THE CENTENNIAL.

Stirring Up the Patriotic Heart and Spirit.

THE WORK IN PROGRESS

Machinery, Agricultural and Horticultural Halls.

SKETCH OF THE STRUCTURES.

Since the agitation began for a national celebration of the hundredth natal day of the United States Republic many good and patriotic men have appealed to the people from the platform and through the press for aid in making the enterprise what it ought to be—a world's fair, where the products of American brains and American hands may be ranged in comparison beside those of all other civilized nations. This admirable conception met in many quarters with unexpected and cynical criticism. It was called a Philadelphia speculation, for the sole benefit of Philadelphia, to people Philadelphia hotels and boarding houses and hit the Quaker City from the sneering tradition of its village character. Obstacles were thrown in the way of the undertaking at Washington. In Congress the appropriation asked for was bitterly opposed and this opposition spread to many of the State legislatures. At Albany last winter a small sum to pay the expenses of the State Centennial Commissioners was denied. Altogether the prospects for the celebration looked anything but encouraging. But a great change has taken place; and what looked like a failure promises to be an immense success. The absurd jealousy of Philadelphia has worn away. It was fitting to offer the celebration on the ground made sacred and memorable by the Declaration of Independence. Not this consideration alone, but the fact that Philadelphia contributed far more than her share, bought the stock of the Exhibition freely and gave 450 acres of land in her best park for the buildings, showed that, however desirable the project appeared to the Philadelphians, they were not disposed to throw the burden of the celebration on the rest of the country. In

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bearing some of the foremost names of this city, calling on the people of New York to come forward and help the undertaking, it was observed, after a statement of the work already accomplished:—"To our minds certain conclusions flow with irresistible force from the foregoing facts. One is, that the people and government of the United States must accomplish this thing which they told all the world they intend to do on a scale befitting a great country, or bring upon themselves the just reproach of the peoples and governments of other countries, besides awakening in the minds of our own people a deep sense of humiliation and shame because of its failure. This work is before them as one of honorable success or lasting reproach. With such alternative we cannot doubt for a moment where you will be found. Another conclusion is that this undertaking having been initiated by Congress, and managed under its laws and under the auspices of the government, in which management every State of the Union may be represented, must be and is peculiarly national in its character, and our State and her great metropolis should be aroused to their responsibilities in this connection."

It is not too late for appeals like this. As the time draws near and the news goes abroad of the grand scale on which the celebration will be made, and the rapid progress already won in the erection of the various buildings, together with the earnest purpose that seems to animate the managers, interest is already aroused over the country, and the people, if properly stirred up, will see that no failure happens.

The prospects in this city, according to ex-Governor Rigler, are bright, and during the coming week he hopes to make a substantial record for the Empire City.

In yesterday's HERALD appeared a full description of the main structure and the art gallery. To-day is given a sketch of the machinery hall, agricultural hall and the conservatory.

MACHINERY HALL.

It is expected the display of machinery will be of uncommon interest and extent. The machinery hall is designed on a magnificent scale. It consists of a main floor, 360 by 1,402 feet and an annex on the south side 208 by 210 feet. The principal portion of the structure is one story in height. Projections have been introduced in each of the four sides and the main entrances furnished with façades seventy-eight feet in height in order to break the monotony of the long line in the exterior. Boiler houses will be placed along the south side of the building for the display of special kinds of machinery. The ground plan shows two main avenues, 90 feet wide and 1,360 feet long, with a centre aisle between and aisles on either side, each of which is 60 feet in width. At the centre of the building these are crossed by a transept 90 feet wide, which is prolonged at its southern end beyond the line of the main front, forming the annex above mentioned. This is designed to accommodate the hydraulic machinery, and will contain a tank 60 by 180 feet, and 10 feet deep, at the southern end of which will be a waterfall 35 feet high and 40 feet wide, supplied by the pumps on exhibition. The system of shafting will be more complete than that provided at any previous exhibition, there being eight main lines running almost the entire length of the building, while counter shafts may be introduced into the aisles at any point. The entire walls of the machinery hall are of masonry to a height of five feet, above which they consist of columns and glazed sash, portions of which are movable for ventilation. Louvre ventilators are introduced in continuous lengths over each of the aisles and avenues. The lighting is entirely from the sides.

AGRICULTURAL HALL.

This structure will stand north of the conservatory and on the eastern side of Belmont avenue. It will illustrate a novel combination of material, and is capable of erection in a few months. Its materials are wood and glass. It consists of a long nave crossed by three transepts, both nave and transepts being composed of three truss arches of a Gothic form.

Thus the ground plan of the building will be a parallelogram of 540 by 820 feet, covering a space of over ten acres. In its immediate vicinity will be the stock yard for the exhibition of horses, cattle, sheep, swine, poultry, &c.

