The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, SATURDAY, JAN. 5, 1889.

MR. ROBINSON'S POINTS.

Mr. Robinson, in an interview elsewhere, makes clear his position on the subject of that smothered revenue bill. He does not charge personal responsibility on the Governor, but he does make a very distinct statement of his reasons for believing that the "quiet investigation" to which the Governor alludes in his message did not give an accurate statement of the facts.

Mr. Robinson's points are, in brief: (1) An affidavit that the bill was taken from the House to the Senate for signature there before going to the Executive Department; (2) that it was in the hands of the latter department two days before the Legislature adjourned; and (3) that the lack of a proclamation calling an extra session to repass the bill in a single day, unite in pointing to a different theory than the one advanced in the Governor's message.

The assertions of the outspoken ex-member certainly appear to leave the Governor's entourage in a position where it devolves on them to do or say something.

A SOURCE OF DANGER.

The authorities at City Hall, including the Special Council Committee, are still drifting into contention over the erection of wooden buildings within what are known as the fire limits. Nothing better can be looked for until an absolute rule is set up and then respected. To permit one man and to refuse another is an exercise of discretion for which there is no call, and looks very much like putting a premium on favoritism or official neglect. Too much is at stake to allow of any more frame buildings in the older part of the city. Those which are there now should be removed. It should not require a conflagration starting with such material to make this clear to Councils and to the authorities.

AN EVIDENCE OF PROSPERITY.

The statement that the Pittsburg and Western is doubling its track to Callery Junction, and will probably give the Shenango and Allegheny a connection that will open a new route from Pittsburg to Erie, indicates a gratifying progress for the youngest of Pittsburg's railroads. This enterprise was heavily handicapped at the start by the prevailing corporate vice of over-capitalization; but it now is overcoming that difficulty and has built up a traffic that places it on a sound basis.

In this connection, it is pertinent to point out that the remark attributed to one of the officials of the corporation, that it would not give the Shenango and Allegheny an entrance to Pittsburg, "without an agreement that there will be no competition on the ore traffic," is not based on sound business principles. The Pittsburg and Western has two or three strong competitors in the ore traffic already; and the admission of another, with a royalty that will yield material contribution to the fixed charges of the Pittsburg corporation, will be as much of an advantage to it as to the public.

HARDLY A VALID EXCUSE.

There seems to be a slight lack of sincerity in the reported position of the coke operators, that they cannot have a conference with the coke workers "because there is no syndicate." There is no syndicate in the iron business, nor has there been—until recently at least—in the coal business; but that has never prevented the employers from meeting the men to discuss the wage question. In view of the intimations that coke is selling above the open rate, it would seem no more than justice to the miners to give their claim a fair hearing at least. The coke workers can hardly be blamed if they refuse to be put off with a plea of that sort; and inasmuch as they can very easily get along without a conference, by presenting the scale to the operators separately, it is not likely that they will accept it. The conciliatory course of discussing the matter fairly and frankly with the men will be found the most profitable in the long run.

SENSATIONAL JOURNALISM.

Newspaper enterprise in Chicago is always presenting novel departures, but it is nevertheless astonishing to learn that a reporter there has killed himself because his courtship of a Cincinnati girl had been unsuccessful. Such self-sacrifice in the manufacture of sensational news is almost unheard of even in Chicago. It is not desirable that other reporters in that city, chagrined as they may be at their comrade's undeniable "scoop," should follow his example.

Much safer and more comfortable is the method of Henry Andrea, an advertising agent of a Brooklyn newspaper, who has achieved notoriety by stealing $10,000 of his employers money. This journalistic episode, however, cannot be considered complete until Mr. Andrea has been endued with a striped suit at Sing Sing.

AN APPEAL TO CHICAGO.

The hostilities have broken out again with renewed vigor between the cities of Chicago and St. Louis. It is not probable that Thomas W. Vines, after embezzling a large sum of money in Chicago, cared very much whither he went in the Saratoga trunk wherein he stowed himself away. But Chicagoans are evidently disposed to judge him harshly because the trunk was directed to St. Louis. An embezzler of money may have some excuse for his delinquency, but in the eyes of a loyal Chicagoan nothing can palliate the offense of preferring St. Louis to the Windy City.

The feeling in St. Louis is much the same. When a St. Louis man tells you that a certain man has gone to Chicago, it is customary to inquire whether the man is alive or dead, for Chicago is a pet synonym in St. Louis for a hot region which is said to be paved with good intentions. It is somewhat singular, therefore, that the adventurer who passed through the hands of the baggage-smashers in a trunk and survived should have been arrested by the St. Louis police and returned by them to Chicago. Perhaps it should be hailed as a laudable triumph of virtue over the local prejudices of the St. Louis police force.

