able to make the record which he has determined to try for at Fleetwood Park on June 12, namely, a mile in 3 minutes or better. The team will consist of Fleetwing and Fleetwood, two dark brown Hambletonians; Sir Walter, a roan, and Peacock, a blooded bay, both sired by old Sir Walter; Flora, a dark bay daughter of Dexter by Fuller Wilkes, and Wilkes, a black by Fuller Wilkes. The leaders will be Dexter, a magnificent black son of Fuller Wilkes, and Cricket, by Wilkes out of a blooded Virginian mare.

James McCreery, the well-known dry goods merchant, takes a great deal of interest in the proposed trial. It was Mr. McCreery who first suggested to Mr. Fuller the idea of attempting to make a record with six horses. "I hope," he said yesterday, "that this exhibition at Fleetwood will be a success. It certainly deserves to be, as it is for purely a charitable purpose. Mr. Fuller is not a sporting man in any sense of the word. He is simply a lover of horses, and a man who is always anxious to do good wherever he can. I think this offer of his is a most generous one, and deserves the support of all persons who are interested in horses, as well as of those anxious to see a worthy institution aided."

The receipts, less the expenses, will be turned over to the fund of the J. Hood Wright Memorial Hospital. Mayor Strong and Russell Sage have promised to be on hand, and will take a ride behind the six-in-hand team just before the principal event of the day takes place. The combined ages of the driver and his two passengers will be 203 years. Russell Sage, 80; Mayor Strong, 70, and Mr. Fuller, 72.

TO HONOR THE ARMY'S DEAD

WEST POINT'S BATTLE MONUMENT TO BE DEDICATED TO-MORROW.

A Shaft of Granite Erected in Memory of the Officers and Men of the Regular Army Who Fell During the Civil War—Story of the Monument—The Dedication Exercises.

WEST POINT, May 29.—Everything is ready for the dedication of the Battle Monument on Monday. The speakers' pavilion and the auditorium were completed by the carpenters on Thursday, and a decorating firm immediately took charge and finished its work this afternoon. This temporary structure cost about $5,000. It is situated on the triangular sward just south of the monument, and is something entirely new in the way of grand stands. The part for the speakers is a semi-circle with its back toward the monument, and a rostrum in front, and is constructed of finished lumber and covered. The roof is supported by turned columns. The grand stand forms a large covered amphitheatre. The whole structure was planned by a New York architect. The auditorium has twenty-one flag masts on its roof, and 1,500 wooden chairs have been placed in it and numbered. The exercises will begin at half past 11 o'clock, and will be as follows:

1. Music by the Military Academy Band.
2. Prayer by the Rev. Herbert Shipman, chaplain of the Military Academy.
3. Presentation of the monument to the United States Army by Brig.-Gen. John M. Wilson, Chief of Engineers, United States Army.
4. Acceptance by Lieut.-Gen. John M. Schofield, and presentation to the general Government.
5. Acceptance by the Secretary of War.
6. The national salute.
7. Oration by the Hon. David J. Brewer, Associate Justice of the Supreme Court of the United States.
8. Handel's "Largo" by the band.
9. Benediction by Chaplain Shipman.

The monument was erected in memory of the officers and enlisted men of the regular army who fell in battle during the civil war, by their surviving comrades, and was completed in the autumn of 1896. It bears, cast in bronze, the names of 188 officers and 2,042 men, with the following inscription on the body of the shaft:

In memory of the officers and men of the regular army of the United States who fell in battle during the war of the rebellion, this monument is erected by their surviving comrades.

The monument consists of a monolithic shaft of polished pink Milford granite, forty-six feet high, standing on a cylindrical pedestal, and bearing on a square abacus a granite sphere upon which is poised a winged figure of Fame, with trumpet and wreath. The whole stands upon a circular stylobate and stereobate of granite steps divided at regular radical intervals by eight square plinths, bearing granite spheres belted with bronze, upon which are inscribed the names of enlisted men. The names of officers are applied in bronze letters on the face of the circular pedestal. The cost of the monument was about $73,000.