THE CONSERVATORY

will remain in permenance as an ornament of Fairmount Park. It is located on the Landsowne terrace, a short distance north of the main building and art gallery, and has a commanding view of the Schuylkill River. The design is Moresque; the principal materials iron and glass. The length of the building is 383 feeet, width 193 feet and height to the top of the lantern 72 feet. The main floor is occupied by the central conservatory, 230 by 80 feet and 35 feet high, surmounted by a lantern 170 feet long, 20 feet wide and 14 feet high. Running around this conservatory, at a height of a few feet from the floor, is a gallery five feet wide.

On the north and south sides of this principal room are four forcing houses for the propagation of young plants, each of them 100 by 30 feet, covered with curved roofs of iron and glass. Dividing the two forcing houses in each of these sides is a vestibule 30 feet square. At the centre of the east and west ends are similar vestibules, on either side of which are the dining rooms, restaurants, reception room, offices, &c. From the vestibule ornamental stairways lead to the internal galleries of the conservatory, as well as to the four external galleries, each 100 feet long by 10 feet wide. The external galleries are connected with a grand promenade, formed by the roofs of the rooms on the ground floor, which have a superficial area of 1,300 square yards. The east and west entrances are approached by flights of blue marble steps from terraces 80 by 20 feet, in the centre of each of which stands an open kiosk 20 feet in diameter. The angles of the main conservatory are adorned with eight ornamental fountains. The corridors which connect the conservatory with the surrounding rooms open fine vistas in every direction. In the basement, which is of fireproof construction, are the kitchen, storerooms, coal houses, ash pits, heating arrangements, &c. There will be required, in addition to these buildings, a number of smaller structures for the administration of the Exhibition, all of which are now being designed with a view to their early erection. The preparation of the grounds allotted to the commission in Fairmount, and the construction of the various buildings, are far advanced and will be vigorously urged forward. Although the erection of the buildings and the grading of the Park were not commenced till July, 1874, the progress made to this date insures their timely completion. Besides the Exhibition buildings proper numerous applications have been made by manufacturers and by the commissioners of foreign governments for permission to erect pavilions, and various ornamental and useful structures and other decorative objects are in preparation under the officers of local organizations.

SPEECH OF MR. FORSTER AND RESPONSE OF THE LONDON TIMES—ENGLAND URGED TO TAKE PART.

The annual meeting of the Bradford Chamber of Commerce was held in the rooms of the Chamber, Exchange Buildings, in Bradford, England, on January 18.

The Right Hon. W. E. Forster said that one of the first matters in the report which he had paid attention to, owing to his visit to America, was the prospect of an exhibition at the great gathering at Philadelphia next year. When he was at Philadelphia several most influential gentlemen had mentioned this matter to him, which, of course, lay very near to their interest, and he had said that he could not speak for the people of England or of his own town, as he imagined that they had had enough of exhibitions; but certainly if they took an interest in an exhibition anywhere it would be in America. Although he was one of those who thought they had been "exhibited" enough, and had had exhibitions enough, generally speaking, he would be very sorry if they did not take a hearty and earnest part in this assembly of industry in America next year. There were several reasons why they should do so, even if they were rather tired of exhibitions—the Americans were very great customers, and we wished them to be much greater customers. They were very friendly to us, and, speaking from his own experience, he could assure any gentleman who went to America that he would find hospitality and pleasure in the reception he will receive which would compensate him for any trouble he might incur. There were two or three special reasons which he wished to state; one was with reference to the American patent laws. The Americans were known to be the most inventive people in the world, and it was exceedingly desirable that we should come to an agreement with them upon such a question as the patent laws. He fully agreed with a very delightful sentiment expressed in the report of the Bradford Chamber, that whatever the two nations might agree to would be readily adopted by all others. He thought that that might turn out to be true with regard to the patent laws. He could not deny or disparage the great inventions which we owed to our Continental friends. Probably the greater number came from our cousins of the other side of the Atlantic, and it would be a most useful thing to both nations if there was exactly the same law for both. He could not help but think that the gathering next year would give an opportunity for the discussion of this question, which might result in both countries being convinced that they could have that co-operation and union. There was another reason why he was anxious that we should be well represented in America. Our friends out there were not yet as convinced of free trade as they ought to be. The only thing that would convince them was the feeling that it would be a good thing for themselves, and he thought that seeing our goods and knowing the prices at which we could sell them would probably have more effect than any amount of argument in showing that it was an advantage that the Exhibition should be held, looking at it from that point of view, in Philadelphia, which was the centre of the protectionist district and the protectionist interest of America. The mention of protection and free trade reminded him of the paragraph in the report with regard to the treaty with Canada. He did not know exactly the position in which that treaty was at this moment. He saw it stated in the newspapers of that day that it had come to an end, but he had seen no actual announcement that America had disallowed the treaty. He imagined that what had happened had been that the Committee of the Senate had reported against it. He should have been glad if any arrangement that had been wished for by Canada for an increase of trade had been carried into effect; but he did not think that either England or Canada need greatly to lament the result. What had happened had been that the high duties, upon Canadian produce especially, had done the Canadians very little harm. They certainly had done much more harm in the States than in Canada. It had been necessary for them to get Canadian timber, Canadian fish and Canadian grain, and the result had been that the consumer in America had had to pay more for them. Therefore he did not imagine that Canada would greatly suffer from this treaty being brought to an end. What they wished to see produced—namely, the spread of free trade—was, perhaps, more likely to take place between those two countries and ourselves by their finding that it was for their own interests to levy a lower duty than by any attempt to get at the result by treaties. ("Hear, hear.") His chief reason for alluding to this subject was that on the one hand he thought we should do very wrong and be taking a very false position if we were to attempt to use any influence that we had as Englishmen, or to attempt to get our government to use any power which it had as the mother country to put any obstacle between the trade of Canada and that of the United States. We should never assent to any differential duty levied by Canada in favor of any country as against English produce, but he must say that when he was in Canada he saw several gentlemen of all parties, and he did not find one of them who did not entirely and absolutely agree to that principle, who did not take it as an acknowledged fact, and who did not suppose that it was hardly possible that anything else could happen. (Cheers). He might express the great pleasure with which he travelled through Canada, because he found there was only one opinion there—namely, a desire that the connection now subsisting should continue.

