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PITTSBURG, THURSDAY, SEP. 19, 1888.

ONE-THIRD OF A JURY.

Four jurors in the Cronin case accepted and sworn in yesterday constitute the sole evidence, so far attainable, that the machinery of the law is moving in the direction of punishment for the perpetrators of that remarkable crime.

Therefore the impression has been rather strongly to the effect that the wheels of justice were locked. Weeks of wrangling by lawyers, of an inquisitorial examination of the men presented to act as jurors, and of objections and challenges, either upon the most finely-drawn foundation, or merely upon suspicion, have carried the progress of the trial to the point where a one-third of the jury is obtained; and a proportionately long time may be expected to elapse before the entire jury is secured.

It ought hardly to be necessary to say that this does not show a satisfactory operation of justice. If, in a great city like Chicago, an intelligent and impartial jury cannot be promptly impaneled, there is something radically wrong either in the method of selection or the liberty allowed to lawyers, of delaying and muddling the proceedings. In the Chicago case the trouble seems to be mainly of the latter kind. But that is not the point to which the public attention should be first directed. The simple fact is enough that when weeks must be consumed in impaneling one-third of a jury something about the system has become so unwieldy as to defeat its own purpose.

It should be universally recognized that the purpose of courts and juries is to secure prompt and impartial justice. When the resources of clever lawyers can postpone and delay these proceedings, it is being done here, the necessity for radical reform in legal methods is self-evident.

THE ASSESSMENT Muddle.

The recently reported decision of the courts against the rule of assessing real estate on the valuation shown by the last recorded sale, leaves the matter of assessments in a rather anomalous condition. A thorough revision of assessments has just been made by the city in which this rule is supposed to have been observed throughout. It is not at all clear to the eye that the rule is not in some measure being evaded, and that seems to be the view taken by one of the assessors, who, it is said, does not think that the task will be as great as might be thought likely, because "the assessors have already the names of nearly all the kickers in the city."

MR. HUNTINGTON'S EMBROIDER.

It is not all pie to be a millionaire, Mr. C. F. Huntington is said to have several millionaires at present. The million in his daughter's hand, Prince Hatfield, in one of them, and a newspaper that does not pay is another. The paper is consuming Mr. Huntington's money at a rapid rate, and Prince Hatfield is looking for a chance to do the same. He is not likely to get the chance, however. Mr. Huntington has declined to furnish his princely would-be son-in-law with the \$1,000,000 to pay his debts of honor, and has further intimated that Miss Huntington should make up her mind not to exceed a reasonable allowance yearly. It is said that Prince Hatfield, who is as proud as the average penniless blacking of royal blood, has cooled in his courtship, and Miss Huntington is likely to escape the frightful peril of marriage with the scamp.

PRINCE HATFIELD cannot be scared away by Mr. Huntington's chilling remarks about money matters, there is still a way to save the life in the case. Let Mr. Huntington give Prince Hatfield the unprofitable newspaper and take back to his arms his charming daughter in exchange. Millions are never given for anything, but a newspaper is a good deal to run a newspaper.

MR. LOGAN'S NOMINATION.

The suggestion has been made and is widely taken up by papers throughout the country that Mr. John A. Logan be appointed to the place in the pension bureau, which the President is finding rather difficult to fill. While the idea may have been intended as a joke in the first place it has caught the fancy of the press so much that it is now seriously urged. As a joke it was a barren effort of wit. In its serious aspect it represents the public respect and good will for Mr. Logan, but is open to two objections. First, the position demands a lady of national standing and dignity like Mrs. Logan, and second, in view of the fact that the real trouble in the pension office is its arrears of business, there is more reason for filling it with a person whose application will catch up with the business, than with a lady whose sex and age would make it nearly impossible to discharge the volume of work that crowds that bureau. Mrs. Logan's own utterances show that she is not disposed to accept of the position of a trust officer at Washington.

A TRUST DISCOVERY.

The Cincinnati Commercial Gazette has been making a big campaign projectile out of the affidavits in a suit at Washington, in which the Democratic candidate for Governor is stated to have acted as an agent in trying to buy a brewery for the alleged British syndicate. The Republican organ is having its attack on the idea that Mr. Campbell sought in this transaction to subsidize American industries to the domination of British gold. That may do as an anticlerical charge; but the vital point is, as THE DISPATCH has been pointing out

with regard to many alleged trusts, that the really damaging allegation is that the present Democratic leader was trying to shape the deal solely with reference to deluding British investors with bogus values.