But we trust that the lesson of St. Louis' magnanimity will not be thrown away upon Chicago. Let Vines be punished for embezzlement alone, and not for preferring St. Louis to Chicago, also.

IT WILL HAVE NO OPTION.

The threat which has been attributed to some of the officials of the Western Union Telegraph Company, that if the State's suit for forfeiture on account of the telegraph consolidation is pushed, that corporation will withdraw from the State and leave us without telegraphic facilities, calls for pointing out two facts.

The first point is that the Western Union corporation will not have any option about leaving the State. If the Constitution and laws are enforced, it will have to go, because it will have forfeited all its property and franchises in the State. But it is very certain that it will not go until the suits are finally decided against it, for the very reason that to do so would cause the very result it is striving to avert. In other words it would thus surrender the franchises which the Attorney General's suit is proposing to forfeit.

The other point is that when the Western Union does leave the State—because it has to—the State will possess a very complete telegraphic plant of its own. It can lease or sell these lines to State telegraph companies; and it can provide that these lines shall exchange business with all competing companies outside the State. This will furnish a permanent corner-stone for competition; and as Pennsylvania furnishes some millions of telegraphic business annually, it is perfectly safe to calculate that the Western Union will be glad to make an equitable arrangement for its share of the business, when it finds that it cannot get the business any other way.

The only danger in connection with this matter is that the corporation will prove powerful enough to get the proceedings smothered in court, or the forfeiture waived by the Legislature. If the representatives of the people do their duty, and the law is enforced, the Western Union will have to submit with as good grace as it can command.

THE OTHER SIDE OF IT.

Yesterday THE DISPATCH drew attention to the lamentations of the *Railway Age* over the bankruptcies and failures of railroads. Before the subject passes out of notice it cannot but be well to consider the effects of stock-watering and of fictitious indebtedness on the future of the roads. We hear a great clamor made from time to time, that the public sentiment is adverse to corporations; that the public are not paying enough; that property should pay dividends and so on. Now let us see what is to be said for the public.

In the first place it is a huge fallacy to assume that all the roads which either fail of dividends or even default on interest charges are therefore not paying properties. Many such would pay handsomely on the actual cash put into their construction. Whether they are able to pay also upon the wind and water in their capitalization is quite another matter. That depends very much on the moderation of the promoters or their rapacity, whether they are content with moderate inflation or put the utmost tension on the bubble. To illustrate: it was estimated that $12,000,000 possibly, but at the utmost $15,000,000, would have constructed and equipped the South Penn road. Yet the first move of the Vanderbilts was to put $20,000,000 of bonds and $20,000,000 of stock—making a total of $40,000,000, on which the public would be expected to pay interest and dividends. The road might pay good returns on $20,000,000, that is to say, on the full cost of construction, yet if it did not also pay on the $20,000,000 of water the same talk of "non-remunerative railroads" would quickly be heard. Of course the rates would, if possible, be as quickly adjusted to cover the deficiency.

As for the most part railroad charges are arranged equally with reference to paying on the water where it exists as well as on the actual cash invested, it is hardly to be expected that the public, who defray them, look on the policy with favor. We have called attention only to the one item of stock-watering, which seems to be almost the rule rather than the exception with corporations nowadays. It is not necessary to dwell upon other factors that produce seeming failures in railroad property. The system of rebates, discriminations, special contracts with enterprises in which officers of the roads are interested, and the methods of inner construction companies have in some cases not a little to do with the results that are viewed with such gloom when they take the shape of failure of dividends or default upon interest.

It is of very high importance to the public and to the railroads themselves to consider causes in these matters. It certainly would be absolutely needful to know how much actual cash has been put in any road before concluding that the enterprise of building it was misjudged or a failure. The volume of "shares" and "securities" put on the market in its name is too frequently a most misleading criterion.

SOME CONTRASTS.

The condition of affairs with regard to the live question of overhead and underground electric wires presents some remarkable phases, just at present. Most of them come from New York, where the attempt to get the wires underground has been supposed to be going on for two years.

This work was put into the hands of a commission. It may be remembered that THE DISPATCH then remarked that the fashionable practice of putting such matters in charge of a commission was a very good illustration of the method how not to do it. The announcement is made now that after the commission has been working with the subject for two years, New York has more overhead wires than ever before. Some of the commissioners have tried to get the wires underground, and one at least—Mayor Hewitt, for instance—has tried to obstruct the work, with the result that while something has been done to the extent of removing nearly 1,000 miles of overhead wire, the increase has been greater than the amount removed.

A comforting contrast to this record is afforded by the very salient decision in which Judge Lawrence, of the New York Supreme Court, refused an injunction applied for by an electric light company that was seeking to obstruct the work of putting its wires underground; and asserted the change to be "a great public work, the speedy conclusion of which is desirable for the safety and convenience of the people."