WHAT THE LONDON TIMES THINKS.

[From the London Times, Jan. 19.]

Mr. Forster himself, while still a visitor at New York, was so far dominated, it would seem, by the spirit of the soil that he was rapt away into an imaginative cloudland among high humanitarian ideals of impracticable excellence; but to such paths his feet have been very little accustomed, and at Bradford, among the shrewd Yorkshiremen of the West Riding, he trod the solid earth once more. Here, at least, his footing was steady, and we can follow him with comfort as well as in safety. The practical advice which Mr. Forster had to give to the manufacturers of his constituency had special reference to the approaching Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia, and the manner in which this commemoration of American independence might be utilized to draw out new and stronger bonds of trading intercourse between us and our transatlantic kinsmen. The lessons of good sense which Mr. Forster enforced in this particular connection are susceptible, of course, of a much wider application, but even in the more limited range they abound in profit. The great International Exhibition with which the people of the United States propose to celebrate the centenary of the Declaration of Independence is, as our readers are aware, to be held in 1876 at Philadelphia, where on a memorable 4th of July a hundred years before were issued, in the name of a new people, and claiming a new birthright among nations, "those glittering and sounding generalities of natural right" which have graven themselves deeply upon the American character. The success of the commemorative enterprise does not appear to be so entirely assured as might be imagined from the pride that Americans take in their political history and in the achievements of their industrial and commercial enterprise. This is due partly, it is believed, to the jealousy with which other parts of the Union regard the supremacy of Pennsylvania as a centre of production; but in part, also, it is due to the simple fact that the world in general has grown very weary of these international displays, and that while as mere fairs they have ceased to attract they have not yet been organized as clearing houses of industrial progress and mercantile activity and the advance in knowledge that is at the bottom of both.

Mr. Forster, then, was solicited while he was in the United States to give the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia a helping hand, and though he told his petitioners very plainly of the difficulties to which we have referred, though he said that, in his judgment, "We had been exhibited enough and had had exhibitions enough, generally speaking," yet he was able to adduce at Bradford many excellent reasons why English manufacturers should pay some attention to the great show at Philadelphia next year, and to point out some of the advantages that may be gained by doing so. The first and most considerable of these advantages is, of course, the opportunity the British producer will thus obtain of bringing the benefits of free trade directly to the knowledge of the Americans. It is of no use, or next to none, to preach the doctrines of political economy to ears that will not hear. The greater number of Americans are either so convinced of the malignant guile of England as really to believe in some vague way that the truths of economic science have been invented by English writers to secure the supremacy of English industry and English trade, or else they hedge themselves in with the notion that free trade is something which may be good for one community and evil for another, and that, while the British plainly thrive by it, the United States would be simply and swiftly ruined. Of this latter class Mr. Forster says "that free trade was good for us would not convince them, and the only way to satisfy them that free trade was a good thing was to show our goods and let them know the price at which we could sell them. That would have more effect upon the American mind than any amount of argument; and it was one advantage that the Exhibition should be held at Philadelphia that that city was the centre of a protectionist district and interest." There can be no doubt that the enormous burden which a protective system lays upon the backs of consumers would be more clearly realized by the mass of the American people when they see before them the most finished productions of English industry and learn at what moderate prices they could be sold in the United States but for the tariff. Such plain dealing is a great deal more likely to convince the Americans of the universality of the free trade principle than the forced arguments with which the defunct draft of a reciprocity treaty was pressed upon the government at Washington by English and colonial statesmen. What little it is in the power of man to do without exciting the opposition of monopolists and protected interests may be done best by using such occasions as that of the Philadelphia Exhibition to show the Americans not only what free trade brings us, but what by its means we can offer them. Every work undertaken in unison with America opens up new opportunities for such indirect enlightenment, and there are several enterprises—Mr. Forster noticed, among others, the adoption of a uniform International Patent Law—that, besides this incidental advantage, are in themselves worthy of the labor of practical men.