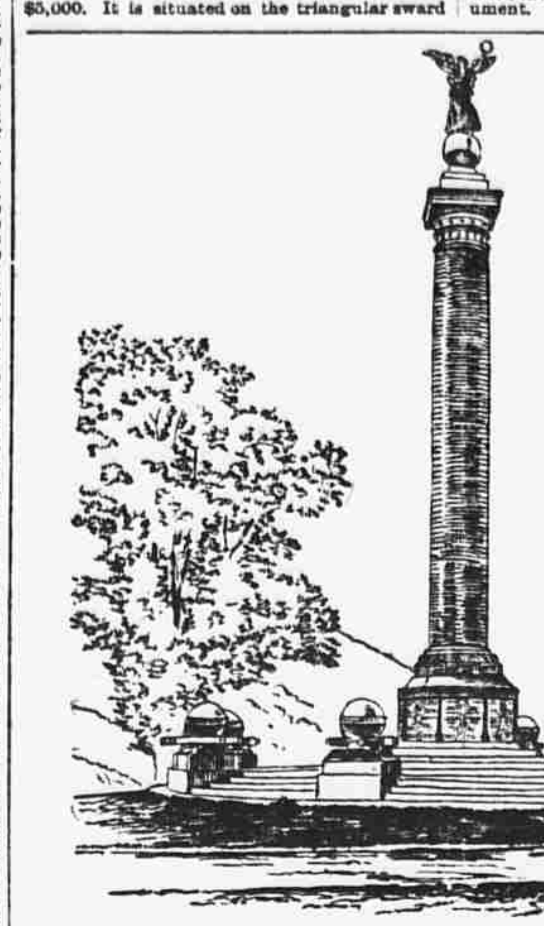
The ceremony will be the culmination of a suggestion made in 1863 by Lieut. H. C. Hasbrouck, now Lieutenant-Colonel in the Fourth Artillery, while stationed as an instructor at the Military Academy, to the effect that all officers of the regular army then in service be asked to contribute a certain percentage of the monthly pay for one month toward a fund to be used for the erection of a monument at West Point commemorative of those of the regular army who fell during the war of the rebellion. This suggestion was speedily acted upon by the formation of an organization and an executive committee; the scope of the commemoration was extended to include enlisted men, and pro rata subscriptions were solicited, with the result that a fund was collected which, under the management of the successive Treasurers, Profs. Church and Andrews, had increased to about $63,000 by 1890. Col. John M. Wilson, then Superintendent of the Military Academy, judging the time ripe for action, called a meeting of the Executive Committee on Feb. 17 of that year, for the purpose of taking preliminary steps toward inviting plans for the erection of the monument. A building committee, consisting of Profs. Peter S. Michie, Charles W. Larned, Edgar W. Bass, and James Mercur, was elected and invested with full power to prepare plans and designs, select a site and proceed with the building and dedication of the monument. Subsequently Col. John M. Wilson became, as Superintendent, ex-officio a member of the committee.

The Building Committee proceeded to draw up a form of competition and invited four leading firms of architects to enter. A committee of selection was formed by adding to the Building Committee for that purpose Augustus St. Gaudens, Richard M. Hunt, and Arthur Rotch. The award was given to the firm of McKim, Mead & White of New York, who associated with them as sculptor Frederick W. Macmonnies. In March, 1893, Col. O. H. Ernst, Corps of Engineers, was appointed Superintendent of the Military Academy, and took the place of Col. Wilson upon the Building Committee.

Owing to various delays and modifications in the original design, involving the entire remodelling and recasting of the figure of Fame and the bronze tablets, the monument was not completed until the fall of 1896.

The site was dedicated on June 15, 1864, and in connection with the ceremony there is a bit of history which has never been published. It is related by the older residents of the post. Gen. George B. McClellan was at the time the Democratic candidate for President of the United States, and had been invited by the committee to deliver the oration upon the occasion. Some time prior he had been relieved of his command in the army, and a spirit of animosity existed between him and Mr. Stanton, the Secretary of War. Col. Alexander H. Bowman was then Superintendent of the Military Academy. On the morning of the dedication Col. Bowman received a telegram from Secretary Stanton saying that Gen. McClellan must not be permitted to deliver the oration. The order was ignored, and Gen. McClellan made his speech according to arrangement. On the afternoon of that day another order came relieving Col. Bowman of his duties as Superintendent of the Academy, and Gen. Cullom, who was already on the ground, was appointed his successor and assumed command at once.

The ardor for proceeding with the erection of the monument was somewhat dampened, and the matter remained dormant until revived by Col. John M. Wilson in 1890. The interest on the funds already contributed has accumulated from year to year, until the sum aggregates nearly $75,000.



