RUSSIA.

The War as Viewed from St. Petersburg.

"GOD WILLED IT."

A Convenient and Independent Monetary System.

ST. PETERSBURG, May 28, 1877.

And now that we are really in war how do we take it? A natural question, and one easily answered. The certainty of it seems to afford a relief to the Russian people, as contrasted with the vexatious feeling of not knowing what might come, and actual industry has improved. In other words, the capitalist on the point of building now builds, with war in his eye and economy to the fore. Among a people so dependent on the paternal government as are the Russians, it is easy to realize how an apparent increase in prosperity is mistaken for a real one, and as public securities advance in price, owing to the war, the public mind is satisfied. If a bond endorsed by the government, sold for eighty-four roubles before the declaration of war, to-day brings ninety-two the public mind sees only therein an actual gain, failing to realize the point that it means that more roubles are required to effect the same purchase, and that the difference is in the purchasing power of the rouble, not in the inherent value of the security. Before Americans laugh at this solecism a critical review of what happened in the United States between 1861 and 1865 would be instructive. Call a certain thing a dollar or a rouble and you wedge it, so far as it circulates, into the public mind at what our Western brethren call its "face value." Meanwhile living in Russia for those who derive revenue from abroad is much cheapened, for there is always an interregnum between change of value and change of prices; but, conversely, Russians dwelling abroad are hastening home or else reducing expenses.

HOW THE WAR IS REGARDED.

The war feeling although quiet is intense. I fancy few Russians go through a Church service without a distinct reference to the success of the Russian cause in the war, and the fact that "God willed it" and "The Emperor proclaimed it" makes the war a holy thing in Russian eyes. Thus far there seems to be a feeling of relief that the war is limited to Turkey. Notwithstanding the hard blows to be expected from that quarter that is the least of it. For by combinations involving other Powers Russia may yet be placed in the awkward position of seeking allies among those whose policy she is as yet ignorant of. However, even the public prints are allowed to refer, discreetly, to the perfect understanding with Germany, and that with Italy and Austria are cleverly hinted at, so the English bugbear is not quite so oppressively distinct. People begin to feel that after all England's power cannot hurt them, as Russia has no maritime commerce to be destroyed, and invasion of Russian soil is out of the question. The proof of the latter lies in the lessons of the Crimean war.

THE FIGHTING.

Thus far every success is with the Russian troops, the apparent check in the Caucasus being simply a movement to properly echelon the four advancing columns. Rather fine work on the Danube has been made by Russian artillery. They say that the boy Romanovsky (he only left the artillery school in January), who pointed the gun which at a single shot blew up the great Turkish iron-clad, wept like a child when the commander-in-chief called him by name from the ranks and placed the Cross of St. George on his breast. The cross means something, as its black and yellow ribbon gives a man in Russia a certain prominence as one who has done a special act of merit.

Your correspondent was given the Cross of Stanislaus for riding in 1873 through a hostile country without an escort to Khiva, as no deed meritorious in the Emperor's eyes goes unrewarded in this country; but the Cross of St. George is only exceptionally given. The weather has greatly interfered with military operations, the low lying country about the Danube having been made a mere quagmire by the rains, and the mountain passes of the Caucasus nearly impassable by the same causes. The one feature of the war thus far distinguishing it from other wars is that the troops have carried with them, on even forced marches, the siege guns, and about all the mischief done to the Turks as yet has been by these.

ASIA THE REAL SEAT OF WAR.

The Caucasus is the real scene of the war, as outside interference is less apt to be made there than in Europe. It is a rough, hard country to fight over, with, as it happens, the right flank of the Russians always threatened by the Turkish gunboats on the Black Sea, but until now the successes of the double headed eagle against the crescent have been without a check.

A young, vigorous nation like Russia presents many points of resemblance to her only competitor in youth and vigor among nations—America. For instance, the action of our ladies during the Secession war in supplying the needs of wounded soldiers is only equalled by what Russian ladies throughout the Empire are doing. Entertainments are given in all the palaces and wealthier houses which take the form of "sewing bees," and the fair hands of the aristocracy vie with the blunt fingers of the common woman in stitching garments, such as no wounded soldier could wear without being made grotesque, and in picking lint which would create a wound on a well man. The motive, however, is superior to criticism, and the free donations of money will supply the deficiency unskilled fingers, however well meaning, are sure to make.

AMERICANS IN FAVOR.

It is worth while being an American in Russia now, as American people and sympathy were never so much courted. Great regrets are made over the resignation of the American Minister, Mr. Boker, who was the most popular representative here. It is generally understood, however, that questions of health forbade his return.

A CONVENIENT FINANCIAL POLICY.

Great stress is laid in foreign journals on Russia's finances, but the truth is that her abandonment years ago of coin currency makes her practically independent in money matters. Anything that government says is money is money, and except for exterior luxuries the country fares as well on a paper basis as on a gold one. For the actual needs of the country to be derived from abroad the government has all the coin needed, and the published argument is that if the people want foreign luxuries they must pay fancy prices for them. Russian products supply all the necessaries of life.