CHATS ABOUT BOOKS.

"Old Myddleton's Money"—Katerfelto and Poetry Discussed.

CHOICE EXTRACTS.

"It is like coming across that much talked of spring in the desert for the reviewer to find one of Macdonald's works lying upon his desk. He does not let it wait its turn, but takes hold of the enchanting volume as soon as he seats himself to work," said Fred, throwing himself at his mother's feet upon the rug, before the open wood fire that crackled upon the bedroom hearth. And such a delightful room it is—a real mother's room—where all the children love to gather of a dismal day. There is no room in the house like it. It is a safe harbor from every storm; or, to use another figure, the oak about which the young vines cling.

THE MOTHER—I suppose you have been reading "Malcolm" (J. B. Lippincott & Co.), to judge from your preface.

FRED—Yes, and I have just finished it. I have revelled in every page, from cover to cover. Macdonald's heroes are like Kellogg's Mignon, a new revelation; each shows us a poetry and a pathos we had not dreamed of. I look at the world with different eyes after reading one of his novels.

THE MOTHER—They affect me in very much the same manner. I am anxious to read "Malcolm." How does it compare with his other books?

FRED—Very favorably. I think it one of his best. It abounds in the same exquisite sentiment, manliness and grace for which "Robert Falconer" is conspicuous. Macdonald is always a preacher, put him where you will, but this does not affect his novels disagreeably. Usually I dislike preaching in novels, but his is so very mild—not weak, understand me, only not offensive—that it gives flavor to the whole. Malcolm is a splendid fellow, and I am glad to know that his story will be continued in another volume. The scene of the story is a little village on the Scotch coast. The plot is quiet, and the characters are simple, grand people. The Highland piper is a delightful creation.

THE MOTHER—I believe the Scotch dialect is unusually conspicuous in "Malcolm," is it not?

FRED—It is pretty thickly scattered through the book, but I enjoy it hugely. I got to be quite a Scotch scholar before I had done. Macdonald's Scotch is so beautiful that it adds to the fascination of the book in my eyes, and seems to give character to the most trifling remark.

THE MOTHER—There is no getting around the fact that you admire Macdonald, my dear boy. Well, I am glad you do, for I admire the man as much as I do the novelist; his is, indeed, a noble life.

FRED—I think that "Malcolm" shows the influence of his recent visit to America. His enemies call Macdonald effeminate. I do not understand what they mean, unless it be that the perfect purity of his writings gives them that character.

THE MOTHER—Mr. Macdonald's religiousness is, of course, distasteful to many; but his religious writing partakes not only of the poetic quality, but of the quality which comes from extraordinary insight. He is a seer as well as a poet.

"OLD MYDDLETON'S MONEY."

MISS RACHEL—"Old Myddleton's Money" (Harper & Brothers), for a novel that apparently makes no pretensions, is really quite clever. It is not often that one comes across such a mystifying plot. I thought half a dozen times that I saw how it was going to end, but I was not right once. Up to the very last moment I did not suspect who Lady Lawrence was.

FELICIA—I made up my mind to one thing early in the story, and that was that Gabriel Myddleton did not murder his uncle, but I did not guess the real criminal until the confession was read.

Cousin LOU, who is spending the day at the Doctor's—I could have sworn that Royden Keith was Gabriel Myddleton. The author does everything but say so. One cannot blame that odious Lawrence Haughton for suspecting him, too; he did so many things likely to lead one off the track.

FELICIA—Honor Craven is not a very romantic name for a heroine, and particularly such a good little heroine. She is a delightful creature; very much like an everyday girl of an interesting order. If she had known just how the land lay she could not have planned better. I think that one of the morals of the book may be said to be that one does not lose anything by being kind to friendless old ladies.

MISS RACHEL—Mrs. Payte is a first rate character; a little too severe at times, perhaps, but then the best of us might have been the same had we seen things through her spectacles.

Cousin LOU—If any one thing above another does disgust me, it is to see people waiting for dead men's (or dead women's) shoes. Luckily I am not anybody's heir. It such were my misfortune I suppose that I would be as disagreeable as the rest of them.

MISS RACHEL—Mrs. Payte played a smart game and a wise one. If she had not done as she did she would probably have left her brother's fortune to one of these odious men. As it was, every reader of the book will be satisfied. She knew what she was about. I like such eccentric characters, both in books and in real life.

Cousin LOU—Honor Craven is one of the few novel heroines who has a mind of her own and speaks up when harshly spoken to. That was the very quality about her which her fastidious cousins despised and which Royden Keith admired to such excellent effect.

FELICIA (picking up a dropped stitch)—The finding of that mysterious white lady in Keith's house was enough to upset a stronger faith than Honor's. Yet, if I had been in her place, I would (that is, if I cared enough for him) have asked Keith what it meant. Was he a Rochester, with a crazy wife in the garret, or what did it all mean? Honor certainly was no Jane Eyre.

