PRESBYTERIAN SCHISM.

Why Dr. Talmage's Congregation Issues a Declaration of Independence.

A TABERNACLE FOURTH OF JULY.

Reasons for the Secession and What Benefits Are Hoped For.

The "declaration of independence" by the trustees of the Brooklyn Tabernacle, published in yesterday's HERALD, may fairly be regarded as the beginning of a new revolution in the religious community of the City of Churches, the first act of open aggression in a struggle that must end in the severance into two hostile camps of a hitherto powerful and united religious body. Although the document is only a recommendation, and the body issuing it exercises jurisdiction over the business concerns of the church alone, it is generally regarded as an expression of the almost unanimous wish of the congregation, and the formal secession of the Tabernacle from the Brooklyn Presbytery is expected as a natural result. It is generally understood that, although no formal meeting of the church had recommended the measure, the great majority of the members had in the strongest manner urged upon the trustees the necessity of some decisive step, so that a beginning might be made and the necessary meeting called in the regular way. In fact, the relations between Mr. Talmage and the Presbytery were so strained and there was so much bad feeling between the supporters and the disputants that every one cognizant of the facts expected a rupture before long. Yet the form and manner of its coming was a genuine surprise to all and created quite a sensation in Brooklyn. That the public will be favored with a bitter controversy, full of personality, teeming with theological lore and crammed with ecclesiastical precedents, no one doubts, but whether any good will be done to the cause of religion or morality by such a display was a question that no Brooklynite seemed to consider at all.

REASONS FOR THE PROPOSED SECESSION.

A HERALD reporter called yesterday at Mr. Talmage's residence, and, on inquiring for the reverend gentleman, was informed by a colored maid servant, in a most decided and emphatic tone, that he was not in and not in town.

At the office of Major R. R. Corwin, in Court street, that gentleman and Mr. S. H. Frankenberg, the signers of the published resolution of the trustees, and the president and secretary respectively of that body, were found, and they stated their case with the utmost freedom.

"The fact is," said Major Corwin, "we have only now taken a step which, considering the treatment we have received, we should have taken a year ago. We want simply to be let alone, to be allowed to live in peace. We are well able to take care of ourselves and can get along very well without help from anybody. We have not acted hastily, but have fully deliberated over the whole matter and are satisfied it will be for the benefit of the church."

"What is the exact scope of the step the trustees have taken?" asked the reporter.

"We have simply recommended to Mr. Talmage the advisability of separating from the Brooklyn Presbytery in order to be rid of intolerable persecution and annoyance. It is for him to say whether he will accept our advice or not and to make such recommendations to the church as may seem best to him. That is all we have done."

"Do you believe the majority of the congregation would favor secession from the Presbytery if Mr. Talmage recommended that course?"

"There is not the slightest doubt of it. The whole congregation would abide by our decision and it was in obedience to the repeatedly expressed wishes of the members that the trustees acted. The congregation is behind them and all are convinced that there is no chance of peace or quiet except in separation. We wish only to say to the Presbytery, 'Gentlemen, you go your own way and leave us to follow ours in peace.'"

"What do you think will be the effect on the Presbyterian Church in Brooklyn and throughout the United States?" asked the reporter.

"We know it is good for the Tabernacle and we think it is better for people who cannot agree to separate."

"Is there any question of doctrine involved in the dispute, or is it merely a difference about local matters, or Mr. Talmage's personal merits?"

NO QUESTION OF DOCTRINE.

"There is no question of doctrine whatever. It is simply a petty persecution originating in jealousy. The fact, is, one man is at the bottom of the whole of it. Mr. Van Dyke, of the Clinton Street Church, is the prime mover and instigator of the whole trouble. He has been able to influence the Presbytery and we have been subjected to a long series of persecutions and annoyances that have finally determined us to take this step. Let me give you one instance. When the old church property was sold a committee of the Presbytery was appointed, through Mr. Van Dyke's influence, to investigate the whole affair. This was an intolerable assumption of authority, as such matters have no concern with the other Presbyterian churches, and the Presbytery has no jurisdiction whatever in such cases."

"Should this action of the trustees result in the final secession of the Tabernacle congregation from the Presbytery," asked the reporter, "how would it affect its standing as a Presbyterian church and the relations of its members with their co-religionists throughout the country?"

"I think we are acting strictly within our right," replied Mr. Corwin.

"I can't see how that should make any trouble or do any harm to the Church. If the Brooklyn Tabernacle chooses to expatriate herself that is nobody's business in a free country but the Tabernacle's. It will certainly make the Tabernacle stronger as an institution; it was a weakness to remain in the Presbytery so long, considering the treatment we have received. I never expected to have to do anything of this kind. I was born a Presbyterian and my father was one before me; I have lived a Presbyterian all my life and expect to die one; I have never had any fancy for an independent church or any other form of church organization, but I want peace and I think this will give it."

AWAITING TALMAGE'S REPLY.

"When do you expect Mr. Talmage's reply to your resolution?"

