

THE NEW REGIME.

THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS.

Activity in the Department—Award of Contracts—The Water Supply—Measures of Economy.

By far the most extensive, the most comprehensive and the most responsible department created under the new régime of the Department of Public Works. In times past the Street Department was a great concern, the Croton Aqueduct Department was also an immense affair, and the services of a commissioner and a deputy commissioner were required to run one and three commissioners to run the other. Now there is but one man doing the work of five, and, although the information is almost unnecessary, that one man is

“BOSS” TWEED. He sits in his office day after day, receiving an incredible number of office-seekers and applicants for favors of one sort or another, and at the same time directs with masterly skill the machinery of his vast department. Notices are posted in any quantity on the walls around the commissioner's office that

“NO MORE MEN CAN BE EMPLOYED In the department and that no more applications for laborers or inspectors will be received; but the notices do no good. They come in swarms, and any one can tell when “Boss” Tweed is in town by the number waiting on the stairs and stop for a chance to “buzz.” But no matter what notices “the old man” may put out,

“ON A BEAT” from the city Treasury. It is pleasing to know, however, that there are very few of these gentlemen in the department, and that what have been regarded as sinecures in the place exist no longer. In regard to

THE WATER SUPPLY. Chief Engineer Tracy makes a most satisfactory report. When the new order of things were instituted, Mr. Tracy was appointed Chief Engineer in the department. He was during the first fourteen months of the term of the Croton water works, and during the past eighteen years has had charge of a large portion of the work.

He has been thoroughly conversant with the actual state of things in regard to Croton water. It took him, however, some time to thoroughly re-examine the bureau and to fix definite arrangements could be made. He has introduced a most thorough and complete re-organization in the delivery of the Croton water. He found that the water was being wasted in the docks and ferries, and he called the attention of “the boss” to the fact. A few days later Little finds stuck in the door of his workroom a long knife, which impales a letter addressed “To Jack the trades.” The letter informs him in vile English that “this knife was of too made express ‘other is by thy hart if thou dost harken Trade and love Chem.” Little's indignation is aroused by this threat, and he determined to show fight. But, for the purpose of averting unpleasant consequences, he visits the secretary of the Edge Tool Forgers' Union and inquires if there is no way of preventing the putting of the threats into execution.

Mr. Johnson, the secretary, denies that the threatening letters come from the Union. “Why, never threaten,” he remarks, significantly. “Why, Mr. Little,” he continues, “it has been my lot to send a civil remonstrance, written with my own hand, in pretty plain English—for a man who pleads belittles and with silent contempt, and my life—and he is offering a reward of twenty or thirty pounds for the discovery of some misbegotten man that had taken on himself to right his very matter with a can of gunpowder, or some such coarse expedient.” This interview ends by Little asking to be admitted into the Union. Johnson fears there are one or two objections. Little offers to pay fifteen pounds down, and then the Secretary agrees to admit his offer to the trade.

About a week after this offer is made to the Edge Tool Forgers, Little entering his work room finds written in chalk on the wall the words, “Why overlook the Handlers'—Marr.” By advice of Bayne, the foreman of Cheo-han, Little calls upon Mr. Parkin, secretary of the Handlers' Union, and makes the same offer he had already made to Johnson. Parkin promises to submit it to the committee. Two days later Little receives a note from Johnson expressing surprise at his continuing to work for Cheo-han before the union has received his proposal, and intimating that he will be obliged to take a new position. In a postscript Mr. Johnson desires to know if it is true that Little is receiving a higher price for his labor than the price list. Although much annoyed by this communication Little, obedient to the advice of Bayne, replies, informing Mr. Johnson that he cannot strike work, as doing so would be a violation of his contract with Cheo-han. As regards the wages he receives, he expresses the opinion that “so skilled labor below the statement price is a just offence, and injury to trade. But to obtain above the statement price is to benefit trade.” The result of all this is that the secretary's cease correspondence with him, his money is returned, and the war of the unions against him begins actively.

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LITERATURE.

CRITICISMS OF NEW BOOKS.

PUT YOURSELF IN HIS PLACE. A Novel, by Charles Reade. New York: Harper & Brothers. It is hardly necessary to say that this novel, like all the previous works of fiction written by Charles Reade, is intensely interesting. It abounds in startling situations, and is, from beginning to end, full of sensational surprises. His characters, if even somewhat overdrawn, are still admirable portraits. Thus we have in Henry Little and Mr. Coventry men we meet with every day, both not very strong in mind, both tenacious of purpose; the one an honorable man seeking to place himself in a position to marry the girl he loves; the other as a weak second-hand dealer in secret violence and in falsehood to destroy his rival. The vigorous minded Grace Carden, whose love is all fire and passion, and the gentle, devoted Jael Dence, beneath whose placidity there is all the intensity of her sex, are types of womanhood true to the life. William Charles Reade also can describe a man as well as a woman, and with their every trait of character. Mr. Bab, Mr. Carden, and Mrs. Little are all well drawn. Indeed, while we would hardly rank “Put Yourself in His Place” as high as “Grithth Gaint” as a work of art, and while we think the denouement comparatively weak, we do not hesitate to express the opinion that it is one of the best romances of recent publication, and one which cannot fail to add to Mr. Reade's reputation.

