

The Sun

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

Ohio the Centre of Interest.

The extraordinary interest that will attach to this year's campaign in Ohio is already apparent. November, 1899, will be one of the most important ever held in that State in its direct effect upon the politics of the immediate future.

Both parties recognize the fact that the enemies of the Republican policy of to-day are bound, in the nature of things, to do their utmost to impart to the result in Ohio next fall a significance unfavorable to the Administration of President McKinley, the representative and agent of the Republican and national policy.

We observe that the preliminary stages of the Ohio canvass are marked by reports of factional disturbances on both sides. Among the Republicans such opposition as ex-Mayor McKisson, for example, can muster in Cleveland is directed energetically against the regular organization in Cuyahoga county; and this is typical of the attitude of some Republicans throughout the State toward Senator Hanna's management of the party. It is chiefly, however, from Democratic sources that we hear predictions of a split in the Republican State Convention and two so-called Republican tickets in the field this year.

There is no news that Senator Hanna's hair is turning white over this prospect. The Democratic situation is enlivened by the rivalry between the Hon. JOHN J. LENZ and Mr. JOHN R. McLEAN; and by the reported efforts of the latter to start, first in the Hamilton county delegation, and then in the State Convention, a movement which shall eliminate both HANNA and free silver from contemporary Democratic politics.

From now until election day Ohio will be the centre of political interest. No wonder the Hon. JOHN SHERMAN has refused to encourage those who approached him on the subject of running for Governor. The race is likely to be a little too fast for that venerable and esteemed statesman of a by-gone period.

The Only Place for Dr. Briggs in the Episcopal Church.

One of the most interesting and attractive features of all New York is Chelsea Square. It is on the far westerly side of the town, between Ninth and Tenth avenues, and extends from Twentieth street to Twenty-first street. Chelsea Square derived its name from the village of Chelsea, one of the old-time villages on Manhattan Island, which originally comprised the district lying west of Seventh avenue and between Eighteenth street and Twenty-fifth street as they now are.

The General Theological Seminary is an old institution for New York, it having been established by the Episcopal General Convention in 1817. Instruction was begun in this city in 1819; in 1820 the institution was removed to New Haven, but two years later it returned permanently to New York and was incorporated. Other theological seminaries have been established since then by the Episcopal Church in different States, but it remains the chief and the most venerated. From it have been graduated very many of the more distinguished of the Episcopal clergy. Accordingly, its commencement, which took place on Wednesday with impressive ceremonies, was an event of ecclesiastical importance. The graduating class consisted of thirty-two. During the twenty years' incumbency of the Rev. Dr. HOFFMAN as its Dean the number of its students has increased from 86 to 154; it has been extended and improved architecturally, and about a million and a quarter of dollars has been added to its endowment, so that both its facilities and its prosperity are far greater than ever before.

The professors in this chief theological seminary of the Episcopal Church number ten; but Dr. Briggs having become a presbyter of that Church and his school of Biblical criticism having thus received its sanction, why should not recruit to its faculty for scholarship be added to the faculty of this eminent theological school? Probably an endowment sufficient for a chair to be occupied by him could be obtained from Broad Churchmen and from rich Presbyterians who resented his discipline that denomination. It does not seem consistent with his new ecclesiastical relations that he should remain a professor in a seminary devoted to instructing candidates for the Presbyterian ministry more specifically, and he is obviously unadapted to the supplementary place of assistant priest at the Pro-Cathedral in Stanton street, to which, it is said, he is to be appointed. Neither the habits of his life nor his temperament qualify him for the duties of a parish priest, more especially in that neighborhood. He is peculiarly a student, a college professor, fitted rather to instruct students than to preach to the multitude or to be for them a spiritual counselor and confessor. Apart from such a seminary he is wholly out of place; his talents and acquisitions are wasted. He has never been notable as a Presbyterian preacher and he can never be a strong or attractive force in the pulpit of the Episcopal Church. Unless his peculiar abilities and studies are utilized by him in a theological seminary like that in Chelsea Square, he will soon drop into an insignificant among its clergy which will offend his natural vanity or ambition, with the possible consequence that his position will become so far unsatisfactory to him that he will be hurried along one or the other of the paths he seems bound to pursue eventually—either into square agnosticism or into the Church of Rome.