The affidavit referred to alleges that the brewer was offered about \$100,000 more than his property was worth, on condition that he was to make a deed for that sum and pay back the \$100,000 to Campbell. The purpose according to the declaration is to enable them to sell the property to English investors at an immense advance over its true value. In other words the business of Campbell and his partner was to make \$100,000 by selling a brewery which cost \$250,000 to the Englishmen for \$350,000 or more.

Now, this is hard on the Englishmen; but except for the reputation of national business honesty, it is not a matter to which the Americans need object. The Englishmen who are buying large breweries at 30 per cent above their true value will not control the beer business. So long as bricks and mortar are at the disposal of the general public, anyone who chooses can put up new breweries to compete with those owned by the Englishmen at much less cost than their property represents. We doubt if the Commercial Gazette is able to make very much more out of this assault on its opponent than to make him out a stock jobber.

But the light it throws on the brewery trust negotiation is important as classifying a large portion of the multitudinous so-called trust schemes. They are simply projects to feed the gudgeons in investing and speculating circles with paper values.

OUR STEAMSHIP LINES.

The information that a New York steamship company, operating a line of steamers running between New York and the Cuban and Mexican ports has added three fine American built vessels to its fleet, as given in our special dispatches, has an interesting bearing on the subject of our trade with South and Central American countries.

The first step in the development of such trade is, obviously, the improvement of communication with the countries to which we desire to furnish manufactured goods in exchange for tropical products and raw materials. The enlargement of just such lines as this one is, therefore, progress directly in the line of the objects to be considered by the Pan-American Congress.

The encouragement and stimulation of such lines is an essential feature of a national policy intelligently directed to the extension of South American trade.

The declaration of the President of this steamship company, that it would not have made this increase of its fleet except for its reliance on that the Republic appears likely to do for such enterprises, looks like a confident discounting of the future. But the fact that this American company must carry on business in competition with a Spanish company which receives a large subsidy from the Spanish Government and offers but about one-third the facilities of the American line tells the whole story. If our Government does not encourage and aid American steamships in the needed work, foreign steamers will receive that aid and encouragement will of course crowd the American marine to the wall.

The question thus assumes at the start a condition in which steamers of the United States must be aided either by bounties or subsidies, or the foreign steamers will continue to hold the supremacy. Congress must decide which shall continue to be our choice.

POLITICAL GIGARS.

The bright and shining New York Sun turns the light of its rays upon the fact that the illness of Private Secretary Halford is due to the polite endeavor of that accomplished functionary to smoke the cigars which office seekers have brought to the White House. This is declared to be all wrong by the Sun, which asserts "Mr. Halford is too precious to be wasted on cigar kickers. Give 'em to Wananaker."

The fell purpose of the Sun in proposing that the notations shall be exhibited to the Postmaster General is only too clear. Having met with failure in its demand that the Postmaster General shall be turned out of the Cabinet, it desires to see him removed by the slow and painful agonies of bad cigars. But such an effort to introduce Borgian methods into our public affairs is balked in the outset by the irreproachable character of the Postmaster General. Mr. Wananaker has no small vices, and while he may thus be deprived of the pleasure and pain alike of knowing bad cigars from good ones, he is also protected from insidious attempts to wreck his public usefulness by making him a bar to the more honest offerings of ambitious few workers.

Nevertheless the esteemed Sun made nearly a center shot designating the Post-office Department as the place where Mr. Halford should send the bad cigars, in self-protection. Mr. Wananaker can pass on the political gigars to his assistant. Nothing is too rank for Clark.

A HALT TO CHINESE FLIRTS.

Washington society has never joined in the quarrel of China. It is a matter of the quiet life of the Celestial Embassy, and although it is a serious statement to make off-hand, we believe the clothes of Washington's greatest have been washed in Chinese laundries. Society at the Capital may continue its intercourse with the pig-tailed laundrymen, but the Chinese Minister has ordered that his young men shall no longer look upon the maidens who are not all-American. It is a sort of left-handed compliment to the Washington women.

The Chinese Minister has issued the order formally to the members of his Legation shall cease their incursions into American society. It is not the custom of Chinese statesmen to explain their motives, but in this case they are too plain to be misunderstood. The order was issued because the budding diplomats of China took too kindly to flirtation. They fell victims to the fascination of the Washington flirt of the feminine gender. Possibly in the pursuit of this graceful art the unsuspecting Mongolians allowed state secrets to escape. In some quiet corner of a dimly-lighted conservatory the fate of an imperial plan may have been jeopardized. The potency of a cup of tea is well known when a charming woman pours it. It is small wonder that the impressionable young men in blue silks have been indiscreet over their cups—tea cups we mean. So it comes to pass that the fair dames and maidens of Washington will have to content themselves with the Japanese or the curious Corsicans when they desire a change of color in flirtation.

