LOUISIANA.

Extraordinary Powers of the Governor.

HOW THEY MADE A LEGISLATURE.

Tampering with the Judiciary.

HOW THE RING HAS RULED.

FRANKLIN, La., April 20, 1875.

The constitution of 1868, under which Louisiana was reconstructed, and which is still in force, is in some respects a sufficiently harmless looking instrument. For instance, it pretends to give the people the election of almost, but not quite, all their local or county officers; it pretends to limit the powers of the Legislature and of the Executive; it even, like many other State constitutions, forces the people to elect the judges and the subordinate State officers. But while thus apparently popular it gives to the Governor the exclusive power to appoint and remove all the officers concerned with the registration of voters, the conduct of elections and the counting of votes in every parish of the State, and also the appointment and removal of all tax collectors—officers who have also an important part in the assessments. And, having thus given into the Governor's control the purse and the voice of the people, by one or two inconspicuous clauses this instrument enables an adroit and unscrupulous Governor and Legislature to deprive the people of even those powers and remedies which are apparently secured to them, and without which free government becomes a farce. In fact, this constitution, as it has been applied by legislatures and governors and construed by State judges since 1868, provides all the machinery needed for the party in power to perpetuate its rule forever, in spite of the will of the people.

EXTRAORDINARY CENTRALIZATION.

First—The Governor appoints and removes the registrars of election and their assistants all over the State, and the decision of these officers is final and conclusive as to the right of a person to vote. The registrars appoint the local supervisors or commissioners who conduct the elections. And as New Orleans is largely conservative the Mayor and Sheriff of that city are prohibited, under severe penalties, from holding or interfering in "any election whatever," that work being given to the metropolitan police, whose officers are appointed by the Governor.

Second—The Governor appoints and removes the tax collectors all over the State; but in New Orleans he appoints also the assessors.

Third—He appoints the officers of the metropolitan police paid for by the city of New Orleans, and this body, so controlled by him, is constituted a metropolitan brigade, which he may send into any part of the State to make arrests, and a steamer is provided for this purpose.

Fourth—He appoints the Board of Public Works of the State.

Fifth—He may, whenever he deems it necessary, appoint and commission as an extraordinary force a chief constable and as many deputies as he thinks necessary in any parish of the State, and these have, *ex officio*, power to make summary arrests. The chief constable is paid $4 a day.

Sixth—He is, of course, Commander-in-Chief of the State Militia, and appoints and commissions its officers.

Seventh—The constitution empowers him to fill all vacancies in office throughout the State. Under this apparently harmless clause he, in effect, controls even the lowest local offices in the remotest parts of the State, such as constables, justices of the peace and parish surveyors. In the last number of the *Louisianian*, the official gazette of the State, I find the following examples of the exercise of this power:—

APPOINTMENTS BY THE GOVERNOR.

The following appointments were made by Governor Kellogg yesterday:—

Parish of Orleans—A. W. Connog, assistant supervisor of registration of the First ward.

Parish of Natchitoches—Harry Percy, parish surveyor, vice W. H. Boult; R. E. Hammett, justice of the peace of the Third ward; F. L. Grappe, constable; F. Jennings, justice of the peace of the Fifth ward; S. M. Cramps, constable; L. Van Schonbruck, justice of the peace of the Sixth ward; M. L. Bates, constable; James E. Turner, justice of the peace of the Seventh ward; Will Cobb, constable; A. R. Dowden, justice of the peace of the Eighth ward; J. C. Bush, constable; J. B. Vienne, justice of the peace of the Ninth ward.

Parish of East Baton Rouge—Charles G. Pages and Robert Morris, clerks to the supervisor of registration.

Parish of Claiborne—Charles S. Blackburn, supervisor of registration; L. M. McCormick and L. B. Blackburn, clerks.

Parish of St. Mary—Richard Brooks, constable of the third ward.

Parish of Sabine—R. A. Forbis, justice of the peace of the Fourth ward; S. Whattley, justice of the peace of the Ninth ward; James Hardy, constable of the Fourth ward; O. Seuter, constable of the Ninth ward.

Parish of Lafayette—Hugh Wagner, justice of the peace of the Second ward; Joseph Lecoux, constable of the Second ward, vice C. Doucet, who failed to qualify; Vincent Bertrand, justice of the peace of the First ward, vice Alfred Feck, who failed to qualify; Gilbert Hienvenu, constable of the Third ward; Jules D. Boudreaux, constable of the Fourth ward, vice H. Theall, who failed to qualify; Alexander Billond, inspector of weights and measures.

Parish of Winn—Sam Peace, justice of the peace; John Patton, constable.

Dr. J. J. Finney was commissioned as a member of the Board of Health.

FAVORITISM AND ITS WORKINGS.