WAR AS A NECESSITY.

The nation accepts the war as a necessity, not as a thing to be enjoyed, and if other Powers refrain from jealously interfering Russia will honorably and unselfishly liberate from atrocious government the millions of Christians ruled by the scimeter of the Turk, who knows no law superior to the Koran, which has been distorted in its teachings to tell him that oppression of Christian men and women is no crime, that to be a Christian is to be lower than the dogs which infest the streets of Constantinople. The Turks have two good officers; one is an English naval officer, Hobart Pacha, who has endeared himself to Americans by running the blockade during our war and furnishing our misguided Southern friends with powder and ball to shoot at men defending our flag; the other is Colonel (now Pacha) Valentine Baker, who was dismissed from the British army for an indecent assault upon an unprotestected young lady on a railway train, under circumstances in which an American jury would have sworn friendship with a man who had killed him.

PROBABILITIES.

Although the war bids fair to be a long one its end within a very brief time need surprise nobody. The Turks are weaker in organization than was supposed and the Russians more than proportionately stronger, and if this idea is once grasped by the more intelligent masses in Turkey a collapse of the war is inevitable.

NEUTRAL COMMERCE.

IMPERIAL UKASE OF THE CZAR OF RUSSIA DEFINING THE COMMERCIAL RELATIONS OF NEUTRAL POWERS WITH THAT COUNTRY.

WASHINGTON, June 14, 1877.

Despatches received at the Department of State from the United States Minister at St. Petersburg, contain a copy of the Imperial ukase issued by the Czar of Russia, defining the commercial relations of neutral powers with that country. The following is the substance of the ukase:—

The subjects of neutral states may continue their commercial intercourse with Russian ports and cities provided they observe the laws of the empire and the principles of international law; and the military authorities shall take the necessary steps to secure the freedom of lawful neutral commerce so far as this is allowed by the conditions of military operations.

According to the terms of the Paris Declaration of April 4 and 16, 1856, privateering is considered as abolished and the delivery of letters of marque is interdicted.

RULES FOR NEUTRAL COMMERCE.

According to the same declaration the following rules are to be observed with regard to the commerce of neutrals:—

First—A neutral flag protects the merchandise of an enemy, with the exception of contraband of war.

Second—Merchandise belonging to a neutral, with the exception of contraband, is not liable to seizure under the flag of an enemy.

Third—Blockades in order to be valid must be effective—that is to say, maintained by a force sufficient really to prevent access to the shores of the enemy.

These provisions of the Paris Declaration apply to all Powers, not excepting the United States and Spain, which have not as yet adhered to these declarations.

WHAT IS CONTRABAND.

All arms and munitions of war and the material for manufacturing ammunition are considered contraband, and when found on board neutral vessels bound to the port of an enemy will be seized and confiscated, excepting such quantity as may be required by the vessel on board of which the seizure is effected. Neutrals are also prohibited from the following acts:—

The transportation of hostile troops, despatches and correspondence of the enemy and the furnishing of vessels of war to the enemy. Neutral vessels in the act of carrying such contraband may be seized and even confiscated, according to circumstances.

NAVIGATION OF THE DANUBE.

The ukase also directs the officers on the Danube to keep that river open to the commerce of neutrals as far as practicable, and directs all officers to conduct the war in as humane manner as possible.

TWEED'S REPULSE.

THE PRISONER OF LUDLOW STREET AND THE ATTORNEY GENERAL—THE ASTONISHED COUNSEL NOT READY YET—MR. PECKHAM KNOWS OF NO BARGAIN—THE FRUITLESS SELF-ABASEMENT OF THE EX-GRAND SACHEM.

The letter delivered to Mr. John D. Townsend by Mr. Seymour, clerk of Wheeler H. Peckham, in regard to the Tweed case, was the subject of general conversation yesterday in City Hall and in citizen circles. The so-called confession of William M. Tweed was given to Attorney General Fairchild with the distinct understanding that if any part of it was used by the prosecution in the Ring suits to convict other criminals, or to compromise the claims of the city against them, Mr. Tweed was to be set free and his testimony used to secure to the Corporation the sums wrongfully wrung from the taxpayers by various fraudulent devices. After yielding up all the testimony in his possession—so his counsel claims—and filing with the Attorney General of the State a particular account of all his transactions with the men who were accused of robbing the taxpayers and signifying his willingness to testify against those who had aided in the gigantic robbery Mr. Tweed's information was suddenly returned to him, but only after the release of one of his partners, and the chief remains in Ludlow Street Jail a captive. The pith of the Attorney General's letter is as follows:—"After careful consideration I have come to the conclusion that the testimony which said Tweed could give, as shown by said statement, would not justify his release."

TWEED'S ASTONISHED COUNSEL.

