POLITICAL SEA BREEZES.

The Real Doings and Object of the Parker and Kelly Conference at Saratoga.

CHURCH FOR GOVERNOR.

The Tammany St. Louis Shoulder Hitters To Go to Saratoga.

DEATH TO TILDEN MEN.

LONG BRANCH, August 27, 1876.

The meeting of the Democratic State Convention at Saratoga, on Wednesday next, is the theme of conversation among the politicians at Long Branch to-day, and various speculations are ventured as to who will carry off the prize—if it be a prize—of the nomination.

THE SECRET OF THE PARKER CONSPIRACY.

The facts in relation to the meeting of the disaffected democrats at Saratoga some time ago has at length leaked out. The conference, in which John Kelly took part, was an offshoot of the famous Albany conspiracy held at Judge Parker's house to defeat the nomination of Tilden at St. Louis, and its object was to arrange a programme for putting Judge Church in the field as the democratic candidate for Governor. It was decided to make a combination through the length and breadth of the State in favor of the nomination of the Chief Justice of the Court of Appeals at Saratoga, and the hope is entertained that this may be done by acclamation, so as to override at once any plans that may have been arranged on the Tilden side. The names of those who gave their countenance and support to the movement were handed in, and among them were Joseph Warren and William G. Fargo, of Buffalo; Jarvis Lord, George D. Lord, the contractor; Mudge, Van Rensselaer Richmond, ex-State Engineer; ex-Canal Commissioner W. W. Wright, Canal Commissioner Walrath, Judge Allen, of the Court of Appeals; Dr. Dennison, of Syracuse; Erastus Corning, John V. L. Pruyn, Judge Amasa J. Parker, State Treasurer Raines, ex-Mayor McCoithe, of Troy; Judge Miller, of the Court of Appeals; Senator Ben Rao, and the whole Tammany organization, under John Kelly. It will be seen at once that the combination is a powerful one and extends throughout the State, although only a few of the names handed in as pledged to the movements are here given.

A REPETITION OF ST. LOUIS.

The *modus operandi* agreed upon is a counterpart of the policy unsuccessfully pursued at St. Louis against Mr. Tilden, but which, it is expected, can be more profitably undertaken at Saratoga. The main portion of the work is to fall to the share of Tammany Hall. The braves are to be on hand in full force—Aldermen, Coroners, office-holders and expectants, keepers of groggeries, shoulder hitters and rowdies of all grades—and they are to be as aggressive and pugnacious as they were at the National Convention. Any one who opposes their policy or demands fair play for the Presidential nominee and his friends is to be treated as Alderman Mike Tuomey treated Judge Ackert, or as John Kelly served Wickham, Hewitt and Smith Weed. The campaign at Saratoga is to be made an aggressive one against Dorsheimer in particular, and against Hewitt, Andrew H. Green or any one who may be Tilden's "dark horse" in general. The "respectable element," consisting of the parlor friends of Judge Parker, is to do the reasoning against the nomination of any distinctive Tilden man as an inexpedient policy, calculated to drive democrats who have swallowed the candidates from supporting him at the polls. The Canal Ring, Bill Wright, Walrath and the rest are to furnish funds and loud-tongued abuse of Dorsheimer, Hewitt and others. The objective point is to kill any candidate who is recognized as an original and sincere Tilden man, but Dorsheimer, Hewitt and Green in particular. The Church programme is to be pushed vigorously and is not to be abandoned unless its hopelessness of success should become apparent. In the latter event the attempt is to be made to nominate Seymour, Beach, Fargo, Erastus Corning, Amasa J. Parker or any other original anti-Tilden man.

WHAT LIES BEHIND.

It is rumored that in the event of the nomination of any candidate not acceptable to and trusted by Tammany Hall Mr. John Kelly will sell out the Tilden electoral ticket for Conkling votes for the democratic State ticket and the privilege of running a city ticket of his own without any fear of a union of the anti-Tammany and republican parties against his local nominees. This may appear to some a bargain impossible of being carried out, but it is really easy of accomplishment. With the secret, close organization of Tammany held virtually in one man's hands from 15,000 to 20,000 votes can be cast by the leader in any direction he may please just as easily as he can cast his own single vote. There are that number of men who owe their political existence to the autocrat of the organization, and they can be used by him at his will. In like manner the Conkling men hold the republican organization in the city, and in like manner the leaders can control the votes of those who are politically dependent upon them, although probably not to a like numerical extent. By such a bargain Kelly would secure a Tammany Governor who would agree to such removals in the city government as the new Tammany Mayor might desire, and who would veto any anti-Tammany legislation that might be attempted for the next three years. The Conkling faction, for its part, by electing the republican electoral ticket in New York and defeating Morgan for Governor, would be able to claim that Morgan does not actually represent the party in the State, but that Hayes owed his election to the republican leaders who were overruled at Saratoga.

A QUESTION OF POLICY.