There is also a contrast between the fact that the New York courts and some of the public officials are upholding the underground movement, and the fact that in Pittsburg where the first underground wires were laid on a large scale, the public authorities seem to have concluded that it will be just as well to let the city be covered by the overhead electric light wires.

It is better to try, even though not very successfully, to remove a nuisance and a danger than to appear to encourage the design of enhancing it.

JUDGE STOWE'S opinion of the criminal code is not so flattering as that of Governor Beaver. In this matter judicial experience, acquired on the bench, is of more weight than the compliments of the season conveyed through the Executive message.

THERE is a report in the West that William Walter Phelps contemplates a stillhunt for the New Jersey Senatorship, which the Chicago *Times* says is absurd because "Phelps never does anything without a bang." There are other cogent reasons for disbelieving the report, namely that the New Jersey Legislature is Democratic, and that Governor Leon Abbett has been gunning for that Senatorship and is now believed to have it in his game-bag.

THE Prime Minister of Austria guarantees the peace of Europe for a year; but as no furloughs are being given to German and French soldiers, there is evidently a feeling that in order to maintain the peace it may be necessary to fight for it.

THE statement that the Wholesale Grocers' National Association wants to "prevent the sale of sugar below the cost," is calculated to provoke the retort that the instinct of business self-preservation will do that without any agreement. We never came across any wholesale grocer who continued steadily in business for the fun of the thing. It is the sale of sugars considerably above cost that the grocers' combinations are after.

THE course of the Mugwump-Democratic Boston *Herald* in booming Senator Allison for President in 1892 looks like an attempt to rival the New York *Sun's* record in killing off promising Presidental candidacies by premature exposure.

THE position of things in New York is illustrated by the fact that Alderman Dowling, who was at the head of an attack in the Board of Aldermen upon corporations that refused to put up the boodle, is leading candidate for Deputy Commissioner of Public Works. The necessity of putting an active striker where he can do the most good for himself and his coparceners, seems to be paramount in New York.

GOVERNOR HILL'S view with regard to the purity of elections is a good deal like the old citizen's attitude toward prohibition. He's in favor of ballot reform in the abstract; but is against any law that will enforce it.

THAT electric sugar refining process appears to have been nearly as big a steal from the capitalists as the Sugar Trust is from the public. The first beat the investors out of a million dollars and the second beats the consumers out of about twenty millions annually. But the poor capitalists cannot stand that sort of thing as quietly as the public has to.

THERE is reason for fear that this mild winter will destroy the Delaware peach crop. The crop fabricator has not yet been heard from; but it will soon be time for him to make his appearance.

NINETEEN students are reported to be engaged at "studying journalism" in Cornell College. Having pursued that course to the attainment of high views with regard to tariff editorials and international correspondence, we hope that some of them will be found capable of a start in learning newspaper work by taking the police station route.

SENATOR RIDDLEBERGER has not raised any row in the Senate for two weeks. This happy season of order and quiet may be accounted for by the fact that the Senate was not in session.

AFTER all that has been said and dope on the subject of building inspection it is hardly more than reasonable to insist that building inspectors should know where the fire limits are. Let us hope that the warm discussion of the question will be provocative of general knowledge in official circles.

THE energy with which the Salisbury Government is sending the Irish members of Parliament to jail shows an earnest intention to lose no chances to keep the Tory majority intact.

IT is stated that Jay Gould's children each received a Christmas present of $100,000 worth of railroad bonds. Mr. Gould was too wise, it will be perceived, to dampen the holiday festivities by deluging his family with any such watery present as $100,000 each in the shares of his corporations.

PERSONAL FACTS AND FANCIES.

A FUND is being raised at New Orleans for the family of James Givens, the hero of the recent steamboat fire.

THE Sultan never uses a plate, but takes his food usually with a spoon or his fingers directly from the little kettles in which it is cooked.

THE Garfield Monument at Cleveland will not be dedicated before Decoration Day. It is said that an admission fee will be charged, permanently, to all visitors.

PROF. E. A. PARK, of Andover, who led the action against Prof. Smyth for heresy, is now an old man, with a smooth face and long gray hair. In cold weather he wears a heavy shawl about his shoulders over his overcoat.

DESPITE the reports to the contrary, Secretary Bayard is a comparatively rich man. He is worth more than $300,000. He inherited from his father, the late Senator Bayard, $50,000. From his wife he acquired three times that amount. By judicious investments in Baltimore real estate he has added, at the very least, $100,000 to all this, and is now in receipt of a handsome and assured income. He has fully determined to indulge in rest and recreation for the remainder of his life.