"We will give Mr. Talmage all the time he wants. He can deliberate as much as he pleases over his answer. We were in no hurry drawing it up, but had it in contemplation for some time and there is no necessity for haste in the reply."

"To whom and in what manner will the reply be given?"

"To the trustees first, as it is their resolution. Then the matter will be laid before the Church at a regular meeting and the Church and the pastor will decide. Or Mr. Talmage may prefer to consult the joint boards—that is, the Board of Sessions, or Elders, which has charge of purely doctrinal matters, the Board of Trustees—before calling a meeting of the Church. In either case the Church will decide, but there is not the slightest doubt that Mr. Talmage's recommendations, whatever they may be, will be accepted."

"Suppose Mr. Talmage should recommend the Church to preserve its connection with the Presbytery, would that advice be taken after all this discussion?"

"Unquestionably. We would remain with the Presbytery, but the trustees would then have the right to withhold the assessments from the Presbytery. Like the lower house of Congress, we hold the purse strings and can cut off the supplies. We have not, in fact, paid our assessments for some time, and don't propose to pay people for blackguarding us. The Presbytery propose to make us pay one-tenth of all the expenses, and we don't consider it fair. We cannot even hire an organist but Mr. Van Dyke and Co. want to inquire into it. This is intolerable persecution, and we won't stand it any longer. Look at this report, he continued, pointing to a thick volume containing the proceedings at the trial of Mr. Talmage. "That cost $700, not to speak of $1,500 expended before, and we don't propose to allow such things again. The charge was a cowardly one, for no man had the manhood to come forward and make the charge, because, according to Presbyterian Church law, if the charge falls through the accuser is punished. They fell back on the technicality of 'common fame,' which is allowed by the ecclesiastical law, but this was only a thin veil to cover Mr. Van Dyke & Co., and now they ask us to pay our share of expenses incurred by them in persecuting Mr. Talmage."

LITTLE CHANCE OF A SETTLEMENT.

"Is there any possibility of this quarrel being settled by arbitration or by appeal to the Synod or the General Assembly?"

"We don't intend to appeal, but the Presbytery may. From what it has done in the past it may do anything. We have no quarrel with the Synod of Long Island or with the General Assembly; our grievance is entirely connected with the Brooklyn Presbytery, and we want simply to cut the connection and be let go in peace. The case of Dr. Talmage went before the Synod on Mr. Van Dyke's protest, and it is now before that body, but this action of ours is independent of that case and taken for the best interests of the Church."

"In case the Church withdraws from the Presbytery will not the agitation and discussion of the subject endanger the unity of the Presbyterian Church? Might it not produce such a movement as the secession of the Free Kirk of Scotland, for instance?"

"Well, I have not studied that question out. I am not very well posted in the history of those things, but as there is no question of doctrine involved I don't anticipate any trouble of that kind. Of course many things may occur, but we can't speak for the future. What we want now is to be left in peace and to be freed from Mr. Van Dyke's persecution."

"Suppose Mr. Talmage's orthodoxy should be questioned, would not that lead to a discussion in which differences of opinion as to doctrine might be expressed and a division thus made?"

JEALOUS OF TALMAGE'S SUCCESS.

"Well, Mr. Van Dyke once said that Mr. Talmage was no Presbyterian, but I don't fear any such danger. Mr. Talmage is universally popular and his sermons are published and read everywhere the English language is spoken—in England, Scotland, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, as well as in the United States, and this is just what excites the jealousy of Mr. Van Dyke. It is only natural, I suppose, but it is the fact. See here," he added, pulling out from a drawer a number of newspapers and reading out the names. They were from all the countries Mr. Corwin had named, and were mostly religious journals. If Mr. Van Dyke could get his sermons printed in all these papers, as Mr. Talmage's are, he would be satisfied, but the papers won't print them. A well known Brooklyn man said to me to-day:—'Mr. Van Dyke is sincere; I think he is sincere, but I have no doubt he would burn a man at the stake if he thought it was for the glory of God.' Now, that is not a bad description of him, but we don't want any more of his petty persecution."

During the conversation Mr. Frankenberg frequently expressed his entire approval of Mr. Corwin's statements, but in general allowed the latter to speak without interruption, merely nodding his assent as he went along. They expressed their belief that nothing new will turn up in the church war before next week, but stated that when Mr. Talmage returned from the country next Friday he might possibly have his answer ready. Pronouncements from the other side of the most vigorous kind may be looked for at any moment, and even without Mr. Talmage's decision the war is now fairly begun.

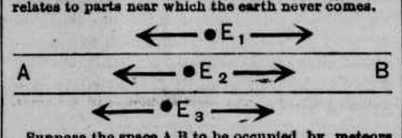
REFORMED EPISCOPALIANS.

