PRISON LABOR.

The Necessity for Abolishing the Present Contract System—Its Insufficiency as a Source of Revenue to the State—Let the State Employ Its Own Convicts—Clinton Prison as an Example of Reform—Sing Sing a Failure—The Prison Association.

The question as to whether the present system of convict labor labres to the benefit of the State or to the interest of individual contractors may be safely assumed from the most recent statistics as being a positive loss to the former and profitable only to the latter and those most nearly concerned in the perpetuation of the contract system. It was started, no doubt, with the best possible intentions and designed as a source of prosperous revenue to the State and of industrial amelioration to the convict. That it has failed in the scope of its organization cannot be denied, while at the same time it is hardly fair to measure it by the harsh and unyielding standard of judgment that has been lately brought to bear on the subject in particular and influential quarters here and elsewhere. Enough is already proven to make it evident that when the State, dispensing with the medium of contractors, contrives to secure a fuller compensation for the labor of the convicts in such branches of industry as cannot be said to bring prison labor into injurious competition with the product of honest toil the penitentiaries of the State will be rendered self-sustaining and the *morale* of the prisoners improved in many ways.

THE CONTRACT SYSTEM

means the letting at a fixed sum per day for a limited period the labor of convicts to certain persons called contractors. It is the duty of the agent and warden of the prison to advertise when necessary for sealed proposals for a certain number of men to be employed by contractors, say for five years, at a particular occupation. The State furnishes on its part the shops and the means for heating them, together with keepers to control the men. The contractor provides materials, machinery, with the means of propulsion and citizens as instructors of the convicts in the different branches of business in which they are employed. In some instances citizen contractors are introduced into the prison by the contractors to aid in some portion of the work.

THEORIES PRO AND CON.

The arguments for and against the system are numerous enough to be tedious in the recital. A plausible one in favor of the inexpediency of the State to manage the labor of its convicts is that it would be an imposition upon the warden the double duties of carrying on prison industries and conducting the discipline; while, on the other hand, the introduction into the institution of an independent superintendent of industries might lead to an unseemly and injurious conflict between persons having in some respects co-ordinate power. The State, too, it may be claimed in this way comes into the labor market as producer, and thus contends with its own citizens, reducing by its competition the profits of their labor, and perhaps in some instances by forced sales artificially depressing the price of manufactures. Men familiar with political economy may also urge that the State is but a poor promoter of finance; that its productive methods are expensive and its whole management of industries inefficient. Against these considerations we hear it advanced that it is not a question whether the State shall engage productive labor, which it is at liberty to decline, but rather a problem of how a master shall occupy the time of servants whom he is obliged to employ. It may be likened to the case of an unwilling slave proprietor, who has persons on his hands who must be employed, whom he would gladly discharge now, who must be discharged at a future day, and whose instruction and education in morals necessary to their coming freedom he must care for as well as his own profit. It is impossible for such a proprietor to consider the financial question alone. He must regard all the other questions which present them selves with an eye to the best good of his employer and to the welfare of society on whom they are soon to be cast, as well as to his own pecuniary advantage.

HOW THE STATE IS LIABLE TO SUFFER.

The kind of losses which the State is liable to from the contract system are supposed to be derived from these sources:—The power of the contractor to exact a low rate of wages for the men that he hires or other favorable conditions in the contract, reclamations on his part for real or exaggerated claims for damages occasioned through the alleged action of the State, bad debts and cancellation of contracts; corruption of keepers, sale to the State at an enormous price of his property or rights under a contract, overwork and its effects, and finally, want of classification among convicts.

PERNICIOUS EFFECTS OF THE CONTRACT SYSTEM.

It is contended by those who oppose the contract system that unusually and improperly favorable clauses are sometimes inserted in the contract, and that the mode in which the labor of the men is obtained at too low a rate is either by combination among the contractors themselves or else by favoritism on the part of the State officers. This, of course, cannot help being a serious drawback to the healthful working of the labor system in the penitentiaries; but that it is accompanied by other features which help the verdict of condemnation the inspectors themselves have frequently admitted. Three leading and serious objections are that it brings in contact with the men a class of persons, such as hired help, teamsters and foremen, as well as contractors, whose interests are not at all in common with those of either the convict or the State, and whose influence is destructive of the effect of all primitive rules and reformatory discipline. The evidence that it is financially a failure we have in every year's report of the inspectors. The mechanics of the State believe it to be antagonistic to their interests for very obvious reasons. The evil effects on discipline are too palpable to need discussion. While contractors have grown rich beyond their most sanguine dreams of avarice, the prisons have never been self-sustaining. Investigations of a long, careful and accurate character demonstrate that while the contractor receives two-thirds the State gets but one-third of the convict's labor.

CLINTON PRISON.