While it is true that this rumor of a trade and bargain between Kelly and the Conkling interests may be unfounded, it is yet plausible enough to teach both the democratic and republican parties the expediency of caution. Mr. A. B. Cornell is not a sort of man to easily swallow the disappointment of cherished hopes, and the desperation with which he sought to secure the second place on the Saratoga ticket after the first had been denied him proves how eager he was for recognition. If Governor Morgan should be elected next November he will of course have very great influence at Washington should Hayes become President, both as Governor of New York, as the head of the organization in the State and as ex-United States Senator, familiar with national affairs and national men. To suppose that he will not exercise this influence in favor of ex-Governor Fenton, and the liberal and anti-Conkling republicans who stood by him and made him Governor, is to pronounce him a man destitute of truthfulness and honor. He must, in that case, let a great many of the Conkling men go, and this will, of course, break Mr. Conkling's power in the State and consign Mr. Cornell to political oblivion. Under these circumstances, and remembering Mr. Cornell's peculiar qualities of mind, will it be exactly prudent to make him the chairman of the State Executive Committee? Ought Mr. Cornell, indeed, to covet such a position when his loyalty to Morgan and Rogers, both his successful opponents, will certainly be questioned by some? On the other hand, will it be safe for Mr. Tilden and his friends to admit the Tammany delegation to the State Convention of Wednesday next, or to let them in with a representation larger than that of the anti-Tammany democracy? Mr. John Kelly's anxiety to secure control of the Convention, his intrigue with acknowledged enemies of Governor Tilden, his admitted desire to defeat all Tilden's friends in the Convention and to nominate a Governor in sympathy with Tammany, are all calculated to arouse suspicions as to the honesty of his professed support of the democratic electoral ticket.

KELLY'S ILLEGITIMATE OPPOSITION TO TILDEN.

Mr. Kelly makes the specious plea that he only opposed Governor Tilden before his nomination, which he had the right to do, and gave in his adhesion to the nominee immediately the party had chosen him as their candidate. If Mr. Kelly's opposition to Tilden had been legitimately made this would be a satisfactory explanation. But it was an illegitimate and felonious opposition. Mr. Tilden was Governor of the State; he had carried on his administration for a year with honor to himself and his party; he had framed the democratic policy as accepted by the nation; as the head of his party in the Empire State he had brought the democracy of New York up to a respectable and honorable position and given it a prestige which had already placed it on the road to victory. John Kelly and those who do his bidding struck a felon blow at all this good democratic work and at the leader who had done it. They pronounced Mr. Tilden not an inexpedient candidate, because of locality or from any other cause, but an improper candidate to be nominated. They denounced him as a cheat and impostor, as a thief who had robbed the widow and the orphan in his railroad transactions; as a man who had amassed riches by dishonest practices. They strove to break down the capital he had made for the democracy, by calling him a bogus reformer, sneering at his work and impugning his motives. They scraped together enough money to purchase the control of a paper only for the purpose of using it to slander and besmirch the democratic Governor of the State, the leader of the democratic party, and to break down the issue he had so ably fastened on the republicans. Indirectly, for the gratification of personal malignity, they crippled and detracted from the efforts of the democratic Congress to arouse the nation to a sense of the corruptions of the republican party. This was not legitimate opposition to a candidate before election, and Mr. Kelly, if an honest man, had no right to declare his concurrence in Mr. Tilden's nomination after it had been made. If Mr. Tilden had been a rogue, a swindler of railroads, a robber of the widow and the orphan, a fraudulent preteader in the cause of reform, as John Kelly pronounced him, he had no right to any honest man's support, even though he had received the regular nomination. Now that he continues his fight against all sincere Tilden men, and seeks to create dissensions and discord in the State Convention, the honesty of his professed allegiance to the national nominees may well be doubted, and Mr. Tilden and his friends will do well to consider before they admit his delegation to seats in the Saratoga Convention. Let them remember St. Louis.

WHO SHOULD BE THE DEMOCRATIC NOMINEE?

Notwithstanding the indiscreet movement of the Parker conspirators at Saratoga Judge Church is considered as a very desirable candidate for Governor by many here as against Governor Morgan. Mr. Augustus Schell, Judge McKeon, Mr. James Kidd, of Albany, and many others speak well of his nomination. Others, however, including Mr. Angel, the Minister to Denmark under President Pierce, believe that, while Judge Church is a man of high character and unimpeachable integrity, his old friendship for the canal men at his end of the State, would make his nomination inexpedient. "No one who knows Judge Church would credit such a story for a moment," says Mr. Angel, "but the republicans would charge that his nomination was due to a bargain between Governor Tilden and the Canal Ring." The general expression here, however, is that only one man stands a good prospect of beating Morgan, and that one is Governor Seymour.

INFLUX OF POLITICIANS.

Among the arrivals at the West End last night and this morning were Secretary Chandler, Secretary Cameron, General Winfield Scott Hancock, Colonel Drake de Kay, ex-Speaker Galusha A. Grow, Senator Dorsey, of Arkansas; General Zeb Ward, of Arkansas; Oscar Coles, of South Carolina; R. C. Wintersmith, of Kentucky; General Fagan, of Arkansas; R. F. Patterson, of Tennessee, and General B. W. Blanchard, of New York.