THE Princess Mathilde, who has gathered around her all the Bonapartist and literary notabilities of Paris at her Sunday evening receptions for many years past, is debarred by failing health from resuming them on their wonted brilliant footing this winter. She will open her salons as usual; but her invitations will be limited to old and intimate friends, belonging for the most part to the world of art and letters. The doctors disapprove of her stirring out of doors in the evening, but she means to make an exception in favor of M. Edmond de Goncourt, who is a particularly valued friend.

THE Pope has received nearly 800 requests from French ecclesiastics for one of the jubilee offerings which he announced his intention of giving away. In most cases the choice of the article was left to himself; the object of the applicants being merely to secure a memento of the jubilee, however trifling. The Pope will probably present the costly ivory tabernacle sent him by the American Catholics to the Church of Our Lady at Lourdes. Over a thousand demands came from Germany, mostly from the priests of the poorer parishes, and nearly all asking for one or another of the objects used in Catholic worship.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Though the Blue Birds Are Singing We'd Better Keep an Eye Open for Blizzards.

WHEN the sun shines as it did yesterday it is hardly to be wondered at that the small winter remnant of birds come out from the sheltered spots in the valleys and sing and fly from branch to branch as if springtime had indeed arrived. The sparrows hardly need the provocation of bright sunlight and balmy air to collect in chattering groups about the lawns and garden paths. In the course of a very brief ramble over country roads yesterday, I saw no less than three blue birds and one robin, besides any quantity of dainty little snow birds. There are always a few blue birds who linger in this latitude after the main body of their mates have flown South, but three in a flock, so to speak, are an uncommon sight in the first week of January in Allegheny county.

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WEATHER prophets are never hard to find, but I found one yesterday in a place where I would never have expected one to be. It was in a dark and dingy city office, into which the sunlight literally never comes, and where the air is more like the breath of the opposite place to heaven.

He is a man of no little consequence; keeps the books of a great firm, and is a confidential adviser, I guess, in a good many matters to his employers as well. Though I never heard the exact figures he has probably been sitting on the same chair, at the same desk, in that black and stuffy office for 20 years. Yet he is a weather prophet.

He conducts, simply for his own guidance, he says, a signal service of his own. Makes his observations coming to the office in the morning, adds to them others casually made at noon and winds up the collection of pointers for the day when he goes to his East End home at night. It is his single hobby; I was going to say dissipation.

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WHAT his system is he won't say. He will gladly share with you the result of his observations. Unasked he warns junior clerks to take their umbrellas with them as they start on a round of collections or business errands some afternoon. Or he gratifies the office boy with the remark, "Tommy, there'll be skating for you to-morrow." Even the great personages whose collective name is "the firm" condescend to ask the old bookkeeper what sort of weather the night is likely to bring forth, and he tells them gladly and sincerely what his observations have led him to expect.

But how he knows, or by what instinct or science he is guided he won't say and none of his friends or companions can say. When you ask him he merely laughs and may be says, "Guess it's in my bones!"

And nine times, or to be conservative, eight times out of ten this eccentric weather prophet hits the mark with his predictions.

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YESTERDAY I encountered him at lunch, and not thinking of him in his character of weather expert, remarked upon the glorious but unseasonable weather.

"Yes, the day is worthy of late March or early April," he replied, and then, shaking his fork laden with mashed potato impressively at me, continued, "but you'll better keep your eye open for blizzards next week. There will be a tremendous drop in the mercury before Monday next, and I look for snow, and plenty of it, before Thursday. It will be the first touch of real winter—precisely how sharp or how long the cold spell will be I can't say, but I know it will be here before I've eaten three more dinners."

Now, as to this rather disagreeable prediction, I can only say that the man who uttered it possesses the reputation I have described. We shall have to wait and see. The Signal Service authorities may have to acknowledge the existence of a most formidable rival in my old friend.

AN IMPORTANT DECISION.

Notices on Telegraph Message Forms Are Not Binding on the Sender.

CHICAGO, January 4.—Judge Baker to-day delivered a decision which is of interest to telegraph companies and their patrons. The decision was in a motion for a new trial by the Postal Telegraph and Cable Company in a suit brought against them some time ago by C. L. Lathrop & Co. The latter sent some dispatches to their correspondents in New York in regard to the purchase of a large quantity of coffee. The telegraph company, it was claimed, made some mistake in the transmission of the dispatches, through which Lathrop & Co. lost $8,000.

They began suit against the company and recovered a verdict for $6,980, and the telegraph company thereupon entered a motion for a new trial. They set up that their printed message forms contained a notice of exemption from liability, and that on that ground alone a suit against them did not lie, and the verdict, therefore, was improper. It was further urged by them that the transactions of the coffee merchants were in the nature of gambling transactions, and hence damages were not recoverable.