This is one of the prisons where the contract system has been abolished, and the results have been gratifying in the highest degree. Prior to 1865 it was managed upon the system of which we have been speaking, and it returned an annual deficit of $30,000. It has been conducted since that time upon the principle of "State employ," and the four years show a net profit of over $25,000 each year, being a very considerable difference in the aggregate for the quadrennial period. There has been an average per month of over 500 convicts, about two-thirds of whom are employed in the various branches of the manufacture of iron and nails, the remainder being occupied as shoemakers, tailors, cooks, waiters, &c. This prison is located at Dannemora, sixteen miles from Plattsburg. It was established in 1844, and covers an area of thirty-seven acres, together with having woodlands, from which to get its supply of charcoal, of 17,500 acres. The real and personal property is valued at a trifle over a million dollars. It is pleasantly and healthfully located, has a prison dormitory 500 feet long by fifty wide, containing 514 cells. The kitchen, dining hall and storeroom are in the first story; the chapel, guardhouse and armory in the second, and the hospital in the third story. The manufacturing department, where vast quantities of nails are turned out, is as well ordered and regular an establishment of the sort as there is in the country.

The different buildings scattered over the grounds and surrounded by a primitive looking stockade are a forge shop, engine room and coal house, coal kilns, rolling mill, machine and carpenter shops and ore separator. There is a train railroad and a plank road over the mountains to the coal kilns and woodlands. The consumption of charcoal last year was nearly 1,000,000 bushels. There are two mines of iron ore—Hall mine and Thomas & Watson mine. The results of the iron and nail manufacturing for 1868 were not so satisfactory as they have been for the past year; but there was sufficient to show that the State in employing its convicts acted well and wisely. In 1868 the finances were in an unsettled condition, producing a decline in the nail market and causing manufacturers to dispose of their products at greatly reduced figures. On this account many large manufactories suspended operations during a portion of the year, taking advantage of an expedient to reduce expenses that cannot be resorted to by the State in such an emergency, as the labor employed being convict labor, and the officers and foremen engaged by the year, the expenses are continuous whether the men are idle or employed.

Mr. John Parkhurst, Agent and Warden of Clinton Prison, put it on record as his opinion after careful and well considered attention to the subject, that the deficiency shown in the exhibit of 1868 was by no means a conclusive argument against the feasibility of rendering the prison self-sustaining under the present system. Allowance must be made for this undertaking as much as for that of any of a private nature. Large investments had to be made in machinery, at a time, too, when prices were high and trade depressed. Considering all the circumstances, perhaps no enterprise of a similar character has exhibited such gratifying results or such a fair and satisfying prospect that in the future, when all the working material of the prison is paid for, the revenue will be enough to sustain itself and perhaps make up for all the deficiencies which the other penitentiaries worked under a different management annually exhibit.

AUBURN PRISON

is pretty generally known as the oldest in the State, and is located in the city of Auburn. It was established in 1817, and is known in most civilized countries as the institution where Captain Lynds first established the "congregate" system of prison management. The appearance and location of the prison are very fine, and in the gray and massive architecture of its main buildings, the arrangement of shops and grounds and the towering altitude of its walls very fully satisfies the popular ideal of a prison. The real and personal estate is valued at about three-quarters of a million. Average number of convicts for the year, 950, whose occupations were as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, laborers, cooks, &c. The north wing of the prison contains 550 cells, the south extension 342, and the new extension 300. There is a shop where sashes and blinds are manufactured, stool shop, shoe, hame, cabinet, reaper and mower, foundry and axle shop. In this institution the contract system of employing convict labor receives its best development. The convicts come almost wholly from the rural districts and are generally able bodied and accustomed to labor. It is readily observed, too, that discipline is more easily maintained, and contractors assert that the labor is worth twenty per cent more than at Sing Sing Prison, but for the last twenty years it has shown an average annual deficit. Those best informed say that under faithful, economic management and with just compensation for labor this prison should be not alone self-sustaining, but in a position to furnish a revenue to the State. It has already the reputation of being able to feed its inmates cheaper than any other institution of a similar kind. Auburn Prison, placed upon the same footing as Clinton, might perhaps be more objectionable from the standpoint of outside honest industry, as its various manufactures are of a much more domestic nature than those of the other, as, for instance, shoes and boots and clothes, which come far more directly into competition with the every day labor of our mechanics than the wrought iron productions of the Clinton factories.