Secretary Cameron is the guest of Mr. George W. Childs, who entertains, also, Colonel Sanford, the head of the British representation at the Centennial Exhibition. Mr. Childs is an honorary member of the British Commission. When he was appointed General Grant remarked to Mr Childs that he had refused several offers of positions under the American government and had at last accepted one from abroad.

Mr. Lester Wallack's cottage has been let to Dr. Cesare Lunel, Advocate of the Egyptian government, who is staying there with his daughter and MM. Carlin and Hilson, of Paris, all Commissioners to the Centennial.

THE DEMOCRATIC STATE CONVENTION.

DELEGATES ALREADY PUTTING IN AN APPEARANCE—THE DIFFERENT CANDIDATES FOR GOVERNOR—A SECRET CONFERENCE TO SECURE HEWITT THE NOMINATION—GOVERNOR TILDEN'S CHOICE.

SARATOGA, August 27, 1876.

Several of the delegates to the Democratic State Convention arrived here before daylight this morning. The majority are expected to-morrow afternoon. Senator Bixby, ex-Sheriff O'Brien and others of the anti-Tammany side are already here, while John A. Hayes and ex-Alderman Summers, from Tammany Hall, put in an appearance on Saturday.

Speculation is freely indulged in by the early arrivals as to the probable gubernatorial nominee. Five candidates are mentioned, as follows:—Congressman Abram S. Hewitt, Lieutenant Governor William Dorsheimer, Comptroller Andrew H. Green, Chief Justice Sanford E. Church and State Comptroller Lucius Robinson. Advices from Albany can alone finally settle the issue. Friends of Governor Tilden allege that he will not dictate the nomination, but this is considered all moonshine by men familiar with the present political situation in this State. The particulars of a little

SECRET POLITICAL CONFERENCE

which took place in New York city on Friday last have just been narrated to me, as follows:—Lieutenant Governor Dorsheimer, Abram S. Hewitt and Edward Cooper met together in solemn conclave. Dorsheimer consented to support Hewitt for Governor, the latter agreeing in return to support the former for the second place on the ticket. Cooper also agreed to aid the principals in this contract, as they promise that he should be assisted in his aspiration for the Mayoralty of New York. Thus goes the story, and to-night the enemies of Mr. Hewitt come to the front with statements that the gentleman's connection with the Midland Railroad will materially injure him in the canvass. People along the line of this road who hold bonds, it is claimed, have been badly treated, and they connect Receiver Hewitt with this treatment, justly or unjustly it is not for me to say. In the Legislature of 1875 an attempt was made by Mr. Hewitt and his friends to procure the passage of a special act to assist the road by relieving it from taxation. This effort failed in the democratic House. Hewitt's opponents in Saratoga now assert that the gentleman is very unpopular in these towns and will lose the democratic ticket thousands of votes if he runs for Governor. With the strong opposition developed in this way to Hewitt it would appear that he stands as Tilden's present selection. The delegation from the districts manipulated by Daniel Magone, Jr., chairman of the State Committee, have been instructed to vote for Hewitt. This fact gives the impression that the gentleman is Governor Tilden's choice, and will secure the nomination unless the opposition just developed succeeds in slaughtering him before the Convention meets. Mayor Wickham has arrived and is understood to be working for Hewitt. He has kept to his rooms all day.

DELEGATES TO THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION.

HUDSON, N. Y., August 27, 1876.

The following named gentlemen were yesterday elected delegates to represent Columbia county at the Democratic State Convention:—

First District.—Josiah Kuiskern, William H. Phillips and Cornelius H. Evans. Alternates—Caspar D. Collier, John B. Langley and Grosvenor B. Bassman.

Second District.—John G. Field, Wesley Finck and Charles W. Trimper.

GENEVA, N. Y., August 27, 1876.

The First Assembly district of Ontario county yesterday elected Hon. S. H. Hammond, Charles Rice and Isaac C. Russell as delegates to the Democratic State Convention, and unanimously passed a resolution expressing preference for Judge Church as the candidate for Governor.

WATERTOWN, N. Y., August 27, 1876.

Jefferson county sends the following to the Democratic State Convention:—

First District.—E. B. Wynn, C. C. Moore and L. Seaton.

Second District.—O. M. Wood, F. B Johnson and H. J. Crevolin.

The delegates from the First district are in favor of Beach and the Second in favor of Starbuck for Governor.

The First district nominated A. Palmer Smith, of Watertown, for member of Assembly, and the Second district renominated Lansing Becker.

POUGHKEEPSIE, N. Y., August 27, 1876.

The democrats of the Second Assembly district of Dutchess county have appointed John O. Whitehouse, John Hackett and Henry C. Smith delegates to the Democratic State Convention.

CHARLES FRANCIS ADAMS.

