THE EVENING STAR.

With Sunday Morning Edition.

WASHINGTON.

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New York at Chicago.

Congratulations to the New York republicans on the high-class men they have chosen to represent them at the Chicago convention. The list shows names associated with success in business, in law, in education and in politics. It is a credit to the state at a time of great importance to the general welfare.

Among the men of business Otto T. Bannard, Ogden L. Mills and Frederic C. Stevens are prominent. Among the lawyers, Job E. Hedges is a good type. Among the educators, Nicholas Murray Butler and Andrew D. White—the one active, the other retired—are of national note; and among the politicians are men of the grade of Mr. Depew, J. W. Wadsworth, jr., Timothy L. Woodruff, Lloyd Griscom, Sereno E. Payne and Herbert Parsons, all well known and respected.

There are a few old machinists. Lou Payn, Francis Hendricks and George W. Aldridge are on deck, but will not by any means control the delegation.

Early next month at Rochester the delegates at large will be chosen, and they will cap the excellent record as to districts that has just been made. Senator Root will be one of the number, and he alone will be a tower of strength at a meeting which while it lasts will monopolize the attention of the country.

New York at Chicago expects to play, and should play, a notable part. In point of wealth and influence in the realm of business credits and activities she holds first place among the states. Business questions are now uppermost. The tariff, the trusts, the railroads, the currency and conservation all touch New York intimately, and are subjects of study on the part of her leading men, in office and out. The New York view is examined with care wherever presented.

In the existing contest over the question of republican leadership, New York is for Mr. Taft overwhelmingly. Mr. Roosevelt does not appeal to her. She is not without pride in his past achievements, for she gave him his opportunities. He has been one of her favorite sons for thirty years. She has seen him round out, from a youngster fresh from college, playing a small part well at home, to a figure of worldwide interest, and has rejoiced in his growth.

But Mr. Roosevelt as the leader of a coterie of western politicians preaching populism is a horse of another color; and New York does not like the color. Why should she? What has she to gain by following the new Roosevelt? What has he in his sack which would benefit her?

First at Rochester, where a platform will be adopted, and then at Chicago, where delegates standing on it will present themselves, New York will be conspicuously in the limelight and entitled to the illumination. She is showing an appreciation of what is expected of her.

The Hard Coal Strike.

Every indication points to the suspension of all work in the anthracite coal region tomorrow morning, for the simple reason that the operators and the miners have been unable to agree upon the terms of continued relationship. There is plain evidence that the operators regard as reasonable the demand of the men for more money, and also that the men themselves would be entirely willing to resume work if their wage scale were increased, without any other consideration. The issue of union recognition appears to have been raised by the leaders for their own purposes, and not as an effort to improve the condition of the operatives. There are two objects sought by the organization in the demand for recognition, one being the compulsory collection of dues and the other the elimination of any other form of union or any other association from the hard coal field. It is obviously to the interest of the operator to refuse recognition and its consequent filling of the war chest of the union. It is quite as obvious that the men themselves are not concerned about recognition as long as it is possible for them to maintain their status as union men by the payment of two or three dollars a year in dues, whereas under the "check-off" system which recognition would entail they would be compelled to pay $12 a year. Thus the whole strike question works around to a matter of money. The great misfortune of this crisis is that it could have so easily been averted if there had been a method of automatic adjustment of the working conditions. Under the present system the public is in no degree guaranteed against a strike with its consequent rise in prices and general disturbance of values. The only satisfactory feature of the present trouble is that according to all indications it will not last long. But any strike in the circumstances which prevail in the anthracite district is useless and a reflection upon the business processes which govern the welfare of millions of people.

China's complications are likely to call for expert financiers as well as courageous patriots.

Politics and the Bench.

"Take any stock in the Hughes boom?" asked the new member of the House of the old.

"None whatever."

"Don't think he'd run?"

"I do not."

"Think he's loyal to Taft?"

"Let's put it in another way. He's loyal to himself and to the traditions of his place. He's out of politics. That he feels friendly to Mr. Taft stands to reason. Mr. Taft's appreciation of him was well shown, and that must have begotten good feeling in return."

"Do you think he'd make a strong candidate?"

"That would depend. He would not on any compromise platform. While in politics he stood for definite things, and compromised on nothing. His record therefore is not associated with compromise as respects vital issues. He would be a very poor candidate on a platform constructed of a few Taft issues and a few Roosevelt issues tacked together for campaign purposes. I doubt if he'd stand on it, even under the lure of the presidency. It would suggest bunko."

"Do you think the bench should ever be drawn upon for a presidential candidate?"

"I do not. Or for any other high grade of political candidate. We have seen in a number of instances that a good judge may prove a poor politician and a failure as leader."

"Parker failed."

"Yes, and last year in Kentucky the republicans went to the highest bench in the state for their candidate for governor, and were soundly beaten. He was younger, abler and more aggressive than his opponent, but the old politicians laid him out. The people applauded his reform sentiments, but voted for the other fellow."

"It is much as you say. Judges fail in politics. Do you think politicians when transferred are ever happy on the bench?"

"Let me tell you a little story. A pretty girl with fine prospects, and just out of school, was pretending to her old black mammy to have decided on a single life. The old woman listened with amazement and respectful displeasure, but was very guarded in her utterances. Finally the young mistress said:

"'Aunt Maria, don't you think a single woman can be happy?'

"Plainly worried, the old mammy thought for a moment, in an effort to express herself properly, and then replied:

"'Honey, a single 'oman kin be happy—arter she gits through strugglin'.'"

"You think then a politician may be happy on the bench?"

"Yes, arter he gits through strugglin'."