When the Episcopal Church made Dr. Briggs a priest it took with him his whole bag and baggage of Biblical criticism, and made his doctrine its own. The implication of his ordination was that it wanted him as a teacher of that sanctioned doctrine, for his whole reputation in the religious world is purely as a scholar. He would be like a fish out of water in a parish; he is not fitted to be a Bishop, but as an instructor of theological students he is eminently valuable for a Church which sanctions his doctrine. No Church can wisely, even justifiably, employ its servants in other ways than those in which they can expend their abilities to the most effective purpose. Scholars need scholastic repose for their fullest usefulness, such scholastic repose as is found in Chelsea Square. To put them to parochial work to waste the gifts of God, for clergymen not of the scholarly temperament are far better fitted for it. The Church should use each according to the talents with which God has endowed him.

Obviously Bishop Porter could not have been anxious to ordain Dr. Briggs as a presbyter of the Episcopal Church if he had not desired to secure for his Church the benefits of the new priest's scholarship, and of course the only way to get them is to employ him in the function for which he has had a lifetime of special training. His admission to priest's orders could not have been desired by him or by the Bishop except as a means of utilizing him in the only field for which he is fitted, and the dignity of the Church demands that that should not be a Presbyterian school of divinity.

Would there be loud and general objection in the Episcopal Church to appointing Dr. Briggs a professor in its parent theological seminary? But was he not made a priest of the Church in spite of just such a protest? Manifestly there was no other person for admitting him to his holy orders than the desire to gain the advantage of his ability as an exponent of the particular school of Biblical criticism in which he had won distinction, and where else can it be utilized so effectually as in the General Theological Seminary in the scholastic and cloistered repose of Chelsea Square?

We are informed that the wages of typewriters in Boston have increased not less than 62 1/2 per cent. in the last six months. This is explained by the amount of correspondence and reports required for "the great coming international event." That correspondence and those reports sent to this office bulk considerably larger than the United States Revised Statutes, and our collection is not complete. Nor can we pretend to have mastered it. Rather has it mastered us, and has instilled a bounding purpose. If in our readers the first flush of enthusiasm is not merged in a lasting glow of veneration for the great coming international event and the men who will celebrate it to the utmost edge of human capacity, then we have labored in vain for years to inculcate reverence for the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts.

The Great Coming International Event.

For inevitably the coming great international event is the visit of the Honorable Artillery of London next year to the vineyards of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company in Boston. In the language of the Chairman of the Finance Committee, "the coming great international event strains anew the amities and patriotic emotions of the English and American people." This is the language of studied moderation. In Epernay and Rheims and Cognac there is stirring, too. During the Exposition year, Frenchmen and the visitors to France will look enviously to Boston, France, Kentucky, Meford will be stirred by the pangs of thought. It is our coming great international event. It will have serious economic consequences. Fortunately its importance will do much to soothe the sufferings. That it will be all-important, that it will transcend most things that have happened and shadow the world with olive is made clear in a protocol to which is signed the ever illustrious name of Col. SIDNEY MONTGOMERY HEDGES:

"The more announcement of the acceptance of our invitation has already caused an interest and enthusiasm in the event itself which is rapidly extending far beyond the borders of our own city and Commonwealth. The recent outbreak of friendly feeling between our respective countries, the remarkable expressions of mutual good will and fraternal interests, will make your visit here a matter of the most direct and lasting effect in still further cementing the relations of these two lands. We are desirous that the visit should be as adequately understood by our brethren in England, and that on this account the representation be as large and as commanding as is possible. Our national government has undoubtedly like the fullest assistance of the Honorable Artillery Company, and of those of whom we shall expect to be with us to extend the national welcome as the President of the United States and members of his Cabinet, while in our harbor, we expect to see a large number of our countrymen, and our countrymen, not merely to the American name, but to all Anglo-Saxons. If by the side of our President there should be one whom we hardly dare to hope will be present, yet whose presence would give our countrymen the supreme satisfaction, H. R. H. Prince of Wales, there would be presented to the world a spectacle which would be memorable in the world's history, and which would make the name and fame of these two commands illustrious forever."

The Prince is safe. To be sure, the Prince of Wales has declined his private wishes. The jealousy of the Emperor WILLIAM was roused by the prospect of meeting his uncle in virtual command of an army of veterans like the Ancients. But the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Boston needs no princes. The warrior is greater than the king.