EVERY LIKELIHOOD OF HIS BEING NOMINATED FOR GOVERNOR OF MASSACHUSETTS BY THE DEMOCRATS—A LETTER FROM JOHN KELLY DISPOSING OF THE FENIAN CHARGES AGAINST HIM.

BOSTON, August 27, 1876.

The movement among the Massachusetts democrats to nominate Charles Francis Adams for Governor will, in all probability, be successful. The party leaders are determined and enthusiastic, and the chief opposition will come from the Irish element, who indulge in the opinion that when Mr. Adams was Minister to England he was not as useful to the Fenian cause as he might have been. It is understood, semi-officially, that Mr. Adams will accept the nomination on a platform similar to the one adopted at St. Louis, and with this understanding confirmed the Convention will nominate him at Worcester next week. In connection with the nomination of Mr. Adams and his reported anti-Fenian course in England, John Kelly, New York's Tammany chief, has written an important letter, which will be made public to-morrow. It is as follows:—

NO. 315 LEXINGTON AVENUE, NEW YORK, August 22, 1876.

MY DEAR SIR—A few days ago you stated to me that you had heard that I had investigated certain rumors that were in circulation in 1872 against Charles Francis Adams, that he had refused to use the influence of his office to save the unfortunate Irishmen who were convicted of political crimes against the British government during the time that he held the office of United States Minister to Great Britain. My reply was that I had. You then asked me if I had any objection to address a letter to you on the subject. I answered yes, that I had not, and in accordance with my promise I now state to you the result of my inquiries. In 1872, before the meeting of the Liberal Republican Convention, held at Cincinnati, there was a general desire expressed that all the political elements opposed to the republican party should unite for the purpose of accomplishing a change in the condition of the affairs of the country. My convictions at that time were that if Charles Francis Adams were the nominee and the democratic party should indorse his nomination that he would be the most available candidate before the people to effect that object. There were rumors at the time of the character herein before mentioned, and for the purpose of getting at the facts in an official way I wrote to a friend in Washington to send me copies of the correspondence which had passed between the British government and Mr. Adams on these subjects. I received and read them with great care and was fully satisfied that Mr. Adams had shown himself a noble benefactor and a true friend to those unfortunate people and I think was the means of having the sentences of many who were condemned to death commuted to imprisonment for life. The whole correspondence shows that nothing was left undone on his part to relieve and ameliorate their condition in every way he could. His influence, too, was exercised in many ways to have some of them pardoned. Therefore, you will see that these rumors had no foundation in fact, and most probably were instigated by his political enemies. If any one will take the trouble to read the correspondence to which I have referred he will, I think, fully agree with me in what I state herein.

I do not know Mr. Adams, have never seen him in my life, and therefore am not actuated by any interested motives. But as you have asked me to give you my opinion on this subject, I do so unreservedly, and trust that it may tend to set at rest such unfounded rumors against a gentleman who has rendered such an important service to the unfortunate men who were influenced by a patriotic zeal to endeavor to free their country from the dominion of Great Britain. Yours, faithfully, JOHN KELLY.

POLITICAL VIEWS OF A HUMORIST.

INTERVIEW WITH MARK TWAIN IN HIS MOUNTAIN STUDIO IN CHEMUNG—REMARKABLE DECLARATIONS.

ELMIRA, N. Y., August 26, 1876.

After a rather dusty ride of five miles up hill from Elmira the HERALD representative met Samuel L. Clemens (Mark Twain), temporarily residing at Quarry Hill farm, the property of one of the Langdon family, into which Mark happily married. He took me to his studio, an octagonal structure, still further up hill, and commanding a romantic view of Elmira and its surroundings for miles.

Mark was attired in a summer dress of snowy white, not dissimilar to that worn by Abraham Lincoln when the same correspondent interviewed the great lamented at his house in Springfield, Ill., in the memorable campaign of 1860, when Lincoln was first elected President of the United States.

A REMARKABLE STATEMENT FOR A LITERARY MAN.

HERALD CORRESPONDENT—Well, Mark, now we are in your cosey and breezy studio, suppose I interview you in regard to your opinions respecting the present political situation?

MARK TWAIN—Politics are rather out of my line, yet not outside of my interest. I am not much of a party man, but I have opinions. I should never have pushed them before the public, but if you want to cathechise me I will answer, but I want easy questions—questions which a plain answer will meet."

"You shall have them. First, which platform do you prefer?"

"That is easily answered. Platforms are of such secondary importance that I have not thought it necessary to build up a preference. In most essentials the creeds of both parties are good enough for me. But there is something back of the written creeds which is important. For instance, inflation and repudiation may be glossed over in a creed, but there are a good many erring people who want these things and would vote for them."

"What do you think is more important than platforms?"