A GOOD REVENUE FOR THE STATE

can be obtained from both the marble quarries and the lime kilns of Sing Sing. Now, the quarries, which by the way are of vast extent and exceedingly valuable in point of material, if properly managed by the State—as they are its property—must unquestionably become a source of splendid revenue. It is generally admitted that the quality of the stone is very superior, while the supply is said to be almost inexhaustible. It has furnished the material for the building of some of the new banks and insurance companies of this city, and there is every reason to believe that the demand will be increased. At present perhaps the largest quantity for building purposes does not come from Sing Sing, but if the authorities take proper heed—look to the matter for the benefit of the State—Sing Sing will undoubtedly be able to supply marble in such immense quantities that will render the State Prison not only independent so far as its self-sustaining powers are concerned, but make it the great source of an important revenue to the State. As to the lime kilns it is easily to be observed that the receipts from those works are much in excess of the expenditures. It is also apparent that, taken out of the hands of a self-interested, grasping contractor and placed solely under the control of the State, those lime kilns will redound most creditably to its advantages. Surely it is the desire of all faithful legislators to enrich the State they represent, and no source should be left undiscovered. Although the outlay is comparatively insignificant as compared with the receipts, they would have been much greater had more men been employed and the additional kilns, some time since commenced to be built, been finished. The facts speak for themselves. First of all, according to the inspector's report, the total cost of a kiln does not exceed $6,000. When the present arrangements are perfected probably 1,600 barrels of lime will be burned every day, the profit on each one sold being one dollar. During the year 250 men have been at work; but the encouragement has been so great and the prospects so good that the number will shortly be doubled. Indeed there is every hope that a vast mine of wealth has here been discovered, and if properly worked it will most assuredly repay even ordinary attention on the part of the State authorities, while the State itself will be considerably enriched thereby. It is plain, therefore, that contractors can no longer retain to themselves a great source of riches that properly belongs to and ought to be taken advantage of by the State itself. Since the 1st of July, 1868, the quarries of Sing Sing have been worked directly for the State. Previous to that time 100 men were employed on them by contract. The average monthly earnings were then $1,000. Under the altered system 125 able-bodied men and a squad of invalids have earned $6,000 per month, and this result, it is believed, is capable of large increase.

SING SING,

as everybody knows, is situate on the east bank of the Hudson, and is distant from New York about thirty-two miles. The male prison was established in 1825 and the female prison ten years afterwards. The area of the prison ground covers nearly seventy-eight acres, the real and personal estate being valued at about $1,000,000. Number of convicts last year 1,370, whose occupations were principally upon contracts for individuals making chairs, opening quarries, which produce building marble, lime fluxion and marble dust. The men are also employed as tailors, shoemakers, carpenters, laborers, cooks, &c., while the females are generally employed in making and repairing convict clothing and general help. There are cabinet, malleable iron, shoe, saddlery, hardware and chain shops; marble dust mill, lime store house and other like concerns throughout the grounds. The male prison contains 1,191 cells, in six tiers, and that of the female prison 117.

THE DEBIT AND CREDIT ACCOUNTS

are interesting in their way. It appears that the total cost of maintaining the prison for the past year was $377,152 55. Compared with the earnings of the institution it seems large, but otherwise shows a decrease of expenditure. It is confidently hoped, however, that it will not be long before Sing Sing becomes a self-sustaining establishment. The cost of maintenance is divided as follows, according to the inspector's report:—Male department, $351,082 57; female department, $26,069 98. The total receipts were $264,153 08—from the male department, $260,099 12; female department, $4,053 96, leaving a deficiency of $108,999 47 to be provided for by the State. Last year the total expenditures were $327,359 92 and the receipts $180,929 34, leaving a deficiency to be provided for of $146,530 58. The cost to the State of the prison for the past year is thus shown to be $37,551 11 less than for the preceding year. During the year the average cost of supporting each convict for rations only was as follows:—For males, 17 8-10 cents per day, or $5 43½ for the month; females, 27 2-10 cents per day, or $7 78 per month. Including all items, per day:—Male, 73 5-10 cents per day, or $22 32 per month; female, 54 cents per day, or $16 53 per month. Looking at the debit account it is found that the items from which the foregoing statement is made are as follows:—In the male prison—Rations, $82,843; officers' salaries, $90,929 53; clothing and bedding, $31,796 21; miscellaneous, $39,592 51; oil and fuel, $14,124 33; building and repairs, $10,893 83; hospital, $3,243 12; discharged convicts, $1,947 74; grain and feed, $2,606 82; stationery, $1,974 20; furniture, $1,152 43; marble and lime works, $57,939 76; chain works, $12,139 09; total, $351,082 57. In the female department—Officers' salaries, $8,633 67; general support, $17,436 31; total, $26,069 98. The prison, on the other hand, made the following earnings:—Contract earnings, $66,976 75; miscellaneous, $33,653 75; United States convict board, $4,915 40; military convict board, $1,223 17; convicts' deposits, $6,463 07; visitors' funds, $421 50; confiscated funds, $62 82; Westchester marble and lime works, $123,014; Westchester chain works, $22,378 66; total, $264,099 12. The contract earnings are from the following sources:—Shoes, $27,524 95; cabinet, $6,585 45; saddlery, hardware and harness, $23,112 50; and malleable iron, $9,538 40; total, $66,976 75. In the female prison the receipts from contract work were $4,053 96. It is of course to be regretted that the chain works have stopped, having proved a failure, while, in order to carry on the business heretofore, the State has been called upon to make up a deficiency of $27,092.