The Cherry Trees in Potomac Park.

The three thousand Japanese cherry trees planted in Potomac Park, along the water front of that reservation, will in the course of two or three years be surpassingly beautiful in the spring. Had the first lot sent here not been infected with a parasite they would by now have been showing signs of blossoming, and the park would this spring begin to suggest the rare attractiveness of the Japanese landscape. Fortunately the new consignment passes inspection, and in a short time the trees will all be planted, with the best possible chance to thrive. The climate and the soil are suitable for their growth, and they will be given the utmost care to insure their success.

The parks of Washington should all be utilized for landscape work of this character. There are some exceptional opportunities in the larger reservations for the planting of trees and shrubs of uncommon varieties. Of course, in the main parks should be characteristic of the immediate region, and there is no desire to cultivate exotics unduly. Nevertheless, trees and other plants that will thrive here should be displayed just as importations from foreign countries are shown in the museums.

Potomac Park will probably be one of the most strikingly attractive features of outdoor Washington in the course of a few years. It has an unparalleled setting with a long stretch of water front, no immediately adjacent disfigurements and only the obstacle of the railroad causeway to interfere with the harmony of the scene. The two sections of the park, however, above and below the railway line, are so large an extent that they may be treated as two separate factors or as a whole. The lower section is yet to be thrown open to the public, and it is to be hoped that it will very soon be added to the available space for popular use.

The lining of the Potomac boundary of the park with these Japanese trees suggests that the improvement of the water front of the city should not be confined strictly to the park space. Above the northern boundary of this reservation conditions are decidedly undesirable. The water front between the park and the Aqueduct bridge is shabby, unlovely and not even impressive from the point of view of business. One of the features of the park development plan is to join Potomac Park and the parks of Rock creek by a narrow reservation running along the river to the mouth of the creek and a terraced preservation of the lower creek valley. This would reduce the unattractive river front space by more than half, giving to the capital on the Potomac side a beautiful setting.

A National Guard Armory.

At yesterday's hearing on the subject of the proposed location of the George Washington memorial hall on the armory section of the Mall some competitive spirit was manifested by representatives of the District National Guard, who not unreasonably hoped to be soon provided with an adequate building. The suggestion was made by members of the committee that the armory should go on the south side of the same section, already occupied by a building once known by the same name and long used for armorial purposes, but for a number of years past the home of the fish commission. This would be a very bad solution of the problem. The National Guard should have an armory, but it should not necessarily be located within the Mall. There is too ready a disposition to provide for the emplacement of needed public buildings within the city's most valuable reservation. What has become of the Senate's declaration, at least twice expressed in terms of a bill, in favor of the acquisition of all the land lying between the Mall and the Avenue for use from time to time as needed for public building purposes? What has become, too, of the feature of the Senate's park commission plan which gave an appropriate place within the Mall-Avenue triangle to this very building now asked for by the National Guard.

The activity with which J. Pierpont Morgan is touring in Italy suggests the possibility of important additions to the art collections to be brought to America.

A shipbuilding competition between Germany and England will make war a question of financial endurance rather than of courage.

Mr. Lorimer may find life empty and strange when he wakes up some morning and finds that he is no longer being investigated.

It is a lucky city whose thoroughfares are not continuously blockaded in an effort to improve them.

The skating tragedy is scarcely out of season before the canoe fatality becomes imminent.

The Trash Piles.

Two thoughts are suggested by the pictures of dirty back yards which The Star is printing from day to day in connection with the preparations for "clean-up" week. One is that amazing ignorance or indifference to the laws of health prevails in many parts of the capital among the householders. The other is that there is an almost total lack of official supervision over the premises of the dwelling places in the District. Some of these trash heaps are the result of years of accumulation, and during the time of their growth much has been printed and preached regarding the dangers of filth and the certainty of disease spread from it. Through The Star's organization of the people it has been possible to ferret out these unwholesome spots and bring them to public attention by means of photography, a most important work in the interest of the public health.

It is to be hoped that two results will be accomplished, one that the people will be taught to regard all sorts of trash with abhorrence, and the other that some form of official inspection may be maintained to reduce the nuisance and menace of trash accumulation. A clean-up week will wipe out most of these foul places and result in the removal of hundreds of wagon loads of trash of all descriptions, but it will not accomplish its full result if more trash is allowed immediately to accumulate. The purpose of this enterprise is to get the city clean and then to keep it clean. And incidentally it may be remarked in this connection that it is unnecessary to wait until April 15 to begin the work of cleaning. Certainly every one of the trash holes that The Star is meanwhile bringing to public view ought to be scoured and kept in good order.

Two things contribute to the habit of trash collection. One is the instinctive disposition of many people to save odds and ends. A dishpan develops a hole in the bottom beyond repair and is tucked away in the corner of a cellar, or areaway, with the idea that some time it may prove useful. An old bedtick passes the point of decent usage and instead of being burned is thrown out into the back yard with some vague purpose of fumigating it and restoring it to service. Broken furniture that should be chopped up for kindling wood is added to the trash heap. Here comes the second force that makes for this sort of slovenliness, the lack of initiative. It is easier to throw a thing outdoors than to dispose of it in an orderly manner. Thus thrift and laziness work together to make these foul nooks and corners where flies breed by the tens of millions and disease lies lurking for its victims.

Deforestation and Floods.