A Herald reporter called on Mr. Tweed's counsel yesterday at his office in Broadway. He said the Attorney General's letter was like a thunderbolt.

"Anything new in the Tweed case, sir?"

"Nothing."

"Are you ready to give the press your facts about the Fairchild agreement?"

"Not yet."

So far there was but little progress, but in the progress of a later running conversation the reporter learned that while the negotiations were recently pending for the release of Tweed Mr. Peckham and Corporation Counsel Whitney, at the request of Mr. Fairchild, conducted a long examination of William M. Tweed at Ludlow Street Jail. It lasted nearly three days. The result of that examination was expressed very clearly by Mr. Whitney that Tweed's testimony would be necessary to convict Sweeny, especially as the only other witnesses for the prosecution were Woodward and Ingersoll. Tweed was the only man, in fact, who could give a clear and comprehensive statement of the acts of County Auditor "Jim" Watson and the various sums of money divided by the latter between Woodward, Hugh Smith and others. The offer was succinctly made that it could be proven that at least ten per cent on all fraudulent bills was given to Sweeny.

THE CIVIL SUIT.

Now Tweed is held on a civil suit instituted by the people of New York, in which a judgment has been rendered for $6,000,000. Tweed has instructed his counsel to confess judgment on all these claims, and expresses a willingness to give over all his assets to the satisfaction of them. It is believed therefore that the prisoner, after this step is taken, will be enabled to effect his release on the "Fourteen day act" or poor debtor law, in which it is provided that upon a civil service a person confined more than ninety days may, after giving the plaintiff a certain notice, apply to the court for release.

GLOOM IN CASTLE LUDLOW.

In Ludlow Street Jail yesterday there was gloom and consternation. The escape of Connors, the alleged Northampton Bank forger, was being investigated by the Sheriff, and "over all there hung a cloud of fear." When the reporter sent in his card to Mr. Tweed the prisoner seemed disinclined for conversation. His secretary, Mr. Dewey, had just left him, and he said he had nothing to impart of interest to the public or his friends. That the action of the Attorney General was a sore disappointment to him was not disguised, but he expressed the hope that the injustice of making Mr. Tweed suffer longer would be made apparent and remedied.

An insurance official said to the reporter in regard to these matters:—"Attorney General Fairchild wants a renomination and re-election, and he is working for both. I believe he has been bulldozed by some of Sweeny's friends, and possibly by a compromise or some other personal political point, to sacrifice Tweed."

WAS THERE A PROMISE?

Major Quincy, the Sheriff's Order of Arrest Clerk, said it would be manifestly improper for him to express any opinion on the present aspect of the Tweed case, being an official in the city government. As he understood it, however, there had been some stipulation, either written or implied, between the Attorney General and Mr. Tweed, and he hoped it would be found that there was no bad faith, although at the moment it seemed to him that "somebody had blundered." Mr. Jarvis, who was formerly in the Sheriff's office, stated that the people were rapidly forming the opinion that Mr. Tweed was a martyr, and this tone of feeling was decidedly unhealthy, because it elevated the prisoner into the position of a man suffering for the crime of others. The Ring suits had been horribly mismanaged, and the sooner the city compromised with the old and broken prisoner, receiving all possible to obtain, the better it would be for the people of New York.

MR. PECKHAM'S VIEWS.

Mr. Wheeler H. Peckham was found at his office in the Drexel Building, Wall street, corner of Broad. He knew of no new papers or letters coming out or being served in the Tweed case. Mr. Townsend was, no doubt, very angry at the turn affairs had taken; he tried to get his client out and—didn't. As to any bargain, expressed or implied, in regard to the release of Tweed upon his making his confession he (Peckham) was not a party to it. Whatever the Attorney General, Fairchild, may have said to Tweed or his counsel, he (Peckham) knew nothing. It had been asserted in a morning journal that when the confession of Tweed was returned to him there had been found various notes and annotations on the margin thereof, presumably used in the Sweeny trial and for the purposes of the compromise. Mr. Peckham desired to say that such notes as were made were by him (Peckham) by and with the consent of Tweed; that no use was made of the confession in the Sweeny compromise, and that the confession was not out of his (Peckham's) hands except for one night, when it was in the possession of Corporation Counsel Whitney. In conclusion, Mr. Peckham said that if any agreement had been made by Mr. Fairchild with Tweed or his counsel he was ignorant of it, and certainly none was made with his (Peckham's) consent.

FLOWERS, FRUIT AND MUSIC.