The Committee on Reception and Entertainment asks the company to subscribe \$50,000 for expenses. This sum, we believe, is to pay for food and carfare. No estimate of the main expense is made by the committee, but the company's accommodation fund must be immense by this time. Of the duty and pleasure of subscribing the committee speaks in these feeling words:

"We present this to you as a matter of patriotic love of our country. You know how greatly interested not only our own countrymen and Englishmen were in our visit to London, but how not less interested were the other members of the Empire in looking on to see what these things might mean in the great arena of international diplomacy. The world will look on equally interested in the coming visit of the Columbia friends. It is for the highest honor of our land that we have undertaken this enterprise, shall give to the world a thoroughly adequate exhibition of the feeling which animates us, and of the strength of the relationship which binds us together. Your coming here will therefore be a patriotic act not less than a commercial one, and will thus be a part in a work of securing what may (most) prove one of the greatest events in the world's history. On this account, we hope that you will make your contribution as liberally as you can, in view of all that is involved. We want to do the thing in a handsome way. We want no liches, and nothing shoddy or half-done."

The nations of Europe will look on with the same amazement with which Paris watched the celebration of the Fall of the Bastille by a few of the Ancients, including such members of the Committee on Reception and Entertainment as Col. HEDGES, Capt. THOMAS JEFFERSON OLYS and Sergeant FREDERICK MARLBOROUGH PARKER, the commandant of Fortress Parker.

There will be no hitch. The "representatives" of the United States will more than do their duty more than handsomely. Sincere sympathy will be bestowed upon the gallant victors.

"We rely upon you," say the committee-men with just confidence, "to stand behind us and with us, that we may demonstrate to our British cousins, when they come, that though we have no Queen, no Windsor Castle, no Marlborough House, and the rest of the splendid accoutrements of a royal court, we have a large-hearted, generous-minded and patriotic people who can meet royally the needs of every occasion and still remain unmatched among the nations of the earth."

Parker House will more than make up for to waste the gifts of God, for clergymen not of the scholarly temperament are far better fitted for it. The Church should use each according to the talents with which God has endowed him.

Obviously Bishop Porter could not have been anxious to ordain Dr. Briggs as a presbyter of the Episcopal Church if he had not desired to secure for his Church the benefits of the new priest's scholarship, and of course the only way to get them is to employ him in the function for which he has had a lifetime of special training. His admission to priest's orders could not have been desired by him or by the Bishop except as a means of utilizing him in the only field for which he is fitted, and the dignity of the Church demands that that should not be a Presbyterian school of divinity.

The Custody of Cuban Arms.

Only one detail now remains to be arranged before paying the Cuban soldiers. The firm attitude of our Government has satisfied them that disarmament is unavoidable, but they wish to prescribe who shall receive and keep the arms. On this point Gen. Brooke conceded, subject to the approval of the War Department, that the depositaries should be the Alcaldes or Mayors of the municipalities; but Secretary ALBON does not consider this consecration wise, and Gen. CORNIX has been consulting with the President on the subject at Hot Springs.

In favor of Gen. Brooke's compromise it may be urged that it would be a generous and gracious removal of all that sense of humiliation which the Cubans might feel in giving up their weapons to a foreign power; while since the Mayors of the cities are subject to our military control, and can be removed by us, we practically have both them and the arms in our power.

But the War Department does not admit that there is any humiliation to consider. It rejects the idea that our custody of the Cuban arms differs from the custody of the arms which our troops deposit when paid off and discharged. The President directed that the surrender of the arms should be made to our officers, and if questions of dignity are to be raised our Government has its own authority to consider, after once having such instructions. Above all, there will not be the same security in having the arms at the disposal of the Cuban Mayors as in having them in our absolute possession. In a sudden outbreak of frenzy, or in an intrigue to establish a military dictatorship, a part of these custodians might be unfaithful to their trust, or might be forced to give up the weapons before our authorities could get to them. In short, Secretary ALBON'S view that we must have the direct custody of all collections of arms in Cuba is sound.