From various parts of the country come dispatches telling of the rise of rivers owing to the heavy rainfall of the past few days and the melting of snow in the hills. Immense damage is certain to be done before the waters fall, and these inundations will be merely repetitions of other experiences of the same kind, and it is quite certain that they will be followed in the years to come by similar misfortunes. The truth is that the country has lived prodigally and stripped the face of the land of trees to such an extent that the rainfall rushes unchecked to the water courses instead of being held in the soil and distributed slowly. If the deforestation which marked the opening of the middle country had not been so greedy and thoughtless there would today be much less danger in the spring from costly floods. The high waters, of course, have imposed a loss upon the people many times the value of the timber that has been taken off the land, and the tragedy of the matter is that there is little possibility of replacing now the splendid growths of trees that have been so wantonly sacrificed in an uneconomic fever of land clearance and lumbering.

The Arizona senator who is afraid of too much luxury in Washington will doubtless revel in the privilege of going without overshoes to see the inauguration parade.

Districts in which the expense of being elected United States senator is estimated at about $100,000 have reason to doubt whether the successful candidate ever gets his money's worth of glory.

A large number of democratic leaders appear to feel that for the present Mr. Woodrow Wilson's literary activities suffice for an entire party.

It is an ill prepared public speaker who is not ready to answer woman's suffrage questions at a moment's notice.

Fortunately, strike rumors, like resignations in the vast majority of cases, do not always materialize as facts.

In some cases the honeyfugle is the mild precursor of the frazzle.

A bolters' ticket would involve the necessity of getting another hat to throw into the ring.

It may as well be conceded that the dove of peace never learned to coo in Spanish.

SHOOTING STARS.

BY PHILANDER JOHNSON.

The Busily Occupied Ring.

"I have thrown my hat into the ring," said the candidate.

"And I," said the ventriloquist, "shall go you one better and throw my voice into the ring."

More Generous.

"The women used to break our hearts," said one London tradesman.

"Yes," replied the other; "now they become militant suffragettes and are willing to let us off with a few broken windows."

Revenge.

"Why do you take such fiendish delight in fiddling while Rome burns?"

"Can't you see?" responded Nero. "During my performance I am roasting the music critics."

A Listener's Impression.

After the banquet the debate
'Mongst orators waxed fiercely warm.
Quoth he, "That Little Neck I ate—
It was the clam before the storm."

An Unsatisfactory Transaction.

"I'll admit," said Mr. Erastus Pinkley, "dat de mule I done traded off foh a bushel of oats warn't much good. But jes' de same I feels like I been cheated."

"What are de trouble?" inquired Miss Miami Brown.

"I traded de mule off foh a half bushel of oats. While I had my back turned de mule done et de oats, an' I don' see how I's gineter break even."

The Outsider.

The jocund spring which doth appear
So often at this time of year—
It is a joyous time, in sooth,
For sober age and festive youth.
The teamster loves his whip to crack,
The motorman speeds down the track;
The man who walks with joy doth see
The yellow blossoms on the lea;
The rich man and the poor man, too,
The charming scene right gladly view.
The righteous man admires the skies;
The veriest sinner doth likewise.

But there is one compelled to miss
The gentle thrill of vernal bliss.
Vain are the blossoming and the sky;
On them he cannot cast an eye.
His steadfast and untiring gaze
Far from his nose but seldom strays,
For if it did he'd scarce have time
To pen his usual spring-time rhyme.

AUDUBON SOCIETY OF THE DISTRICT

Among the organizations which exist in Washington as local branches of national bodies is the Audubon Society of the District of Columbia.

Bird Class Meetings.

This local branch comprises about 225 members, and will, the middle of April, begin its regular outdoor work.

Each year for several years past this society has held a series of bird classes at the Franklin School, which in turn have been followed by "field meetings," walks through the country under the guidance of experts, who point out the various species of feathered songsters and discuss their characteristics. These have become so popular that many persons outside the society have joined in them, and last year the parties sometimes numbered almost a hundred.

This year's program starts with a bird class meeting at the Franklin School April 16. These meetings are under the direction of Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey, assisted by Miss Marie Boynton and others of the society, and are held from 4 to 5 o'clock in the afternoon, thus making it possible for almost any one to attend. At these meetings bird skins, comprising a collection belonging to the local Audubon Society, are studied. In this way those who go out on the walks can examine closely the skins of birds they have seen, and thus become more definitely impressed with their characteristics.

* * *

The first "field meeting" will be April 27. The bird class meetings are held Tuesdays, four in succession, and the field meetings five consecutive Saturdays.

First Field Meeting.

On these rambles ornithologists, principally experts from the Department of Agriculture, will lead the parties in their searches for the birds. It is so arranged that practically the whole day can be given to these walks, while those who desire may return at noon. Each person is expected to bring his own lunch and pay his own carfare. To members of the society the walks are free, while a small fee is required from outsiders. The first walk will be around Dyke, Va. The members of the walk will leave on the 8:10 train from Mount Vernon station, and in this way begin their "field" work before 9 o'clock. The other rambles will be Cabin John Bridge and vicinity, Viresco, Va.; Chain bridge to Cherrydale, Va., and Great Falls, Va. The committee in charge of these field meetings is composed of Clarence R. Shoemaker, chairman; Mrs. Clarence A. Aspinwall, Miss M. Cleveland, Prof. W. W. Cooke and Mrs. C. G. Gould.

At these field meetings the members carry strong telescopes or glasses. The ornithologist in charge leads the party, and when a bird is sighted silent notice is given and the members immediately use their glasses and thus study the little bird without afrighting him. At the same time the leader of the party will give the history and characteristics of the species. Last year these parties were comprised largely of teachers, with a goodly sprinkling of children. One of the most pleasing features of the walks, from the standpoints of the society membe: is the interest taken by the children. There is always a group of children along with the grown-ups, and sometimes they are ahead of their elders and waiting to greet them with a long list of birds they have seen.