For the last two days there has been on exhibition at Gilmore's Garden, under the auspices of the New York Horticultural Society, one of the finest collections of roses, strawberries, grapes, bouquets and floral designs ever witnessed in this city. The flowers were arranged on tables around the fountain, and their beauty and perfume were the subject of general approval on the part of the thousands who were present. The display of strawberries was also noticeably large and fine. In one instance only ten of them—luscious, irregular and rosy—weighed a pound. The assortment of cherries was choice and varied, while the great clusters of grapes—white wine and Hamburg, looking more waxen than real—showed the excellence to which our local gardeners and amateurs have attained. Among the cut flowers were roses of every kind and variety, double geraniums, hyarangias, daisies, latanas, begonias, Chinese primroses and others too numerous for mention. A bridal bouquet composed of lilies of the valley, orange blossoms, tuberoses and gladioli was specially admired, and hundreds, including ex-Governor Tilden, ex-Governor Hoffman and Judge Brady, lingered dotingly around a table piece composed of strawberries, cherries and grapes—a unique arrangement which one rarely sees out of a picture frame.

The evening attendance was very large, and as is usually the case on Thursdays the music was of a popular rather than classical character.

MOTLEY'S MEMORY.

Mr. John Jay at Loggerheads with the Historical Society.

THE APPEAL TO HISTORY.

A Little Peppermint for General Grant in His English Itinerary.

The subjoined correspondence between ex-Minister Jay and the New York Historical Society touching upon the treatment of the former's tribute to the memory of the American historian and diplomatist, John Lothrop Motley, will be read with interest:—

MR. STEVENS TO MR. JAY.

NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY, 170 SECOND AVENUE, NEW YORK, June 8, 1877.

Hon. JOHN JAY:—

DEAR SIR—At the last meeting of the society I read the memorial of the late Mr. Motley prepared by you at our request, and offered the usual motion to spread it upon the minutes. To this objection was made, on the ground that the paper contained strictures upon the government which it would be improper for us as a society to express such approval of as an entry upon our minutes would imply, and the document took the usual course of a reference to the Executive Committee. It will be laid before them Tuesday evening, the 19th inst., at their regular business meeting. I beg to thank you for the kindness with which you turned aside from your present active duties to prepare for us this sketch of Mr. Motley, and to express my regret that it should have given rise to any difference of opinion in the society. I am, very truly, yours,

JOHN AUSTIN STEVENS,
Librarian and Secretary of Executive Committee.

MR. JAY TO JUDGE KIRKLAND.

KATONAH, N. Y., June 11, 1877.

The Hon. Judge CHARLES P. KIRKLAND, Chairman of the Executive Committee of the New York Historical Society:—

MY DEAR SIR—I received yesterday the inclosed note from Mr. John Austin Stevens, Librarian and Secretary of your committee, advising me officially that the tribute to the memory of Mr. Motley, which I had been asked to prepare for the society and which Mr. Stevens in my absence had obligingly read at the last meeting, had been objected to, "on the ground that that paper contained strictures on the government which the society could not properly indorse by recording it upon the minutes," and that the memorial had been referred to the Executive Committee. Your committee will find, on a scrutiny of the paper, that there has been a mistake in the ground on which it was referred to them. It contained no stricture on the government which the society would indorse by its record, but simply a brief narrative of the facts and historic statements, including a quotation from the elaborate defence put forth by the government, on which Mr. Motley rested his appeal to history. I share the regret which I think your committee will feel at the position in which the objection to the recording of the memorial has placed the society before the world.

THEN AND NOW.

That our venerable association, which had welcomed Mr. Motley with so much of eulogy, and had claimed for the country his eloquence and his diplomatic fame, should now refuse on a hasty and groundless suggestion to accept a tribute to his memory and to transmit it to his children, stands in regretable contrast to the readiness of foreign lands to do him honor. The culture of England, represented by Oxford and Cambridge, mourn their adopted son; learned societies throughout Europe lament their honored associate, and the French Institute looks sadly for a worthy successor to his vacant chair. It is in his own land, of the treatment by whose government he complained when living, that the New York Historical Society seems to turn coldly from his appeal to history, and to see in the great historian and diplomatist only "an official," the propriety of whose treatment by the government, whatever that treatment may have been, historical societies must protect from stricture. "It seems to me," was the language of Mr. Benedict as reported by the *World*, in objecting to the tribute, "to be improper for the society to indorse such strictures as are there made upon the action of the government toward its officials." It has been suggested to me that it would relieve your committee and the society from their dilemma if I would consent to strike from the memorial to Motley all reference to his career as a diplomatist and his treatment by the departments of President Johnson and General Grant. I have always been glad to serve the society, but such a thing, could any one consent thus to trifle with historic truth, would at once impeach the honor of the society and defame the memory of the dead. I was asked to prepare the memorial on the ground that my relations with Mr. Motley personally, and as his successor at Vienna and his colleague in London, made it fitting that I should perform that duty. The same reasons demanded that my tribute should state truthfully the incidents of his diplomatic career, and especially of the dismissals by which that career was twice arrested. I avoided comment on the facts which I recorded, leaving those facts to speak for themselves, that there might be no apology for renewing against the memory of Motley the charges and affronts which had embittered his life and belittled his fame. But I am by no means prepared to adopt the theory which seems to lie at the basis of Mr. Benedict's objection, that Mr. Motley, as the American Envoy at Vienna and at London, commanding respect in Europe and reflecting honor on our Republic by the statesmanship, bearing and culture, the high-bred courtesy, cordiality and tact which go to form the successful diplomatist, is not entitled to historic justice at our hands, for the reason that he was "an official." Would not this idea seem to imply that there belonged to the government at Washington a sort of infallibility that American historical societies must not question, and that "officials" were a class of beings with no rights which either governments or historical societies were bound to respect? The governments of Johnson and Grant have passed into history, and like those of Washington and Jefferson down to Buchanan and Lincoln, are subject to its inexorable verdict. That the treatment of Motley by President Johnson upon the charges preferred by McCracken, which Motley denounced as "false, calumnious and contemptible," or that the treatment of Motley by the government of President Grant, as developed by the official correspondence and contemporaneous evidence, may not be alluded to nor quoted in a memorial to Motley because they sound to tender and sensitive ears like strictures on the government, is a doctrine which I trust the Historical Society of New York will not be too ready to accept.