The attitude of our Government has been consistent throughout. Conscious of the disinterestedness of its purposes, it has gone ahead with its plans for Cuba, assuming that it deserved the confidence and grateful support of the McKinleys. If the pledges which President McKinley voluntarily made before the world a year ago were not enough, no repetition of them now would have any weight. It would be beneath the dignity of our Government to say anything more regarding its announced purpose to insure to Cuba peace, freedom and the kind of government its people desire. The costs and sacrifices of the war waged with Spain last year, after worded her to evacuate the island, and the pains we have since taken to establish order and good sanitary conditions there ought to assure the people of our good faith. Gen. GOMEZ'S last manifesto fully recognizes this, in declaring his complete confidence in our Government's honesty of purpose.

Not less clear is it that, until civil authority is reestablished, there can be but one military control in the island, and it must be ours. It must have custody, actual or virtual, of all military resources, so that no lawless combination can arm forces to oppose it. Gen. GOMEZ, as a soldier, also recognizes this necessity. "I am convinced," says his manifesto, "that a time of peace has arrived, when arms are no more necessary—that men should not be armed; and I am resolved not to oppose the power of Cuba." Whether the arms can primarily be turned over to the Alcaldes and by them forthwith to our ordinance officers is a question regarding which the good sense of the President may be trusted to announce the right decision.

Summer Cruises of the Prairie.

The daily routine prescribed for the naval militia who will take successive cruises of a week each on the Prairie is largely arranged for instruction and practice with the guns. Training, elevating and sighting these weapons, taking apart, cleaning and putting back their breech mechanism, aiming drill and sub-caliber practice are all to be carried out thoroughly. The muster and stations at the guns begin on the morning of the first day out, and the work with them goes through every day of the six, morning and afternoon.

The practical character of this programme is manifest. The State naval reserves can obtain a good deal of general knowledge and training in their shipboard or launches or elsewhere, but for the great guns they must rely on the annual cruise on the Government warship. To be a good gunner is one of the first essentials in serving on such a ship; and the season's work of the Prairie, as she comes up along the Atlantic coast taking aboard the militia of State after State, will be most valuable to the navy through this drilling of its auxiliary force.

Columbia and Shamrock.

It makes no difference now whether the lines of the Columbia and the Shamrock are known or not. The boats are built, and we must have patience until October to learn what the lines and the sails will do. We know, however, that the boat that can beat the Defender at windward work or reaching must be a craft that will start a revolution in designs scarcely less radical than the one that was begun by the HERRESHORFS.

giant sloops, and the time fixed for covering the distance was ridiculously long.

It seems to be a questionable policy to start big boats in a race when there is not enough wind to drive them more than seven miles an hour. On the day fixed for the final race between the Defender and the Valkyrie, the former went over the course alone, and on a rough took two hours to cover the distance of fifteen miles. Forexcursionists it was a sloping slight. There was nothing the matter with the boat; the trouble was with the wind. It is a mistake to sail great yachts in zephyrs. It is better that the excursionists should be disappointed than that any race should be sailed in weather in which the merits of the contestants can hardly be known, and in which both come in ahead. Shorten the time and wait for the wind.

It is worth while to take a little glance back at the past yacht races for the America's Cup. After the complete repulse, of the British schooners that crossed the water to capture the old trophy, the Englishmen sat down and began to study. They observed that we were rather weak in sloops. The little Madge was sent over as a sort of *ballon d'essai*. Her triumphs encouraged her countrymen and induced them to steal a march upon us with the Genesta; but that powerful cutter was handsomely defeated by the Puritan in light air and in half a gale. Four successors in her quest, the Galatea, Thistle, Valkyrie II, and Valkyrie III, of evil memory, were beaten in their turn. Now we are to have a battle between single-stekers still more powerful, and there is every prospect of glorious sport.

Some odd salts contend that with the modern cutters actual speed is sacrificed to extraordinary climbing into the wind. In the crucial test of sailing, a thrust to windward, sloops are, of course, more than a match for the schooners, but it is doubtful if in rolling off knots on a reach, they can make any better time than was made by the boats of long ago. The schooner Montauk still holds the record of the fastest time given by the New York Yacht Club course, and that course has been sailed over repeatedly by famous cutters and sloops of the modern pattern. Of course she had luck, all the wind she wanted and just where she wanted it all the time.

Now, if it turns out, as has already been hinted, that the Fife boat is fashioned to drive furiously through the water at some little sacrifice of ability to claw into the wind, the contest will be extremely interesting, whether HERRESHORF has aimed at the same mark or not.