MISS RACHEL—There is not much stress laid upon the discovery of the woman. Honor only felt herself growing slightly cold, that was all. Well, her mystery was soon cleared up.

FELICIA—That plotting Trent family, although highly entertaining in the story, would have been very dull out of it. How Mrs. Payte must have laughed in her sleeve as she pursued the even tenor of her way, and how the tables would have been turned had the greedy relatives knew who she was. To be sure, they heard eventually, but then the mischief had been done.

MISS RACHEL—Mrs. Payte played the *rôle* of Fairy Godmother to Honor's Cinderella with telling effect. "If a bombshell," &c., &c., the relatives could not have been more surprised.

Cousin LOU—Although I liked Honor exceedingly, I do not see what it was about her that caused three men so utterly unlike to fall in love with her. It may have been because the other women by whom they were surrounded were so thoroughly unlovable. Theodora and that silly Phœbe Owen would make any girl attractive by contrast.

FELICIA—That scene in London, where Mrs. Payte declares herself, is very amusing. The blank amazement of the would-be heirs, their conflicting emotions and the sad conviction that it was then too late to do anything to right themselves in the eyes of the eccentric little woman, are described with a good appreciation of the humorous. The way Honor took the news, too, is very natural. Instead of triumphing she was ready to cry; not because she regretted the wealth that had fallen into her lap, but because it was so totally unexpected. Theodora's spiteful thrust did not touch her, though Lady Lawrence fenced it off rather decidedly.

MISS RACHEL—All's well that ends well, and this story certainly ends well for the hero and heroine, and for Gabriel Myddleton, and old Myddleton's money fell into good hands after all.

KATERFELTO: A STORY OF EXMOOR.

"When I feel at peace with the world, and too indolent to practise or go out of the house, I like to curl up on the library sofa and spend the day with a volume of White-Melville," said Felicia, hanging over the back of the chair in which Miss Rachel sat with her sewing.

"I do not wonder at your taste," said Miss Rachel, turning down the hem of a cap string for the mother. "He is so thoroughly romantic, with just enough of the historical to give the spice of truth to what he writes. Have you been reading 'Katerfelto?' (Scribner, Welford and Armstrong). I thought I saw a copy in red and gold lying on Fred's writing table."

FELICIA—Yes, you did, and I brought it down this morning and have been reading it all day, and, big volume that it is, have read every word. It is a fascinating story, exceedingly picturesque, yet very life-like. The scenes only cover a few weeks and the time is 1763. I have often read of more wonderful adventures, but have not often been more highly entertained by a book. There are adventures enough, to be sure; but they seem to be so a part of the story that it does not appear as though the author was straining after effect. The duel in the dark, the old fortune teller's house in Deadman's alley, the ride across Malborough Downs, the attack on the coach, and the stag hunt, when strung together have a wild sort of sound, and were wild scenes, but in the book they are only incidents.

MISS RACHEL—I must confess that does seem like wild romance.

FELICIA—The hero of the story, "plain" John Garnet, is a dashing, lovable fellow, upon whose head lay a price for highway robbery. He was hardly a robber, though, merely a patriot—traitor, they called him, trying to get possession of certain State papers for the dethroned King, and he succeeded, too. To be sure he killed his man in a duel without witnesses, but it was a perfectly fair fight; the man would have killed him if he could. He did come very near dying as it was, and was only saved by the skill of the charlatan Katerfelto.

MISS RACHEL—Is he the one the book is named after?

FELICIA—No; the book is named in honor of a horse called Katerfelto. A most mysterious and beautiful animal, he could go like the wind day and night and never tire. No one knew his history, yet every one knew of him, and he disappeared as suddenly and mysteriously as he appeared.

FRED (entering the library, his cheeks aglow, after a vigorous walk up Broadway from Printing House square)—What a day this has been. I never knew such wind even in March. I could hardly make any headway with this long-tailed Ulster on; it was like carrying a full head of sail. I don't see how you ladies manage with your skirts in such weather. This coat was almost too much for me. So you have been reading "Katerfelto;" a mighty entertaining book—don't you think so?

FELICIA—I have just been telling Rachel about it. It is not only interesting as a story, but there are a great many clever things in it which show that the author has not gone through the world with his eyes shut. People are just as credulous to-day as they were then in regard to fortune telling. Let a wild looking old man or woman, sitting in a dimly lighted room furnished in a fantastic manner, mutter a lot of nonsense over a pack of greasy cards, and you will be surprised to see how many people will become their dupes. If the parents or friends of these same people should warn them of the same things they would pay no heed. We like to be humbugged—a truth which the Katie King exploits in Philadelphia prove.

FRED—The gypsy girl waif is a consistent character. Her wild, uncontrollable love for John Garnet was what might have been expected; then her furious jealousy when she found that he loved a girl from among his own kind; her betrayal of him to his enemy; her remorse and finally giving her life to save his was thoroughly in keeping with such a character.

FELICIA—Nelly Carew is a much stronger and more interesting character than the girls who usually play her part. As a general thing I prefer the outlaw, the proper young ladies being most often too goodish; but Nelly Carew was a trump.