DEAD DIPLOMATIST—DEAD ADMINISTRATION.

That historical societies should avoid unnecessary meddling with the current questions of the day and the politics of the existing government as being beyond their office is entirely proper. But may the dead questions of a dead government, when recurring in a memorial to a man like Motley, should be listened to with such uneasiness that historic statements are mistaken for strictures and referred to a committee, is a question not easy to reconcile with the fearless and independent exercise of the sacred duties that belong to history. We have to lament, as did Mr. Webster in his day, the prevalence, "not of manliness, independence and public spirit, but of complaisance, of indiscriminate support of executive measures, of pliant subserviency and gross adulation."

But Mr. Webster never alluded to the possibility of historical societies being called upon to guard from investigation the conduct of expired administrations by suppressing and concealing their historic acts, or of ruling out the appeal to history of an historian like Motley, for fear the facts might imply a stricture "upon the action of the government toward its officials." In the case of Mr. Motley and President Grant the latter should be the last to complain of justice being done to the dead diplomatist, against whom, after the "end of his mission," his government continued an unequal contest. Read in the letter to Mr. Moran the elaborate defence by the President of Motley's recall from London. When he assigned the death of Lord Clarendon, on the 27th of June, as the event which determined the time for Mr. Motley's recall on the 1st of July, and when he assured Mr. Secretary Moran that in the "historical fact" recorded by Motley, that his recall followed close on the defeat of the St. Domingo treaty, Mr. Moran's recent chief resembled Dickens's two old women. Mark how the government furnished to Mr. Moran at the same time a eulogy upon the President, in whose name and by whose authority the instruction was given, than whom, said the President through the State Department, "No man living is more tolerant of honest and manly differences of opinion, is more single and sincere in his desire for the public welfare, is more disinterested or regardless of what concerns himself, is more frank and confiding," &c., &c. That letter, with its apologies and defences, its statement of facts and assignment of motive, its allusions to Sumner and St. Domingo, its impeachment of Motley and its commendation of Grant, was an appeal to the public sentiment of the world in favor of the President and his Cabinet and against Motley. It was a letter to which the displaced Minister could not fittingly reply; and now that Motley has ended his mission and his life General Grant could not properly object to any fair scrutiny of the conduct of his Cabinet, nor to the development of any facts that go to vindicate the diplomatic fame of Motley.

OPENING GRANT'S EYES.

Indeed, the great General, whose mistakes in the chair of state all England to-day forgets in recalling his services in the field, has himself, in his last Message, frankly confessed his mistakes and appealed to history for his good intentions. "It was my fortune or misfortune," said the President, "to be called to the office of Chief Executive without any previous political training. * * * Mistakes have been made, as all can see and I admit. * * * But I leave comparisons to history." Perhaps, as a Doctor of the Civil Law of the ancient University of Oxford, and surrounded by the learning and culture of Great Britain, Dr. Grant may see some things in a different light than when he recalled Motley from the Court of St. James and sent to the World's Exposition at Vienna certain commissioners to represent to the assembled nationalities the highest type of American civilization which the government especially delighted to honor. At all events General Grant, having himself appealed to history, should be the last to deprive Motley of that appeal, especially when he remembers that the telegraphic announcement of his intended recall came to Motley so unexpectedly that he said:—"It would be impossible for any diplomatic agent to believe himself more thoroughly possessing the confidence of the government which he had the honor to serve than I supposed myself to enjoy at that moment. * * * During thirteen months succeeding the incident of June, 1869, the government has employed me in the most serious matters that can occupy an envoy; in the negotiations of treaties and other important and confidential business, up to the moment when in three lines you informed me that the President, for no reason whatever, would permit me to resign." If you would understand the grounds on which Mr. Motley said:—"History will decide upon whom the discredit of the transaction rests;" if you would judge of the moderation of the statement of facts contained in the memorial, even if in their historic exactness they sounded like strictures on the government, I hope you will read again the official correspondence relating to the recall of Mr. Motley (Senate, 41st Cong., third session, Ex. Doc. No. 17, January 9, 1871) and some important facts, especially that noted by the London *Times*, that the death of Lord Clarendon occurred two days after the intended recall of Mr. Motley had been announced in London, which you will find in the protest of Senator Sumner published in the *Tribune* April 6, 1874. Trusting that the error which has referred to you the memorial on Motley will not long delay a fitting tribute to his diplomatic fame, and that the manly candor and independence so often exhibited in the society will continue to exert over our countrymen that generous and ennobling influence which forbids either fear or favor to interfere with justice to our noble dead, I am, dear sir, with great respect, faithfully yours,

JOHN JAY.