SING SING VS. THE PRISON ASSOCIATION.

Those in whose hands have been placed the governmental affairs of Sing Sing Prison are at present very indignant at the inaccuracies which they allege abound in the lately adopted report of the New York Prison Association, a synopsis of which appeared in the HERALD of Wednesday, 29th December last. In view of the statements hereinafter alluded to it is difficult to conceive how the New York Prison Association, with its facilities for obtaining correct information, could compile matter in its report which, it is charged, is at variance with many existing features in the prison management. The philanthropic spirit which actuates the members of the association alluded to is deserving of the highest commendation; but there is no doubt that in some features its excess of humanity misleads its better judgment. It is but just that those who have charge of the largest penal institution of the Empire State should not suffer from misrepresentation, especially where their reputation is most nearly and delicately concerned; yet, nevertheless, so excellent a body of men as compose the New York Prison Association could not otherwise than inadvertently commit the errors which the authorities of Sing Sing seek to correct.

THE ALLEGED INACCURACIES

said to be contained in the report before referred to, and pointed out by the officials, at Sing Sing Prison, are, first, the assertion that "there is not a single library in any prison in the State and very few books," while it appears that in the prison named there is a library containing more that 4,000 volumes, under the direct control of the chaplain. To this collection additions are being constantly made from appropriations already authorized by the Legislature for that purpose, and expended at the discretion of the agent and warden.

Again, with reference to those employed as teachers in the prison, it is made to appear in the report that these individually receive, for "104 hours' time and labor, $14 50 per hour, or $1,500 per annum." The existing facts in this case are that four teachers are employed in the male prison and one in the female department. The duties of the former comprise teaching for two hours every night, except those of Saturday and Sunday, and they receive as compensation $500 per annum. For similar duties the female teacher draws a salary of $200 per annum. Should any time be lost by the teachers it is carefully noted in the clerk's office and a proportionate deduction made from their salaries.

The contract system is made the subject of severe denunciation, being characterized as "one of the greatest swindles that was ever foisted upon the State." It is charged in the report that it is optional with convicts who work for contractors to do little or much for them, and usually exact sums of money for their labor, and with this they procure "luxuries, immoral pictures and literature from the prison authorities." Now, it ought to be known to the Prison Association that in contract work every convict has his task laid out, and this he is compelled to perform; should he do more than is allotted to him he is allowed for it by the contractor, and this money, instead of being given to the convict, is deposited monthly by the contractor with the agent to the credit of the convict entitled thereto, and under no circumstances are the men allowed to receive any portion of the money until discharged from the prison, at which time they draw, with the principal, interest at the rate of six per cent per annum.

It is also stated in the report, in connection with "a burglar who has been sentenced to seven years each upon two indictments," that the authorities do not know whether to accord to him the commutation at once upon fourteen years or upon each separate term of sentence. This man, who is named Hiram Thomas, has nearly completed his two terms of seven years each for the crime of arson, and were he allowed commutation upon the full period of fourteen years—namely, three years and five months—he would now be discharged. The agent, however, at a recent interview with the highest authority in the State, was advised that the man's commutation, as the statute at present exists, must be awarded on his two abstract terms of imprisonment, which is for seven years fixed at one year and three months, and thus the present law deprives him of eleven months' commutation of sentence for good conduct. In any event it is only upon a warrant from the Governor that a man whose time has been commuted for good behavior can be discharged from the prison.

That the financial condition of the prison is improving it will only be necessary to mention the fact that the annual report for the year ending September 30, 1869, which has already been forwarded to the State Prison Inspectors, shows a gain to the State of $41,000 over the figures of the preceding year.

"WHAT THE PRISON ASSOCIATION SAYS."

In discussing the contract system in its various bearings the New York Prison Association declares that cases are continually arising where, for some real or fancied injury, the contractor lays claim to damages. For the most part these claims are exaggerated; at other times they are no doubt just. In either case, if the State pays, the pecuniary loss is fairly attributable to the contract system. The misfortune is that by force of the contract the State binds and fetters itself. Should its views of public policy change and the contract be abrogated it must pay damages. In many of these cases, had the State itself employed the convicts, there would have been no loss, but a simple change of labor from one branch of business to another. Alluding to a printing contract for 1868 they say that after the inspectors had entered into the contract much public dissatisfaction arose that convicts should be employed in this business, owing to an apprehension that the compensation of printers might be reduced. These views prevailed with the Legislature and the contract was nullified. The contractors set up a claim for $75,000 damages—claiming that the men whom they hired for a few cents per day were worth several dollars. Had the State managed the industries there would have been but a transfer from one department of labor to another, with such slight loss as might follow upon a sale of materials.