Judge Baker overruled these points and refused to grant a new trial. The Court held that a telegraph company was obliged to use ordinary care in the transmission of telegrams, notwithstanding what may have been printed on their message forms. With regard to the charge of gambling, the Court held that such transactions were not necessarily illegal. If actual purchases were made, under which the buyers were bound to take and the sellers to deliver coffee in a specified time and for a specified price, the mere fact that the purchase may have been made with the intention of reselling did not necessarily make the purchase illegal under the gambling act.

The motion was denied and a judgment given for amount of verdict. An appeal was taken to the Appellate Court by the Postal Telegraph Company.

PICKED UP AT SEA.

Perilous Adventure of the Crew of a Schooner Laden With Lumber.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, January 4.—The bark Belle Wooster, from Cork, arrived in port to-day, with the crew and captain of the wrecked schooner Kate Carnie. The Kate Carnie sailed from Brunswick, Canada, on November 3, with a cargo of white pine, for Rotterdam. Five weeks out she encountered a hurricane which lasted 30 hours.

All the deck houses and railings were swept away. Eventually she became completely water logged. Her crew abandoned her. They were picked up, two days after they left their ship, by the captain of the Belle Wooster.

ENTIRELY TOO PREVIOUS.

Boston Tulips Growing Too Fast for This Time of the Year.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

BOSTON, January 4.—A queer result of the warm weather is that hundreds of tulips in flower gardens throughout Malden, which were to bud in the spring, are now budding through their straw coverings, and in one garden on Pleasant street the tulips and hyacinths are four inches above the ground and blossoming.

It is thought by florists throughout the city that if cold weather does come it will destroy the entire gardens of tulips and other early spring flowers.

Imprisoned for Their Opinions.

From the New York Tribune.]

England opens the year with the unique experiment of sending one member of Parliament to jail for what is practically a political offense, and indicting another for conspiracy. There is no other country in Christendom where duly elected members of the National Legislature are prosecuted and imprisoned systematically for the sake of their opinions. It is a unique experience because the English Government alone employs this method of harassing political opponents, but it is not by any means a novel one for the present Tory Administration. Irish members were under arrest and in jail, sometimes as many as a dozen at a time, from the beginning to the end of the year of grace, 1888.

An Execution in Germany.

From the New York World.]

Emperor William does not make any pretense of sharing the repugnance displayed by his father and grandfather to signing a death warrant against a murderer. Ten days ago a man was executed at Madgeburg by means of the ax, for the murder of his betrothed. Think of nineteenth century civilization maintaining a brutal headsman with an ax!

Our Ministers to England.

From the New York Sun.]

Perhaps there is more truth than was intended to be conveyed in the friendly and jocular remark of the London *Telegraph* concerning our recent Ministers to the Court of St. James: "We have always contrived to make them more English than they were before they came to England."

Suppose the country tries for once an American whose Americanism is warranted to wash.

WAR AGAINST MAHONEISM.

Other Republicans in Virginia Intend to Have Something to Say.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

WASHINGTON, January 4.—When Senator Quay and ex-Senator Mahone, of Virginia, were frequently closeted together in the weeks following the election, it was surmised by many that the Pennsylvania Senator had espoused the cause of the little Virginian and would recognize him as the rightful boss of the Republican party of the State. But Mahone seems to have dropped out. There is no more heard of him, the conferences have ceased, and on the other hand, steps are being taken in a vigorous manner to overthrow Mahone rule in the State, finally and for all time. A meeting of the anti-Mahone State Committee was held last night at Petersburg, under a call from Chairman D. F. Houston, during which the latter made a vigorous attack on Mahone and the committee decided to issue an address to the Republicans of the State to protest against the autocracy of the ex-Senator.

One of the peculiar features of this newly inaugurated onslaught on Mahone is that Houston is known to be much more intimate than Mahone is with Senator Quay, and it is not supposed by his friends that he would take such a step at this time without consulting with Quay. Houston is a Pennsylvanian, a native of Chester county, but has been in politics in many parts of the State. Years ago he would go into a county where he was a perfect stranger, and in a few months would be hand-in-glove with the leading politicians of the county, and engage boldly in the rearrangement of slates which would give him a good grip on affairs.

Early in the seventies he was prominent in politics of Mercer county. He became such a power in State politics that he was given a good Government position in Philadelphia, and played a notable hand in the local affairs of that city. Then he went into business in Virginia, and within the last year has become one of the most formidable opponents of Mahone rule in the Old Dominion, along with John S. Wise, General Brady and others. One of his aims in the present movement is to destroy the last vestige of any chance that Mahone might have for a place in the Cabinet of President Harrison, though Houston would never for a moment admit that any such chance existed.

It is believed from recent developments that the weight of the friends of the new administration will be thrown in exactly the other direction from Mahone, and that powerful influences will be at the back of Houston and his friends, with the purpose of breaking down the rule of Mahone, which has been for years probably the greatest obstacle in the way of a Republican victory in the State. Those who have a near view of the inner working of affairs in the Republican party regard this freshly inaugurated movement against Mahone as decidedly significant of something more than a fight to be confined within the limits of the State of Virginia.