OUR COMPLAINT BOOK.

[NOTE.—Letters intended for this column must be accompanied by the writer's full name and address to insure attention. Complainants who are unwilling to comply with this rule simply waste time in writing. Write on only one side of the paper.—ED. HERALD.]

A DANGEROUS CROSSING.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I beg to call the attention of the authorities to the condition of the crossing in front of No. 23 Counties slip, where a stone of about four feet in length and two in breadth has been displaced, and remains elevated about ten inches above the crossing. A CARMAN.

GREENWOOD CEMETERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Why is it that those having charge of Greenwood and Evergreen cemeteries allow the graves to be robbed of the floral tributes in the shape of wreaths, crowns, anchors, &c., and the frames sold to the florists of New York and Brooklyn? One would think that these last offerings would be held sacred even by those Shylocks who make it a business to gather them and offer them for sale. If required I can give the address of the parties selling these frames. H. F. R.

THE DRY DOCK CARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Will you oblige me by inserting in your valuable "Complaint Book" the following complaint against the railroad company who run their cars and horses on the crossing in front of the HERALD Building? I have been nearly run over by them several times, and I think it ought not to be tolerated. Will you not lift your powerful voice against the long continued nuisance, and receive the thanks of J. G.?

THOMPSON STREET ROWDIES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I would respectfully call the attention of the police to a gang of well dressed young men who congregate in front of the grocery store on the southeast corner of Houston and Thompson streets, to the great annoyance of the passers-by and respectable residents in the neighborhood. It is impossible to sleep before one o'clock on account of the blasphemous and ribald songs indulged in by the "Graft Catchers," as they style themselves. A CONSTANT READER.

THE BLEECKER STREET CARS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

I ride regularly on the Bleecker street line of cars. Coming up town on Thursday morning the car was crowded, ladies and gentlemen being obliged to stand. It was the universal wish of the passengers that the front door should be open, but the driver insisted it should be closed, stating that he had orders to that effect. The atmosphere was suffocating, but we had to endure it. If this order to keep the doors closed is to prevent people from going to the front platform could not a bar be placed across the doorway, or a grating, to accomplish that result? G. W. B.

HAND CARTS ON THE SIDEWALKS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

It has often been a matter of surprise to me to see our sidewalks monopolized by hand carts, go carts, fruit carts, and many other one-wheel, two-wheel, three-wheel and four-wheel barrows. It was different in this city some forty-five years ago. I had to wheel a barrow of Peter Cooper's bones, after they were made into tooth and shaving brush handles, from Chambers, near Greenwich street, to Daniel Berrian's, Pearl, near Hague street, and I have often been made to take my barrow off the sidewalk by ward constables. I do not believe they acted without authority of law, and I think the ordinance is extant yet. AN OLD NEW YORKER.

SOME CONUNDRUMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

It might not be without use to propound the following conundrums:—

First—Why do not the authorities cause the south walk of the street through the City Hall Park, in the rear of the Post Office, to be put in order? It would then no longer be an eye-sore, but a convenience.

Second—Why does not the Staten Island Railroad Company put up a modern building for the reception of passengers at their ferry at the Battery, such a one as would not detract from the beauties of the Battery view and Park, as their very ancient shed-like building now does?

Third—Why do not the horse railroad companies keep their tracks in better repair or put springs under their cars, or under the seats therein, or furnish cushions, as it is not every one who can, like Peter Cooper, carry a cushion about with him, and otherwise one must often get badly jarred? GROWLER.

A SPRING STREET COMPLAINT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

There are stables at No. 275 Spring street attended to, I believe, by very good men who, as such, have my respect. But in regard to health I state that sometimes (once a week or oftener) the stench arising from them is intolerable. A few days ago I opened the window for "fresh air," and was staggered by the entrance of poisonous pestilential odors, steaming from about seven carts which were being loaded from the stables. I spoke of it to a neighbor, who astonished me by replying that the reason of the bad smell on that day was because they had let the manure remain too long in the rut or trough. I do wish these stablemen would manage their exhumations more scientifically, and not cause disease in this thickly populated block, with its double five story tenement opposite and its little million of children all around. HEALTH.