Further on they contend that when the inspectors have made a contract with which they are dissatisfied and which is not prohibited by law their only recourse is to buy out the interest of the contractor. He then sets his price extremely high; and the men whom a little while before he considered worthless and of no account now become most valuable workmen, and his views of prospective profits kindle his imagination. He is determined—the inspectors are indifferent; he is prompted by self-interest—the inspectors have a languid sentiment for the public good. The stronger party wins, and the contract is sold at enormous rates.

They also argue that it is plain that the self-interest of the contractor will often be opposed, in particular instances, to the discipline of the institution and the highest good of the convict. If the contractor is a man of determination he adopts the one or the other of two courses; he either drives away the keeper who resists him or resorts to the more quiet process of corrupting him. How much of this is done it is impossible to say. Testimony on such a point is not easily accessible. There is enough evidence, however, to show that it exists.

In speaking of the political influence at work in the prisons there is force in the following:—Inspectors naturally regard their position as a prize gained in an exciting political contest instead of considering it as a sacred trust. To them the appointment of warden and keepers is a source of political power rather than the means of promoting the interest of the prisons and prisoners. The financial returns to the State are secondary to the advantages which will accrue to themselves. Officers are thus selected without regard to their fitness or administrative ability, but on party or personal grounds. We do not assert that all inspectors are governed by such considerations; but the tendency of the system is in this direction, and the results pointed out do frequently and indeed constantly occur.

The influence thus operating on the inspectors is communicated to all the officers, through the uncertainty of official tenure. Every officer holds his position at the mere pleasure of a majority of the inspectors. As there are but three inspectors, the majority shifts from side to side almost year by year. This state of things operates injuriously in many ways. It prevents the growth in the warden of the spirit of self-respect and of independent action. His office hangs upon the slender thread of the inspectors' pleasure, or, what is more variable still, the political ascendancy of this party or that. Instant removal may follow the least dissatisfaction, and it is certain to follow every turn in the political wheel. No charges need be made, no reasons given; the order of removal itself is all-sufficient. The interest of officers under such a state of things can be but slight. The salary is low, and but little administrative ability can be fairly expected. Men having such qualities would not naturally be thought of, or if they were could not in general be procured. If they were procured they would have little or no field for the display of their talents. The inferior officers are in many instances notoriously unworthy of their positions.

The following tables will show the contracts at Sing Sing Prison for the years 1869 and 1870, the earnings of the Westchester Marble and Lime Works for the year ending September 30, 1869, and the former occupations of the prisoners in the prison:—

CONTRACTS AT SING SING PRISON.

Contract.	*Term.*	*Contractors.*	*No. of Convicts.*	*Price per Day.*
Mail'e iron.	3 months.	J. G. Johnson & Co.	60	40 cents.
Shoe.....	5 years.	Bigelow & Trask.	150	40 cents.
Shoe.....	1 year...	George L. Trask.	100	40 cents.
Shoe.....	9 months.	George L. Trask.	50	40 cents.
Cabinet....	1 year...	C. H. Woodruff..	120	40 cents.
Sad'y h'w'e	1 year...	Peter Hayden....	150	50 cents.

EARNINGS OF WESTCHESTER MARBLE AND LIME WORKS.

Total amount of sales.....	$102,548	
Cost of excavating cut to quarry.....	5,875	
Cost of construction and kiln.....	2,331	
Labor for male prison.....	1,111	
New tools made on works.....	183	
Stock on hand.....	17,164	
		$128,614

EXPENDITURES.

Total amount disbursed.....	$57,223	
Stock on hand October 1, 1868.....	9,759	
Debts due.....	5,956	
		73,638
Earnings over expenditures.....		$55,360

FORMER OCCUPATIONS OF PRISONERS.

Bakers.....	8	Engineers.....	5	Pedlers.....	3
Barbers.....	6	Expressmen.....	4	Physician.....	1
Bartenders.....	7	Farmers.....	27	Plumbers.....	2
Blacksmiths.....	9	Firemen.....	6	Porters.....	5
Boiler makers...	4	Gardeners.....	2	Quarrymen.....	6
Bookbinders....	4	Gaslitters.....	3	Ropemaker.....	1
Bookkeepers....	12	Glassblower....	1	Sash and blind makers.....	2
Bricklayers.....	5	Grainers and varnishers.....	2	Sailmakers.....	2
Burnishers.....	3	Goldbeaters.....	2	Sailors.....	10
Butchers.....	21	Hackmen.....	7	Servants.....	4
Cabinet makers.	8	Hatters.....	4	Shipcarpenters..	3
Carpenters.....	26	Harness makers.	2	Sparmaker.....	1
Cartmen.....	11	Hotel keepers....	3	School teacher..	1
Carriage trimmers.....	2	Hostlers.....	7	Silversmith.....	1
Calkers	2	Iron forgers.....	3	Shoemakers.....	22
Chairmakers	3	Jewellers	2	Soldiers.....	2
Carpet weaver..	1	Laborers.....	91	Stewards.....	3
Cigar makers...	2	Lathers.....	3	Stovemoulder....	1
Clerks.....	34	Lithographer	1	Stonecutters.....	4
Conductors, railroad.....	2	Lawyer	1	Tanners.....	10
Coachmaker...	1	Marble cutters...	5	Tailors.....	3
Cooks.....	9	Machinists.....	18	Teamster.....	1
Coopers.....	4	Merchants.....	6	Tinsmith	1
Coppersmiths....	2	Moulders.....	5	Truckmaker ...	1
Dentist.....	1	Musicians.....	2	Upholsterers....	2
Distiller.....	1	No calling.....	8	Waiters	7
Druggists.....	2	Painters.....	13	Washmaker.....	1
		Printers.....	5	Wirewaiver.....	1
Total.....					525