THE SECRET OUT.

Origin of the Mysterious Quay Telegram About Forraker's Chances.

From the Fargo Sun.]

The *Sun* has no desire to embarrass President-elect Harrison in his administration as Chief executive of the United States, and for this reason it deems it proper to state the facts in relation to an alleged dispatch from Indianapolis, which has been going the rounds of the newspapers throughout the United States, and which has been extensively commented upon editorially. The dispatch, so called, was a short note, received by mail, by a party in Fargo, and made its first appearance in the *Sun*, and was given it in strict confidence, and for that reason the name of both the recipient and sender were withheld, and the *Sun* has positive evidence that no other copy has ever been made public. The note, as published December 22, is as follows:

INDIANAPOLIS, December 18.

My Old Friend ——:

I leave here to-night for Washington, and am in a rush. You can, however, pin your everlasting faith on the appointment for Fargo, as it is already settled. Foraker is sure for the Cabinet.

Yours, ——.

This note was copied by the Fargo correspondent of the St. Paul and Minneapolis papers as a telegram to Dr. Shurlock and signed Quay. From that it was copied by Eastern papers and signed M. S. Quay, to Dr. Shurlock, of this city, who was Quay's family physician and personal friend in former days. This bogus telegram, as published by Eastern papers, has been made the text for red-hot editorials denouncing Harrison as wanting in backbone, and as positive evidence that Quay and Blaine were to run the incoming administration.

Now the *Sun* wishes to say right here that these papers are all away off in their reckoning. The Fargo correspondents of the St. Paul and Minneapolis papers have proved themselves to be liars, and their papers have been grossly imposed upon. In justice to Dr. Shurlock, Senator Quay and President Harrison, these papers ought to acknowledge the corn, and take back what they have said. The note published in the *Sun* was not from M. S. Quay, neither was it received by Dr. Shurlock. However, the recipient thinks he has a dead sure thing on the Fargo Postoffice shortly after the 4th of March, and has promised to give the *Sun* a discount on postage stamps when appointed, if it will not give him away.

CONTEST FOR A JUDGESHIP.

Candidates for the Ermine in Chester County Before the Governor.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

HARRISBURG, January 4.—Nearly every district in Chester county was represented at the hearing to-day before Governor Beaver, in the interest of Thomas S. Butler, son of ex-State Treasurer Butler, one of the candidates for Judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Chester county in place of Judge Futhey, deceased. Among those present was Senator Harlan, and remarks were made by E. D. Bingham, W. H. Windle, and H. C. Pennypacker, members of the bar; Doctors Snyder and Prizer, and citizens William Reynolds, Hope Hepburn and Levi Griffiths. The appointment of Mr. Butler was asked because of his qualifications and great popularity. It was stated that he had a practice of about $7,000 a year and represented some of the largest corporations in the State. As to the estimate which the people of his county placed on him reference was made to a petition which the delegation had submitted to the Governor signed by 8,000 Republicans and a considerable number of Democrats.

After Mr. Butler's delegation had retired about a dozen friends of John J. Pinkerton, another candidate for Judge Futhey's place, filed into the Governor's room to present the claims of their favorite. Attorneys John J. Green, Rev. James Criegh, and Abram Ashbridge, and citizens Norman Bernard, Nathan T. Hayes, and W. H. Rupert requested the selection of Mr. Pinkerton.

As Mr. Butler is the son-in-law of Congressman Darlington, whose candidacy has divided the Republicans of Chester county into two factions, it was stated as a reason why Mr. Pinkerton should be preferred to Mr. Butler that he would be acceptable to both Republican elements. The Governor will probably fill the judicial vacancy next week.

RELIGION AND GOOD GOVERNMENT.

The President Tells Colored Catholics That They Go Hand-in-Hand.

WASHINGTON, January 4.—At the Colored Catholic Convention to-day S. F. Hardy, a delegate from St. Paul, read a paper on Catholicity in the Northwest, and George R. Thompson, a delegate from South America, spoke of the color line as drawn at home and abroad. The St. Augustine Debating Association presented an address to the convention, expressing deep interest in its work and in the religious and educational advancement of the colored race. Father Walsh, of this city, addressed the convention on the work of the congress. He said he had learned more about the colored race during the last three days than he ever did in the 13 years he had labored for their benefit. He said that from this time on it would mark a new era in his life; that it would urge him on in his work and make him more progressive.

The members of the convention called at the White House this afternoon. Mr. R. L. Bufin, of Boston, made an address to the President, in which he thanked him for his kind treatment of the colored people. The President replied that he was glad to meet the representatives of the Colored Catholic Church, recognizing in them a powerful element in the progress and prosperity of the country. He said he was fully convinced that good religious interest in the welfare of the nation is a powerful auxiliary to a good administration and a good government. He then shook hands with each delegate.