A more thoroughly centralized government France did not have under either Empire. Nor have these great Powers been hesitatingly used. Offices have been multiplied to an extraordinary degree, and at every new creation the Governor had the appointment of a favorite. New parishes (counties) were formed by the division of old ones, and in every case the Governor appointed all the officers. Judicial districts have been rearranged and new ones formed, and the Governor made his friends or allies Judges. A trick became common by which officers elected refused to qualify, and therefore the Governor filled the artificial vacancies with men who could not have been elected. Finally, so careful have the leaders in this conspiracy been to maintain their influence and their creatures in the pettiest offices that the members of the Legislature are usually members of the local school boards, and degrade the schools by making the teachers their political tools; while I have been in some petty villages of fifteen hundred or two thousand inhabitants which have not for four or five years been allowed to put in office the town officers they elected, but after each election the result was disallowed and the vacancies thus created were filled by the Governor.

CREATING NEW OFFICES.

As an example of the way such matters were managed Shreveport will answer—the better because it lies in a region where the whites have been accused of discontent with the republican rule. Shreveport before reconstruction had a simple and economical city government. The Mayor received a moderate salary, the Common Council were unsalaried. In 1871 the Legislature imposed upon the place a new charter, which put it in charge of a Mayor and four administrators, all salaried, all provided with clerks and with office contingents. The Governor was authorized to appoint these officers and to fill all vacancies until 1875, and they were authorized to issue bonds and dispose of them "for the best interests of the city." They seem to have issued not only bonds but scrip, and this fell to forty cents on the dollar at last. In the spring of 1874 the administrators proposed to issue bonds to the amount of $100,000 to improve the streets. A taxpayers' association had been formed, and, having defeated this project, they offered the Mayor to undertake the same work which had been proposed, and do it to his satisfaction, if they were allowed to raise money on tax receipts from citizens. Permission being given, they did the whole work for $86,000. The police was demoralized by being paid in depreciated scrip; the taxpayers asked the Mayor to discharge the police, and authorize an unsalaried citizens' patrol; and this, too, was done, and the city became at once orderly. In the fall of 1874 a conservative city government was chosen, and the scrip stands to-day at 90.

But this is not all. The new charter was passed in 1871. In 1873 the Legislature incorporated the Shreveport Savings Bank and Trust Company, and gave it for fifty years the "sole and exclusive right" to erect works, supply the city with water and gas, and to run a ferry across the river. Now, at that very time Shreveport had already a well established gas company; a satisfactory ferry had long been in existence and was a source of revenue to the city; and for waterworks there was no need. The company was to pay for all its privileges the petty sum of $500 a year. Now, then, among the incorporators named in the statute which gives these "exclusive rights," I find C. C. Antoine, then and still Lieutenant Governor; William Harper, State Senator; S. A. Hamilton, Tax Collector; Frank T. Hatch, Supervisor of Registration; M. A. Walsh, the appointed Mayor, and George L. Smith, member of Congress. The story is completed when I add that the incorporators were not merely endowed with "exclusive rights," but also allowed to transfer them to other persons unimpaired.

HOW THEY TAMPERED WITH THE COURTS.

No ruler of a civilized community ever possessed greater powers than the Governor of Louisiana under this constitution. It gives him actual and direct control of the whole of the election machinery and of all the officers who handle the taxes; and, indirectly, he has had the appointment of almost all the local or parish officers of the State, as well as of the judiciary; for when a judge or other officer elected by the people did not serve the purposes of the corruptionists who controlled the State, if no other way to remove him offered, the Legislature was ready to create a new parish, or a new judicial district, or a new court, and thus enable its Governor to put in a serviceable person. Here is an example:—The constitution provides that all district judges shall be elected by the people. New Orleans has a strong conservative majority and elected conservative judges, and, this being inconvenient to the rulers of the State, the Legislature of 1871 created a new tribunal, called the Eighth District Court, and authorized the Governor to appoint a judge to hold until the next election. Now, in 1872 Mr. Elmore, conservative, was elected to preside over this court. Thereupon the Legislature, as soon as it met, abolished both this and the Seventh District Courts, to both which conservative judges had been chosen, created the "Superior District Court," authorized the Governor to appoint its judge, to hold until 1876, and vested in this court, so organized, exclusive jurisdiction of all prerogative writs and the trial of all actions in which the title to any office—State, parish, or municipal—was involved. Another act of the same Legislature authorized the removal of cases where the office of judge was contested in any part of the State to this Superior District Court of New Orleans.

Again, the criminal jurisdiction in the parish of Orleans was formerly vested in the First District Court of that parish. In 1872 a conservative, E. Abell, was elected Judge of this court. In 1874 the Legislature deprived this court of almost all its important powers and gave them to a new tribunal, called the "Superior Criminal Court," and this was specially vested with exclusive jurisdiction in all cases of violations of registration or election laws, and the Governor was directed to appoint a judge to hold office until 1876. Now, remember that the radicals, who thus created this court, were proved before the Congressional Committee to have made 5,200 false registrations in New Orleans alone in 1874. Of course, having their own court, no one was punished for this.