A commemorative meeting was held last evening in the First Reformed Episcopal Church, at Madison avenue and Fifty-fifth street, the occasion being the sixth anniversary of the founding of the Reformed Episcopal denomination. The pastor of the church, Mr. William T. Sabine, presided, and opened the meeting with a brief allusion to the struggles and triumphs of the past six years, on which subject the Rev. J. Howard Smith, of Newark, spoke at length. Dr. Deems, of the Church of the Strangers, also addressed the meeting. He said he was once called the uncle of the Reformed Episcopal Church, and he thought if Bishop Cumings was its father they must be nearly related. At all events the Church that was founded by Bishop Cumings would ever be dear to him.

SEEING METEOR CLUSTERS "END ON."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE HERALD:—

Professor Parkhurst has not quite caught my meaning as regards seeing meteor clusters "end on." Taking his three reasons *seriatim*:—In the first place my suggestion was general, not specially directed to the Biela meteors or to the possible occurrence of a display during the week ending November 29, 1879. The brightness of the moon, of course, greatly reduced the chance of this particular meteor system being so recognized this time of our passing near it. Second, I am of course well aware of the circumstance that usually (in fact, in every case except Pogson's observation) meteors have become visible only when they have entered our atmosphere, and I may add to Professor Parkhurst's remark "that they reflect very little light from the sun;" that at such times they can reflect no light at all from the sun, for the parts of the air traversed by them at such times are, of course, in the earth's shadow. My suggestion was that under suitable conditions, presently to be noticed, they may become visible as a flight when outside the earth's atmosphere. Professor Parkhurst's third objection, however, is that which most definitely indicates misapprehension of my position, and in meeting it I take occasion to present my suggestion in such a form that it will not probably be misunderstood. I note in the first place that Professor Parkhurst directs his attention entirely to the thickness of the train, leaving out of consideration its length, on which my case entirely depends; he considers also the part of a cluster through or near which the earth passes, whereas my suggestion relates to parts near which the earth never comes.



Suppose the space A B to be occupied by meteors more or less densely strewn, but that this is only a portion of the actual meteoric train of a comet. The space is represented with straight boundary edges, because along a range of four or five millions of miles of a comet's track there is little recognizable departure from straightness. Now, let E1, E2 and E3 be three successive positions of the earth as she passes athwart this meteor train, and let the arrows on either side of these places indicate lines of sight directed as nearly as possible along the length of the meteor system in this neighborhood. Then it is clear that during the whole time that the earth is within the space A B, such lines of sight traverse a long range of meteors on either side of the earth, and even when the earth is somewhat outside, as at E and E3, there is still a long meteoric range through which the lines of sight on either side will pass. Thus for several hours, when the earth is thus favorably situated, there may be a chance of seeing the meteor train, by virtue simply of the enormous number brought into the telescopic field of view. It is to be noticed, however, that the earth's motion does not affect the direction of the meteor train as thus viewed. When the earth is at E2, for instance, the eye must be directed toward A or toward B to see the meteors in the form of a visible though but faintly luminous cloud. Now, a meteor entering the atmosphere has an apparent path, depending not on its own motion alone (which will be in the direction A B), but on that motion combined with the earth's, and it is the combination of these motions which determines the position of the radiant point of the shower. Hence it is not toward the radiant of a meteor system that the telescope should be directed to see the clustering meteors end on, but toward that point of the heavens from which the meteors of that system would seem to radiate if the earth were at rest. Klinkerfues seems to have overlooked this when he telegraphed to Pogson; and I confess that when I consider where Pogson saw his nebulous objects, how far they were from the position in which any long meteor flight, travelling after Biela's comet, could have been seen nearly end on (or, for that matter, could have been seen at all), yet how nearly the two comets, into which Biela had divided in 1846, were represented, I begin almost to fear that in those early morning hours of December 2 and 3 Pogson's eyes must have been dazed into seeing what he considered they ought to have seen. I should be glad to know what result Professors Pierce or Newcomb would obtain if they subjected Mr. Pogson's observations to careful mathematical scrutiny. I believe their conclusions would agree with those to which I have been led. I may remark that seeing the meteor system "end on" and seeing a display of meteors on November 27 were different matters. I do not think it can be shown that I made a prediction on either point, though I showed how desirable it was that the heavens should be observed that night. Writing now, when no news of a single Andromeda being observed has reached me (here at Montreal), I yet venture to express my confident anticipation that many hundreds of meteors belonging to that system have been seen by observers in this country or in Europe.

RICHARD A. PROCTOR.

MONTREAL, Nov. 29, 1879.

COLLISION ON THE RIVER.

AN ERIE RAILWAY FERRYBOAT BADLY DAMAGED BY A STEAMER.