THE BATTLE MONUMENT AT WEST POINT.

CLUB'S FURNITURE STOLEN.

The Monroes Paying Dearly for the Unquenched Thirst of Their Guests.

Ever since the members of the Monroe Pleasure Club shut off the supply of beer at their annual outing two weeks ago, after only two kegs had been consumed, they have had trouble on their hands. They had sold about 500 tickets at 50 cents apiece, guaranteeing each purchaser as much beer as he or she could drink. There was a violent kick when the club treasurer walked off with the money, leaving everybody thirsty, and the next night the members of the Liberty Pleasure Club, most of whom bought tickets for the outing, came around and thrashed one member of the Monroe Club and made it lively for the others.

Now the Monroe Club has a new source of sorrow. Between 3 and 4 o'clock on Friday morning, its members say, somebody broke into the clubrooms at 27 Monroe street and stole thirty-one chairs, eight pictures, and five vases. The police of the Madison street station were notified, but no arrests have been made yet. The members of the Monroe Club think they know who the thieves are, but they say they have no information for anybody but the police.

RELEASED ON HIS PROMISE TO PAY.

Fifth Avenue Hotel's Charge of Swindling Against William Abbott Coutant Withdrawn.

William Abbott Coutant of Newburg, where he is also known as "Lord Willie," was discharged in Jefferson Market Police Court yesterday, the charge made against him by the Fifth Avenue Hotel of swindling it out of $90 having been withdrawn. Coutant was here on his wedding trip, and ran up the $90 bill in four days. He left without paying, and was arrested in Newburg on Friday on a warrant sworn out by the hotel people. His counsel said in court yesterday that Coutant had had no intention of swindling the hotel, and would pay the bill. Under this promise the charge was withdrawn.

Messrs. Havemeyer and Searles in Town.

President H. O. Havemeyer and Treasurer John E. Searles of the American Sugar Refining Company are back in town. They returned on the Congressional limited, which reached Jersey City at 9 o'clock on Friday night. The train was an unusually long one, having eight cars, and on board were many prominent men, including, besides Havemeyer and Searles, Secretary Bliss, Senator Platt, Gen. Benjamin F. Tracy, Senator Sewell of New Jersey, and ex-Postmaster Dayton.

Forged a Key to Letter Boxes.

Commissioner Shields held Herman Hoffman yesterday under $2,500 bail on a charge that he had forged a key to fit certain street letter boxes. Hoffman is a locksmith, and it is believed that he is a victim of a gang who have been robbing letter boxes in this city and vicinity for some time. Chief Post Office Inspector Ashe and Post Office Inspector Jacobs have the matter in charge, and they expect soon to make several additional arrests.

Stars and Stripes for St. Anselms.

J. H. Wall will make the presentation speech on the occasion of the giving of a large United States flag by the Veteran Zouave Association to St. Anselm's Roman Catholic Church, 152d street and Tinton avenue, on Monday afternoon. Several Grand Army posts will be present, and Father Edelbrock, the abbot of the church, has made elaborate preparations to give a hearty reception to the visitors.

MOSS SENDS FOR A BULLET.

Wants to See Whether It Fits the Pistol of a Policeman Charged with Killing a Man.

President Moss took charge of the case of Policeman Clyne of the Madison street squad yesterday as prosecuting officer. Clyne was tried before him on Wednesday on the charge of shooting Sebastian Vacaruge on May 15. The Italian was one of a band which was raising a disturbance in Rutgers slip when Clyne came along. The band scattered.

Clyne chased Vacaruge, who crept under a pile of lumber, out of sight. The policeman called to him to come out, and when he didn't obey fired a shot. There was a howl of anguish and the Italian crawled out, mortally wounded. He died in the Gouverneur Hospital. In his ante-mortem statement he told the Coroner that the policeman shot him. Clyne denied it. He said that he fired in the air.

On his trial before President Moss the bullet was not in evidence. Yesterday Mr. Moss ordered that it be procured, in order to see whether it fitted Clyne's pistol. He sent his private officer to get it, if he could, and suggested to the chief that he help in the effort. When the bullet is forthcoming the case will be taken up again.

HAS BUILT HIS OWN COFFIN.

Did It Because He Didn't Want His Friends Bothered With a Profitless Task.