Again, by the charter of New Orleans, the police magistracy of the city was vested in certain "Recorder's Courts," whose officers were to be chosen by the "Administrators" or Common Council of the city. But the people elected in 1872 a conservative board of administrators, and these chose conservative recorders. Thereupon, Act No. 95 of 1873 was passed by the Legislature, which abolished the Recorders' Courts, created in their place metropolitan police courts, and gave the Governor authority to appoint the magistrates to preside in these courts.

In other parts of the State the same trick has been repeatedly played of legislating an obnoxious—that is to say an honest—judge out of office by creating a new district, thus giving the Governor the appointment of one or even several new judges. Take one instance as an example:—In the parish of Natchitoches, in 1872, the Grand Jury indicted a parish officer for embezzlement. The Parish Judge, his personal friend, protected him by neglecting to draw a jury. (This was so common a trick that a law was finally passed which compelled the drawing of juries; but this law is evaded, for no jury was drawn in the place in which I write this at this term of the Court—people tell me because the Parish Judge was afraid that if a Grand Jury met it would indict him for a gross misapplication of trust funds.) However, in Natchitoches the case went before the District Judge and a negro jury, who gave a verdict for $40,000. Thereupon at the next session the Legislature broke up the Judicial District, and the Governor appointed to be Judge of the new district, which included Natchitoches parish, that Parish Judge who had corruptly protected the embezzler of public funds. The Judge (Myers) has been driven out of the country—so he tells me; reputable citizens of the parish accuse him of being concerned in embezzling the school fund. The Tax Collector, Boult, also driven from the parish, stands published as a defaulter in the last Auditor's report, and acknowledged to me that he had, while Tax Collector, been engaged in partnership with the democratic member elect of Congress in buying up depreciated county warrants, which the county must redeem at par. Both Myers and Boult continue to hold office, and the condition of affairs in the parish may be gathered from the following details, which were confirmed to me by several citizens as existing in 1874:—District Judge Myers was also treasurer of the school fund, and continues to be, though he has not been in the county since last July. Dr. Boult was Tax Collector and member of the School Board. His son, William Boult, was Deputy Tax Collector and also Deputy Parish Treasurer—two offices one of which ought to be a check on the other. A negro "police jury"—a body which is the equivalent of our county supervisors—appointed an illiterate parish treasurer, who made this Boult his deputy. Another son, David Boult, was Parish Judge.

PLURALISTS.

Nor is such a state of things uncommon. Before the Congressional Committee appeared one Green, of Lincoln parish, and in answer to questions admitted that he was State Senator, one of his sons Tax Collector, another Parish Judge, and a third Supervisor of Registration. Of the members of the present Legislature some are parish judges, some tax collectors, one is Assistant Secretary of State, and a considerable number are charged by their constituents with sharing the emoluments of office holders whose appointments they have caused.

The complaint is universal that the officers charged with the execution of the laws are not only inefficient, but corrupt; that justice is not only delayed, but openly sold, and in many cases the people have, after vain remonstrances, taken the law into their own hands. In Vermilion parish, for instance, on the prairie lands of which stock raising is the chief business, the owners of cattle, after long endurance of theft, openly told the Governor that unless they were protected by the courts they would hang cattle thieves by Lynch law, and as no remedy came they presently did hang between twenty and thirty men, some white and some colored. "I have seen a District Attorney, appointed by the Governor, sell out a case for as little as $10," declared a laboring man with whom I conversed, and the story was confirmed to me by several citizens of the parish whom I asked. One of the prominent citizens of the parish of Rapides said to me, "We have had neither protection nor justice for years. Matters became so bad that even the negroes got tired of bad government and began to vote with us. We had no intimidation at the last election, because it was not necessary. But we would have intimidated if it had been required, for we could stand it no longer." "When we drove out the parish Judge and other rascals our taxes had got up to seven and nine-tenths per cent on a high valuation, and we concluded that we might as well stop there and refuse to pay any more taxes," said the citizen of another parish.

Nor are even the highest judicial officers of the State untainted. In the North Louisiana Railroad case the Supreme Court of the United States, in its decision delivered last winter, said:—

A property upon which had been expended nearly $2,000,000, together with a large stock subscription, a large grant of lands and considerable municipal property, was bought for $50,000 by the very persons who defeated a sale for a much larger price, and the purchase money was retained by themselves. * * * It is impossible to characterize this agreement as anything else than a gross fraud. Its obvious purpose was to remove competition at the sale. It was a flagrant breach of trust on the part of Horne, and it was a fraud in Ludeling, with knowledge of the trust Horne had undertaken, to persuade him to violate his instructions and sacrifice the interests of his constituents, himself becoming a party to the violation. * * * And it is further ordered, adjudged and decreed that the sale made by John T. Ludeling and his associates, and the adjudication of the Sheriff to them, together with the Sheriff's deed to them, be declared to be fraudulent and void, and be set aside and cancelled, and that a perpetual injunction issue commanding them and all the defendants to refrain from setting up or claiming any right, title or interest under said sale or under said deed, &c.