The Erie Railway ferryboat Pavonia, while entering the slip at the foot of Chambers street, this city, early last evening, collided with one of the Old Dominion steamers and was badly wrecked. The bow of the steamer struck the ferryboat about ten feet in rear of the paddle wheel and carried away all the rear part of the gentlemen's cabin, together with the guards, joiner work and all of the roof as far as the engineer's room. There were about one hundred passengers on board, though in the ladies' cabin there were only a few females. The greatest excitement prevailed among the passengers, but as far as could be learned none were seriously injured. The ferry employés were very reticent in their statements in regard to the collision, and would give little or no information. After the accident the Pavonia entered the Chambers street slip on this side of the river, but started almost immediately to return to Jersey City, where she was placed in the slip at the foot of Pavonia avenue to be repaired. A HERALD reporter visited the ferry house, but three men who were on board the wrecked boat professed utter ignorance of the collision. Peter M. Van Keuren, the pilot, said:—"I was making my quarter to six trip from Jersey City, and when half way across the river saw a steamer which I think belongs to the Old Dominion line, heading up stream. I blew two whistles to notify the steamer that I would cross her bow, but she answered with a contrary whistle and continued on her course. The bow of the steamer was then heading for the centre of the ferryboat, and if I had stopped the vessel would have cut the Pavonia square in the middle. I was quite close to the slip, and was almost entering when the steamer struck the stern of the boat and tore away the cabin and guards. I entered the slip and the steamer stopped for a few minutes, then went ahead." Mr. Van Keuren did not think there were over twenty-five passengers on board and he was positive none were hurt. He has been on the river, he says, all his life. The Jersey City police were not notified whether any passengers had been injured, and their escape is considered wonderful.

WHO IS ELECTED?

Mystifications of the Returns for Lieutenant Governor.

IS IT HOSKINS OR POTTER?

Politicians on the Result of the State Election.

The announcement in the HERALD of yesterday that there was yet a strong probability that Governor elect Cornell's administration would be handicapped by a democratic Lieutenant Governor in the person of Mr. Clarkson N. Potter, was freely discussed yesterday by the politicians. The position assumed by Mr. Potter himself in the present controversy was very favorably regarded, and even his political enemies forbore criticising the stand he had taken. The importance of the alleged contemplated action on the part of the State Board of Canvassers does not lie merely in the fact that by it Mr. Potter will be made Lieutenant Governor. There are other considerations that enter very largely into the calculations of shrewd political leaders. A democrat of national reputation said to a HERALD reporter yesterday that there was a strong feeling among independent members of the party before the election in favor of accepting Mr. Potter as a candidate for the Presidency if he carried the State of New York. His supposed defeat has of course modified this feeling, but it is said that if he should ultimately be declared elected by the official canvass he would again stand forth as a very strong candidate, and the only one who had a year before the Presidential contest proved his ability to carry New York State. It would of course show that a united democracy could sweep the State and would infuse new life and confidence into the democratic camp. It will be seen, therefore, that a great deal of importance is justly attached to the rumors that have been afloat for the past few days. The best informed and most impartial political observers of the republican party confess that there is some danger that Mr. Hoskins will not be allowed to serve out a term as Lieutenant Governor. At the same time, however, these gentlemen, as well as their brother republicans, affect to scout the idea that the State Board of Canvassers will formally declare Mr. Potter elected.

"CLEARLY ILLEGAL."

"Such action would be clearly illegal," remarked a republican of standing in the party yesterday. "The Board of Canvassers has no right whatever to go behind the returns. From information which I have just received from Albany I learn that the majority of Hoskins, as returned by the County Supervisors, is 287. It is barely possible, although not conceded by us, that a number of persons voted for C. M. Potter, intending to vote for the democratic candidate for Lieutenant Governor. Are the canvassers to say that the voters who voted these ballots did so in the belief that they were supporting Clarkson N. Potter? I don't think they have any such power. If, as I see several gentlemen have stated in the HERALD, the evident intention of a citizen has to be taken into consideration, then, in my opinion, every voter who cast a C. M. Potter ballot must be examined in order to ascertain for whom he intended to vote. I don't think there will be any dispute about it when I say that this would be going behind the returns with a vengeance, and the law emphatically forbids such a proceeding."

But the democrats generally dispute the propositions stated above. They say that the Board need not go behind the returns at all in order to give Mr. Potter all the votes to which he is entitled. Mr. Peter B. Olney, who has taken an interest in State politics for many years past, gave it as his opinion that the Board of Canvassers would be compelled to take into consideration the intention of the voter when such intention is evident.

"Information has come to me," continued Mr. Olney, "to the effect that in Buffalo some of the German citizens cast ballots with the name of Porter on them instead of Potter. I have been informed that there were enough of these misspelled votes to defeat Mr. Hoskins, if they were counted for Mr. Potter instead of being returned as scattering. As I said before, there is a well-settled principle of law which provides for the considering of the intention of the voter when he deposits his ballot."

"What effect would the election of Mr. Potter have on the politics of the State?" asked the reporter.

"Just now I cannot see that it would have any immediate important bearing."

"Would it not show that the democrats, when united, could carry the State?"

"I think that has been shown already. When all the votes cast for the two democratic nominees are taken into consideration it appears that this State is democratic by a very handsome majority. New York will be the battle ground in the next Presidential election, and, with a united democracy, I see no reason to believe that it will go any other way than democratic."

"Mr. Potter's election would make him very prominent, would it not?"

