THE SEMI-WEEKLY MINER.

BUTTE, DECEMBER 2, 1885.

GOLD and silver should form an everlasting alliance.

SILVER is King. His power must be felt in Congress.

IF you want all the news, you will have to subscribe for THE MINER.

LOGAN'S Presidential boom has gone a-glimmering. It was frost bitten.

THERE doesn't seem to be life enough in Spain to bring about a first-class revolution.

BILLY MAHONE wants troops in Virginia. He ought to have them, just to pacify him.

THE advance in copper and lead must have a tendency to increase the market value of silver.

DELAYS are dangerous. The gold bugs are at work. Now is the time for the silver men to crush them.

THE boom in metals is a glorious thing for Butte. Its influence will be felt in every department of business.

DON CARLOS is too Spanish ever to hope to be King of Spain. The climate has taken all the energy out of him.

THE MINER subscription list is growing at the rate of 150 a month. If we can keep up that lick we shall be contented.

THERE will be sixteen contests for seats in the Ohio Legislature at its next session, and the returns are not all in yet.

THE gospel has been instrumental in extending civilization and carrying the glad tidings of salvation all around the globe.

A VIEW of Anaconda and the great Anaconda smelter, from the Minneapolis *Tribune*, will be found in another column.

THE Court House troubles at Helena are not yet ended. The fire is still smouldering and is liable to blaze out at any moment.

THE Tories are making great and unexpected gains throughout Great Britain. Looks as though they had been on "a still hunt."

COTTON has lost its prestige, for the sceptre has passed out of its hands into those of the Silver King, who has usurped the throne.

IF you are not registered you will lose your vote. Acting City Clerk McHatton is now daily sitting as keeper of the Great Register of Butte.

WHAT is a dollar? Ten dimes make one dollar, and as they are silver coins, why should there be any distinction between a gold and a silver dollar?

ANDREW JACKSON said: "No party can carry out any distinctive policy that employs its opponents as agents." This fact should not be forgotten.

THE Helena papers are making a great ado abolt the *news* that may be found on their bulletin boards. Why in hades do they not publish some of it?

IT is said that Matthew Stanley Quay, recently elected treasurer of Pennsylvania, is now after the seat of United States Senator Mitchell. Rather ambitious is Quay.

DENVER is jubilant over the advance in the price of copper and lead. The press there predicts a great revival in business and an unprecedented boom in mining property.

THE Servians, having been soundly whipped, have agreed to an armistice. Prince Alexander has made a brilliant record. He should be crowned King of Roumelia and Bulgaria.

ONE of the severest rain storms on record prevailed in California last Tuesday. The rainfall in San Francisco was so great as to flood the streets, overflow cellars and burst many of the sewers.

IT is said that the "ring" Republicans have already become alarmed, and have determined to pull Mr. Hamilton from the ticket and substitute upon it the name of a stronger and better known lawyer. There appears to be trouble ahead for the "ring."

THE Helena *Independent* thinks that "Butte is excited over the advance in the price of copper." This is a mistake. It takes more than that to *excite* Butte. But wouldn't we like to see Helena when the much talked of Drum Lummon once declares a dividend. "Excitement" wouldn't describe it!

THE New Year number of THE MINER will be a very handsome volume. Butaside of that it will be a useful one. It will be filled with valuable information of all sorts and will give a clearer conception of Butte and her resources, and of the wealth and possibilities of Montana, than any work ever published.

SOMEONE thinks he has invented a machine that will lay the old-fashioned type setter on the shelf. The Racine *Journal* remarks that no machine can ever set type that cannot smoke a clay pipe several centuries old. And any machine that cannot waste half an hour in looking for a "fat line" or fails to "kick" when it gets a "solid take" will never do in the ordinary newspaper office.

THE frequency of clerical scandals would seem to suggest the conclusion that religious bodies fail to give to the important act of the selection of a pastor the care and attention it deserves. Too much stress is laid upon externals, and rounded periods are generally more conducive to success in securing good preaching positions than correctness of doctrine or purity of morals. Churches should exercise more care. The report of criminal or moral conduct in those whose ostensible mission is to cheer the virtuous and reform the erring, does more harm to the cause of religion and gives stronger aid to the destructiveness of scepticism than all the glittering blasphemies of an Ingersoll or a Bradlaugh. The minister is much more important than the preacher.