"I think the men are. There used to be a party cry, 'Measures, not men.' That was in an honester day. We need to reverse that now. When you get below the politician scum—or above it, perhaps one ought to say—you will find that the solid men in both parties are equally good and equally well meaning. Both will furnish platforms which the country can survive and progress under. But of what use are these excellent platforms if the men elected upon them shamelessly ignore them and make them a dead letter? A sound and good democratic platform was powerless to save New York from the ravages of the Tweed gang; an excellent republican platform has no more been able to save the country from the ravages of the present administration's highwaymen than the pasting the four gospels on a bad man's back would be to save him from the tropical end of eternity. Platforms are not the essential things now—men are."

"Then how do you judge of your men?"

"Only by common report and their letters of acceptance."

"Which candidate do you prefer upon these grounds?"

"Hayes. He talks right out upon the important issues. You cannot mistake what he means concerning civil service, second term and the honest payment of the national debt. If you can understand what Mr. Tilden means it is only because you have got more brains than I have, but you don't look it. Mr. Tilden is a very able man; therefore I hold that he could have made himself understood. Why didn't he? Because one-half of his party believe in one thing and the other half in another, I suppose, and it was necessary to be a little vague. But Mr. Hendricks is not vague. He is in no hurry to have the national debt paid."

"Is there a democrat whom you would have preferred to Hayes?"

"Yes; Charles Francis Adams—a pure man, a proved statesman. I would vote for him in a minute. I wouldn't need to know what his platform was; the fact that he stood upon it would be sufficient proof to me that it was a righteous one. I want to see an honest government established once more. I mean to vote for Hayes because I believe, from his own manner of talking and from all I can hear of his character and his history, that he will appoint none but honest and capable men to office. I don't care two cents what party they belong to. I never tried to get a political office for out one man and I forgot to ask him what his politics were, but he was a clean man and mighty capable. Mr. Tilden is an old politician, dyed in the wool. History has tried hard to teach us that we can't have good government under politicians. Now, to go and stick one at the very head of the government couldn't be wise. You know that yourself."

"People speak well of both candidates, don't they?"

"I will tell you how it looks to me. I read a lot of newspapers of both creeds every day. The republicans tell me a great many things which Hayes has done; the democratic papers explain why Tilden didn't do a great many things. They keep on apologizing and apologizing all the time. I think that the woman or the candidate that has to be apologized for is a suspicious person. So do you. Now, let me urge you as an old friend to vote for Hayes—a man you don't have to apologize for.

"Well, but what do you think——"

"No, excuse me. You can't get any political elaborations out of me. I simply want to see the right man at the helm. I don't care what his party creed is. I want a man who isn't near sighted. I want a man who will not go on seeing angels from heaven in such buzzards as Delano, Belknap, Babcock and the rest of that lot, long after 40,000,000 of ordinary people have detected and come to loathe them. I want to see a man in the chief chair who can not only tell a buzzard when he sees it but will promptly wring its neck. I feel satisfied that Mr. Hayes is such a man; I am not satisfied that Mr. Tilden is. There, now, let us take a smoke. My opinions are important only to me. If they were important to others we would spread them all over the HERALD. Here is your pipe. Now we will talk of things less harrowing.

THE REPUBLICANS AT LONG BRANCH.

INVITATION TO GOVERNOR HAYES FROM PRESIDENT GRANT—ITS POLITICAL SIGNIFICANCE—A TRIP AROUND THE WORLD BY THE PRESIDENT AFTER THE 4TH OF MARCH—SANGUINE SPIRITS OF SECRETARY CHANDLER—ENTHUSIASM FOR THE CUSTER MONUMENT FUND.

LONG BRANCH, N. J., August 27, 1876.

President Grant returned to Long Branch yesterday evening. This afternoon the President and Secretary Cameron drove out in a light wagon behind a pair of fast trotters. Mrs. Grant, Mrs. Dr. Baker, Secretary Chandler and ex-Secretary Borie drove in the four-in-hand. Secretaries Chandler and Cameron and ex-Secretary Borie dined with the President. Secretary Morrill and his daughter will be at the West End Hotel tomorrow. Senator Clayton, of Arkansas, arrived at that house to-day. The President has extended a cordial invitation to Governor Hayes and his wife to visit him at Long Branch and spend a few days here. The Governor has accepted the invitation, but has not yet fixed the day of his arrival. This is regarded as a very promising sign by the politicians. It is said that the President, who felt somewhat angry at the position taken toward him by some republicans who have derived great advantages from his administration, was at first disposed to be indifferent about the canvass. In his open, straightforward simpleness of purpose he did not seek to disguise his feelings, but recently he has become convinced that the success of the democratic party would seriously endanger that has been gained by the victory over the South which he did so much to secure, and would work cruel injustice to the faithful freedmen whose lives and liberties the government is bound to protect.

PURPOSE OF THE PRESIDENT.

It is said that the President has, therefore, resolved to act actively to work to aid in saving the country from democratic misrule, and to that end will take good care that the colored voters of the Southern States shall not be kept from the polls by intimidation or coerced into voting the democratic ticket. His invitation to Governor Hayes is regarded as a significant indication of his determination to take an active part in this canvass.

A TRIP ROUND THE WORLD.