"Undoubtedly. His record in Congress, and especially in connection with the Fraud Investigating Committee, has been most creditable. His election as Lieutenant Governor of this State would add greatly to his reputation and standing, which are already distinguished. He would become even more prominent in national politics than he is at present."

WHAT GENERAL WINGATE SAYS.

General George W. Wingate said that, so far as he knew, the democratic leaders were taking no special steps to have the State Canvassers count misspelled Potter ballots for that gentleman.

"In my opinion," said the General, "there are many counties in the State in which the republican inspectors refused to credit Mr. Potter with votes because of some slight technical irregularity. I think that in some counties false returns have been made. The law provides in the plainest manner that the vote for Governor and Lieutenant Governor shall be counted together. In many parts of the State, however, and notably in some republican counties, the returns for Lieutenant Governor were not made until a week or ten days after the returns for Governor were sent in."

"What action can the State Board of Canvassers take in the matter?"

"The law says that the intention of the voter must receive due consideration. Wherever it appears that a ballot has been cast with the name of a candidate misspelled, and it appears that the voter intended to vote for that candidate, then such ballot should be counted for that candidate."

"But the canvassers cannot go behind the returns?"

"They have a right to examine the returns of the County Canvassers, however, just as the latter body has a right to examine the returns of the district inspectors of election. Where they consider that a return is irregular they are empowered by law to send it back for correction. In considering this subject one very important point must not be lost sight of. The State Canvassers can only count the votes as returned to them. If these votes—which were evidently cast for Mr. Potter, but were not allowed to him on account of his name being misspelled—have been returned to the State Board, then they can undoubtedly be counted for Mr. Potter. If, however, they have not been returned, the canvassers cannot count them. If Mr. Potter desires to contest the election he has a remedy in the courts of law.

THE STATE SENATE.

"The State Board of Canvassers, composed of Secretary of State Beach, Comptroller Olcott, Treasurer Mackin, Attorney General Schoonmaker and State Engineer Seymour, will meet on the 12th inst. at noon in the office of the Secretary of State in Albany. After the returns have been counted the official declaration will be made. In the event of Mr. Potter being declared elected a very important influence promises to be exerted upon the composition of the standing committees of the next State Senate. It is usual for this body at the opening of the Legislative session to elect some Senator to act as president *pro tem.* in the absence of the Lieutenant Governor. A complimentary vote of this character is usually given to some distinguished Senator. It is the prevailing opinion that if Mr. Hoskins should prove not to have been elected, Senator Robertson, of Westchester, will be called to act as president of that body *pro tem.* In the then condition of affairs the appointment of committees would probably be taken out of the hands of Mr. Potter, and Judge Robertson, who is believed to be against Senator Conkling, would have the making up of these bodies. He could, I have no doubt, wield his power in this particular with great advantage, and his action would have an important bearing on future political events. There is said to be yet a great chance that a strong anti-Conkling element will spring up in the Senate, and that the fight between the factions will be of such a bitter character that the democratic members may be able to hold the balance of power. The friends of Mr. Cornell, however, say that Senator Conkling controls nearly every one of the republican members of the Legislature, and that no discordant element has as yet sprung up."

A TALK WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE.

A reporter called on Secretary of State Allen C. Beach, at the Windsor Hotel, last evening, and asked his opinion as to the probable action of the members of the Board of Canvassers.

"They have not yet met officially," Mr. Beach replied, "and, of course, have no report to make to the newspapers or the public."

"Has the Legislature any authority to go behind their decision?"

"None whatever. The decision of the State Board of Canvassers is final and irrevocable. There has been no action in regard to the returns as yet, nor will there be until the Board meets."

"How about the acceptance or counting in of ballots for Mr. Potter on which that gentleman's initials were wrongly printed on the ballots?"

"That is a matter for the Board of State Canvassers to decide. It is not within my province or authority to give a positive opinion. When the question comes before the Board there is no doubt it will be fairly and justly disposed of."

"There is the name of Schoonmaker, the democratic candidate for State Attorney, too, how will that be operated upon?"

"The mischief is that one of your local papers has got the cart before the horse about Schoonmaker. It claims that he is elected, notwithstanding the fact that the 'Jr.' is not attached to his name on the ballot, and it is asserted that the intention of the voter must in all cases be respected. It so happens that in the natural course of events, Mr. Schoonmaker, the candidate, is obliged to drop the 'junior,' inasmuch as there is no 'senior' of the name existing except himself. Most of the democratic votes, however, were cast for plain Mr. Schoonmaker, without the 'junior,' and it remains for the State Board of Canvassers to decide whether he has received a plurality of votes over his republican competitor. In the meantime nothing decisively can be known until after the State Board of Canvassers meet in the rooms of the Secretary of State at Albany on the 12th inst."

HOSKINS' PROBABLE MAJORITY OVER POTTER FOR LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR.

ALBANY, N. Y., Dec. 2, 1879.