THE KING OF CLUBBERS.

A Policeman Held to Bail for Brutally Beating a Citizen.

Michael Lynch, a liquor dealer, residing at 95 Tenth avenue, corner of Sixteenth street, appeared before Justice Shandley, at Jefferson Market Police Court, yesterday morning, and made application for a warrant for the arrest of officer Henry B. Coy, attached to the Sixteenth precinct police, charging him with assault and battery. It appears that on Wednesday morning, about four o'clock, Lynch went into a saloon at the corner of Twenty-second street and Eighth avenue for the purpose of getting a stew, and there met a friend, a policeman, whom he asked to indulge with him. While they were in the saloon Coy came, in dressed in full uniform and commenced abusing him on account of a previous charge he had made against him before the Board of Police Commissioners, calling him a son of a ——, and threatening to "put a head on him," stating he was a pretty sucker to make a charge against any person. After abusing him some time he threw off his coat and belt, struck him in the face, knocking him down, beating and kicking him in a brutal manner. Fearing he would be killed Lynch pretended to have swooned, when Coy put on his coat and prepared to leave the saloon, exclaiming, "Keep the son of a —— in there until I get away."

The two men in charge of the saloon, after Coy's exit, locked the door and prevented Lynch from going out. He finally succeeded in gaining the pavement, when he met a policeman and demanded of him to arrest the parties in the saloon, but the officer refused to entertain his complaint. At this stage of the proceedings Coy again made his appearance and began abusing Lynch, threatening to put a "head on him" and kill him if he did not move on and get away. He then requested Coy to arrest the men, when he seized hold of him and dragged him two blocks away from the station house, threatening to kill him if he did not get away.

Nearly blinded and insensible from the effects of the beating at the hands of Coy, he made his way to the station house and claimed protection from the sergeant in command; and while waiting Coy again made his appearance and attempted to beat him in the station house. The sergeant detailed an officer to accompany him home, where he lay confined to his bed for three days.

A warrant was issued and placed in the hands of officer Kelly, of the Court squad, and the pugnacious "cop" was yesterday afternoon arraigned, and gave bonds in the sum of $500 to appear at the Special Sessions and answer the charge.

Mrs. Lynch on Saturday afternoon preferred a complaint against Coy before the Board of Police Commissioners.

SPECIAL POLITICAL NOTES.

Claimed as an aching "void"—The vote for Police Commissioner Hank Smith for Supervisor.

Called for—Charles O'Conor's opinion on rescinding the ratification of the fifteenth amendment by New Jersey and New York.

Still in demand—Federal bayonets in Texas.

Getting settled and becoming landholders—The blacks in Georgia, just as an army of radical locusts is invading the State to arouse them to fresh acts of violence against the whites.

From bad to worse—Western papers dropping politics and taking up Mrs. Stowe's self-defence.

Know nothing policy—Ben Hill, of Georgia, advises the people of that State to "do nothing—say nothing," in their present difficulties. But "acts speak louder than words."

A naughty subject—The Mormon knot. How to unravel it without the aid of the sword of an Alexander is a puzzle.

Bad for Georgia.—A Georgia paper says carpet-baggers, scalawags and the devil are to hold high carnival in that State for a year or two. The mischief has been to pay there for a long, long time. When will that pitch be hot?

Unpopular among the carpet-baggers—Governor Alcorn, of Mississippi. "So the farmer sows his seed."

Locusts migrating—Carpet-baggers from Mississippi to the new placer in Georgia.

The St. Louis *Republican* predicts that the Missouri test oath case will be decided before the first of February. Then there will be one bother out of the way.

Cry of Stop Thief—The cry of the radicals that the democratic leaders in this State are working to effect a split among them by establishing a second Republican General Committee.

The Savannah *Republican* comes to the defence of General Terry, now military ruler of Georgia. It exhorts them not to be too hasty in the condemnation of the General. Satan is not always so black as he is painted.

It is expected that Nebraska will ratify the fifteenth amendment, at an extra session of the Legislature, between the 10th and 20th of February.