President Grant has determined to make the trip round the world immediately on the close of his Presidential term of office. Mrs. Grant will accompany him. Mr. Ulysses Grant, Jr., will go to Europe on a visit to his sister, Mrs. Sartoris. The President has pressed Mr. Borie and his wife to be of the party, but the old secretary, who is one of the President's most intimate friends, cannot yet make up his mind to so long a journey. Mr. Borie is with Colonel Herbert Sandford, the guest of Mr. George W. Childs.

THE CONFIDENT CHANDLER.

Secretary Chandler expresses great confidence of a victory in Indiana. He smiles at the statement recently made that the republicans were sluggish in that State, and says that the work being done by the National Committee as well as by the republicans of that State will be understood and appreciated when the votes are polled. The idea of

THE WAR OFFICE ORDER,

based on the Scott Lord resolutions, originated with Secretary Cameron. The Secretary says that active and vigorous measures will be taken to insure the proper observance of the laws at the elections in the South and in New York and protect every legal voter in his right of suffrage free from intimidation or coercion.

THE CUSTER MONUMENT FUND.

The entertainment to be given at the West End Hotel next Thursday in aid of the Custer monument fund is the general topic of conversation among the guests and cottagers, and will be a very brilliant affair.

THE SWIMMING MATCH.

The swimmers, Trauitz and Wade, who swim their four-mile match on the 30th inst., are in active training and good condition.

DON CAMERON'S MOVEMENTS.

Secretary Cameron leaves for Washington on the early train to-morrow. It is thought that a strong order in relation to the Southern troubles will be issued early in September.

THE PRESIDENTIAL CANVASS.

Going at the Fountain Heads—What Do the Farmers Say?—What Will They Do?

A Sentimental Journey Through Otsego and Adjacent Counties.

RICHFIELD SPRINGS, Otsego County, N. Y., August 18, 1876.

In order to judge correctly of the constituents which make up the current of public opinion we must trace to their sources the small rivulets which help to swell the flood. We will, therefore, leave the main points upon the principal streams of political information and explore the remoter districts, where public opinion is comparatively uninfluenced by the manipulations of professional politicians. Hence your correspondent left the centre of politics in New York State (Utica) and diverged to the pastoral regions of Otsego county. Nestled among the beautiful hills so well portrayed by the pen of Fenimore Cooper lies the village of Richfield Springs. The waters of these springs are sought by many who suffer from chronic and lymphatic complaints. The atmosphere is delightful. The *demi monde* have no existence here. The society is pure, and the charges at the hotels and private boarding houses moderate in the extreme, when compared with the prices at Newport, Long Branch, Saratoga, Niagara Falls and other fashionable watering places. A family can hire a cottage here for $50 the season and board at the hotels, where the tables are as good as at any first class hotels in the country. The sulphur baths are the principal attractions here for invalids. The principal hotels are the Spring House (kept by Mr. Procter, of Baggs Hotel, Utica), capable of accommodating 400 guests, 300 now here; the American House, kept by Mrs. Johnson, widow of the pioneer hotel keeper here, a great old character. The Davenport House, kept by James S. Davenport, lawyer, politician and a man who knows how to keep a hotel; the Canandarago House, kept by Mr. Stanton; the Central Hotel, the Zeller House and a number of well kept boarding houses constitute the reception places of visitors.

A SENTIMENTAL JOURNEY.

Were Lawrence Sterne to have taken a seat with your correspondent in the vehicle that started from the Spring House yesterday afternoon for a flying journey through Otsego, Herkimer and adjacent counties, he could not have been better pleased and interested with the picturesque scenery and the novel people met with.

THE FIRST MAN WE MET

was by the roadside, by name Mosher, an emigrant from Albany, and a relative of the numerous Mosher family of that locality, the best known of whom is the scholarly Dr. Mosher, who served so acceptably as Deputy Health Officer of the port of New York for several years.

After a little conversation in regard to the crops, the drought, the probabilities of rain and other matters of the kind, the question was bluntly put—

"How are you about Tilden?"

"About children? Raise heaps."

The question was evidently misunderstood. But as Mr. Mosher subsequently avowed himself an old line democrat there is no doubt about the way he is going in the Presidential canvass.

FARMER ELWOOD.

Leaving Mosher and going along the road, your correspondent met a stalwart, sunbrowned farmer named Elwood, who was driving a skeleton horse to a skeleton wagon. The appearance of this horse afforded evidence that Rozinante had some descendants in this locality. Mr. Elwood, like most farmers, was rather reticent when questioned in regard to the Presidential canvass.

"What do you think about Tilden?"

"I don't know, and I rather reckon its none of your damned business. I am a democrat and going to vote as I please, and everybody else about here will do the same."

Having ascertained that it would take a hydraulic press of immense power to squeeze an opinion out of Farmer Elwood your correspondent concluded to drive on. In justice to Mr. Elwood we should not omit to state that he admitted he had served in the 121st regiment New York volunteers, under General Emory Upton, late commandant at West Point, and was a substantial Tilden democrat.