INDECENCY IN THE SIXTH WARD.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Will the new police captain place the business men and property owners of the Sixth ward under an obligation by sending a section of police every morning, say at five or six, and in the evening at the same hour, to all the lower streets in his precinct, Bayard street especially, in time to capture all the drunken, thieving vagabonds, men and women, who can be found during these hours in positions too disgusting to describe? It is an unpleasant sight for the many people who have to pass through these streets on their way to and from work to be compelled to witness such scenes, and to have to put up with the vile and abusive epithets cast at them by these pests, who are the chief causes of the depression of business in this locality. It is hard to expect that one police officer can clear his post when it fully requires one hour's time to carry a drunken prisoner to the station and return to his post. A CITIZEN.

THE INDUSTRIAL EXHIBITION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

May I ask the favor of being granted a small space in your columns for the purpose of obtaining some information about the Industrial Exhibition. In the beginning of April the agents who sold the bonds stated that the drawing, which ought to have taken place then, had been postponed, pending the election of new directors; but I have never heard since of either having taken place. The agents also stated in their circular, issued at the time, that they would always buy the bonds back; however, on being applied to, declined doing so on the plea of having already too many on hand. Now could you or any of your readers inform me whether or not the whole affair has been a swindle and the bonds are consequently worthless, and, if so, whether bondholders could not proceed against said agents, there having been in any case a breach of contract, because, in their original prospectus, on the strength of which the bonds were bought, they distinctly state that there would be a drawing in April? DUPE.

ANSWER.

MAIL DELIVERY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Having been informed that a complaint had appeared in the HERALD of Sunday, June 10, that a letter mailed by me in New York city Friday, was not delivered in General Office till Monday P. M., I beg to say that I have made no such complaint, nor have I had occasion to do so, and the party who used my name and address did so without authority.

FRANK FENNO, No. 544 West Twenty-third street.

ALLEGED OUTRAGEOUS ASSAULT.

Justice Bloom committed Alois Scharman yesterday to appear for examination on Monday next to answer a serious charge preferred against him by Sarah Morris, a girl twelve years of age. The child alleges that the prisoner, who is sixty-four years of age and janitor of Primary School No. 14, Classon avenue, Brooklyn, assaulted her in an outrageous manner in one of the class rooms of that school. The prisoner denies the accusation.

MOLLY MAGUIRES.

The Contest Between Capital and Labor.

A REIGN OF TERROR.

How the Trade Societies were Debauched Into an Organization of Thugs.

TAMAQUA, Pa., June 14, 1877.

Although fifteen murderers are now awaiting execution in three adjoining counties in this State—seven at Pottsville, in Schuylkill county, five at Mauch Chunk, in Carbon county, and three at Bloomsburg, in Columbia county—the aims and purposes of the Molly Maguire organization, to which these murderers belonged, are as much a secret to-day as when their fiendish war upon society began. With the exception of Jack Kehoe it is doubtful whether there is any man inside of the Order or out of it who can elucidate this mystery. Even McParlan, the detective, who lived for three years among the wild and reckless spirits who did the bloody work of this bloody organization, has given us only facts in regard to it. The "squealers," from Kerrigan to Slattery, have done little more than add to McParlan's array of facts. Convicts like Doyle and Kelly and McGehan, and even Roarity and Carroll and Campbell, have little real knowledge of the organization outside of their own acts and their own part in it. The common people and even persons of more than ordinary intelligence in the coal regions have no ideas upon the subject except those of undefined terror and a general notion that a "Molly Maguire" is a hateful thing, without any reason or excuse or palliation for his crimes. The great coal and carrying companies might, perhaps, offer a reasonable theory for the existence of the Order if it suited their interests to offer it, but for reasons of their own they have withheld it, seeking rather to create the impression that the Molly Maguire organization is only a dark and deadly deduction from the idiosyncrasies of Irish character.

ALLEGATIONS TOUCHING THE MOLLY MAGUIRES.

These deductions I cannot accept, perhaps because I am not Irish in sympathy, in habits of thought or of life, or of a single drop of blood. I do not believe that the Molly Maguires are the same as the Ribbonmen of Ireland, and I am far from being convinced that they are a part of the Order of Ancient Hibernians, which flourishes wherever Irishmen abound. It might as well be alleged that they belong to the Carbonari of the Old World and are part of the Young Europe and Young Italy of the first half of the present century. That the membership was exclusively Irish is not to be denied, but that was simply an application of national clanship at a time of peculiar necessity and under conditions where the opposing forces seemed hostile to everything Irish. In this connection nothing could be more absurd than the speeches of Mr. F. B. Gowen, the President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company and the Philadelphia and Reading Coal Company in the Molly Maguire prosecutions. "I shall say little about the Irish," he would say, "except that I am myself the son of an Irishman, proud of my ancestry and proud of my race, and never ashamed of it except when I see that Ireland has given birth to wretches such as these. These men call themselves Irishmen! These men parade on St. Patrick's Day and claim to be good Catholics! Where are the honest Irishmen of this county? Why do they not rise up and strike down these wretches that usurp the name of Irishmen?" Such appeals to passion and prejudice cannot be made to subserve any good purpose and must have an ulterior meaning. In that meaning is the whole issue at stake between the Molly Maguires and the coal and transportation companies and the reason for the murders which disgraced the anthracite coal regions in the ten years between 1865 and 1875. Disguise it as we may and deny and dispute it as we will, this organization and its crimes were part of the contest between labor and capital, and but for this contest the Molly Maguires would never have been known to America.