Deducting the 100 votes in Albany which it was thought would be given to Potter, Hoskins has a majority of 287, but the official canvass of the entire State may change this one way or the other.

THE TILDEN PROGRAMME.

THE PRESIDENTIAL MANIA STILL POTENT WITH THE "OLD MAN"—INTERVIEW WITH A NEAR FRIEND—NO HENDRICKS IN HIS.

Mr. Tilden persistently denies himself to interviewing callers, or, if he is at home to them, declines to talk unless it be distinctly understood that he is not to be reported. Yesterday the sedate Hibernian who has learned to insist that "Mr. Tilden is not at home" with imperturbability of facial muscle, and the venerable dame who is fast approaching a plane of stoical indifference to fact were kept tolerably busy in answering calls to the front door, where all sorts and conditions of men and women and miserable sinners congregated, rang, waited and departed disbelieving. But as the potent spirits of a darker world are supposed to have each his "familiar," so the "great men" of the mundane sphere have each his intimate. Mr. Tilden is fortunate in being able to keep out of the way of reporters, but his friends are quite willing to talk, although they naturally dread to be quoted. One of his "ardent supporters" was found in the Café Delmonico last evening, chatting with a knot of brokers. In response to a question, he said:—"The HERALD had Tilden down fine this morning. I can't blame the old man for his mania, although it is extreme folly for him to think that a great party is willing to stultify itself for him."

"Do you believe Mr. Tilden is ready to part with Mr. Hendricks?"

TILDEN AND HENDRICKS.

"Well, I don't see how he can help himself, as Hendricks has made no bones of drawing off from Tilden. I believe Hendricks is a greatly disappointed man—first, because he wanted the first place on the ticket himself; second, because he was counted out, and third, because Indiana isn't strong enough to force him on to the next Convention."

"Why isn't it strong enough?"

"Because Indiana is all upset. The democracy are not a unit there, and you'll find no sane man ready to risk his ducats on a democratic victory there at the next election. This fact alone would more than reconcile Mr. Tilden to the disaffection of Governor Hendricks, but in addition to that comes the contemptuous way in which Hendricks speaks of the old man—and that's something which Tilden never forgives unless he is to gain something by it."

"If Mr. Tilden fails to get the nomination would he support Hendricks in case he was nominated?"

"There's no use in discussing that. Hendricks has no more chance that John T. Hoffman has."

"But all things are possible?"

"Not to politicians. But, to be civil, I will answer that Mr. Tilden is too shrewd a party man to publicly oppose a regular nominee; that he would be very zealous in supporting Hendricks could not reasonably be expected."

TILDEN AS A CANDIDATE.

"Do Mr. Tilden's friends regard him as a candidate for nomination?"

"Beyond all question."

"But do they consider him strong?"

"Now you see how absurd it would have been if I had permitted you to use my name. I have no objection to say that circumstances have recently occurred that weaken Tilden as a candidate."

"Such as ——?"

"Well, that confounded income tax suit, though probably explainable to his friends, is a damper in the country districts. The republican press will harp and harp on it until all the old farmers who did pay will believe that Tilden deliberately cheated the government. I really believe that that ridiculous claim will do Mr. Tilden infinite damage."

"How about the ciphers?"

"Oh, I don't attach, nor does he, any great significance to them. In any event it's the pot calling the kettle black, and a good stump speaker could explain them readily."

"How about his dealings with Cyrus W. Field?"

"As matter of fact with people who know Field Tilden stands as well as ever, but the bother of it is that this everlasting discussion is producing an impression that Tilden is crafty, tricky and disingenuous in dealing. Now you can readily understand that a vague impression of deceitfulness and unreliability in business matters is just as bad for a man in his position as actual dishonesty. We have all regretted times without number the unfortunate position Mr. Tilden is forced into, but it is difficult to see how he could have avoided it. The cipher business was party work, the income tax rowdedow can be traced directly to the absurd law that compelled the assessor to make the assessment, and the controversy with Mr. Field grew out of a business transaction to which, strange to say, there were two sides."

"Well, then, in view of all that you have said do you consider Mr. Tilden strong as a candidate?"

"Who can be stronger?"

"Is that an answer?"

TILDEN PROBABLY NOT A CANDIDATE.

"Well, to tell you the inside of it all, I have reason to believe that Mr. Tilden's name will not be offered to the Convention, unless it be for the purpose of withdrawal, garlanded by complimentary and sympathetic resolutions."

"If you believe that why not say outright that Mr. Tilden's plan is to work for another candidate?"

"Because I also think the old man's mania is still strong within him. It is a delicate matter to tell him how people feel about him, and he doesn't read the signs of the times as readily as he used to. No, I think he will do pretty much as the HERALD of to-day suggests. He will work hard, pull wires deftly, correspond voluminously, and in ample time order his togs of retirement, being convinced that the only thing for him to do is to step down and out. But he will do whatever he does with a purpose. If he cannot get the prize himself he will make a determined effort to get it for a friend. No Hendricks, no Thurman, no Bayard for him. Your correspondent certainly hit the right nail on the head when he announced that in the HERALD."