FRED—What a fellow Parson Gale was. Luckily, the race of cock-fighting, wrestling, drunken, sporting parsons has died out, or, at least, none of the cloth dare show such propensities if they do have them.

FELICIA—Odious wretch; his death was in keeping with his life.

FRED—That stag hunt is most graphically described. That sort of thing is want I call sport; "to chase the deer with hound and horn." The illustrations in this book are remarkably good. They appear to be photographs of some kind—those that are not lithographs altogether. It is a handsomely gotten up volume.

A VOLUME OF POEMS.

FRED—Girls, did you look over that volume of poems, by Stuart Sterne (F. B. Patterson) that I left here the other day, and what do you think of them?

FELICIA—That they are singularly crude and painfully amateurish. Of course Stuart Sterne is merely a *nom de plume*, for the author is unmistakably a woman. As literary productions they have very little merit. She is undoubtedly a German and has an excellent knowledge of English, but not sufficient to write English poetry. I think her friends make a great mistake if they encourage her in this thing.

FRED—And what is your opinion, cousin Rachel?

MISS RACHEL—I think that Felicia is perhaps a little too severe, for there is certainly some poetic material in the volume, although the author is not a poet. She has an abandon, almost recklessness, with her words, but the thought won't bear analysis. She writes, to me, more like a person who only knows of love from what she imagines it, not from experience. This, for example, is not the real thing:—

I saw thee in my dreams, O friend!
On weary death-bed lying,
And could not bear to think it then,
That thou, O friend, wert dying!

I woke O friend, and knew that thou
In lonely grave art lying;
How can I bear the weight of life,
Remembering friend, thy dying!

One finds no passion there—it is thoroughly cool and collected.

FELICIA—It is very evident that if she has loved it has been to no purpose, for she sings:—

My love, my love must perish,
For it is sin to cherish.
Now that thou lov'st another,
A fairer one than I!

I bless thee, love, forever,
I can forget thee, never;
And, since thou lov'st another,
I must lie down to die!

Throughout the entire book the same disappointment is expressed, almost every poem contains an allusion to a lost love, either ideal or real.

MISS RACHEL—It is a pity that some English literary friend could not have edited the poems. The language and construction are often both very incongruous. I see by the title page that the book is published for the author, who, I am afraid, has thrown away her money, though I believe that the publisher is about to bring out another edition.

FRED—If this is the same Stuart Sterne who wrote for the Boston *Commonwealth* (I think that was the paper) during the war she is more successful in prose than in verse, for those were quite clever articles and not without a certain dash. I hate to "pitch in" to a book, but I think that praise of this volume would do more harm than blame.

"GOVINDA SAMANTA."

FELICIA—Although Macmillan & Co. publish "Govinda Samanta" in their popular novel series, it has few of the elements of popularity. It is the history of a Bengal *rdiyat*, or farmer, and, as a faithful picture of life in a Bengal village, it is not without value and interest; but, from a literary point of view, it will not bear criticism.

MISS RACHEL—I do not like the author's preface. There is no sense in telling the reader what not to expect in a book. The Rev. Lal Behari Day tells us that we are not to expect anything marvellous or wonderful, any thrilling incidents, any love scenes, nor any grandiloquent phraseology and gorgeous metaphors. Then he tells us that we are to expect a plain, unvarnished tale of a plain peasant, living in this plain country of Bengal.

FELICIA—I think it would have been more interesting had he left it to us to find out what the book did or did not contain as we progressed in our reading. Spite of these little unpleasantnesses, there is a great deal that is instructive as well as entertaining in the book. One learns more of the strange inner life of the Bengalese than is contained in reports or histories. They prove to be an interesting people, though very different from Americans or Europeans; but that only heightens the charm.

MISS RACHEL—The only trouble is the names, but then the glossary at the end of the volume explains away that difficulty. The chapters relating to births, marriages and deaths show more than any others the peculiar customs of the country. The descriptions are so minute and often graphic that I feel quite as though I had been spending some time in far off India.

THE POLITICAL CALDRON.

The "General Sweep" in the Departments Near at Hand.

A PARTY QUESTION.

The Hauschel Patronage Resolution and the Developments Expected.

GREEN IN A FIX.