THE National Bi-Metallic Coinage Association, a Colorado organization, has issued the following circular:

The vital interests of the State of Colorado demand that a clear, concise statement of the silver question be laid before Congress, at the coming session in order that intelligent defense may be made.

Our organization is doing everything in its power, and is receiving excellent encouragement. Many members of Congress, whose votes we want, are inclined to help us, but frankly admit their ignorance upon the subject.

The cotton, the wheat, the rice and the railroad interests are endangered equally with our own, but as yet the people most interested fail to realize it. It is the purpose of our organization to place the facts before them.

Men of marked ability, deeply interested in our cause, have been employed as agents by our organization in the Southern and Middle States, to lecture and write in our interest, and their work is meeting with excellent results, but to insure any degree of success money is required. The smaller towns are responding freely and Denver must not be backward. We ask you then to subscribe liberally to defend your own interests, for the threatened suspension of silver coinage is a direct blow at every interest in our State.

THE SILVER QUESTION.

The first session of the Forty-ninth Congress convenes next Monday at Washington, and it is to be hoped that measures designed to promote and protect the great silver mining interests of the country will be submitted to that body and receive early consideration. Several bills have been prepared with the utmost care, it is said, and are in the hands of able and influential members, and will be presented and referred during the very earliest days of the session. How carefully these bills have been drafted, or how far they go towards meeting the pressing demands of those depending upon that great and important industry, will not be made public until they have been regulary submitted. This matter will undoubtedly engross the attention of Congress and the committees for a considerable length of time. Like all other important national questions it has two sides, both of which will be represented on the floors of Congress by the ablest statesmen, whose services or sympathies and prejudices can be influenced or secured for and against the measure.

This is one of those questions which calls for the services of Legislators possessing intellects sufficiently broad and deep to enable them to grasp the subject, and consider it from a National standpoint, and to penetrate into the deep bowels of the mountains in the silver-producing States and Territories, and form an approximate estimate of the immense value of the interests involved in this great controversy. Untold millions of wealth, as yet undeveloped, and thousands of millions already discovered, may be made valuable or rendered comparatively worthless by the action of Congress at the coming session. This of itself ought to be sufficient to secure proper Legislation; that is, such favorable action as will effectually protect and foster silver mining. The question seems so plain and simple that it is difficult to conceive what, if any, reasons exist for opposing such legislation. Surely, the country will not stand by idly and permit a small ring of speculators and stock-jobbers to destroy the silver-producing interests to gratify their sordid desires to enrich themselves at the expense of the toiling thousands who depend upon it for daily labor, to earn their daily bread, together with the millions of others whose welfare and happiness depend upon other industries and business enterprises throughout the land.

Unfavorable legislation would most assuredly depreciate the market value of this precious metal to such an extent as to render mining utterly profitless. This would cause all the mines to close down to the sacrifice of the immense amount of wealth invested in them, and besides that throw thousands of industrious workingmen out of employment. What would be the effect of such a suicidal policy? The Western Territories and the Pacific States would become almost depopulated; the large thriving cities and towns in the mining regions fall into ruin and decay, and the immense army of working men compelled to seek employment elsewhere, or live off of the charity of other communities. No greater disaster could befall any country than that which would certainly follow legislation inimical to the silver producing interests

Who would be benefitted by such action in the National Legislature! Some say the gold bugs. Who are they, that they should command so much power as is required to influence Congress? The gold bugs cannot consist of anything else than a clique or, as some say, a ring of heartless, desperate speculators, to be found only in the large money centers in the Eastern and Middle States. They cannot possibly represent any other interests than those of banking and money changing. Among them, however, are to be found speculators who ply their unconscionable vocations upon the most gigantic scale. They are the men who, by raising or lowering the prices of stocks at their pleasure, irretrievably ruin thousands daily. They estimate their illgotten gains by the millions, and now hope, by crushing the great silver interest, to increase their fortunes to tens of millions. This they expect to accomplish by employing the identical means so successfully resorted to by them in procuring land granting and subsidies before the National, State and Territorial Legislatures.