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"If the children can be made to take an intelligent interest in the birds," said one member of the society, "it is a long step on the way to protecting them. If the children learn their habits and characteristics they much prefer watching them, or even feeding or building houses for them, to hurting them."

Juvenile Interest.

Some idea of what is accomplished on these walks can be obtained when it is understood that on one walk alone fifty-five species of birds were seen. Altogether last year considerably more than 100 species were noted. Nor does the work stop with the walks. During the winter months many of the members are almost as active as during the summer. One, for instance, fed a flock of over twenty partridges in her back yard all winter. Another, almost every morning, would discover some birds partaking of her hospitality, and on one occasion found five species eating at the same time.

The officers of the local Audubon Society are as follows: Job Barnard, president; Charles J. Bell, Mrs. Henry Blount, George F. Bowerman, John Burroughs, Dr. William M. Davidson, Dr. Theodore Gill, Mrs. Arnold Hague, Dr. L. O. Howard, Bernard T. Janney, Mrs. Rudolph Kauffmann, Mrs. William Bruce King, Dr. F. H. Knowlton, Mrs. George Colton Maynard, Dr. C. Hart Merriam, Theodore W. Noyes, H. C. Oberholser, Mrs. John Dewhurst Patten, Gifford Pinchot, Theodore Roosevelt, Dr. C. W. Richmond, Robert Ridgway, Miss Alice L. Riggs, Cuno H. Rudolph, Rev. Dr. Frank Sewall, Thomas W. Sidwell, A. T. Stuart, Maj. Richard Sylvester, Henry L. West, James Wilson and W. S. Woodward, honorary vice presidents; Miss Helen P. Childs, secretary; Miss Mary Brickenstein, treasurer. The executive committee consists of Judge Barnard, chairman; Mrs. Clarence A. Aspinwall, Mrs. Florence Merriam Bailey, Dr. Paul Bartsch, Frank Bond, Miss Marie Boynton, Miss Mary Brickenstein, Miss Elizabeth V. Brown, Miss Helen P. Childs, Miss Ella Given, Arthur H. Howell, L. D. Miner, Henry Oldys, Dr. T. S. Palmer, Mrs. Wallace Radcliffe, C. R. Shoemaker, Miss Emma Strider and Miss Suter.

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In addition to the regular society, there is a junior society, to which boys and girls under eighteen years of age can belong. Miss Emma Strider, as secretary of this society, is the only officer.

Junior Society.

Membership to this branch costs 25 cents. No matter what the child's age upon entrance to the junior society, the one membership fee suffices until the age limit is reached. Then the boy or girl is eligible to the regular society.

While no definite form of campaign is carried on in the public schools, many of the teachers are members of the society, as well as those "higher up" in school matters here, and many of the school children belong to the junior society. Membership in this junior society entitles the children to attend the lectures given by the regular society, as well as the annual meeting. In addition to this also, when special lectures are planned for the regular society, one or more is usually arranged for the children. For instance, Edward Avis of Connecticut, a noted bird mimic, whistler and violinist, will give a free lecture under the auspices of the Audubon Society Tuesday evening, April 2, at the Washington Club. The next afternoon he will speak at McKinley Manual Training School to the children.

The first national movement in favor of protection of the non-game birds of the United States was originated in February, 1886. It was called into existence by the sudden onslaught made on American birds to supply the demands of the millinery trade of America and Europe. Some of the most beautiful birds native to this country have almost been exterminated to supply this trade, principal among the list being the heron, the immense heronies of Florida being exterminated, where once there were acres of snowy plumage to be seen. The terns, too, once so abundant, have been almost completely sacrificed to satisfy the demands of the same trade.

The local branch of this society was organized May 18, 1897, at the home of Mrs. John Dewhurst Patten on R street. Like other local branches of national bodies, the District of Columbia branch of the Audubon Society has a place equal to the various state branches of the same organization and sends delegates to the Audubon Association. This is an organization composed of delegates from the state society, and was created in 1901. It meets annually.

"Attractive as may be the sentimental feature of bird protection and delightful as is the association with birds in wood and field," said Mrs. Patten, "there are other phases of the work of this society which appeal to those of a practical turn of mind. These are, the advantage of intelligent study with ornithologists of one of nature's largest realms, and the protection of the birds for the sake of their services. The value of birds as a class in the preservation of garden, orchard, forest and, in short, plant life of every kind, is no longer a matter of speculation, but has reached the point of satisfactory demonstration. Careful investigations have placed beyond question the importance of the service rendered by birds in keeping down the horde of insects and weeds that assail crops. Without the aid of these natural guardians of garden and orchard the difficulties of successful agriculture would be greatly augmented, if, indeed, they would not become insurmountable."

In speaking of the work done in Washington, Mrs. Patten continued:

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"For the intelligent study of birds much has been done in the comparatively few years of our existence, in the way of free public lectures by men of standing in the ornithological world, field meetings under the direction of ornithologists at the time of migration, distribution of valuable literature and the establishment of bird classes. Much attention is given to work among the children in our schools, that they may learn to love the birds and, by close observation, study their habits instead of destroying and robbing the nests and killing the birds just for something to do. We encourage the hunting of birds, but with the opera glass and camera, not with the sling or gun."

Educational Process.

In addition to this, too, the local branch has followed the action taken by other Audubon societies and entered into an agreement with the Millinery Merchants' Protective Association. By this agreement the association pledges itself (1) to abstain from the importation, manufacture, purchase or sale of gulls, terns, grebes, humming birds, egrets, herons, American pelicans and song birds, irrespective of the country in which such birds may have been captured; (2) to notify the millinery trade that the purchase or sale of these birds is illegal and that violations of the law will be reported to the proper authorities.