"But surely Mr. Tilden will not deny that he was in favor of the Electoral Commission?"

"Won't he? Well, perhaps not. But he certainly will make it a rough road for any one to travel who did favor it. And, unless the old man has lost his grip, not one of those "statesmen" will ever be advanced a single step politically."

"You evidently think that Mr. Tilden will be in position to name the candidate."

"Yes, or rather New York will name him."

"Church?"

"It is premature to go into that. All I care now to say is that Mr. Tilden's friends will indorse him as long as he asks it, and it would have to be a very bad nomination of his suggesting that would drive them into opposition."

AN INDORSEMENT OF THE ESTIMATE.

"What do you think of the estimate of the democratic strength, published in to-day's HERALD?"

"There can be no need of our losing the South. If we carry her, there are her 138 votes, as stated. Surely the ticket should be good for New York, Connecticut and New Jersey, with an even chance for Indiana. I don't say, mind you, that Indiana is lost. Indeed, I have faith that she can be carried, but I don't think Mr. Tilden has the same feeling. He would rather put Indiana down republican and have the unlooked for happiness of seeing her vote cast for the democratic ticket than be misled by party hope and lose her and the election too."

"Then it is too early to look for definite plans?"

"Yes, by just about a month."

WHO SHALL LEAD?

A LEADING SOUTHERN JOURNAL INSISTS THAT THE NORTHERN DEMOCRACY MUST SURRENDER THE COMMAND OF THE PARTY.

The Nashville *American*, whose editor is the Secretary of the United States Senate, says, in its issue of the 29th ult.:—"The progress of opinion, the course of events, clearly demonstrates the futility of this deference which yields leadership to the Northern democracy as a means of placating Northern republicans. Such has been the policy of the South, especially of Southern leading men, since 1825. 'Fix it up to suit yourselves and we will support you,' has been the policy since the war. On the face of it there can be nothing sound about a policy which yields the thought, opinions, choice of means, to the members of one section, and reserves for the other only to aid or mar but not to make. It is inconsistent with the constant claim of the Southern democracy that this is a government of States and citizens in which one south of the Ohio is every way equal under the law to one north. This has been the germinal one in our long contest, and it is fundamental to any effort to preserve free government in this country. It is a general and not a sectional principle, and applies as well and is as likely to be involved in Rhode Island as in Florida. Holding this principle, we have, nevertheless, constantly yielded leadership to the Northern democracy. It has been our act, too, and not theirs. All that we insist on now is that the Northern democracy must not assume the leadership and the responsibility, and must not be allowed to assume any such imperial post. The democracy is a national party, and its policy must be a resultant from the views of independent men of thought and convictions, ready to maintain their views and only to yield them upon free and full consultation. It is immaterial from what quarter the suggestion of policy to be adopted shall come, so that it be fully and heartily accepted, and so that one wing, as it is now called, do not abdicate its functions of thought and of choice, and servilely yield to the judgment of another. We happen to know that if the Southern Representatives had followed their own judgment with respect to the Potter investigation and the policy of the extra session some blunders would have been avoided. The Northern democrats will accept the leadership, and they can do no less when otherwise there is no leadership. If Southern Representatives declare that they will blindly follow, but not lead, no other course is left. Let Southern leaders hereafter simply stand upon that system of equality which they have so loudly proclaimed and so valiantly, in many respects, contended for, and the policy will be, as the party, national."

TAMMANY'S INTERNAL TROUBLES.

Two Tammany discipline committees met last night in different apartments of the Fourteenth street Wigwam. The charges made by Colonel W. R. Roberts, Tammany's candidate for Sheriff at the late election, against the party leaders in the Twelfth Assembly district were investigated by a committee of which Assemblyman Thomas F. Grady acted as chairman. Colonel Roberts claims that he was "sold out" by a number of persons in order to further the chances of certain candidates on the ticket, including Coroner Woltman and Alderman Patrick Keenan. The committee at the session last night examined a number of witnesses in reference to the conduct of the leaders and workers in various districts of the city.

At the meeting of the other discipline committee the charges made by John B. Haskin, the defeated candidate for Senator in the Eleventh district, against Thomas O'Callaghan, the Tammany leader in the Nineteenth Assembly district, were considered. A dozen or more witnesses were examined and swore that the defeat of Mr. Haskin could not be helped. He was very unpopular in the district, and besides had been connected with the anti-Tammany party only a year ago. He had also favored the reduction of wages of policemen and others. Mr. O'Callaghan had done all in his power to assist Mr. Haskin to secure a seat in the State Senate, but he failed to overcome the latter's unpopularity.

KINGS COUNTY REPUBLICANS.

A meeting of the Kings County Republican General Committee was held last evening, at the corner of Jay and Fulton streets, Brooklyn, when the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—President—Dr. James Watt. Vice Presidents—E. R. Kennedy, W. C. Vosburgh, Alderman William A. Fritz and William J. Cropsey. Recording Secretary—Hubbard Hendrickson. Corresponding Secretary—Charles Cronin. Assistant Secretary—J. Gritman. Treasurer—Albert Daggett. Sergeant-at-Arms—A. Ducasse.