Congressional lobbying is the means they will resort to, in order to carry their point. Hundreds of expert professional lobbyists are already engaged in their service and it will require active, untiring efforts by those whose interests are threatened with destruction, to defeat them. The importance of guarding against the power of the lobby seems to have excited the attention of the Bi-metaellic Coinage Association, and in some portions of the country, depending upon the mining industry, auxilliary societies have been organized, and they are busily engaged in collecting funds and circulating documentary information, for the purpose of protecting and fostering their interests. In Colorado they are accepting members who subscribe as low as one dollar to the fund, and committees have been appointed to canvass counties, townships, cities and towns for that purpose and they have met with great success. It has been said that the Prince of Sheol can only be defeated by using his own weapons against him; hence if money is to be used in an attempt to secure legislation damaging to, or to defeat such as may be intended to promote, the silver mining industry, the only way, unfortunately, to counteract it is to employ the same instrumentality. Montana's interests are at stake in this matter as much, if not more so, as any other silver-producing State or Territory. What has she done towards strengthening the arms of the bi-metallic champions or to defeat the gold bugs in their ruinous schemes? Echo answers what!

Procrastination is the thief of time. This is a trueism with which every man, woman and child is familiar. It is too late to lock the stable door after the horse is stolen. Why then do not our people arouse from their lethargy and by extraordinary efforts more than atone for their supineness in the past? If Colorado, Arizona and New Mexico regard the signs of the times to be so critical as to solicit contributions from all their citizens, why should Montana neglect a duty of so much importance? Organize, organize, organize! so that when the country resounds with the joyful acclamations of the people over the defeat of the gold bugs and heartless speculators, and the passage of a bi-metallic currency bill by Congress, Montana shall enjoy her full share of credit for the glorious triumph.

THE cattlemen, in session at St. Louis, seem determined to have Congress adopt rigid measures to prevent the spread of diseases among their cattle. Among other business transacted by them, was the unanimous adoption of a memorial earnestly praying for the enactment of a National statute to that effect, and in order to show their unanimity in the matter they all joined in singing:

"We are coming, Grover Cleveland,
Three hundred thousand strong,
Shouting the battle cry of Quarantine."

If they are sincere in this matter, and really desire to protect their herds, and supply the public with meat free from disease, why don't they establish and support some such precautionary measures themselves, instead of saddling the expense upon the public treasury? They graze their cattle on the public domain, free of cost, hence they are abundantly able to banish diseases from their herds themselves, and they ought to be compelled to do so.

THE Democratic City Committee will meet on Wednesday evening next to nominate the next City Attorney.

THE weather yesterday was delightful. Everybody seemed happy, and the churches were well attended; "still, there is room for more."

HORSE-CAR stock in the Eastern cities is one of the very best investments. In New York and Philadelphia such stock sells at from one hundred to three hundred per cent. premium.

A STREET passenger railway would be a great public convenience, even if it did not at once prove a paying investment. We have no doubt that to a local organization a right of way would be gladly granted by the city and county.

THERE are certainly too many runaways in Butte. The safety of the citizens demands that greater precautions be taken to prevent them. No one has the right to leave a team standing on the streets unhitched or unattended.

THE MINER was the first newspaper to give publicity to the great accident on the Northern Pacific Railroad. It was an excellent report and read with interest, and helped our evening contemporaries out on the subject—without cost.

M. DE LESSEP'S reported death caused a tremendous fall in the price of Darien ship canal stocks in Paris, the other day. If a mere rumor of his death caused such a panic, his actual death would certainly knock the bottom clean out of the project. This goes to show that the stockholders have very little faith in the scheme.

COINING silver dollars is not a losing business after all. The croakers clamoring for a suspension of the coinage of silver, seem to have overlooked the fact that Uncle Sam makes the thing pay for it appears, from the report of the Director of the Mint, that the Government reaped a profit of $4,355,279 from that source last year. Since 1877, when the coinage of Bland dollars first commenced, the profits aggregate the enormous sum of $24,697,409. This looks as though the Government had some interest in that business. It therefore is safe to predict that the coinage will be continued until the demand is fully supplied. This will take some years, if the average percentage of silver money, per capita, in Europe, is any criterion.