Missouri having re-ratified the constitutional amendment, the question is mooted as to whether she can be counted twice in favor of the provision as against New York's one vote in unratifying it. It's a ratting piece of business all round.

Missouri on universal suffrage and universal amnesty. Aye! aye!

The Nashville *Republican Banner* says the Tennessee Senate lacked one of a "quorum" the day before. Is it fair to assume that the Senators lacked supplying themselves, under the rule, with the article specified in the last syllable of the word quoted? Shades of old Robinson county no doubt forbade it.

The Missouri radicals are said to have up hill work. The State organ declares that the party is busily engaged in putting things in order so that it shan't split—"Just as a good teamster looks to his harness before he reaches a steep hill."

A Western radical organ calls the New York democrats Dogberrys, because they have rescinded the resolution ratifying the fifteenth amendment. It is a question about those days, which party deserves the credit of being called Dogberrys, or of being written down asses. The radicals are in a muddle and the democrats are becoming crotchety. The same paper expresses the belief that before February closes twenty-eight States will have ratified the amendment, making the requisite constitutional number. The question is, "What number of States have ratified the amendment?" not "What number have un-ratified it." As New York has already ratified it, she will, no doubt, be counted in when the proper time comes.

The Illinois Constitutional Convention is in full blast in Springfield. It has not yet touched upon a provision in regard to divorces. There will be a fierce tussle over the woman's suffrage question, but it will probably be carried.

Some of the pettifogging politicians in Indiana object to having their State stigmatized by being called the State of "anti-matrimony." They prefer to have it styled "the State of alimony"—a condition of things in which their pockets are interested when young wives obtain divorces from rich old husbands.

The Memphis *Conservative* rejoices in the reflection that the radical party no longer unanimously endorses the views of Senator Drake, of Missouri, and predicts there will be a split in the party. The New York *Tribune* takes the Senator over the coals on account of the movement toward removing from the United States Supreme Court the power to decide upon the constitutionality of the acts of Congress. But the St. Louis *Democrat* asks, "Because a man gets tired of hash every day is that a sign that he will stop eating or that he should change his boarding house?" We suppose we shall next have "eel soup" introduced—another boarding-house delicacy—as an illustration of Western politics. Anything for a wriggle.

The Mormons are rampant over Cullom's Utah bill. Brigham's organ swears by the pillars of Nauvoo that it would rather see the land converted into a wilderness than that one of the enemies of the Church shall enjoy undisputed the fruits of the toil of the faithful. It is unfortunate for the Mormons at this juncture that there should be so much bickering among themselves. Besides, Brigham is growing old and rusty, although still very bitter; and besides, further, the children born in Mormon wedlock when the institution was being established are now grown to manhood and womanhood, and when social intimacies with other people are touched upon, and when questions affecting rights to property and the relationship between brothers and sisters, first cousins and cousins-german, and so on, arise, it is difficult to draw distinctive lines, things are so very mixed. Uncle Sam had better prepare for a smart little Mormon rebellion.

According to the Augusta *Chronicle* the democracy hold the State of Georgia by 90,000 majority. The Savannah *Republican* knows but two or three republicans in that city who endorse the reconstruction acts of Governor Bullock.

Referring to the message of Governor Hoffman, of our State, the Charleston *Courier* says it will add to the reputation of the Governor "as one of the rising and leading statesmen of the country."

The North Carolina Legislature is in a broil about a new local war bill. Let us have peace.

One thing is pretty certain—if Virginia is not to be allowed to come into the Union her railroads are going out. They are spreading out everywhere.

South Carolina democratic papers are congratulating the people upon the tide of Northern emigration that is beginning to flow into that State.

Daniel Walsh, alleged wife murderer, has been reprieved by the Governor of Illinois. Whereupon a Chicago paper perpetrates the following atrocious semi-political note:—

"I still live."—Daniel { Webster. / Walsh.

Senator Ross and Cornelius Wendell—"If 'twere done when 'tis done then 'twere well it were Wendell quickly."

CHASE AND THE PRESIDENCY.

[From the Cincinnati Gazette.]

Chief Justice Chase aspired to the democratic nomination for the Presidency in 1868, and was disappointed. He now aspires to the nomination for that high office by the democratic party in 1872, and recently it has been generally supposed that he would be selected. But now it looks as if the democratic leaders had concluded not to make that departure.

Recently New York leaders were in correspondence with the democratic managers in this State in regard to the fifteenth amendment, with a view to suspending action until it should be decided whether Chase or some other man should be the Presidential candidate in 1872. If Chase should be decided upon, New York would not attempt to rescind the ratification of the Fifteenth Amendment, and Ohio democrats would permit the Legislature of this State to ratify. Chase, it was alleged, would secure a large portion of the colored vote, provided the Fifteenth Amendment, which he favors, should be adopted, and with the Chief Justice as the standard bearer in 1872 policy would dictate to the democracy the abandonment of opposition to the amendment.