"Current Items of Interest," a little folder prepared by Henry Oldys, until recently in the Department of Agriculture, is one means which the local Audubon Society takes of keeping its members posted on the latest events in bird protection. It is made up of a few short items bearing on all the various points connected with birds.

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Many of the state societies have seals, including the local branch. That of the District of Columbia bears the head of John James Audubon, surrounded by the words "Audubon Society of the District of Columbia, May 18, 1897." This is used on all the publications gotten out by the local organization.

Society's Seal.

Of all the birds which the Audubon Society, as a national organization, tries hardest to protect, the heron must take first place. No plumage is more popular than the "aigrette," and none, perhaps, means a greater slaughter of the birds. Among the data which the national organization has gathered on this subject is the confession of a plume hunter who for nine years was engaged in the business of killing egrets in South America for New York and European milliners. "The birds gather in large colonies to rear their young," this man said. "They have the plumes only during the mating and nesting season. After the period when they are employed in caring for their young, it is found that the plumes are virtually of no commercial value, because of the worn and frayed condition to which they have been reduced. It is the custom in Venezuela to shoot the birds while the young are in the nests. A few feathers of the large white heron can be picked up of a morning about their breeding places, but these are of small value and are known as 'dead feathers.' They are worth not over $3 an ounce, while the feathers taken from the bird, known as 'live feathers,' are worth $15 an ounce.

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"The natives of the country, who do virtually all of the hunting for feathers, are not provident in their nature, and their practices are of a most cruel and brutal nature. I have seen them frequently pull the plumes from wounded birds, leaving the crippled birds to die of starvation, unable to respond to the cries of their young in the nests above, which were calling for food. I have known these people to tie and prop up wounded egrets on the marsh, where they would attract the attention of other birds flying by. These decoys they keep in this position until they die of their wounds or from the attacks of insects.

Cruelties Practiced.

"To illustrate the comparatively small number of dead feathers which are collected, I will mention that in one year I and my associates shipped to New York eighty pounds of the plumes of the large heron and twelve pounds of the little recurved plumes of the snowy heron. In this whole lot there were not over five pounds of plumes that had been gathered from the ground—and these were of little value."

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

With the opening of Ford's Theater, on 10th street, Washington had two major places of entertainment fifty years ago, the other being the Washington Theater, at the corner of C and 11th streets. An exceptionally attractive bill was rendered there during the last week of March, 1862. In The Star of March 27 is this account of the engagement of a company of unusual merit:

Dramatic Stars.

"The Washington Theater has been crowded to its utmost capacity this week to witness the representations of Shakespeare's immemorial creations by the eminent dramatic stars in this city, and hundreds have been unable to obtain admittance. 'Othello' was well rendered on Monday night, and the Iago of Mr. Wallack is spoken of by good judges as the perfection of acting. The cast for 'Hamlet' on Tuesday night was unequaled in the history of the stage in this city, and the piece could not have been better performed. The Hamlet of Mr. Davenport, the Ghost of Mr. Wallack and the Laertes of Mr. Wheatley were finished pictures, while Miss Susan Denin astonished those unacquainted with her versatility by her faithful and touching portrayal of the fair Ophelia. Last night 'Julius Caesar' was performed in capital style, the grand scene between Brutus and Cassius (Messrs. Davenport and Wallack) and Mark Antony's (Mr. Wheatley's) oration over the dead body of Caesar being the gems of the performance. Mrs. Wallack, as Portia, daughter of Cato and wife of Brutus, represented the character admirably. Mr. Kingsland and Mr. Barron have added much to the pleasure of each performance by the faithful rendering of the parts assigned them. Tonight 'Damon and Pythias' will be performed with an excellent cast; also the comedy of 'The Dramatist,' in which Mr. Wheatley takes his great part of Vapid."

The Friday night's performance of this engagement comprised the comedy "Wild Oats," concluding with "Black-eyed Susan." On Saturday night the plays were "The Stranger" and "The Honeymoon."

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There was plenty of diversion for the people of Washington in other lines than theatrical entertainment, some of it being of a dramatic and somewhat shocking character. For instance, in The Star of March 27, 1862, is a paragraph telling of a serious riot in the "Northern Liberties" as follows:

Soldiers' Riot.

"Last night a number of soldiers belonging to various regiments, out of their camps with or without leave, paid a visit to the restaurant of Mr. P. Hingle, near Q street, in the third ward, and demanded liquor. The proprietor refused to sell or give them any and they tried to obtain it by intimidation. The proprietor sent for the police and Patrolmen Beavers and Bell went to the house and by persuasion and force got them out. Supposing the soldiers had gone to their quarters, these patrolmen left after some minutes, when, hearing some more firing, they returned as fast as possible and found Patrolman Johnson of the county police lying in the street bleeding and apparently dead or dying and a citizen named Conway struggling to secure a stout man, a private of the 4th Pennsylvania Cavalry, named John Cassidy. They took Cassidy and conveyed him to the central station, and this morning he was brought out for trial. Justice Walter committed Cassidy to jail for court to answer the charge of assault and battery with intent to kill."

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Another form of the lawlessness that was rife in Washington during war time is described in The Star of March 28, 1862, as follows, under the head "Horse Stealing":

Stealing Horses.

"So many cases of this kind have occurred of late, which have been brought officially before our police magistrates, that it seems necessary and proper to caution citizens, as well as strangers visiting this city on horseback, against the unsafe practice of hitching their horses to posts, railings or racks and so leaving them while the owners or riders go into taverns, stores, public and private offices to transact business. We thus preface our notice of a late horse-stealing case which was brought before Justice Thompson and finally disposed of Tuesday last.