THEY GO TO OTHER SCHOOLS.

Orphans to be Taken From the Northern Home and Placed Elsewhere. SPECIAL TELEGRAM TO THE DISPATCH. HARRISBURG, September 18.—The Soldiers' Orphan Commission in this city to-day decided to withdraw the pupils in the Northern Home for the Friendless and place them in other schools located by the commission by December 1st. A resolution was passed that the next next, notwithstanding a proposition had been received from the management of the Philadelphia institution expressing a desire to retain the children, and that the school should take 100 additional scholars.

As the Northern Home has previously refused to accept of such a large number of orphans, and the commission was unwilling to accept of them, the children were placed in other schools. The resolution was passed that the determination should be made no further delay with it after the date indicated. By that time 1,000 pupils will have to be accommodated by other schools, and the contract for furnishing all the boys clothing was awarded to-day to a Philadelphia party at a suit.

THE Next Missouri. From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat. The country will please observe that when an office is tendered to a Missouri man he does not seize it in a greedy, vulgar fashion. He looks at it with an air of ease and self-control that bespeaks the true patriot and gentleman; and, after due deliberation, he declines, with thanks.

NO Partnership in This. From the Atlanta Constitution. The New World is in favor of civil service reform. So are we, if consistent Democrats are to hold the office.

THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Fair Foundation for a Poem on Johnston's Tragedy—A Lover's Shrewd Device—Diagnoses Extraordinary—A Thy Oracle.

When the time comes in the very dim and very distant future for the great American poet to arise in his strength and snatch from the mere earth of prose the tragic tale of Johnston's death and write it on the heavens in letters of stary gold, it will be not improbably congratulated by himself that he has such a reliable guide and provider of fact at his hand as "The Official History of the Johnston Expedition," by Frank Connelley and George C. Jenks. The foresaid guide and provider is to be published by the publishers of the official history, Messrs. Scribner's.

Tennyson had no such reliable memorial of the great Arthur to aid him in writing his immortal poem, "The Idylls of the King," and taking one by one each of the heroic poems of the past we find that they all had to employ imagination to a far greater extent than the genius who shall attempt the tragedy of the Centaurs.

It is a very complete history of all the incidents of that terrible disaster. The actual story of the flood tide is graphically told in a way that is full of interest and without exaggeration. It would be hard to magnify the horror of that fatal night of May, the month of flowers. The newspapers at the time told all the details of the tragedy, and we were made acquainted with the history of that day in a most complete and interesting way.

The adequate explanation of Senator Ingalls' remarkable ideas of the increase of wealth in this nation is furnished by the suggestion that the Senator must have been boiling corner lots in Kansas.

It is interesting to learn from the St. Louis Republic that "a more intellectual, more genuine, a more sincere American than Jefferson Davis does not live—has not lived—in this Republic." We presume that the able-bodied Republic would not shrink from the obvious conclusion that the way to have a genuine, intellectual and sincere American Republic is to revive the defunct Southern Confederacy with Jefferson Davis at its head.

The intimations that Robert E. Pattison may be a Democratic quantity for Governor next year will put the Republicans on their guard as to the necessity of nominating their best and strongest man.

The Baltimore and Ohio's monthly report shows net earnings for last month of \$870,000, or about \$100,000 more than it will now be in order for the New York newspapers to tell some more yards about the utterly worthless stock of the road.

Another West India cyclone is reported to be hovering along the Southeastern coast; but the assurance is given that an anti-cyclone is standing guard of Cape Hatteras prepared to knock the violence out of its boisterous antagonist.

The sudden change from the heat of Sunday to the frosty air of last night is one of the idiosyncrasies of our unequalled climate.

The scheme of appropriating the relief funds contributed to the Spokane Falls sufferers is a rather mean project of robbery than one to get big and prearranged prices for work done to help the overwhelming city of Johnston.

PEOPLE OF PROMINENCE.

GEORGE ELIOT was so religious when a young woman that she would not go to the theatre or to an opera, oratorio, although she was devoted to music.

MR. HENRY JAMES is sometimes spoken of as an American novelist. Mr. James, it is true, was born in the United States, but his father was an Englishman, and he himself tries to pass for one.

REV. J. W. HARDY, author of "How to be Happy Through Marriage," is a military chaplain with a rosy complexion and a long, howling beard, and is said to be a devotee of books, and his conversation is without wit or cleverness.