EVEN so radical a newspaper as the Denver *Tribune-Republican* is constrained to say that it remained for a Democratic administration to give ear to the complaints of the suffering people of Arizona and New Mexico. General Sheridan and Inspector-General Baird have been ordered into that country by the President to inquire into the Indian troubles there. The *Republican* says: "The people of the Southwest have been sadly neglected in the determination of Indian questions. They have suffered outrage upon outrage, and the settlement of their country has been greatly interfered with. The difficulty heretofore has been to obtain even so much as a hearing in Washington. The sentiment of the East in favor of the Indians, and against the settlers of the West, has been so strong that the complaints of Western men have not been listened to, and the charges against the Indians have not been believed. The President seems to have reversed this order to at least the extent of making inquiry into the cause of the complaints. By sending Generals Sheridan and Baird to Arizona he will secure correct information in regard to the Apache troubles, and it is to be hoped that it will result in the removal of the Indians from that Territory." The President seems to be doing about right by all classes of people and by all sections of the country.

REFERRING to the pardon of McIntire by the Governor, the Helena *Independent* says: "Governor Hauser did a good and appropriate thing to pardon Mr. John B. McIntire out of the Penitentiary; as there always have been grave doubts of his guilt, and as there was some evidence that the charge of horse-stealing was inspired by personal hostility. The right thing was done on the right day. The act made many hearts glad." In reference to the same matter the Governor received the following letter:

HELENA, Mont., November 25, 1885.

Thanksgiving Day by proclamation of both President and Governor.

Hon. S. T. Hauser, Governor of Montana:

DEAR SIR—Allow me on this day when all hearts should be full of gratitude to God and charity to their fellow men, to offer one additional consideration to those already presented to secure the pardon of John B. McIntire. It has been the custom from time immemorial and among all nations to signalize and honor all great festival days by the release of some prisoner. And when Pilate wanted to release Christ on an occasion of this kind the people clamored for Barabbas, a noted robber, and he was released. That was not the beginning of the custom, nor the end. It is the good custom in New England to my certain knowledge to release some one from prison on Thanksgiving Day.

Hoping you may view the propriety of naturalizing in Montana a custom so venerable by usage and so creditable to human nature, and in compliance grant a prayer that will make this the happiest Thanksgiving of life to many bowed and aching hearts, I remain, yours ever truly,

CORNELIUS HEDGES.

THE PUBLIC LANDS.

The marvelous rapidity with which the public lands are being taken up must impress every observer with the fact that the time is not far distant when every available acre in the national domain will be owned by individuals. That there is a vast amount of fraud practiced in obtaining land from the Government no one, who reads, will deny. Some rigid measures should be adopted and enforced to prevent this robbery. The object of the homestead and pre-emption laws was to provide every man, who wanted it, a farm, and not an immense tract of land, larger than many English manors. Under our laws, as they stand at present, there is very little difficulty in securing 480 acres of land, and, with the addition of a little perjury, a great deal more. Land jumping is a kind of profession in some sections. By this process a reckless locator claims, first 160 acres, makes some trifling improvements on the tract, and next year relinquishes his claim, for a pretty fair consideration, in favor of one who desires to live upon it. The law does not recognize such relinquishments, but these acts open the land again for settlement and the purchasers are the first claimants. The one who sells out his claim, soon afterward takes up another quarter section. This requires a little false swearing, it is true, but the class who follow that business, have very pliable consciences and do not show any hesitancy in perjuring themselves. There are many other plans employed by swindlers to gobble up public lands. If all the guilty parties had been arrested and convicted under the laws to protect the public domain, there would not be room enough in all the penitentiaries in the land to hold them. As these lands are rapidly passing away from the Government, there surely ought to be an effort made to prevent rascality being practiced in obtaining them. Some idea of the rapid disappearance of public lands may be formed when it is considered that during the last year, according to the reports of the General Land Office, there were claimed more acres of public lands in the States of Kansas, Nebraska and Colorado than are comprised in the four oldest of the New England States, and during the past three years more public land has been taken up in Kansas, Nebraska and Dakota than was originally comprised in the whole of New England and New York combined. This shows conclusively that the time is rapidly approaching when every man cannot have a farm free.

THAT HELENA COURT-HOUSE.

The Grand Jury of Lewis and Clarke County have at last made their report to the Court. In reference to the Court-House controversy they say:

In compliance with the instructions of the Court we looked into the new court house matter carefully and with a proper idea, we think, of our duty to the people. We tried to get at the very bottom of the whole business, but it was difficult beyond measure to do so; we are, however, unanimous in our unqualified and strict censure of the Board of County Commissioners for the loose, careless, inefficient and unsatisfactory way that the whole Court-house matter has been managed.