BROOKLYN STREETS FLOODED.

GREAT ANNOYANCE CAUSED BY THE BURSTING OF A WATER MAIN ON WHICH MEN WERE AT WORK.

A water pipe explosion occurred yesterday afternoon at the corner of Atlantic and Fourth avenues, Brooklyn. Several basements in the neighborhood were deluged and the streets overflown for several blocks. To supply water to the western district of Brooklyn a new pipe had been in process of laying for some time past. It had been completed to the corner of Atlantic and Fourth avenues and yesterday was the day fixed for the connection of the parts. The Water Department had been duly notified of this fact and one o'clock was the hour fixed for making the connection; but twenty minutes before that hour, or thereabouts, the accident occurred. Three or, as some say, more laborers were engaged in clearing away the earth from the "gate" when suddenly the water burst from the cap of the pipe and shot up into the air a distance of several feet. The men at work on the cap were drenched, and one man, stuck in the sand, had to be dragged out by his fellow workmen. It took but a little while for the water to inundate the immediate vicinity. A perfect flood ran down Fourth avenue into Pacific street, rushing above the gutters and into the basements of the dwellings along the block. Into Richardson's stables, corner of Third and Atlantic avenues, it forced its way, down Fourth avenue to Pacific avenue, through Deane and Bergen streets to Third avenue, and from Third into Wyckoff avenue.

THE DISTURBANCE IN THE NEIGHBORHOOD.

As a matter of course, the greatest inconvenience was caused in the neighborhood for want of water. The supplies were cut off in so many quarters that many families had to suffer. In order to explain this it would be necessary to know all the various complications of the water gates running from the Eastern division, and on that subject even the officials whom a reporter talked with seemed to be confused. In the rush which followed the breaking the Water Department officials seemed to be at sea. Theories were advanced abundantly, but there was one of especial significance. It was that of an ex-employé whose views were indorsed by other citizens. They were briefly as follows:—A number of new hands had lately been placed in charge of the gates of the city water works who knew nothing about the business. They did not even know where the gates of the lines were located, and in an emergency could not find them promptly. So it was, they said, with the workmen employed at the corner of Atlantic and Fourth avenues. Others again said that it was the fault of the employés at the Washington and Atlantic avenue main depot, who had failed to shut off the gates at the appointed hour. The belief which seemed most prevalent, however, was that although the main gates at Washington and Atlantic avenues were closed at the hour designated, the volume of water was too much for the cap on the pipe at Atlantic and Fourth avenues.

Chief Nevins, of the Fire Department, was on hand in the afternoon. He had an engine on the ground to pump away the water collected around the gate of the Atlantic avenue pipe, after the water therefrom had been exhausted at all possible points leading to the corner where the explosion occurred. At about eight o'clock a number of workmen had dug a passage to the neighboring sewer, into which all the collected water around the Atlantic avenue pipe was cast. Chief Nevins and his men had also cleared out the basements of five houses in Pacific street which had been overflowed.

Mr. Peter Milne, Purveyor of the Brooklyn City Water Works, said to a HERALD reporter that ample provision had been made in case of fire. He could not give any explanation as to the cause of the flood.

City Works Inspector John McCloskey, under whose inspection the main is being laid by the contractors on Fourth avenue, said that the workmen were in the act of unscrewing the cap from the main when it blew off. He was under the impression that the water had been shut off above, as had been ordered.

THE PRODUCE EXCHANGE.

EFFORTS TO SECURE SUBSCRIPTIONS FROM PROPERTY OWNERS FOR A PROPOSED NEW BUILDING.

Hr. Hugh N. Camp has discovered a site for their proposed new building which suits the purposes of the Produce Exchange in every particular. The ground which he selected embraces 246 feet on Beaver street, 214 feet 1⅛ inches on Broad street and 182 feet 1 inch on New street. It extends about half a block toward Exchange place, and takes in 222 feet 10 inches from New to Beaver street. The total area is equal to about eighteen city lots, or 44,865 superficial feet. When the Building Committee of the Produce Exchange made Mr. Camp their agent they instructed him not to give more than $450,000 for a site, and, upon approaching the twenty different owners of the ground described above, he found that they demanded $750,000 for it. After considerable parleying he managed to secure a reduction of the price to $600,000, and then he determined to call a meeting of the owners of property adjacent to this plot for the purpose of raising, if possible, the extra $150,000 required. This meeting was held yesterday afternoon at No. 19 Beaver street and was well attended. Mr. Camp explained his agency in the matter and said that the Produce Exchange were very anxious to purchase the plot. He had seen all but two of the owners of the property and they were willing to sell at $600,000. He claimed that if the building were erected the value of the property in its vicinity would be increased fully $1,000,000. He told how the Produce Exchange had only $450,000