Now, the John T. Ludeling, here declared guilty of fraud and breach of trust, is the present Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Louisiana, appointed by a republican Governor, and is allowed by the Legislature to retain his seat on the Supreme Bench of the State in the face of these terrible words of the United States Supreme Court. Public and political demoralization could hardly go further than this. Considering the character of the men with whom he acts he was the right man in the right place, and it was but part of a general system when "Ludeling, Ch. J.," decided in 1870, in a case brought before his Court, where it was attempted to upset an act of the Legislature on the ground that it was procured by bribing the members, that "courts are not permitted to go behind an enrolled, duly authenticated and promulgated public statute to inquire into the motives which may have influenced the members of the General Assembly in enacting it. Therefore evidence tending to establish bribery and corruption against the members of the General Assembly, which, is alleged, procured its passage, is not admissible."

HOW THEY MAINTAINED THEIR POWER.

Federal State and parish officers have banded together to maintain themselves in power and have used the ignorant fears of the negroes to help them. They called to their aid every man unscrupulous enough to take part with them. By alarming the blacks, by false registration, by arbitrary arrests and threats of arrests just before the elections, by cheating in the Returning Board, by tampering with the courts, by debauching the Legislature, by monopolizing offices, they have persistently prevented the honest people of the State from securing honest government. See here an example:—A young fellow, a white man, in the present Legislature, came hither from New York six years ago, so far an adventurer that his first occupation was to teach boys to travel on the velocipede. He was presently engaged as a subordinate clerk in the Legislature, and when that body adjourned he went to Mississippi, where, the Legislature of that State being still in session, he was also employed as a clerk. In the fall he returned to New Orleans, where Warmoth, then Governor, made him Supervisor of Registration and Election in an up country parish where he had never been or lived. After the election he brought down the returns, which, by a coincidence not at all remarkable in this State, showed him to have been unanimously elected to the Legislature from the parish where he had managed the registration and election. Two years later, in 1872, he did not receive the republican nomination, but, noways discouraged, he announced himself as an independent candidate. On his way to the parish, however, he was intrusted by the State Committee with the republican tickets for the parish voters, and it was discovered that his name and that of a democrat were mysteriously placed on these tickets. Thereupon the negroes threatened to lynch him, and he returned to New Orleans until just before the election. The returns showed his defeat; but the Returning Board seated him, regarding him probably as too useful a man to leave out. I am told that he found it necessary to call in the help of the last Returning Board also to seat him in the present Legislature.

HOW THEY MADE A LEGISLATURE.

Such cases were so far from rare here that the Legislature of 1869 was made up almost entirely of supervisors of registration and colored men. Warmoth, the Governor, selected as registrars a large number of men left in New Orleans after the war, and remaining there without regular employment. These were sent into the country parishes to register the voters, and they so impressed the negroes with their official power and dignity, that a majority of them were returned to the Legislature from parishes which they had never seen until they went there to superintend the election. The negroes were dragged in as a matter of bargain; they had wit enough to demand a share of the honors. The Legislature so elected sat sixty days, at a cost to the State, for per diem, mileage and contingents, of $900,000. Each member is said to have received $7,000 for the session; and it is related that a single committee of the House had eighty-seven clerks, who were paid $10 a day each. Some account of what the reconstructors did and did not I must reserve for another letter. CHARLES NORDHOFF.

MILITARY AMENITIES.

A LETTER FROM GENERAL BEAUREGARD TO THE GOVERNOR OF TENNESSEE—A REVIEW OF THE DAYS OF THE WAR.

NEW ORLEANS, La., April 23, 1875.

DEAR SIR—Your favor of the 18th inst. has been received, enclosing the form of an invitation adopted by a general meeting of the soldiers, sailors and citizens of Chicago to be sent "to all who recognize the American flag as an emblem of nationality, undivided and indivisible, to attend a grand reunion of all the soldiers and sailors of the United States, to be held at Chicago, May 12, 13 and 14, 1875," and inquiring how much truth there is in the remarks of a certain General Frank Sherman, who objected to the invitation being sent to me as "he was not in favor of extending an invitation to a man who had said he was in favor of shooting all prisoners taken under the American flag." I had hoped that the passions and enmities occasioned by the late war were replaced by kindlier feelings, but it seems that there are hearts still rancorous enough to be ever anxious to stir again into a flame the dying embers of the war.

In this section of our country such exhibitions of animosity are confined to those who during the war were furthest from the enemy, gathering up the spoils in the wake of the contending armies. Is not this General Frank Sherman one of those despicable characters?

Not from any regard for such windy declamation, nor for the man mean enough to sink to such base pandering to popular passion, but out of respect to myself and to that cause whose high and holy purpose history will some day vindicate, I will very briefly and frankly state the position I took in regard to the conduct of the late civil war as concerned federal prisoners. After the battle of the first Manassas, when it was reported that the federal government refused to recognize Confederate prisoners as "prisoners of war," that Christian hero and able soldier, General Thomas J. (Stonewall) Jackson, and myself advocated that the Confederate government should then proclaim a "war to the knife," neither asking nor granting quarter. We, moreover, thought that the war would thereby come sooner to an end, with less destruction, finally, of life and property. We thought also that such a mode of warfare would inspire greater terror in the armed invaders of our soil and reduce greatly the number of army followers, bummers, &c., who were ever the curse of all armed invasions.