COLUMBIA, S. C., May 29.—"Dr." Jim Brutus of Bennettsville, Marlboro county, has completed his coffin and stored it in his cabin, where it is used as a bench by members of his household. Dr. Jim does not hold a diploma from any medical college nor has he done any hospital floor-walking, but his art of blending the medicinal properties of herbs and roots has gained him the designation of doctor in the community. The reason the old man has made his own coffin is that he did not wish to burden his friends with the task. Dr. Jim says that coffin-making is an unprofitable business. The one he has just built is his seventy-fifth, and he has received pay for only two of them.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE BUILDING.

$439,000 Already Subscribed by a Few of the Many Members.

The fund for a building for the Chamber of Commerce amounted yesterday to $439,000, and it was said that by Tuesday, when a meeting will be held of the special building committee of the Chamber, the fund will probably aggregate $500,000, subscribed by eighty of the members. The intention is to raise more than $1,000,000. There are over 1,000 members who have not yet subscribed.

The Iron Steamers to Coney Island.

The Iron Steamboat Company began its regular summer excursions to Coney Island yesterday. The boats, seven in number, are scheduled to leave the piers at the foot of West Twenty-second street and Pier No. 1, North River, every hour during the day from 9 A. M. until 7 P. M. The steamers land at the iron piers at Coney Island, returning at frequent intervals. Last summer's prices will prevail again this year, 25 cents for excursion tickets.

Infant's Body Found in the Water.

The body of a male infant about five weeks old was found yesterday in the water off the west shore of Ward's Island, opposite 106th street. It was taken to the Morgue.

DON'T PAWN DIAMONDS.

THERE IS A GLUT OF THEM ALREADY PLEDGED.

The Pawnbrokers Have More Than They Want and Have Cut Down Their Loans on Them—One Effect of the Hard Times on Those Who Wear Jewelry—A Necklace Story.

"I'd like $125 on that ring," said a well-dressed young man to the clerk in a Park row pawnshop one day last week. He passed a spiral ring containing two very large white stones across the counter to the clerk and stood twiddling his fingers nervously, while the man went behind a screen to examine the jewels.

"Can't let you have more than $75," said the clerk courteously, when he came back.

"But I've had $125 on it already," exclaimed the young man. "The last time I put it in I got that much right here."

"Undoubtedly," said the clerk politely, "but not within a year. Shall I make out the ticket?"

"Yes, I suppose you'd better," said the customer dolefully. "I really think, though, that I ought to get more."

The clerk smiled, tossed the ring to one side, and handed out the money and the ticket. As the youth passed out into the street the clerk gave a sigh, and, turning to a friend who stood by, remarked:

"There it is again. I tell you the life of the pawnbroker's clerk has been harder during the last twelve months than it ever was before. If I hadn't long ago tired of relating it, I could have told that young man exactly why I couldn't let him have what he wanted on that ring. There isn't the slightest doubt that he got $125 on it a year ago. If I'm not mistaken, I gave it to him myself. His face is familiar, and because I know instinctively that he is a man who will come back and get that ring before his year expires, I gave him about $15 more than I would have offered had a man whose face did not impress me handed in the same stones. This business requires men who can judge strangers. You see it is advisable to let a good man have a large sum on a good article, because he will surely come back for it, and his interest will be very large. On a $100 loan the interest is $18 for six months. That is at 3 per cent. a month rate. After six months it is only 2 per cent."

"But what has that got to do with the cutting down of loans on good security?"

"I'll tell you. In the first place every reputable pawnbroker in the city is to-day loaded down with diamonds. We have more than we want. Our safes are full of them. Every day they keep coming in. For nearly two years the people have been unloading diamonds on the pawnbrokers, and what is still more remarkable they are leaving them on our hands. Now, of course, we do not allow so much on a stone that we feel is going to be left with us as we do on one that we think is going to be taken out again. It's human nature to get a thing as cheaply as you can. In our safes we have to-day stones which never found their way into a pawnshop before. Many of them are jewels of the first water and were pledged with us by people who never pawned anything before in their lives. I could show you one set of brilliants that we have here, made up in a necklace that would dazzle you. They were brought here only three months ago by a woman, about whom I know nothing, but whom I judge, from her general appearance and from the rig in which she drove up to our back door, to be prominent in society. She was badly frightened, and she had reason to be. She came in at a bad time. There was a hungry-looking crew here at the time—two women with old clothes they wanted a few cents on, and three or four of the scum of the row who had trinkets they wanted to pledge. Into the middle of this rabble the woman walked, and hauling out the necklace planked it down on the counter and huskily asked me what I would give her on it. Say, I grabbed that necklace in a fraction of a second and jumped three feet backward out of reach of anybody in front of the counter. I trembled when I realized what chances she had taken. Any one of these men would have cut a throat for a twentieth of the value of that necklace. Well, she wanted $2,000 on the diamonds. They were easily worth $10,000, yet I had to offer her $1,500. That's what I'm hired for. If she'd asked for $2,500 I should probably have given her $2,000. She took the money and went away.