"It appeared from the evidence that on the 12th instant, at night, Mr. John C. Lewis of this city left his horse fastened to the railing of the Presbyterian Church on New York avenue, and that the horse was stolen while Mr. Lewis was in the church. Nothing was seen or heard of the missing animal until it was seen by Mr. Lewis himself, harnessed in a light wagon, owned and driven by a person named William H. Lewis, who keeps a small grocery store at the navy yard. Being arrested, Mr. Lewis alleged that he bought the horse of two persons at the navy yard who, being also arrested and taken before Justice Cull, alleged that they bought the horse of a soldier. The justice, after hearing all the evidence in the case, decided to dismiss the charge against Mr. Lewis and to hold to bail Charles Schroepe and Henry Hienburch to answer at the criminal court to the charge of buying and receiving into their possession a horse, knowing it to have been stolen. The soldier who sold the horse to them, and whose name is Thompson, is said to belong to a regiment now at Fortress Monroe."

* * *

One of the familiar characters around the streets of Washington during the civil war days was Daniel Pratt, who called himself "the great American traveler," and who had made himself conspicuous by claiming to have permitted the successive elections of Presidents Harrison, Polk, Pierce, Taylor, Buchanan and Lincoln by waiving his claims to the first office in the republic, he being somewhat of a standing candidate for that position. In The Star of March 29, 1862, is a news paragraph describing an assault committed upon him by a soldier named McCarty, while the "traveler" was looking about one of the regimental camps in the city. McCarty not only handled Pratt roughly, but robbed him of a Confederate note and a penknife blade and some real money. The robber was captured and committed to jail, his defense being intoxication.

Daniel Pratt

THE QUESTION OF THE NEAR EAST

The dissolution of the Greek chamber on the 13th instant and the announcement that elections for a new parliament would be held on the 24th instant resulted on that day in a complete victory for Premier Venezelos. All Greece is the scene of great rejoicing, where it is taken to mean that the premier's plans for complete regeneration of Greece may now be consummated without further serious embarrassment from the opposition.

Venezelos' Victory.

It will be recalled that amid the most chaotic and troubled conditions M. Venezelos formed a minority in October, 1910. M. Venezelos declared on that occasion that he aimed to banish all traces of the anomalous state of affairs which existed in the army since 1908, and restore military discipline at home and peace in the exterior relations of Greece. There was dissension in the cabinet and M. Venezelos resigned, but the king, who had confidence in his premier, refused to accept his resignation. The king's confidence and that of the chamber has been justified, for M. Venezelos has shown himself to be a strong man and capable.

The assassination of four Mussulman residents of Crete has brought that troublous question again to the attention of the powers particularly interested. The representatives of the powers in Crete, according to a note dated February 17, informed the Cretan authorities that they would find means to discover and punish the authors of the recent massacres and to maintain order in the island. This note provoked in Crete a marked emotion, for the protection of Mussulmans and the maintenance of order were the two conditions of the evacuation of the island by the powers. The Cretan government therefore published a circular inviting the attention of the population to the gravity of the situation created. In addition to this note the Venezelist cabinet telegraphed the Cretan insurrectionary government that it would support at any cost the maintenance of law and order and thus avoid the displeasure of the powers.

* * *

On the 14th of March, however, a dispatch from Canea announced that the military branch of the Cretan government deposed the executive governing body and assumed control of affairs. There was no disorder, but conditions were chaotic.

Cretan Trouble.

In the meantime France and Great Britain and Russia decided to send supplementary vessels of war to Crete not only to maintain order, but prevent the Cretan deputies from leaving Crete—deputies recently elected to the Greek chamber.

Italy would not send ships of war because she had recognized the neutrality of Crete in the beginning of her war with Turkey. The action of the powers at this moment tends to prevent a declaration of war by Turkey against Greece as a measure of reprisal for the murder of Mussulmans in Crete. The powers are convinced that such an event would bring on a general war in the Balkans, and they desire to prevent that by every means in their power.

A subject of constant perplexity to the powers is the threatened departure of several Cretan deputies for Athens, there to take seats in the Greek parliament. Finally the more surely to prevent such an event the powers caused the arrest of the deputies, who were conveyed aboard a French cruiser at Canea, where they are still detained. Had these gentlemen succeeded in getting away to Athens, as they proposed, and entered the Greek chamber of deputies, this would have served the Turks as a pretext to declare war against Greece. The government of the porte has declared more than once that it would consider the case a casus belli.

Now, it is very true that Turkey's finances are again in a deplorable condition, and Turkey is said to be exposed at any moment to find herself without funds to pay her functionaries and without sufficient credit to contract a new loan. It is not possible to assume that the powers are willing to compromise their interests at this moment by attempting to impose peace upon the Turks. It is, therefore, logical to conclude, however strange it may seem, that peace between Turkey and Italy appears to be both necessary and impossible. How is it possible to solve a riddle of such a nature?

* * *

It is easy to imagine the perturbations which a prolongation of the Italo-Turkish war may precipitate in the European equilibrium, and particularly in the Balkan peninsula. As the spring approaches the agitation in the divers regions of southeastern Europe, which was remarked in January last, spreads and menaces the future.

Agitation Increasing.

The situation is bad in Macedonia, where the exactions of Turkish functionaries and the excesses committed by bandits have again become a chronic evil. This evil is all the greater since the retirement of European officers who had organized in that province an effective gendarmerie.

Albania is discontented, and there is reason to believe that the insurrectionary movement of the last year which created such grave difficulties for the Turkish authorities may extend this time over all Albania.