FARMER FRENCH.

Riding along your correspondent's eye fell upon the form of a farmer standing leisurely at the gateway of his homestead. The facial resemblance of the farmer to ex-Governor Seymour struck your correspondent.

"Can I get a drink of water?" asked your correspondent.

The question seemed to touch the aqueous element in the breast of the farmer, who immediately responded by presenting the liquid and avowing himself an uncompromising total abstinence man. The temperance question was discussed and Farmer French, as we ascertained his name to be, gave his opinion that intemperance, like republicanism, was on the decline in that part of Herkimer county. We were invited to alight and the financial question was introduced. A neighbor (Mr. Bailey, a republican) remarked that gold was a very good currency, silver a very good currency, but for himself, greenbacks and plenty of them was about as good a currency as he wanted. Farmer French is a soft money republican. He says that he does not agree with the late Horace Greeley that the way to resume is to resume, but that the proper way to resume is not to resume.

IN SEARCHING FOR A SILAS WRIGHT,

your correspondent did not know but that he had found him in the person of Farmer French, of the town of Warren, Herkimer county. Farmer French has a fine farm, with an open acreage of some two hundred acres. The shade trees, mostly maples, were planted by his own hand, and a lofty elm formed a conspicuous landmark of his place.

TILDEN AND THE SCRIPTURES.

Entering the domicile your correspondent met the lady of the house, who was then in company with some lady visitors, among them a charming young lady from Cooperstown. With unusual assurance the subject of politics was broached by the HERALD representative.

"Tilden for President," said the old lady, "why he is mixed up with the Canal frauds. How can we make him President?"

It required the exercise of some native eloquence to assure the old lady that she was slightly mistaken, and that instead of Tilden being a party to the Canal frauds he was the most potential instrument in exposing them. Taking up a volume of the Holy Scriptures on the escritoire your correspondent happily opened to a passage in Genesis, applicable to the occasion, and after having read it with some fervor the old lady put the corner of her apron to her eye, and said, "Well, well! Governor Tilden isn't such a bad man after all." The venerable dame retired, but in a minute reappeared with a tray of home grown harvest apples, the most select of which she handed to the HERALD representative.

In all his experience of sentiment I do not believe that Lawrence Sterne found a more exquisite personation of genuine feeling than was exhibited in the words uttered by the good and matronly wife of Farmer French, of Herkimer county, New York. It is astonishing what an amount of sentiment can be evoked from the pure minded country people when a passage in Scripture apt to the situation is read with apostolic gusto.

FARMER PETRIE.

Passing along on the pleasant road, your correspondent descried a flag suspended from hickory poles, and bearing this insignia:—

For President—SAMUEL J. TILDEN.
For Vice President—THOMAS A. HENDRICKS.

"There must be an inn in this neighborhood," remarked the HERALD man to his companion.

"No, sir; this is a strictly rural and temperate community. You'll find no tavern nor any Silas Wright about here."

"Suppose we see. There is a porch and two chairs which seem to cheerily invite a rest to the weary traveller."

We drove up, and in answer to the inquiry, "Is this a public house?" a response came from the lips of a bright-eyed damsel of some sixteen Herkimer summers, "It is, but papa is down at work on the farm."

It took but a few minutes to summon the father, and we found him to be Farmer Petrie, one of the best known and most active democrats in the county. In a few words Farmer Petrie expressed himself devoted to the cause of Tilden and the success of the democratic ticket.

MERCHANT FOSTER

keeps a country store at the corner of the cross roads known as Peck's Cross Roads. Mr. Foster has been a republican. He is now non-committal and will vote for the best men. Mrs. Foster is Tilden to the backbone. She exhibited her enthusiasm in favor of the democratic candidate for President by presenting your correspondent with a bouquet gathered by one of her pretty daughters from the garden near by.

THE RESULT OF THE RIDE.

The conclusion arrived at on this ride was briefly this:—That the democrats reposed confidence in Tilden and were sure of his election; that many of the republicans were lukewarm, and that there was an entire absence of the aggressive spirit that has marked the action of the republicans in former Presidential campaigns in this region. The enthusiasm which actuated the republicans heretofore is certainly lacking this year, but in all your correspondent's researches in this latitude he has so far failed to find

A SECOND SILAS WRIGHT.

Hence the decision of the Democratic State Convention, to be held at Syracuse on the 30th inst., will be regarded with increased interest. The campaign will be opened at Hornellsville on the 19th inst.

A REPUBLICAN WALKOVER.

WELDON, N. C., August 27, 1876.

The democrats of the Second district decline placing a Congressional nominee in the field against Governor Curtis H. Brogden, the republican candidate. The republican majority in the district is upward of 3,000.

CIVIL SERVICE REFORM.

A CURIOUS TALE OF A BROTHER-IN-LAW—WILL MR. BRISTOW EXPLAIN?

WASHINGTON, August 26, 1876.