Subsequently, when the federals had penetrated certain portions of the South, and developed a system of warfare in their operations in Louisiana, Mississippi and Virginia, and the inexcusable burning of Atlanta and Columbia and the destructive march of General Sherman through Georgia and South Carolina, whose track was marked by smoking ruins and blackened chimneys; to the suggestion of General Halleck to destroy Charleston and sprinkle salt on its site that not even grass should grow thereon, to which General Sherman replied, that no salt would be needed, as one of his most reliable corps formed the right wing of his army and that it always did its work thoroughly; to the devastating march of General Sheridan through the Shenandoah Valley, relative to which he reported to the General-in-Chief of the United States armies that "a crow flying over the country would have to carry its own rations;" but he did not say what became of the old men, women and children who then lived in that fertile valley! With regard to the mortality of prisoners on both sides, the Washington *Union* (radical) of October, 1868, contained the following article:—"In reply to a resolution of the House of Representatives calling upon the Secretary of War for the number of prisoners of either side held, and that died during the war, he makes the following report:—Number of Union prisoners South, 263,910; died, 22,576. Number of Confederate prisoners North, 220,000; died, 26,435. That is, two of the former out of every twenty-two and two of the latter out of every fifteen."

Comment is here unnecessary, in view of the condition and resources of those two sections of country, so diametrically opposed to the one practised by the Confederates when they invaded Maryland and Pennsylvania under their great commander, General R. E. Lee. When I saw the emaciated forms and wretched condition of our returned Southern prisoners I again advocated the hoisting of the black flag, willing at any time to forfeit my life in the deadly struggle. Notwithstanding these views, I always treated my prisoners with humanity and proper consideration. I had the fortune of taking many thousands of them at Manassas, Shiloh, Charleston, Drury's Bluff, Bermuda Hundreds and Petersburg, most of whom are, I suppose, still alive, and can and certainly would testify to the fact.

After the fall of Fort Sumter, in April, 1861, I granted to the garrison the same considerate terms which I had offered before the attack. Through my intercession the federal surgeons and ministers of the Gospel taken at Manassas were released, without exchange, by the Confederate government. The day after that battle one of the federal officers, whose friends I knew in New York, applied to me for a small loan for himself and friends, which I furnished at once from my private funds. It was faithfully returned.

Shortly after the battle of Shiloh I sent, under a cartel, a certain number of able-bodied federal prisoners to General Halleck, who, several weeks after, returned an equal number of convalescents from St. Louis to Fort Pillow. The officer in command there refused to receive them, because several of them were just from a smallpox hospital. General Halleck failed afterward to make good the exchange.

At Charleston I authorized Admiral Dahlgren to send supplies of clothing, &c., to the prisoners we had taken from him. These supplies were scrupulously issued to them.

At Bermuda Hundreds, in May, 1864, when passing in front of a large body of federal prisoners, who had gallantly defended a position which I considered indispensable to us, I took off my hat to them, and they answered this salutation with cheers.

Terribly as I desired the effects of the war to fall on all armed invaders of our country, I wanted exempted from them the non-combatants—that is, the old men, women and children, and wished also that private property, not contraband of war and not needed by the contending armies in the field, should be entirely protected from seizure or destruction. Such would have been my course had I penetrated with an army into federal territory, unless it were in strict retaliation for material departures by the federal forces from this civilized mode of carrying on the war. I remain, dear sir, yours most truly,

G. T. BEAUREGARD.

To His Excellency Governor JAMES D. PORTER, Nashville, Tenn.

LAW OF NATIONS.

QUESTIONS TO BE DISCUSSED IN AN INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE AT THE HAGUE, NEXT SEPTEMBER.

An important meeting of the International Code Committee was held last evening at the Gramercy Park Hotel. The object of the meeting was to arrange a programme for the Conference of the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations to be held at the Hague, Holland, the first week of September next. A large number of distinguished gentlemen were present; among them were Rev. President Theodore D. Woolsey, Mr. D. D. Field, Rev. President F. A. P. Barnard, Judge C. A. Peabody, Dr. J. B. Miles, Rev. Drs. Prime, Field and Osgood; Chancellor Pruyn, and others. President Woolsey was called to the chair; Prof. Homer B. Sprague was chosen secretary.

Mr. D. D. Field submitted the following series of questions and propositions for discussion at the said meeting of the Association for the Reform and Codification of the Law of Nations:—

NO. 1—PROPORTIONATE REDUCTION IN THE ARMAMENTS OF EUROPEAN NATIONS.