The autonomous states of the Balkans have recently manifested by ameliorations in their mutual relations significant signs of their preparation for the future. In the place of their old jealousies and hatreds a policy of accord has succeeded which appears to be a policy of protection against the Turk. Following the secret agreement between Roumania and Bulgaria, we have had occasion within a few days to comment upon "Greco-Bulgaro-Roumanian pacts," rapprochements which were inspired for a fact in Macedonia among notable Greek, Bulgarian and Roumanian residents convinced finally of the folly of Christians who have been fighting each other these many years for the benefit of the Turkish master.

These divers accords have been recently consecrated by the brilliant fetes celebrated at Sofia on the occasion of the majority of Prince Boris, the presumptive heir to the throne of Bulgaria.

At these fetes there were present, it should be noted as a significant fact, the five future chiefs of the Christian states of the Balkanic peninsula. Austria was represented by the Archduke Charles Albert, Russia by the Grand Duke Vladimir, the benefactor of Bulgaria. On the return voyage the royal princes of Greece and Montenegro were received at Belgrade by Peter, King of Servia.

At the same time that this amelioration was effected in the mutual relations of these peoples, who were hostile only because of the hostility of the Turk, a veritable reconciliation took place between Russia and Austria, between whom there was coolness since the annexation of Bosnia-Herzegovina in 1908. In leaving Belgrade the Grand Duke Vladimirovitch went to Vienna, where the enthusiasm of public and press was as great as his reception at court was cordial.

It is certain that Austria's influence has increased since 1908 and it is scarcely probable that the action of the Balkan states would have been sanctioned without the assent of Austria. The latter appears to have replaced Russia as the financial protectress of Montenegro, and her influence is preponderant at Sofia. Who, then, may prevent Austria from occupying the sandjak of Novibazar? If financial considerations are not a factor there may be the fear of displeasing Germany or the well known aversion of Francis Joseph against any new warlike venture.

From any point from which the pieces on the checkerboard are viewed, the horizon of the near east, to say nothing of that of the impossible far east, is more overcast with clouds than ever, and more than ever these clouds threaten Turkey.

Italy has taken Tripoli—at least it must be assumed she will complete her possession when the additional 30,000 men now en route for the Tripolitan shall have been landed. Why, may it not be asked, has not Austria manifested opposition to this Italian venture in Tripoli? Is it because Russia favors Italy and because there is entente—for some reason not altogether clear—between Russia and Austria?

A dispatch from Paris dated March 23 announced:

* * *

"The movement of Russia in favor of Italy, with its probable result in a rapprochement between Russia, Italy and Austria, is considered to make a situation of peculiar delicacy, and Russia's motives in this step are receiving the fullest discussion. It is pointed out that since the beginning of Italy's war in Tripoli Russia's attitude has been extremely curious. She is the only nation in the European concert that regarded the Tripoli expedition with marked sympathy."

Russia's Motives.

And the dispatch, which is a long one, goes on to say that Russia has not given up that "age-long dream and objection of her religion and politics"—the supremacy over Turkey and the occupation of Constantinople, the mecca of the orthodox church, that she may take the risk of abandoning her position of neutrality and siding with Italy.

It is assumed, indeed, by the author of the aforementioned dispatch that there is complete agreement between the views of Italy and Russia as to the Balkan and Mediterranean questions and that this will be made manifest to the great surprise of the diplomatic world on the arrival at Constantinople of the Russian envoy, M. Switchine, well known for his Italian sympathies.

Paris is not alone in being affected by what is termed there by the press an "international crisis." From London Lucien Wolf, the well known student of international politics, describes the situation as "Europa in a fit of nerves," situation which created panics on some of the continental bourses.

* * *

Mr. Wolf affirms that the apprehensions of the week are based upon the reported relations of Russia and Italy. He recalls the meeting of M. Isvolsky and Signor Tittoni at Desio in 1908 and at Rome in 1909, and finally the meeting of the czar and King Victor at Racconigi, where the Russo-Italian entente was consummated. M. Wolf asks:

Italy and Russia.

"What one would like to know is what is the precise or at any rate the general scope of the policy which Isvolsky and Tittoni appear to have settled between them with the approval presumably of the czar on the one hand and the Italian government on the other."

And M. Wolf continues:

"If it were only a question of pushing forward intervention at Constantinople on behalf of peace, due account being taken of existing alliances and ententes, Europe would not worry, but the whole tendency of the Isvolsky-Tittoni scheme seems to be to attain its end by a combination of its own from which two-thirds of the triple entente is virtually excluded. While Germany and Austria are apparently in the secret, France and Great Britain are held at arm's length."

* * *

Young Turkey, which was liberal after the revolution of 1908, gave to all Europe the firm faith that she had begun life anew. Alas! it proved a cruel deception. The committee of "union and progress" has strangled to death a nation inspired by the most generous impulses. Courts-martial have resumed their former functions with ferocious ardor, the liberal press has been gagged and suppressed, race and religious persecution has been practiced as under the sinister reign of Abdul Hamid and the persecuted of the Yemen and of Albania have revolted and are threatening renewed revolt.

Disappointment in Turkey.

Now Turkey, not yet recovered from the shock of revolution, in place of abstaining from entangling European alliances and apparently unmindful of the consequences of England's protection, which had cost Turkey her sovereignty over Egypt, Turkey accepted Germany's protectorate.

Germany's quasi protectorate has been no less disastrous than that of England's. It was Germany that counseled Austria, her ally, to tear up the treaty of 1878 and definitely appropriate the Turkish provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina and the probable extension of Austrian power to Saloniki. It was Germany perhaps that counseled Italy, another ally, to seize and occupy the Turkish vilayet of the Tripolitan.