TURNED OUT OF THEIR SHOP.

Two of the Contestants of Tilden's Will Unable to Pay Their Rent.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, January 4.—Two nephews of the late Samuel J. Tilden are said to have been dispossessed of their apothecary shop for nonpayment of $250 rent. They deny the truth of this rumor, and say that they have long contemplated giving up the business. They fail to explain, however, why they do not pay the $250 which they owe their landlord.

Their embarrassment is attributed to the fact that they lost great prospects by their failure to break Samuel J. Tilden's will.

FEES FOR COMMISSIONS.

Philadelphia Judges Not Sure They Are State Officials—They Object to Paying $5 Each for Their Papers—Custom and Precedent.

[SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH.]

HARRISBURG, January 4.—The alleged indignation of the judges of the courts of Philadelphia, elected last November, because they were asked to pay $5 each for their commissions, has occasioned surprise in the office of the Secretary of the Commonwealth, for the reason that judges in Philadelphia have been paying the amount indicated for their commissions since 1884 without complaint, and judges from other portions of the Commonwealth since 1883.

In 1884 Judge Robert N. Wilson is on record as having paid $5 for his commission, and subsequently Judges Gordon, Reed, Bregy and other members of the bench of Philadelphia submitted to the imposition of the fee without apparent protest. There is no record in the office to show that the commissions cost the judges anything before 1883, in which year, Mr. Hassler, the Commission Clerk, consulted the then Deputy Secretary of the Commonwealth, John C. Shumaker, as to the propriety of requiring the judges to pay for them.

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The law was examined and interpreted to justify the demand subsequently made on the judges of the various districts in the State, as an act of 1830 imposes a State tax on commissions of health officers, lazaretto physician, port physician, superintendent of powder magazine, regulator of weights and measures, prothonotary, clerk of Oyer and Terminer, clerk of Quarter Sessions and Orphans' court, mayor's court, register of wills, recorder of deeds, interpreter of foreign languages, and sheriff of a county of $10 each. This act does not authorize a tax to be charged for a judge's commission, but the act of 1871 provides that the Auditor General, Surveyor General and other State officers shall pay $5 for his commission.

If, as contended by the complaining judges, they are not State officers, it is thought their case is covered by another provision, which requires every city, county or district officer who receives emoluments and pays no tax on commissions to pay $5 as a fee for his commission.

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Commissions are an important feature of the State Department and yield a handsome revenue. The Secretary of the Commonwealth is not allowed anything for commissions of any kind, but receives $5 for every paper filed in the department, including articles of incorporation of all kinds except those of co-operative associations, statements of foreign corporations, election returns, increase and decrease of stock or indebtedness, returns of increase and decrease, certificates of organization after judicial sale, acceptance of constitution, etc.

Secretary Stone earned in personal fees in 23 months, beginning January 18, 1887, and ending December 19, 1888, about $10,500, which amount is in addition to his salary of nearly $5,000. There is only one office on the hill which pays as well as that of Secretary of State—that of Attorney General, which, in addition to an aggregate salary of $4,000 a year, regularly pays $7,000 in commissions to the possessor. The Attorney General, under a law of 1870, receives a commission of 5 per cent on every claim collected through the courts, and he invariably manages to win enough suits to reach the maximum allowed, with a small sum to spare, which belongs to the State.

AGAINST THE CORPORATION.

Dr. Prentice Recovers $10,000 Before Judge Gresham for False Arrest.

CHICAGO, January 4.—Dr. Chalmers M. C. Prentice, of Norwalk, O., recovered a verdict for $10,000 before Judge Gresham in the Federal Court to-day, against the Lake Shore and Michigan Southern Railroad Company. Dr. Prentice sued the company for alleged false arrest and imprisonment, October 12, 1886. The doctor, accompanied by his wife, boarded a train of the defendant at Norwalk to come to Chicago. He had bought several return excursion tickets from Chicago, for friends of his, and he was arrested on the train in the presence of a number of acquaintances.

At Chicago he was taken to Harrison street police station by a policeman, and when the desk sergeant asked what the charge was, Conductor James Curran, at whose instance the arrest was made, replied: "Well, I don't know what charge. Make it disorderly, anyhow."

Next morning the Justice discharged Prentice, and he sued the railroad company for $50,000. The evidence showed that Dr. Prentice was very roughly treated both by the conductor and a watchman for the road. After Prentice's arrest the conductor said to Mrs. Prentice:

"Where is your doctor-husband now?" He also refused to allow Prentice to help his wife remove her baggage from the train and she was not permitted to talk to him at the station. Judge Gresham commented strongly on the outrage of the arrest and said Prentice had done nothing illegal in buying excursion tickets.