Questions submitted to statesmen, jurists and others, in order to obtain their opinions upon the desirableness and practicability of a proportionate reduction in the armaments of European nations:—

1. What is the armament by land and sea of the nation to which you belong and what also according to your information are those of the other European nations?
2. What proportion of such armament in the case of each nation do you consider necessary to its internal security?
3. What proportion do you consider necessary to its external security?
4. Do you consider it desirable that there should be a proportionate reduction in the armaments of European nations and whatever may be your opinion will you give the reason of it?
5. Is a proportionate reduction practicable, and if so, to what extent?
6. By what methods may such a reduction be accomplished?

NO. 2—FORMALITIES AND DELAYS THAT SHOULD BE REQUIRED OF NATIONS BEFORE ENGAGING IN OFFENSIVE WAR.

Questions submitted to statesmen, jurists and others, in order to obtain their opinions upon the practicability of a general treaty, binding nations to observe certain formalities and delays before beginning offensive war:—

1. Is it, in your opinion, possible to induce the principal nations of the world to agree upon certain formalities and delays before commencing offensive war, and, whatever may be your opinion, will you give the reasons of it?
2. If you think such an agreement possible will you specify the formalities and delays which you think may be secured?
3. Do you think it possible to bring about a general agreement of the principal nations requiring any one of them which considers itself aggrieved to state in writing its grievances, and submit the statement not only to the nation complained of, but to the other parties to the agreement, and to wait a certain time afterward before commencing hostilities, and if you do what regulations would you have provided for such formalities and delays?

NO. 3—ARBITRATIONS FOR INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES.

Questions submitted to statesmen, jurists and others in order to obtain their opinions upon the practicability of establishing a scheme of arbitration for the settlement of international disputes:—

1. Is it, in your opinion, possible to induce the principal nations of the world to agree upon a scheme of arbitration for the settlement of controversies between nations, and, whatever may be your opinion, will you give the reasons of it?
2. If you think such an agreement possible, will you explain the scheme which you would recommend, with such details as you think necessary to its practical operation?
3. In what manner would you endeavor to bring about such an agreement?

NO. 4.—PROGRESS MADE DURING THE LAST YEAR TOWARD A REFORM AND CODIFICATION OF THE LAW OF NATIONS.

Questions submitted for the purpose of ascertaining the progress made since the last conference of the association toward the reform and codification of the law of nations.

1. Has any, and if any what, progress been made toward the reform and codification of the law of nations since the last conference of the association, held at Geneva in September, 1874?
2. Have resolutions in favor of international arbitration been passed during this period by the legislative bodies or other principal authorities of any, and if so which, of the nations?
3. Have any instances of international arbitration occurred during this period; and if so, please to specify them and state the circumstances under which they occurred?
4. Has any advance in public opinion taken place during the past year in favor of disarmament and international arbitration; and if you think such an advance has taken place, will you give the reasons for your opinion?

NO. 5.—COLLISIONS AT SEA.

Questions submitted to jurists, shipowners, masters of vessels and others, in order to obtain their opinions upon the best methods of preventing, as far as possible, collisions at sea and fixing the responsibility upon the guilty parties when they occur.

1. What, in your opinion, would be the best means of diminishing the chances of collisions at sea?
2. Is any, and if any what, change in the rules of navigation desirable?
3. How far is it desirable and practicable to designate the lines of passage for vessels moving in opposite directions upon particular voyages?
4. In cases of collision what course would you recommend for fixing the responsibility upon the guilty parties?
5. Would you recommend the establishment of international tribunals for the investigation of such cases, and if so, how would you have such tribunals constituted, and what should be their methods of procedure?

Gentlemen receiving these questions are respectfully requested to favor the association with answers thereto, and to send such answers either to the General Secretary, Dr. James B. Miles, of Boston, Mass., or to G. L. Th. Beerlaerts Van Blokland, LL.D., Advocate, Honorary Secretary for Holland, No. 9 Koningsinnegracht, The Hague, Holland.

The General Secretary (Dr. Miles) was requested to meet the council of the association in London early in July to complete arrangements.

The following gentlemen were appointed delegates to attend the meeting at The Hague:—President Woolsey, Hon. D. D. Field, Rev. Dr. H. M. Field, Judge C. A. Peabody, Hon. Alexander H. Rice, A. P. Sprague, Nathan Appleton, Professor F. A. Walker, Hon. Amasa Walker, Hon. Elihu Burritt, Hon. William A. Hubbard, Rev. Dr. J. P. Thompson. President Woolsey, Mr. Field and Mr. Miles were appointed a sub-committee authorized to add to the list of delegates.

The forthcoming meeting at The Hague will be of especial importance, since the King of Holland gives it his earnest support.

A NARROW ESCAPE.

A CARGO OF SALT IMPREGNATED WITH ARSENIC—HOW THE DISCOVERY WAS MADE—FACTS OF THE CASE.