Turkey cannot but regard with alarm the encroachments of Russia and England upon the Moslem powers of Persia, as well as that Egypt, Morocco and Tripoli in turn have passed from under the influence and control of the caliphate. It was the kaiser at Tangier who stepped into the breach and loudly proclaimed himself not only the savior of the sultan, but the defender of the Moslem world. The kaiser defended only German interests.

One single hope was left to Turkey after this dismemberment—the establishment of a confederated Balkans under the supreme control of the porte. But this hope even appears to have been dimmed first by the recent rapprochement, Greco-Bulgaro-Roumanian, and next by the reports from Paris and London that Russia, Italy and Austria have found in their particular interests a solution of the question of the near east.

CH. CHAILLE-LONG.

THE COLONEL'S CAMPAIGN.

From the Providence Journal.

From the face of the returns it appears that Mr. Roosevelt is not even a favorite son.

From the Columbia State.

The Taft-Roosevelt contest is to be a fizzle, after all. Give us our money back.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

As his friends fall off from him he can seek consolation of his governors, who still pipe from the Amen corner, "Oh, Master, we are seven!"

From the Columbus Ohio State Journal.

Another evidence of the tyranny of minorities, as Col. Roosevelt calls it, is that they ruthlessly remain in the minority on primary election day.

From the Atlanta Journal.

T. R. says it is grand larceny, and we honestly didn't think the colonel would "beef" like that.

From the Indianapolis News.

And yet it must be remembered that the bolt-making business is a very hazardous industry.

From the Hartford Courant.

Perhaps there may have been some mistake about the films. It doesn't look nearly as much like the Return from Elba as it does like the Retreat from Moscow.

THE PACKERS' ACQUITTAL.

From the Buffalo Evening News.

The packers got their money's worth in an acquittal.

From the Rochester Herald.

The performance of the jury in the case of the packing combine will give the colonel a new handle to his "recall" movement.

From the Milwaukee Journal.

The packers' case started in 1902 and got through district court by 1912. If the packers reach the 969 year limit of Methuselah some of them may receive jail sentences.

From the Brooklyn Eagle.

The release of the packers shows a great need for the recall of the decisions of juries by direct vote of the people.

From the New York World.

"The people have not suffered," says one of the beef trust jurors in defending the verdict of not guilty. But this was a question which Judge Carpenter expressly instructed them not to consider.

From the St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

The lesson of the packers' trial at Chicago seems to be that if he votes to acquit a trust magnate, a juryman can have a free automobile ride and a beefsteak supper.

From the Baltimore Sun.

The prosecutors of the beef trust seem to have had the wrong steer.

AN ARCHITECTURAL NATION.

An appropriation of $75,000 was asked for a public building at Sundance, Wyo., 281 inhabitants.

The population of Dog's Tooth,
Consisting, if you want the truth,
Of three prospectors past their youth,
A Greaser and a mule,
Met in that town's interior
And said, "We'll ask our senator
To get us half a million for
A marble public school."

Spurred on by that example, up
Arose the people of Tincup
And to his audience, a pup,
One-eared and minus tail,
Proclaimed, "If Sundance gets a lot
Of money, fellow-cits, I'm shot
If it ain't proper that we got
A million-dollar jail."

The folk in Pompey's Pillar, Mont.,
Unanimously cried, "We want
A little of that golden font
To scatter out this way!
Our mail is mighty small, and so
We do not want a new P. O.,
But, senator, you get us dough
To build a fine cafe!"

Petitions Painted Rock produced,
A Baby Basket cry was loosed
And from Kentucky's Pigeon Roost
Was stretched the itching hand,
And all the joyous Looney folk
(This is no geographic joke,
For you will find the place in O.)
A perfect palace planned.

Oh, day of plenitude of pap,
When every village on the map
Emits its most persistent yap,
And Ham and Yuba Dam,
Bean Blossom and Maria's Pass,
Goodnight and Chocolay and Glass
Have buildings of the billion class
Paid for by Uncle Sam!

—John O'Keefe, in N. Y. World.

SPRING THOUGHTS.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

This is the time people begin to plan for the vacations they never take.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

March has been more of a cry baby than a lion.

From the Syracuse Post-Standard.

The early birds this spring are not getting any worms.

From the Minneapolis Journal.

March, having come in like a soft-shell progressive, is going on like a hobble-skirted radical, and promises to go out and slam the door like a man whose pay has been stopped.

From the Milwaukee Free Press.

April's next! How's your umbrella supply?

From the Boston Traveler.

The past few days have made everybody do his spring plowing—through the snow.

From the Scranton Truth.

Spring is limping along in lame fashion just now, daily holding out promises which are seldom fulfilled.

From the Duluth News-Tribune.

Did any one touch off a spring poem, or just what is the matter?

COAL STRIKE HINTS.

From the Springfield Union.

Maybe winter is merely hanging on to see whether there is to be a coal strike or not.

From the Columbus Evening Dispatch.

Clearly, the time to settle a strike is before the strike. That has been demonstrated in hundreds of cases.

From the Boston Advertiser.

The present rise in the price of coal is in part due to the fear which the operators have that their feelings may be injured by the strike.

From the Brooklyn Times.

The good people who are urging President Taft to intervene in the coal strike should pause and reflect upon the fate of "the innocent bystander" ere they urge him any harder.

From the Syracuse Herald.

In case of a coal strike, which presidential candidate will be first to grab the issue of government ownership of the coal mines?

From the Scranton Tribune-Republican.

This strike talk seems to have developed the fact that a lot of fellows who never saw a coal mine know all about the business.