At all events, as we have said, there will be fun in the fall, and Sandy Hook will be the most interesting spot on the globe.

Trust Wheels.

Some of the advantages likely to be derived by wheelmen through the formation of the Bicycle Trust, which, it is said, will control nearly the whole of the bicycle-making industry in this country, are easy to imagine. During the present year the effect of the combination upon the wheel trade will probably be little noticed by the public; the quality, pattern and price of the different machines in the market will not be affected. When the trust gets fully under way, however, it will be surprising if many of the perplexities which have beset riders in years past are not, to a large extent, removed.

The great variety of bicycles manufactured and the peculiarities, more or less distinct, possessed by each pattern, have made the task of selecting a wholly satisfactory mount by no means easy. For example, while a wheel may be acceptable as to style, weight and finish, exception may be taken to the bearings, either as regards their possibility of adjustment or their exposure to dust and dirt. A model that suits in all other particulars may be undesirable because of its crank, or its pedals, or its tubing; and one which pleases in these respects may be undesirable because the factory where it was made is hundreds of miles away, and in case any part of the machine should break, a week or two is required to replace it.

The great difference in prices of wheels said to be first class has also caused a good deal of doubt and indecision among riders. The inexperienced have necessarily been governed by hearsay in selecting their machines, and, in many instances, have been misled and have deplored their choice afterward. A fixed price for all wheels of a given grade, which may be expected to result from the trust, should do much toward settling the query. Which is the best wheel?

The interchangeability of the parts of bicycles, which is sure to be accomplished completely when they are made according to a single standard, should save both time and expense for the rider, because the parts may be procured at nearly all cycle shops. Opportunity will be afforded to manufacturers, also, to employ the profits which should accrue from economy of production on a large scale, and otherwise in improving the quality of their output and in adopting new devices for increasing comfort.

The organization of the trust was a perfectly natural outcome of the requirements of the bicycle trade, and the combination is in perfect harmony with the progressive spirit of the time.

If AQUINAS checks it up, what will become of EN ABRISOS?—Humphrey Squire.

The distinguished cook and statistician mentioned thus irreverently will never be out of our thoughts as he is already being sent on his photograph as a map of the United States.

The mental condition of the Massachusetts anti-imperialists may be judged from this remark made at a Cambridge pow-wow of Atkinsonians by Mr. HENRY D. LLOYD of Boston:

"The question is whether this country is to remain a republic or to have a king."

In his peroration Mr. LLOYD spoke of his "beautiful, young, adulated leader, WILLIAM J. BRYAN," and said that Mr. McKINLEY was "trying to boil Toryism out of himself at Hot Springs."

The Baltimore Sun is sixty-two years old—Richard Trow.

Old enough to know better.

Mr. CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS seems to have made up his mind in the case of the Philippines to be one of the crowd.—Fordyce Ford.

In other words, Mr. Adams, as becomes a man of sense, will not struggle vainly against an overpowering public sentiment. The "crowd" is the great majority of the American people. Democratic-republican self-government is government by the "crowd."

worse." He talked about the "dirty, shabby mockery of a Government we have to-day."

Still, there is hope: "Men must become so impoverished that they will finally go to the ballot box, and their representatives, driven by the pangs of hunger, will no longer allow themselves to be corrupted."

At present the national diet is too high. Mr. DONNELLY admits that only the pressure of famine will drive people to his standard.

We wonder if the Rev. Dr. CHARLES A. BRIGGS believes in JONAH now?

JOHN SHERMAN'S LOST CAREER.

Four Occasions on Which He Deliberately Rejected a Step to the Presidency.

From the Courier-Journal.

WASHINGTON, May 14.—Again John Sherman has declined to run for the office of Governor of Ohio. More frequently than Caesar refused the crown has Sherman refused the Chief Magistracy of the Commonwealth that was for so many years the Empire State of the Mississippi. Had John Sherman accepted his party's nomination for Governor in 1870, when he was offered it, he would have been the Republican candidate for President in 1880. With Hayes in the White House, with a lieutenant in the Treasury and himself in the Executive Mansion, Sherman would not have been laggard in Chicago. Blaine would have nominated him, as he did nominate Garfield, if the Ohio delegation had been true. A few days after Garfield was nominated I was sitting in the lobby of the Ebbitt House and a Grant man—a Congressman—told this story:

"Nothing in the world," he said, "is more interesting than to see Sherman nominated Tom Young, then a Congressman from one of the Cincinnati districts and a devoted follower of Sherman, burst into the room where Garfield and Charles Foster were in conference. Young blurted out: 'What's all this I hear about Garfield's getting the nomination to-day? Nothing in the world, it's nothing at all in it, we assure you, Governor,' both of them exclaimed. Young looked at them a moment with suspicion written all over his countenance, and he roared out: 'I'm glad to hear it, glad to hear it; but if they are telling such a tale on me, I'd be a damned sight madder than either of you follows seem to be,' and out he walked. Conkling could have had the nomination had he been no truer to Grant than Garfield was to Sherman."

Again the nomination for Governor was offered Sherman in 1883. Had he accepted he would have been elected, though Foraker, the Republican nominee, was defeated. Had Sherman been Governor of Ohio in 1884 he would have been nominated for President. Blaine did not want it. He took it only because Sherman could not beat Arthur in the convention. Had Sherman been Governor he would have beaten Cleveland. There would have been no Mugwump revolt if Sherman had been the nominee.

He was again urged to run for Governor in 1887. Had he done so he would have been elected, and in 1888 he, and not Ben Harrison, would have been the Republican candidate for President. He was again urged to run for Governor in the late sixties and in both the early and late seventies. He might have had the nomination in 1875 when Hayes got it and beat old Bill Allen. That election made Hayes the Republican candidate for President in 1876. Have you ever reflected upon the fact that the most successful and successful Administration since the war was that of Mr. R. Hayes, who was not elected to the office of President? It was John Sherman's Administration, and he exercised more influence over that Administration than any President has exercised over an Administration since Abraham Lincoln, always excepting Grover Cleveland.

Sherman's name has never been on the poll of a popular election since 1860—thirty-nine years ago. He was elected to Congress in 1854, in 1858, in 1868, and in 1880.

Georgia Editors Give Thanks. Thanks to Mr. J. M. Woodford for a basket of excellent cornmeal from his mill, on subscription.

From the Dublin Courier. Mr. W. A. Black last week remembered the Courier with a fine lot of turnips. Thanks.

From the Dallas Argus. The Argus is indebted to clever J. L. Randolph of Cedar Ridge for \$1 worth of palm grease.

From the Lexington Echo. Ye editor acknowledges with thanks an invitation to a picnic and spelling match of the school of Central Academy.

From the Danville Monitor. Last Sunday afternoon John G. Quinn, who is "as clever as they make 'em," invited "ye scribble" to take a drive with him, which, of course, we acceded to do. Having a nice buggy, a fine animal, a grand companion and an ideal day, it goes without saying that we had a pleasant and most enjoyable trip.

From the Tifton Gazette. In returning thanks to the thoughtful donor, we can heartily say, "may his tribe increase." The basket contained ten varieties of garden produce—lettuce, radishes, well rounded carrots, a handsome lemon, English peas, tender beans, a basket of fine strawberries, squashes, two varieties, Irish potatoes, as large as goose eggs, two varieties, and a bunch of fine onions.

A Cultured Boston Walter. THE SUN informs an inquiring correspondent that it is the height of vulgarity to tick the corner of one's napkin under one's chin at the table. Undoubtedly THE SUN'S advice is sound here. Once upon a time, an enterprising restaurateur here in Boston, and after tucking his napkin into his shirt collar, prepared to order his dinner.

"What will you have, sir," inquired the waiter, "a halibut or a shampsoop?"

Mr. Croker to Mayor Van Wyck. (N. Y.—This is strictly private.)

Mr. Mayor, we are trying to get at the influence that controls the city government.

The Mayor: The influence that rules me, sir, is Robert A. Van Wyck.

Say, Bob, You're not the only corn on the cob. Do you know You'd better go slow And pull in. Of course, before I come back And give you a smack Across the face That will knock you out of place? Once in a while enter a popular restaurant here in Boston, and after tucking his napkin into his shirt collar, prepared to order his dinner.

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NEW CUSTOM HOUSE PLANS.

Well-Known Architects in the Competition, with a Fortune as the Prize.