On March 2 the ship Niagara, chartered by Henderson Brothers, owners of the Anchor Steamship line, sailed from Liverpool, under command of Captain McFarlane. She had a cargo of salt and arsenic aboard—1,950 sacks of the former and 100 barrels of the latter, besides some other merchandise, principally chemicals. The salt was stowed in the hold of the vessel and securely packed, the arsenic being in that space of the ship known as "between decks." The Niagara was a stanch vessel, having once been a Cunard steamship, and is considered a fast sailer. On this occasion, however, almost from the outset of the voyage, bad weather set in, and a few days after leaving port the vessel was met by a frightful hurricane, which laid her on her beam ends, tore many of the sails to shreds and at length caused the foretopmast to go by the board. In this emergency the horror of the situation was added to by the fact that the cargo, in part, shifted, the barrels of arsenic breaking away and at every lurch of the ship rolling about without any possibility on the part of the crew, occupied, as it was, with the fate of the vessel itself, to right matters in the hold. Rolling about from side to side many of the barrels broke open and scattered their contents about the deck. The hatches were battened down, but this was not enough to prevent some portion of the huge volumes of water from getting through the interstices and partly wetting what had been scattered about. It was with infinite difficulty that the vessel was at length righted after the storm had abated, and she proceeded on her voyage, the cargo in the meantime having been fixed in place, but what had been spoiled swept away. The voyage continued pleasantly for some time longer, until the 24th, when the ship met another storm, only less devastating than the first. Here again there was some trouble with the cargo, but nothing to compare with the first time, and only some arsenic was lost from the barrels which had been more or less damaged before. This was not paid much attention to, and, the ship having weathered this second gale as safely as the first, she arrived in the port of New York on April 4, bearing the marks however, of her battle with the elements. The arrival of the vessel had been anxiously awaited here, and the salt was broken immediately and sent by the parties to whom it was consigned to the West, some reaching Chicago and Cincinnati. Captain McFarlane, busy with other duties, did not remark anything as singular in the unloading until several days after some of the salt had been unpacked and sent away. He then remarked that many of the sacks of salt appeared to be coated with a white powder, and that the floor of the "between decks" also had a considerable quantity of the same. It struck him that this could not be salt, and therefore must be arsenic. So he communicated his suspicion to Messrs. Henderson, the consignees of the Niagara. They immediately, fearing a disaster, put themselves in communication with the consignees of the salt, of whom there were a number, and these gentlemen proceeded to the ship and examined the condition of affairs. They came to the conclusion that the suspicion of the Captain regarding the contamination of the arsenic might possibly be true, as it became evident to them that the white powder which coated the sacks and lay about the decks was not salt. Under these circumstances it was decided to call in the service of a chemist who would report on the matter. In the meantime telegrams were sent by these gentlemen to all the persons to whom the salt had been sent not to use it under any circumstances until further information was obtained. In each case these telegrams were received before the salt, and what might have been a serious calamity was averted. Professor Doremus was then called upon and asked to make an examination.

WHAT PROFESSOR DOREMUS SAYS.

Professor Doremus, in conversation last night on the subject, said that he complied with the invitation and went on board the Niagara. Captain McFarlane was very courteous and showed him through the vessel. He visited the "'tween decks" and then the hold and saw how the accident had happened. It was natural enough, and in such weather could not have been very well prevented. He saw a good deal of the arsenic powder lying around on the decks and also noticed the coating on the sacks of salt. He told the gentlemen who employed him that he would put a veto on the use of the salt until a thorough examination could be made of the salt inside the sacks, to determine whether it had been contaminated or not. He thereupon took the salt to his laboratory and examined it carefully. He found in the specimens what he considered arsenic, scattered through especially that portion of the salt which had been near the outside. It existed in quantities sufficient to make it dangerous for edible purposes. Whether it would cause death or not is a question he would not answer. But it might have done so. There was no possible danger of this, however, as the use of the salt had been stopped. It was all of a very fine quality, Ashton and Marshall's salts, and great loss had been entailed by the accident. He supposed that a portion of it would possibly have been good, but he could not tell what portion, and therefore had to condemn the whole. It was not a total loss, however, as it might be used for several purposes besides edible, to preserve skins, for instance. It can only be taken as a misfortune in which nobody is to blame.

The Niagara now lies at pier No. 47 East River, and her topmast is still missing. Almost all the salt has been moved out by this time, but full precautions have been taken that by no possibility the poisoned salt or any portion of it can be used for the purposes for which it was first destined. The people to whom it was sent were afterward notified of its dangerous character and some of it has already been sent back.

SERIOUS STABBING AFFRAY.

A BOY DANGEROUSLY STABBED IN THE ABDOMEN WITH A PENKNIFE.