THE CONTEST BETWEEN LABOR AND CAPITAL.

Up to the beginning of the war nobody ever heard of the Molly Maguires or the Buckshots or the Black Spots or the Sleepers. With the war came an unexpected development of the coal regions and with this unexpected development disorder and anarchy. Coal commanded enormous prices and the supply was unequal to the demand. New mines were opened and new collieries established in every direction and yet the supply fell below the demand. Even black dust sold as coal, and slate and shale, and indeed anything that was dark in color, was weighed out to the unresisting customer as fuel. The carrying companies prospered as they had never prospered before, and used the extraordinary surplus they had acquired in this unexampled era of prosperity to become coal mining as well as coal carrying companies. In a few years the six great transportation companies owned all the coal lands in the anthracite region. In the London *World* of only a few days ago I find an interview with Mr. Gowen, which is reprinted with approval in the Pottsville journals, which not only comes by authority, but is in itself as clear an exposition of the origin of these Molly Maguire outrages as it is of the arguments upon which the President of the Philadelphia and Reading Railroad Company expects to raise money in the English markets.

"I found," he said, "that $30,000,000 had been spent in constructing lines to certain mineral basins, and that these lines had no value whatever except for the mineral traffic they carried. Yet anybody else was free to make a line to the same point and so ruin our line. I therefore deemed it a measure of safety to purchase these mineral basins entirely, and the $30,000,000 which this required left us rather bare of money. Then came long continued depression, arising from various causes, and local troubles, and now, in order to put the property on a thoroughly sound footing, we want a little time." If Mr. Gowen's frankness had continued he would have added that the same policy which induced the aggrand zement of the coal basins had also compelled the oppression of labor, and that the "local trouble" to which he referred was the rebellion of the laborers against a grinding monopoly that had undertaken more than it could perform. Without excuse, as the Molly Maguire murders are, the Molly Maguire opposition was the natural and necessary outgrowth of the policy pursued by the great mining and carrying companies, which combine to make coal cheap at the mines and dear in the market, because both the producer and consumer are at their mercy.

THE EARLIER MOLLY MAGUIRE MURDERS.

The Molly Maguire murders as organized crime can not be said to antedate 1865. In that year David Muhr, a colliery superintendent, was shot in the public highway in Foster township, Schuylkill county, in broad daylight, and within 200 yards of the colliery. The murderers escaped and no arrests were ever made. Two months later Alexander Rae, a mining superintendent, was shot upon the public road in the neighborhood of Centralia, Columbia county. Several persons were arrested charged with this murder, against whom a strong case of circumstantial evidence was made out, together with the testimony of an accomplice, but they escaped by means of an alibi. Early in January, 1866, Henry H. Dunne another mining superintendent, was shot in the public highway. Subsequently murders of this kind were not so frequent until the interval between 1869 and 1871, when William H. Littleholes was killed in Schuylkill county and F. W. S. Langdon, Morgan Powell and other mining superintendents in Carbon county. Between 1871 and 1874 murders were again less frequent, and when James McParlan, the detective, put his foot in Schuylkill county not one of the crimes for which ten men are to be executed (seven at Pottsville and three at Mauch Chunk) had yet been committed. This was in 1873, and at that time Mr. Gowen said to Allen Pinkerton as a reason for employing a detective, "The coal regions are infested by a most desperate class of men, banded together for the worst purposes, and they are making sad havoc with the country. Wherever anthracite is employed is felt the vicelike grip of this midnight, dark lantern, murderous minded fraternity. Wherever in the United States iron is wrought, from Maine to Georgia, from ocean to ocean, wherever hard coal is used for fuel, there the Molly Maguire leaves his slimy trail and wields with deadly effect his two powerful levers—secrecy and combination. Men having their capital locked in the coal beds are as obedient as puppets in his hands. They have for some time felt that they were fast losing sway over that which by right should be their own to command. They think, with some show of reason, that their money would have profited them as much if it had been thrown to the fishes in the sea or given up to the devouring flames. Others wishing to engage in mining operations, and who are possessed of the capital and experience necessary, are driven away. They cannot intrust their hard earned property to a venture which will be at the beck and call of a fierce and sanguinary rabble, and its headless and reckless directors." Even a cursory analysis of this speech will show the real purport of McParlan's employment—it was to end by the conviction for crime of the end combination against the other—the combination of labor against capital.

THE TRADE SOCIETIES AND THE ROL