Although during the past week no important changes have taken place in the city government, directly or indirectly, by order of the new powers that be, the beginning of the end, it is now safe to say, is not far distant. The local leaders, as it has already been pointed out, decided some time ago to resort to Albany legislation to get rid of what they chose to call "domestic difficulties" in the way of a general change in the departments—or rather in the way of those leaders who are anxious that changes should be made. But unfortunately for the policy decided upon the Albany part of the business does not look so promising now as it did, and the result will probably be that before the close of another fortnight the managers at this end of the line will have to refuse any longer to be

BOUND HAND AND FOOT

by promises made to a higher power than themselves—and which is not a part of the city government—to "wait until late in the session" for the accomplishment of purposes that, so far as Albany is concerned, seem now to be hopeless of attainment. Since the republicans in the Senate at Albany have decided to make any bill looking to the amendment of the city charter a party question it is easy to see that the Costigan bill will be defeated. But the knowledge of this fact will in no way deter the leaders here from having the bill pushed. Whether the declaring of the bill a strict party one by the republicans was strengthened by the indirect influence of a prominent democrat at Albany, as it is rumored, and the lobby interest of Comptroller Green, headed by Rhodes, Swan and Morrison, now matters little with them. They believe that when the bill is defeated they can then go to work right and left in the cutting off of republican heads of departments in this city. In other words, they will, after the defeat of the bill by republican votes, be justified in retaliating by exercising whatever power they possess to

GET RID OF REPUBLICAN OFFICE-HOLDERS

under the city government. Mr. Kelly and Mr. Wickham are in full accord on this plan, and so the long-threatened general sweep is certain to come, just as sure as the bill that is now before the Legislature, and which gives the Mayor the absolute power of removal and the Aldermen the confirmatory power in the matter of appointments, is defeated by the republicans in the Senate. Once the Mayor takes up the axe it will then depend solely upon Governor Tilden whether the heads of the republican officials are to fall—whether, in fact, the republicans having made a party question of a measure intended to let New York city be governed by her own local officials, he will, as a democrat, stand by his party. It is said by some that the Governor does not relish the prospect of all the responsibility being thrown upon him; but whether he relishes it or not it is now a foregone conclusion that he will have to bear it. Though not strictly a republican in the true sense of the word, although he is represented numerously in every city department which he has been able to terrify into doing his bidding by republican office-holders placed there to secure his hold on the republican Senate, Comptroller Green, in a party sense, will be treated by the local leaders as a republican—as one who is not in harmony with his party and whose presence in the city government tends to

CLOG THE GENERAL MACHINERY.

The resolution of Mr. Hauschel of itself will anyhow, if properly carried out, lay bare so much of Green's underhand work at Albany that the Mayor will have very strong cause for removing him, even if he had no other cause. Some people think that it will be impossible to get at the information to be sought for by the Committee on Cities, but any one of the members of the committee who is at all familiar with the fight Green had for his official life in 1873, when his special lobby succeeded in inducing a certain Senator to change his vote and thereby saved him, can easily get at the facts. He can also look up certain transactions of Green in 1872, when he had a strong lobby at the Delavan all the winter, and then find out the reason why there have been since then so many *protégés* from the country Senatorial districts holding fat clerkships in this city.

Mr. Green will be in a tight place if the committee do their work faithfully. They have the power to make a thorough investigation, and should be stimulated to extra exertion in their work by the knowledge of the fact that an attempt made in the republican Senate in 1873 by a democratic Senator to bring about just such an investigation as the committee are now empowered to carry on was defeated by a clique of republican Senators, of whom there is yet a remnant in the present Senate. Mr. Hauschel's resolution, it will be borne in mind, instructs the committee to find out what appointments, &c., were made under the city government through

THE INFLUENCE OF SENATORS

other than the New York Senators since 1870. As this will carry the investigation into the days of the "Ring," some spicy developments may be expected, and an explanation may be arrived at probably of the secret of the hold Mr. Green has upon certain gentlemen in the republican party, in and out of the Legislature, whose influence he can always count upon in an emergency; also as to the exact number of gentlemen from the country who have been placed in various offices of this city by Mr. Green on the recommendation of Senators D. P. Wood and Lowery, republicans; how many appointments Mr. Woodin has influenced in the past for the benefit of the city, and how it is that Mr. Swan, of Syracuse, was appointed to a fat place in the Comptroller's gift at a time when Mr. Green was complaining that the Board of Apportionment had cut his appropriation so low that he would have to reduce his force and the salaries, and why it is that Mr. Swan spends most of his time at Albany, where Mr. Morrison, Mr. Pelton and Dr. Stevens are said to be "temporarily residing" for Green's benefit.

It may be of interest to the general public to know that in retaliation for Green's act in cutting down the salaries of the Tammany men in his department and the bureaus under it, all the republican officials appointed through Green's influence in the department of buildings have been removed. This is only the beginning of the

WARFARE FOR THE SPOILS

before the heads of the departments themselves are taken in hand, and, as it is rumored that Green will, on Monday, make a clean sweep of every Tammany man whose place he controls, the local fight promises to be a very lively one. The appointment, too, of Mr. Tappan as City Chamberlain is a terrible blow to Green. It places in power a man whose financial experience and knowledge will not permit of Green's fantastic trickeries with the books and documents of his department any further to blind "investigators" to his peculiar way of doing business. Mr. Tappan's presence in the Chamberlain's office will strengthen the Mayor's administration. His high character as a business man and his well known determination to have the business of his office carried on strictly in accordance with the law and not according to the dictation of Comptroller Green will rid the office of Green's spies and flunkies and at the same time be the means of exposing his flagrant violations of law in employing special paymasters to disburse the public moneys and other little vagaries of his not yet made public.