A stabbing affray, which may result fatally, occurred in front of No. 476 Hudson street last night. It appears that Jacob Simmons opened a liquor saloon and policy shop at the above number yesterday, and the place was visited by a number of friends of the proprietor, who thronged the store at different hours. Attracted by the crowd, several boys, among whom was Samuel Miller, aged fourteen years, residing at No. 44 Barrow street, assembled in the neighborhood at about half-past seven o'clock, and Joseph Simmons, a lad fifteen years old, a brother of the proprietor, came out of the store and ordered the n to leave. Miller refused to go, and an altercation ensued, in which Miller struck Simmons in the face with his clenched hand. The latter retaliated by drawing from his pocket a penknife and stabbing Miller in the abdomen with it, inflicting a deep and dangerous wound, after which he made his escape. The wounded boy was taken by his friends to the Ninth precinct station house, where he stated the circumstances, after which he was removed to his residence and Dr. O'Neil summoned to attend him. The latter, on examination, pronounced the wound a very dangerous one, and one that might result in death.

Captain Kennedy promptly detailed a detective to arrest young Simmons, and the latter was, after a long search, found and taken into custody. His brother Jacob was subsequently arrested by the police and his policy shop closed. Young Simmons was very reticent about the affair, refusing to say anything. He was locked up to await the result of Miller's injuries.

THE COLLEGE OF MUSIC.

The charter of the American College of Music has passed both houses of the Legislature and has just received the Governor's signature. Governor Tilden's great interest in the institution induced him to sign this bill in preference to many others that were laid before him. A HERALD representative has had the privilege of reading the bill, which is an excellent one so far as it goes. Nothing remains to be done now but to select and organize the Board of Trustees. This will be done immediately. The gentlemen who will be requested to serve—although they have not been spoken to yet—are pretty much decided upon. The next move will be to appoint a faculty. The public may rest assured of one thing, and that is that the right men will be put in the right place, and as soon as the first step is taken the others will follow.

The charter allows the institution to hold $2,000,000 worth of real estate and to have an annual income not exceeding $250,000, and gives the college the privilege of conferring the degree of Doctor of music upon its graduates.

AMUSEMENTS.

THE DAN BRYANT BENEFITS.

The ever-generous people of New York gave yesterday another proof of their kindly and charitable character, by making the benefit performances organized for the children of the deceased Daniel Webster O'Brien, better known as Dan Bryant, an overwhelming success. All the leading theatres of the city gave matinée performances in aid of the Bryant family; and, without exception, they were literally jammed. Few of the houses ever see such audiences gathered within their walls as were brought together by the benefit testimonial. The merry faces and gay dresses of the assistants gave but little indication of the sad occasion of the assemblage; but the good done was none the less real because it was done cheerfully and with a spirit of light-heartedness. The various theatres had prepared strong attractive bills with a very laudable spirit of rivalry, but so great was the rush for places that the chief theatres became uncomfortably filled.

THE ACADEMY OF MUSIC.

The bill at this house included Mr. Fitz-James O'Brien's comedy of "A Gentleman from Ireland," "Yankee Help" and Poole's comedy "Simpson & Co." Under the direction of the genial John Brougham everything went off smoothly, and the immense audience that filled up every available nook in the great house were kept heartily amused. Mr. John Brougham played Gerald Fitzmaurice in O'Brien's clever comedy with his wonted happiness. In returning thanks to the public for their generosity in coming to the aid of Dan Bryant's family he said:—

I have but little to say to you, ladies and gentlemen, upon this occasion—words are poor interpreters of the heart's language. Nor could anything be said in the way of eulogy, for your share in this work of comprehensive benevolence, beyond the simple fact that at this moment the simultaneous demonstrations are transpiring that will enable New York to do, what it has often done before upon similar occasions—to take the place of a father to the fatherless, and to mitigate in some degree the cruelly sudden stroke of ill fortune which deprived a sorrowing and helpless family of its bread winner—even in the full flush of his manhood, the very meridian of his life. The conception of these acts of humanity is grand; it is exceptional; in one single sentence—it is American. There is no other community in the world where it would be at all likely to be done, and there is no place in America where it could be accomplished so thoroughly, earnestly and conscientiously as here in this City of Charities. May Heaven bless you for it! Indeed, heaven has blessed you, as the very inspiration which causes you to respond with such abundant liberality to every demand upon your sympathy must bring with it that glow of inward happiness which always accompanies the performance of a generous and humane action. It is the most supreme quality of that mercy which

Falleth as the gentle dew from heaven
Upon the place beneath. It is thrice blessed;
It blesseth him that gives and him that takes.

It would be superfluous to add one word to the utterance of the great poet of all time, who invariably said the best things that could be said upon all subjects and upon all occasions.

Mrs. Barney Williams received quite an ovation for her performance in "Yankee Help"—one of those happy caricatures, robust and mirth-provoking, which amuse without offending. Mrs. John Drew and Miss Rose Massey made their appearance in "Simpson & Co.," with Miss Morant, Mrs. G. Fawcett Rowe, Mr. MacKay and others.

The second and third acts of "L'Ombra" were given by members of the Maretzek Opera Company. The performance was brought to a close by a grand musical entertainment by the Bryant's Minstrels. The minstrels did not appear until six P. M., but the people waited and gave them a most enthusiastic reception.

WALLACK'S.

This favorite house was yesterday filled to its utmost capacity. The entertainment consisted of Smith's comedietta, "A Happy Pair," in which Miss