WASHINGTON, May 19.—The decision of Secretary Gage to give the full 5 per cent. competition to the architect who designs the new Custom House in New York City are accepted has brought into the competition some of the best known architects in the country. Previous buildings constructed under the Treasury act have paid 5 per cent. to the architect only on the first \$500,000 of cost. The Secretary Gage expressed the opinion that the architect that everything should be done to give New York as complete and as nearly perfect a structure as possible. For that reason he sought to induce the best men in the profession to enter into the competition for the design of the new Custom House. Under the plan the successful architect will receive something like \$125,000 in fees, for the limit of cost of the building, exclusive of gas and electric fixtures, is fixed at \$2,750,000.

Two or three well-known firms of architects in New York who were invited to compete were consulted by the Secretary. A number of work in their offices, but the reputation of the men who have accepted the invitation insures a building of a character worthy of the metropolis. The architects who will compete are as follows: New York—James B. Baker, Francis H. Kimball, Cady, Berg & Son, Clinton A. Russell, Robert W. Cushman & Johnson, J. B. Cobb, Cook & Willard, Carrere & Hastings, H. J. Hardenberg, McKim, Mead & White, Geo. B. Post, Bruce Price, Cass Gilbert, Trowbridge & Livingston, George Martin, Huss, and Howard, Caldwell & Morgan, Boston—Peabody & Russell, New York—H. H. Richardson & Co., Chicago—H. H. Richardson & Co., and Henry Lee Cobb.

The designs to be prepared by these architects must be delivered to the Supervising Architect of the Treasury by 2 P. M. on Sept. 18 next. This will give a little more than four months in which to do the work. The designs must be submitted in triplicate, with a rule with respect to the general appearance of the structure; that is to be left entirely to the discretion of the architect. The department does, however, establish a few requirements that must be complied with. The building must be of fireproof construction, the exterior to be of such material as each architect proposes best suited for the execution of his design, and the interior to be finished generally in the same manner as a modern first-class office building.

According to the department's instructions, the first floor must be level, or nearly level, with the ground level, and the building must be convenient of access. The lot being irregular, the building need not conform to the building line of the site. The lot is so situated that the principal architectural fronts will be on Bowling Green and State street, but consideration must be given to the fact that a large amount of the people doing business in the building will enter from the Whitehall street side.

The Supervising Architect of the Treasury says that the requirements given could probably be met in a building with six stories above the ground, but in order to cover any possible increase occasioned by the growth of the department services he adds that it is deemed desirable to design a building of seven or eight stories, as the designer may desire and the limit of cost may permit.

The various designs submitted will be passed upon by a commission consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury and two architects or experts in the construction of buildings. The selection of one of the designs by the Secretary of the Treasury and its subsequent approval by him, the Secretary of the Interior and the Postmaster-General is, under the regulations of the department, final and conclusive, and will settle the contract for the building. It is probable that the award is made. The department believes that it will require five years to construct the building.

THE PRESBYTERIAN SPLIT.

Herick Johnson's "Rider" Keeps the Branch Open, in Southern Opinion.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The editorial in THE SUN of this morning on the continued division of the Presbyterian Church, and the meeting to-day of the General Assembly at Lynchburg, the Northern at Minneapolis, the Southern at Richmond, recall a statement made by the Rev. Dr. R. Q. Mallard, senior editor of the Southern Presbyterian, the leading organ of the Southern Church, published in New Orleans. Stripped of ecclesiastical verbiage the case as presented by the Rev. Dr. Mallard is that the Northern of the two branches of the Church is hopeless.

The colored Church is not the chief obstacle in the way of reunion. At the outset of the war the Northern Assembly passed a paper known as the Spring resolutions. The author of this paper was the Rev. Dr. Gardner Spring, then pastor of the "Brick Church" of New York. The paper affirmed, in effect, that the supreme sovereignty under our form of Government resided in any Federal Administration in power at Washington.

The Confederate Government was organized at this time. The Southern Presbyterian Church organized the Conference at Lynchburg. Under the Spring resolutions the Southern Church rebelled; it quoted Paul's injunction about "obedience to the powers that be," even though the powers were the Confederate Government. The Southern branch withdrew from the Northern branch, thereby recognizing the Confederate Government as the true government of the state of the country and loyalty to the Government "that stands as an act of the National Assembly. It is the opinion of Dr. Mallard, therefore, that no coalition until that act is extinguished.

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