GEORGE W. CARLE made himself so unpopular with the people of New York by his French children of New Orleans, and his habit of sitting on the streets and pelt him with stones. He was finally compelled to leave the city to escape this intolerable annoyance.

AMELIE RIVES, who won an unenviable reputation by her kissing novel, "The Quack or the Dead," has an unattractive figure, crowned by a beautiful face. Indeed, if the truth must be told, she is a woman who has been called "the kiss of the world."

IK MARVEL said, 30 years ago, that the literary man of New York were "forever quarrelling with each other like so many monkeys of Siam." That has all been changed. New York literary men nowadays are engaged in the more graceful, but less interesting occupation of blowing each other's trumpets by the compliant permission of the magazine editors.

BISHOP H. PINCKNEY NORTHERO, of Charleston, S. C., is one of the few genuine Americans who have been raised in the purple in the Catholic Church in this country. He is a member of an old Charleston family, and is connected with the Pinckneys, Bellingers, and other of the old families. He is 45 years of age, tall, straight as an Indian, with a very distinguished air. He is a splendid talker, a fine horseman, and manages his see with great ability.

PERCHED ON THE PIANO.

Frightened Ladies Witness the Attack of a Cat Upon a Rabbit. LANCASTER, Pa., September 18.—A remarkable and amusing incident occurred last evening at a house on the corner of Broad and 10th streets. A small party of young folks were deeply absorbed in eribbage, when the game suddenly trembled with a terrific commotion, amidst screams of terror and confusion, a small white rabbit, captured by some eye and the house dog.

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GOSSIP FROM THE CAPITAL.

A Lawyer Who Has Had Enough of Congress—Office a Luxury Only the Rich Can Afford—West Virginia and the Tariff Question—Tennessee Planned With Harris.

WASHINGTON, September 18.—The number of Congressmen who drop into town from day to day is increasing, as they begin to look into the question of legislation and the more momentous question of domestic arrangements for the coming session. Ex-Congressman Snyder of West Virginia is also here, but says he never wants to come to Congress again, as it is a waste of time and money for him to go for anything but a rich man to pay the luxury of the office.

On this subject he says: "There are a great many drafts on Congressmen, however, but only to those who have served in that capacity. In the first place, there is a sense of duty, a sense of honor, and a sense of responsibility. Then the expenses of the campaign have to be borne. Then it costs a good part of one's salary to get the bill through. Then the bill has to be carried and run out to see them executed, or keeps them there."

Mr. Snyder was asked about the protective tariff feeling in West Virginia and replied: "General Hancock was undoubtedly right. The tariff is a luxury that only the rich can afford. While West Virginia is not a protective State, in the general sense of the term, our people desire a high tariff on coal, wood and lumber."

Mr. Mason, describing his sensation, says that he was conscious of a feeling of great exhilaration, and an increased activity of every sense. The sight of the legislative hall, the freedom to realize that they were suffering only from fear, and their cries and shrieks proclaimed him to be a man of great power.

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STRONGER THAN FIREWATER.

The Wonderful Natural Fire Discovered in a Texas Well—It Makes Negroes Dance and Affects White Folks Strangely—Scientists Hailed Puzled.

A discovery of immense scientific interest has recently been made near Brownsville, Texas, a well which it is thought will add a hitherto unknown element to the 64 already familiar to the chemist. Mr. Chudleigh Mason, a prominent oil prospector, living about five miles from town, while boring an artesian well on his place struck water a few days ago at a depth of 215 feet.

While a quarter of an hour, or even less, after drinking the water, Mr. Mason began to feel strange twinges in the muscles of the face, and his workmen also commenced to complain of the same sensation. This twinge soon extended to the arms and legs, and all the while in violence, until at last the negroes cast themselves down, crying that they had been caught in a net, and that their heads were being struck by the water.

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NEWSY NEW YORK NOTES.

Mrs. McClellan on the Warpath. NEW YORK BUREAU SPECIALS. NEW YORK, September 18.—Barney McClellan's story of his wife's bureau drawer last Sunday and got drunk. After looking for him three days and three nights, Mrs. McClellan found him washing down the coats of a Jersey canal boat.

Headlines Delegates Coming. A private telegram from Copenhagen to day announced the departure, on the steamer Thorsvala, of the Norwegian and Danish delegates who are expected to participate in the International Marine Conference to be held in Washington next month.

A President's Son Married. Clement Arco, son of the President of the Inman steamship line, and assistant manager of the line's Chicago office, and Miss Genevieve Spring Ludlow, daughter of Colonel Spring Ludlow, were married at 4