Having said thus much of the work in general we now direct our attention to its conspicuous features. It is a novel with a plot, and that plot is full of the more loves and courtships and marriages of imaginary beings. Mr. Reade has taken up the question of the tyrannical and illegal practices of the English trades unions, and has woven it into a tale of fiction, so that in this pleasant form it shall come before the great mass of people who would not study it if it were discussed in an essay, but who are as much interested in its solution as the members of the trades unions themselves. And the question is as pregnant with importance to the people of the United States as it is to those of Great Britain. We have our trades unions also, less formidable in numbers, it is true, than those of Great Britain. We have our trades unions also, less formidable in numbers, it is true, than those of Great Britain. We have our trades unions also, less formidable in numbers, it is true, than those of Great Britain.

Without indulging in further references we shall briefly sketch the story of folly, intemperance and cowardice of part of the readers of these communications. Henry Little, the hero of the work, is a cutter by trade. Mr. Cheo-han, a master cutter from Hillsborough, visits London, sees Little's work, admires it and takes the young man into his service. Little is not in Hillsborough many days before “The Committee of the Edge Tool Forgers' Union” notices Mr. Cheo-han that he has offended the trades by “bringing a workman in from another town to do work that we are informed can be done on the premises by our own hands.” This notification is followed by two anonymous missives, signed respectively “Balaam” and “Balaam's Ass,” threatening Mr. Cheo-han with serious consequences if he does not disengage the new hand. “We had to visit you last night,” writes Balaam, “and when we came your hands and your bellows gaped.” “Turn Cooney up, with no more,” writes Balaam's Ass, “your bellows gaped, to hell some night.” A few days later Little finds stuck in the door of his workroom a long knife, which impales a letter addressed “To Jack the trades.” The letter informs him in vile English that “this knife was of too made express ‘other is by thy hart if thou dost harken Trade and love Chem.” Little's indignation is aroused by this threat, and he determined to show fight. But, for the purpose of averting unpleasant consequences, he visits the secretary of the Edge Tool Forgers' Union and inquires if there is no way of preventing the putting of the threats into execution.

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EUROPE.

The steamship Silesia, Captain Trautmann, of the Hamburg-American line, from Fort Lauderdale, June 29 and Bremen, July 1, arrived at New York yesterday afternoon with the paper files from each port of departure up to the date of her sailing there. Our mails were delivered at the HERALD Building in good order at fifteen minutes to four o'clock P. M. The labor strikes at Hamburg continued. Otherwise business was quiet but fair, with a fall in the demand for breadstuffs, and, consequently, in prices.

On Friday, June 24, the splendid statue erected by the people of Stuttgart to the savant Kopler was unveiled in the presence of a great concourse. The occasion was publicly celebrated with banquets, addresses and military parades, and the poet Fischer read an ode composed in honor of the incident. The St. Gothard railway scheme advanced much further throughout Northern Germany, and liberal subscriptions are advocated.

The crop news from Sweden and Norway had greatly improved. Copious showers had relieved the long continued drought, and the grain fields of all kinds gave better promise. From Russia intelligence had been received that several of the chief wheat growing provinces of the empire were greatly behindhand in that culture. Owing to the long protracted cold, followed by drought, and at Archangel some Russian wheat failed on the 20th of June at the Palace of Tsarsko Selo. His “Compendium” is the historical text book of all the schools in the empire.

Preparation for the Transatlantic is already going on throughout the Kingdom, and all parties are very active. The Catholics on the Rhine provinces are holding important meetings and working very diligently. They are agitating the separate school question with much earnestness and energy. The programme of the liberal party against the maintenance of the present enormous war budget is decided in its tone and accords with general public sentiment. Without the budget the existing gigantic armaments cannot be kept up.

THE SUEZ CANAL—UNDERWRITERS' INSURANCE INTERESTS. The London Financial Standard writes that “counterbalancing the disadvantages, we have those points in favor of the Suez Canal—i. e. Vessels (and goods) are a shorter time on the voyage, and are therefore less exposed to various disasters incident to a voyage. 2. Goods are less in the hold of a vessel, and are therefore less liable to sea damage or mildew, both of which causes are continually producing partial loss of the cargo. 3. The risk of fire is less, for accidents to machinery, during a greater part of the voyage, a vessel is much nearer a safe port than by any other route. 4. The risk of piracy is less, for the Suez Canal is a narrow strait, and the ships are well guarded. 5. The risk of capture by the enemy is less, for the Suez Canal is a narrow strait, and the ships are well guarded. 6. The risk of capture by the enemy is less, for the Suez Canal is a narrow strait, and the ships are well guarded. 7. 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