"Now that's the sort of thing we've been getting for months. People who never pledged diamonds before are bringing them to pawnbrokers to raise loans. The result is, as I've said, that the pawnbrokers have more diamonds now than they care to carry, and there isn't a shop in the city where the loan rate has not been cut down on diamonds. We used to give about a third of the value of an article, consequently there is no doubt but that the ring that young man just pawned brought $125 a year ago. It's easily worth three times that amount. Yet to-day I'll bet he can't get a dollar more than I gave him, in this city, while the chances would be against his getting as much anywhere else.

"What is it all due to? Hard times, I suppose. The people of the laboring class think they are the only ones who suffer when hard times come, but the books of the pawnbroker tell a different tale. When the rich pledge their diamonds it means they're hard up, and I can assure you that they've been pawning them steadily for a year now."

MADE FLIGHTY BY OVERSTUDY.

Mabel Reed Strewed Central Park Flowers About Herself and Hugged a Policeman.

Park Policeman Sweeny saw a young woman standing in the centre of a flower bed in upper Central Park, on Friday, plucking flowers and tossing them into the air so that they fell about her. This attracted the attention of several men on the balcony of McGown's Pass Tavern, which seemed to please the girl. Sweeny told her to stop, and walked on. He was detained by the girl, who threw her arms about his neck. He tried to stop her, but she followed him so persistently that he concluded she must be insane, and took her to the Arsenal.

There it was found that she was Mabel Reed, the 17-year-old daughter of ex-Police Sergeant Reed, who lives at 556 East 150th street. Her father was notified and the girl was paroled in his custody. The Sergeant says her mind weakened under the strain of overstudy at the Normal College, and that she has been under the physician's care for six months. She was discharged by Magistrate Simms yesterday.

STOCK EXCHANGE TALK.

Movement for a Rule to Make Secret the Names of Buyers and Sellers.

A movement has been started on the Stock Exchange to influence the Governing Committee of the Exchange to adopt a rule prohibiting the publication of the names of buyers and sellers in transactions on the Exchange. There has been a good deal of dissatisfaction at times because of the way such news has been published.

The special Ticker Committee appointed to formulate a plan for the distribution of quotations after the present contracts with the Gold and Stock Telegraph Company and the New York Quotation Company expire on June 30, consists, besides President F. L. Eames, of Vice-President R. H. Thomas, F. L. Henry, J. T. Atterbury, and Rudolph Keppler.

State Teachers' Association to Meet Here.

The New York State Teachers' Association will hold its fifty-second annual meeting in this city on June 30 and July 1, 2, and 3. This is the first time that New York city has been chosen for the meeting place. It is expected that the membership rolls will contain 6,500 names by the time of the meeting, 4,000 from New York, 1,000 from Brooklyn, and 1,500 from up the State. The sessions will be held in the Normal College at Sixty-ninth street and Lexington avenue. On June 30 the city schools are to be thrown open to visiting teachers. In connection with the meeting there is to be an exhibition of the work of public schools throughout the State.

A Political Symposium in Brooklyn.

The Brooklyn Woman's Republican Union League will hold a musicale and what it calls a "Political Symposium" at the Pouch Gallery next Thursday evening. The Chairman will be the Hon. Andrew O. Perry and the speakers Henry A. Powell, Senator A. A. Wray, and the Rev. Sylvester Malone. The musical programme will be contributed by Mmes. Meysenheim, Stephenson, and Mundell and by MM. Mildenberg and Maceroy. The concert will be followed by a reception.

Croker to Camp at Richfield Springs.

Richard Croker has engaged rooms at Richfield Springs, and expects to go to that resort soon after his arrival here late in the summer. It was said yesterday that he will make Richfield Springs his residence for at least a month after his arrival, and that place will probably be the scene of many political conferences during that time.