To show how terribly enraged Mr. Green must be over Mr. Tappan's appointment it is only necessary to state that three years ago Mr. Green, at Mr. Wickham's request, promised to appoint Mr. Tappan to the position now held by Mr. McMahon, Collector of Taxes. Indeed, Green went so far as to send for Mr. Wickham one day and tell him that the appointment was all ready and the bail bond made out and that all that was wanting to put Mr. Tappan in the place was to get his sureties. Mr. Wickham and Mr. Tappan went to Wall street and got the necessary sureties, and the next thing they heard was that Mr. Green had appointed Mr. McMahon. The whirligig of the time, &c., and now Mr. Tappan is Chamberlain. It is not very likely that Mr. Green will play Chamberlain as well as Comptroller from this out.

THE COSTIGAN BILL.

The members of Assembly from this city, who were all in town yesterday, seem to feel considerably chagrined over the egregious blunder committed by the inexperienced Costigan in moving his bill in Committee of the Whole when a republican was in the chair and there were more republicans on the floor of the House than there were democrats. As they have all been heartily laughed at for their stupidity they endeavor to make all sorts of excuses about their discomfiture, and the answer each one gives to a query about the thing is, "I am not the leader; the republicans are all well held in hand, and we have no organization, so to speak." It is needless to comment on this confession of the utter weakness of the majority in the Assembly. One of the members from the city states that he had a conversation with Governor Tilden about the Costigan bill, and he says the Governor expressed himself as opposed to it.

"On what ground?" the Assemblyman was asked.

"Well," was the reply, "he seems to think Green ought to be let alone, and his chief argument was confined in this remark. Said he:—'Green ought to be left where he is to serve as a lightning-rod to draw away from the party all the abuse that might otherwise get from its opponents.' In other words, he believes that it will do the party good to let him be abused, because if he was not where he is abuse might be scattered about elsewhere, to the party's damage."

"Now if the Costigan bill should be defeated by republican votes, and Mayor Wickham should remove Green as well as other heads of departments in retaliation for the republicans making the bill a party question, do you think that Governor Tilden would refuse his approval to Green's removal?"

"He would not dare. When Green is removed in that way Tilden will not dare, in the face of his 'home rule' cry to set himself up against the unanimous demand of the democratic party. Besides, he has his eye on the Presidency, and there are a good many democratic voters in this city whom it will not do to oppose on this Green question."

THE CITY MARSHALS.

So many grievous complaints have been made during the past year or so against the city marshals that it is said the Mayor and all the leaders of the party in this city will exert their influence to get rid of them in some way. Their extortions and general way of doing business were illustrated some time ago by the acts of two of them, one of whom sold property under an execution worth nearly $2,000 for something like $300, the ostensible buyer of the property being, it is alleged, a dummy for the Marshal; the victim was reduced to poverty by the job. The case of the other, who seized a lager beer saloon, ran it for two days on his own account and then pocketed the proceeds from the sales of lager, is yet fresh in the public recollection. The Mayor, it is believed, is anxious to get rid of them, but as they were appointed for three years a year ago most of them recommended by the Assistant Aldermen, he cannot, unless they are complained against for some of their old pranks, and is therefore in favor of handing their business over to the Sheriff—a bill for the accomplishment of which design is now before the Legislature. This business taken away, their power for mischief would be also taken away; in fact, they would soon resign when they found their money-making at an end. It is true that if the Sheriff had the business his fees would be increased; but as the marshals only give $1,000 surety (which is never available when wanted), and a deputy sheriff has to give $10,000 and the Sheriff $20,000 in addition, it is believed the unfortunates against whom executions are issued would be less apt to be made the victims of high-handed robbery and extortion, as many have been by city marshals in the past.

MUNICIPAL NOTES.

J. Nelson Tappan was sworn in by the Mayor yesterday as City Chamberlain, and shortly afterward his bond was filed with the Comptroller for his approval of the sureties, which are as follows:—Jordan L. Mott, $200,000; William L. Andrews, $200,000; Julius Wadsworth, $200,000; Effingham H. Nichols, $200,000; John W. Masury, $200,000; Luther Redfield, $200,000; William C. Barrett, $200,000; William Moser, $50,000; Loomis L. White, $200,000; John Britton, $100,000; Edward Z. Lawrence, $100,000; Charles Bard, $200,000. Total, $2,050,000.

The Comptroller, it is said, intends to appoint his pet, Whittemore, to the sinecure deputy tax collectorship, which was created in 1870 for the benefit of a relative of one of the old Ring. The place is absolutely a sinecure, there being no work assigned for the position, and, besides, it is believed the appointment would be illegal. But Whittemore must be provided for in some way, law or no law.

Judge Bedford, Senators Ledwith and Moore, E. O. Perrin, of the Court of Appeals; Jackson S. Schultz, Assemblymen Daly, T. C. Campbell, Kirk and Shiel were among the visitors at the Mayor's office yesterday.

One of the few thousands of war