Trouble Over a Tutor at an End.

Special Telegram to the Dispatch.

NEW YORK, January 4.—The trouble between the faculty and students of the University Medical College ended to-day. Dr. Woolsey, the bone of contention, read his lecture to the students, undisturbed by jeers or whistling. The students who led the revolt against Dr. Woolsey's substitution for Dr. Weisse, as instructor, will be suspended or expelled. Dr. Woolsey is a son of ex-President Woolsey, of Yale College.

ETIQUETTE AT THE OPERA.

LADIES in boxes must remember that it is ill bred to whisper.

IT is not allowable to snore during the love passages in the opera.

DO NOT ask your deaf friend how he enjoyed the pianissimo movement.

IT is permissible to talk across the house if you have a receipt for your box in your pocket.

WHEN you throw bouquets at the prima donna be careful not to hit her in the eye with the stem.

Do not occupy your box on nights when your creditors are likely to be there in company with the Sheriff.

NEVER attempt to applaud with a pair of shingles, nor to add to the general enthusiasm with a tin horn.

NEVER perpetrate that old chestnut, which is the heaviest, a pound of feathers of a pound of German opera?

POLITE persons do not go to the opera in a horse car, nor do they enter the opera house until the first act is about half over.

WHEN you go to hear Patti do not offer to sing "Home, Sweet Home" better than she can do it for $5. You might be taken up—by a policeman.

IT is not proper to throw cherry pits at the tenor's mouth when he is chasing a high C around his diaphragm. One might go in and ruin his voice.

No gentleman will appear even at a performance of "Mephistopheles" in a campaign suit of red and blue oilcloth. Remember that full dress is a sine qua non at the opera.

Do not insist on more than 14 encores in the first act or on less than three in the second. It is neither well to ruin the artists' voices nor to offend them by a failure to applaud.

NEVER think of buying an orchestra chair at the opera for $4 when you can get a box for $1,500. This would look as if your income were small, and no man ever got on in society with a small income.

IF you occupy an orchestra chair do not presume to open your mouth or to intimate that you came there to hear the music. The ushers would probably put you out if you so far forgot yourself.

RELATE all the funny anecdotes you know during the piano scenes and hum all the crescendo movements, taking care to keep two bars ahead of the orchestra and three bars ahead of the singers.

No matter if occupants of boxes do chatter, you are not justified in throwing your rubbers at them. You must not forget that there are such things as chatter-boxes, and the noisy people may have one of them.

NONE but ill-bred persons buy books of the opera. Even a book of the opera will fail to enable you to understand Wagner's music, and fashionable people have never yet been known to go to the opera for the pleasure to be got out of the libretto.

Do not get so excited in a storm scene as to offer to lend the soprano your umbrella, or to advise the tenor to put on a muffler lest he catch cold. Remember that nothing before you is real except, perhaps, the prima donna's paste jewels and one or two obnoxious hats.

—*New York Evening Sun.*

NEW AND STRIKING FEATURES

To be Offered Readers of The Dispatch To-Morrow—A Charming Story.

THE DISPATCH to-morrow will contain a number of striking and exclusive contributions from the pens of new and old authors and writers. The main feature of general interest will be the opening chapters of "THE COLONEL'S CARDS," the first of a series of strictly American novelettes. This fascinating story deals with the characters met at the fashionable American summer resorts, and is full of dramatic spirit and action. It is from the pen of Mr. Franklin File, a rising young American author whose versatility has long been recognized, although much of his literary work has appeared over various nom de plumes. "THE COLONEL'S CARDS" will be followed by other novelettes by JOAQUIN MILLER, MAURICE THOMPSON, Dr. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, WILL CARLTON and others.

The fashionable dances of the Metropolitan masters are to be presented to the readers of THE DISPATCH in such manner as to be easily understood by all lovers of the light fantastic. The minuet, which will this season become the popular dance in fashionable society, will be fully described in the opening paper of this series to be published to-morrow. It is handsomely illustrated, and will be followed in future issues by others equally interesting. Dr. Hammond, the celebrated physician, also contributes a paper on dancing, which scientifically discusses the amusement from the standpoint of health.

Lovers of horses and horseback riding will be pleased to learn that THE DISPATCH has secured a series of articles on equestrianism from CAPTAIN CHARLES KING, U. S. A., the popular novelist, and formerly instructor of cavalry tactics and horsemanship at West Point. Captain King, in to-morrow's DISPATCH, discusses riding styles, English and American saddles, difference between riding on the plains and in cross-country English hunts, etc. Other contributions on this fascinating topic will be furnished by Captain King in succeeding issues of THE DISPATCH.

Clarke Russell, the famous writer of sea tales, will tell readers of TO-MORROW'S DISPATC