A report made to the Treasury Department by a special agent, who has been investigating the efficiency of some Northern and Eastern custom houses, contains a curious story of what has been called "civil service reform" under Mr. Bristow's management. Charles Robinson was once Consul at Quebec. He was suspended under the Tenure of Office act from that office, in July, 1870, by the Secretary of State, on charges of a very grave and even disgraceful character, which are mentioned in this report. He turns up next, in 1874, as clerk in the Boston Custom House, recommended for dismissal for incompetency, and he was accordingly removed in June of that year by Collector Simmons. But in August, two months later, he appears again as foreman of weighers, and is reported to have drawn four months' pay there without performing duty; was then, January, 1875, transferred to the night inspectors, and drew pay three months there without doing any work, as shown by the morning reports to the Surveyor. While the captain of the night inspectors was trying to get him dropped he was suddenly, in March, 1875, appointed clerk in the Naval Office, Boston. In the following November he was again dismissed, on the wish of the Naval Officer; but he turns up again on the 22d of May, 1876, as "liquidating clerk" in the same office, from which he had been dismissed the previous November. The office of liquidating clerk is one of the most important in the Custom House, and this report asserts that Robinson has not performed the duties appertaining to it. But here comes in the remarkable part of this tale. It is partly disclosed in the following correspondence, to make which intelligible it should be understood that Charles Robinson is a brother-in-law of Judge Luke P. Poland, of Vermont, and that Judge Poland appeared at the Cincinnati Convention as a very conspicuous and zealous Bristow man, heading the delegation from his State, and using all his influence to secure the nomination of Mr. Bristow. Mr. Poland appears to have been in Washington early in May, and arranged with Mr. Bristow for Robinson's reappointment and promotion. In accordance with such an arrangement and of the instructions Poland conveyed from Mr. Bristow to the Naval Officer that gentleman wrote the following:—

CUSTOM HOUSE, BOSTON.
OFFICE OF THE NAVAL OFFICER, May 4, 1876.

SIR—If I may be permitted to increase the expense of this office, I would respectfully nominate, subject to your approval, Charles Robinson, as clerk No. 17, at a salary of $1,200 per annum. I have the honor to be your obedient servant, WALTER HARRIMAN, Naval Officer.

Hon. B. H. BRISTOW, Secretary of the Treasury, Washington, D. C.

This letter came, unluckily, into the hands of Assistant Secretary Conant, who, not being aware of a private understanding, replied:—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 8, 1876.

WALTER HARRIMAN, Esq., Naval Officer, Boston, Mass.:—

SIR—In reply to your letter of the 4th inst. requesting authority to nominate Charles Robinson to be a clerk in your office at $1,200 per annum, additional office, you are informed that the depleted condition of the customs appropriation will not admit of any increase in the expense of your office at the present time, and that I am therefore compelled to deny your request. Very respectfully, CHARLES F. CONANT, Assistant Secretary.

By direction of the Secretary.

But Judge Poland was not to be put off. He wrote immediately to Mr. Bristow:—

ST. JOHNSBURY, VT., May 16, 1876.

MY DEAR SECRETARY—On the same day I last met you in Washington I wrote Governor Harriman, Naval Officer in Boston, that I was authorized by you to say to him that if he needed the services of my brother-in-law, Charles Robinson, and would send in his name, his nomination would be confirmed. I heard no more from the matter until last night, when I received from Mr. Robinson the inclosed copy of letter from Assistant Secretary Conant, refusing to confirm Harriman's nomination of Robinson. I infer it was done by Mr. Conant without your knowledge, though stated to be done by direction of the Secretary. If it was brought to your knowledge at all then our last conversation on the subject must have escaped your recollection. I therefore trouble you again on the subject, as it is one so important to me. I do not know in what form Governor Harriman made his appointment, but Robinson writes me that the real need of the office is a liquidating clerk; that there is none; and that if he is appointed it would be to perform the duty of such clerk. I am, most truly yours, &c., L. P. POLAND.

Hon. B. H. Bristow, Secretary of Treasury.

This settled the matter. In spite of the low ebb of the customs appropriations Secretary Bristow immediately ordered the appointment of Judge Poland's brother-in-law, and replied to the Judge in the following note, marked "personal:"—

[PERSONAL.]

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 17, 1876.

Hon. L. P. POLAND, St. Johnsbury, Vt.:—

DEAR SIR—In reply to your note of the 16th inst I have the honor to advise you that the nomination by Mr. Harriman, Naval Officer at Boston, of Charles Robinson, to be clerk in his office, was not brought to my personal attention, and that the same, coming forward in the ordinary course of business, was disapproved by Assistant Secretary Conant, who has general authority to sign letters by my direction.

The approval of the nomination has to-day been sent the Naval Officer. I am, very respectfully, B. H. BRISTOW, Secretary.

The following letters tell the rest of this tale of "civil service reform:"—

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, May 17, 1876.

WALTER HARRIMAN, Esq., Naval Officer, Boston, Mass.:—

SIR—By direction of the Secretary the nomination of Charles Robinson to be clerk No.