But since the democratic New York Legislature has passed a resolution rescinding the ratification, it is to be concluded that the New York manufacturers of democratic candidates have abandoned Chase, and that there is to be no new departure in 1872.

The democratic party for ten years has been the party of folly. In adhering to anti-war doctrines, anti-war candidates, an anti-negro policy and anti-progressive doctrines it has organized defeat. From all this experience it has learned nothing. It is joined to its idol.

Of course the leaders are not fools enough to think of running Chase upon an anti-negro platform. Of course Chase is not silly enough to suppose that he would stand the ghost of a chance of an election upon such a platform, and of course this opposition of the democratic party to progressive, just and necessary principles will adhere to it through life, be that short or long, and will weigh down into the slough of defeat Chase or any man like him who shall identify himself with such a party.

The question now is, "Who is the coming man?" Chase is virtually out of the way. Pendleton is young enough, vigorous enough and ambitious enough for another race for the nomination. Hendricks is waiting and watching. Hoffman is on the track and will be ready to play into the hands of the New York manators as Seymour did in 1868. Belmont is still at the head of the Democratic National Committee and we doubt not he could now name the candidate, and if he should call the name it would be Hoffman.

NEW YORK ORTHOPEDIC DISPENSARY.

Annual Meeting of the Trustees—Reunion of the Patients and the Good Things They Received—What This Charity Has Accomplished in Its Treatment of Poor Children for Diseases and Deformities of the Spine and Hip Joint.

The annual meeting of the trustees of this noble private charity was held at the commodious dispensary, No. 1,299 Broadway, yesterday afternoon, and it was made an occasion to again bring together the large number of patients (children of both sexes) which are now under its treatment for diseases and deformities of the spine and hip joint. This institution, which has been in existence for the past three years, accomplishing its work quietly, but surely, is of that nature to call forth the highest encomiums upon its founders, among whom are many of the first gentlemen and some of the brightest ornaments of the medical profession of the city. The gratuitous service which the faculty of the dispensary has rendered to deformed and crippled children, by providing them with instruments and by attendance, has afforded efficacious relief to several hundred little ones; and while their lives have been made happy in being relieved from disease and deformity, an inestimable blessing has at the same time been rendered to the community, as now, with the use of their limbs and joints, they are growing up to be self-supporting and forming a part of the workers and the wealth of the country; not, as before, neglected and early dying, or living crippled and deformed, subsisting on charity—a burden and a sorrow to those all about them.

Gathered in the large room of the dispensary were about one hundred of the patients, from the prattling child of two years to the intelligent girl or boy of fifteen or more summers, the majority in charge of their parents. It was a scene which gladdened the heart of every adult present, as before them was the embodiment of health, vigor and beauty, lives of prospective usefulness and enjoyment, which but a short time ago was disease, deformity and disfigurement of the "human form divine." In the front of the room were five large trees of evergreens, laden with articles of comfort, designed to be given to each child, such as gloves, tippets and woollen comforters, while scores of cornucopias, filled with toothsome goodies, were also visible, and the eyes of the glad children sparkled anew as they saw them, with a table arranged in the middle of the room, from which they were to be furnished with a substantial lunch.

Mr. James Brown called the company to order, when all was in readiness, and asked Dr. Charles F. Taylor to explain the character of the charity, which in a few sentences he did modestly and appropriately. The gifts were then distributed to the children, the lunch partaken of and the bright eyes and happy hearts went to their homes and their rooms.

After this pleasant work had been spensed with the annual meeting of the trustees was held and reports submitted from Assistant Surgeons F. M. L. Carystie and David C. Carr, and also from Surgeons Charles F. Taylor and W. E. Vermilye. From these documents the following statistical information was obtained relative to the patients:—Admitted during the year, 395, of which 227 came under treatment; of these 15 had received previous treatment. Now under treatment, 215; of these 159 for Potts' disease of the spine, 30 for disease of the hip joint and 24 for other orthopedic cases. The assistant surgeons have visited during the year 275 patients at their residences, while the patients who have visited the dispensary since it was founded foot up to the number of 3,671, making a total of patients treated for that time 3,886. Since November 1, 1868, there have been but five deaths among the patients, three of which were consequent upon the diseases incident to childhood. This is really a gratifying exhibit, and speaks volumes for the humane, gentle and successful treatment practised.

Subsequently an election for twenty-two trustees took place, with the following result:—James Brown, S. W. Coe, William E. Dodge, Alexander Frear, James Boorman Johnston, Robert Lenox Kennedy, U. A. Murdock, Robert S. Newton, Howard Potter, Theodore Roosevelt, Charles F. Taylor, W. Edward Vermilye, David V. N. Williams, Morgan Snider, John L. Aspinwall, David Dows, Alban Campbell, Roswell D. Hitchcock, Robert Winthrop, William B. Ogden, F. S. Winston, Samuel Hawk.

The trustees then elected the following officers and appoint