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tion an opportunity of filling that body with members of its own selection. Withholding the matter, the President further than to consent that the President and his friends would probably not be sorry to have the distribution of a number of good positions for life, it is worth while to note that the remodeling of that tribunal. The list of names which was reported to be under consideration by the President, prior to the last appointment, does not indicate such supply of judicial and impartial timbers as to warrant the practical creation of a new tribunal, by a number of new appointments.

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fact that the appointment of any number of new members would remedy the evil which is now being done. The delay of business in the Supreme Court is not caused by any insufficiency in the number of its members, but by the fact that the whole bench must hear all the cases that are appealed to it. This can be remedied, either by locating the final decision of the less important cases in the Circuit Courts, or by permitting the members of the Supreme Court separately to hear a certain class, or by the creation of an intermediate appellate tribunal, or by a combination of all these measures. But it is certain that the mere addition to the number on the Supreme Bench will not relieve the pressure and delay of business.

It is thus clear that the proposition to facilitate the prompt decision of cases before the United States Supreme Court, and that to give the administration the appointment of several additional justices, are two entirely separate matters. Each should be decided on its merits.

THE FIRE BOAT QUESTION. The criticisms of the fire boat project, which are offered by river men, have the force that must be attached to utterances by men with a thorough knowledge of at least one part of their subject, namely, of the navigation of the river. But, at the same time, it is possible that there are some parts of the matter which are not so qualified to speak ex cathedra.

THE LONG DELAY OF THE JURY IN THE Cronin case before bringing in a verdict, points strongly to the conclusion that it is another case of a "hung" jury, and fore-shadow, hardly less strongly, another failure of justice.

THE BURGULARY IN ALLEGHENY seems to be getting its full share of the general activity. The only dull interest in that connection consists of the officers who ought to catch the burglar.

THE MOVEMENT FOR CHANGING MOVING for May 1, has crystallized into a call for a public meeting on the subject. It does not seem as if there was much room for discussion of the matter, as the arguments are all on one side. The April morning day is a relic of rural customs, and the only excuse for its continuance up to the present date is that of inertia.

FRANCE'S PROMPT ADOPTION OF RUSSIA'S epidemic influenza was due to the alliance which exists between the two countries. When Russia catches cold France begins to sneeze.

NOT EXACTLY REPUBLICAN. The news from Para indicates that what the United States has fondly regarded as the new popular government in Brazil, has very many notions of the equality and impartiality required to make good the character of a true Republic. It appears to be beyond dispute that the provisional government at Para has granted a single firm a practical monopoly in the exportation of rubber from that port, which may, I think, establish an example of monopolistic trade as bad as any that this country has permitted.

THE RESOLUTION OF SENATOR CALL looking toward the acquisition of Cuba by the United States is a subject which is being discussed in Spain. As it would burden the United States with the breeding place of yellow fever and bands it would also arouse indignation in the United States, if it were not recognized as a means of barter between nations.

MR. GOWEN'S DEATH. The suicide of Franklin B. Gowen, at Washington yesterday, carries a shock not only to the wide circle of that gentleman's personal acquaintances, but to the thousands who knew and admired his high reputation for business ability, and outspoken opposition to all forms of dishonesty in public affairs.

THE BIRTH OF A NATION. The remarkable feature is more than rivaled by the assumption of authority to accept of funds contributed to relieve suffering. Mr. De Beale conveyed in the letter published, but there were no others in Johnson who labored for the good of the sufferers.

AN EXPERIENCE IN PITTSBURGH. Chancey Dewey Tells How He Was Mistaken for Foreigner. From the New York Star. Chancey M. Dewey tells a good story about his experience in Pittsburgh during the National campaign in 1884 that has never yet been told in print. He was stopping at the Monongahela House, at Hotel Rossely, at Pittsburgh, the walk-around circus man, was also caught. Dewey and Foreigner, as incident was remarked, bear a striking resemblance to each other. Dewey had just returned to the city, and was sitting in the waiting room when the names of the distinguished diplomats were read out to dictate what the President should have on his table. So far as we can remember there was no suspension of diplomatic relations with the United States Government from this cause, and it there had been it would have been made plain that foreign nations have no more right to prescribe the Presidential bill of fare than the people of the United States have.

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THE TOPICAL TALKER.

Umbrellas Are Not Fitting Gifts for Invalids. A Plea That Tails a Tail of Stupidity. A Plea for Mr. Carnegie's Wealth. "HAVE you made out a list of what you want your friends to give you at Christmas?" I asked a lady who has been an invalid for years and years. "No, but I have made out a list of what I do not want," she replied, with a smile, "and I've underscored umbrellas, gum boots and gossamer hats in that category. During the 15 or 20 years that I've been confined almost exclusively to my house or my bed, I've received no less than three umbrellas as Christmas presents."

A great many Christmas presents are given without thought of their appropriateness. The record which Mr. Scott is making for himself at Spring Valley, and his letter to Mr. Dewey advertising the same, is a case in point. The president of a corporation, should have his retirement from politics as his party's good.

THE assertion of the New York Evening Sun that "the reason why the Hon. Geo. Choate neglects those graces of oratory that might delight a nation, is because he has discovered that the people are tired of putting their money into trust schemes with the outcome which it has already been exemplified in cottonseed oil, sugar and white lead.

THE Southern papers which have eulogized Jeff Davis as a greater than Lee, with the addition that Lee was greater than Washington, have developed a very pretty eulogium, by which Davis is placed above Washington. Let us hope that this eulogium is the South; for if anything more is needed it will be necessary to rank Davis so high as to make the eulogy fall into blasphemy.

AN ambitious young actress in New York is attracting attention by appearing in a play which includes 11 separate characters, each of which is assumed by the young woman herself. The play is a comedy, and the actress is a dramatic but it is quite possible that the idea may have been caught from the number of roles which some of our leading politicians are at times able to assume.

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THE CHINESE PROMISE COMPLETE EXHIBITS FOR THE WORLD'S FAIR.

WASHINGTON, December 14.—The terms of one-third of the present United States Senate will be elected during the coming year. The future of those whose States elect next year are in doubt as to whether they will succeed themselves, and the subject is one of the interesting ones of Washington gossip. The Ohio situation is more talked of than that of the others, inasmuch as Senator Payne's successor is sure to be a new man, and as the political future of Ohio would seem to depend largely on the man the State sends to the United States next decade or more Ohio has received but little assistance from its Democratic Senator. The party has had to pay the cost of the election, and there has been no such direct communication between the Democrats of the Buckeye State and the national party as has always existed between the Republicans of Pennsylvania and the national party.

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CURIOUS CONDENSATIONS.

NEW YORK, December 14.—The officers of the steamship Sir, which arrived here from Haiti today, do not regard Haitian affairs but do deplore as others have painted, the fact that the new Government is meeting along smoothly, and to the satisfaction of the natives. The only malcontents, they think, are the foreign merchants, upon whom the new Government has imposed a tax of \$100 each per year. None of these merchants has secured a license. The officials put off all applicants with flimsy excuses, the substance of which is that foreigners are not wanted in Haiti. The officers of the Sir heard that the two French men-of-war were early expected at the port, and that upon the arrival of these vessels an effort would be made to secure a modification of the order imposing this tax, or to compel the Government to do justice to the foreign merchants.

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