There has not been the openness about it that there should have been. Bids for plans and estimates for a building to cost not exceeding $125,000 were advertised for, and a bid of $132,800 seems to have been too hastily entertained. Bids for construction were demanded on fifteen days' notice, when ordinary common sense must have told the Commissioners that home bidders could not properly figure on all the materials in so brief a time. This has given rise, largely to the many rumors of collusion between the Commissioners, the successful architect and the successful bidders. The specifications and plans were found, during the greater part of the time during which bidders required them to make their estimates, in the office of the successful bidders and present contractors. They should have been at the Court-house, or in some place provided by the County Commissioners, so as to avoid embarrassment to competing bidders.

When the day for letting the contract came it was easily awarded for the sum of $132,800, and in a very short time thereafter a bond, drawn by the architect and not submitted to an attorney (subsequently pronounced of questionable validity for the full penalty) was accepted at once and a contract entered into.

We find but one copy of the specifications, and they are in the hands of the contractors and not accessible to the public. A copy should be on file in the county Clerk's office.

Throughout these proceedings the Chairman of the Board of Commissioners seems to have regarded himself as the power absolute. One of the bids made for the erection of the building, put in at the suggestion of the Chairman, turned out to be a straw bid.

The present architect, Mr. Hodgson, has been in Helena twice since the work began and has remained about two days each time. It is needless to say that no architectural skill can detect bad workmanship at a distance of 1,000 mile.

The two Commissioners, Pope and Cuthbert, did not think, it appears, that the interests of the county required daily, or frequent supervision of the progressing work, though the law makes it mandatory. The work went on, drifts under the foundation were filled up, as the contractors advised, and this work was subsequently approved by the supervising architect.

The concrete sub-foundation has in it about fifty barrels of Louisville cement, whereas the specifications called for many times that quantity of best Portland cement, and all of the bids recognized the fact of quantity.

Experienced builders and architects, in whose judgment we place much confidence, have been summoned before us. Not one of them is willing to approve the work already done; while a select committee consisting of an architect, a builder and a stone cutter, made a formal report to us disapproving altogether of the foundation and demonstrated to us that a large amount of money has, in all probability, been made by the contractors by their departures from the specifications and plans. In fact, the superintendent for the contractors frankly acknowledges such departures, believing them of no detriment to the structure. The only evidence we had before us that the work has been properly and well done, is that of the contractors and the opinions of the Commissioners. We have investigated the matter of a bribe having been offered the chairman in connection with the plans. He denies it, and the evidence is insufficient to justify the charge, but there is much in his conduct in connection with the court house contract and the bids thereof that is unsavory, arbitrary and unreasonable. He seems to have regarded the tax payers as utterly unworthy of any consideration. We are willing to believe that he has acted in accordance with his own idea of his official position, but he has mistaken the duties of a county commissioner, and is altogether too dictatorial in his methods.

After this serious arraignment of the county officials, the members of the grand inquest, who are evidently "good men and true," recommended the appointment of a commission, to consist of Colonel Hollnutt, M. J. McConnell, of Deer Lodge, and John M. Crocker, of Michigan, to act as a Committee of Experts, whose report should be accepted as final, and whose recommendations, as to the retention and dismissal of the supervising architect and other employes should be promptly carried out by the Commissioners. The report continues:

We have patiently listened to many witnesses who have testified in relation to this new court house, and our judgment would be to condemn much of the work done, but we believe it to be a question which can be only satisfactorily answered by the examination and report of experts. In this belief we make the above recommendation. And we are free to add that unless it is followed by the Commissioners, so that the people will have a full and accurate knowledge of the way the work has so far been done, we feel that we must demand that the present Board resign, so as to give the tax-payers a chance to have a Board to represent and act for them in which they have more confidence.

The report concludes with the following sweeping charge of defalcations, petit larcenies and inefficiency of officials:

In conclusion we insist upon a change in the general conduct of county affairs. Defalcations, petit larcenies, and the general practice of wasting the county moneys in repeated acts of carelessness or inefficiency must all be summarily ended. We particularly recommend that transfers of public funds from one account to another be done with care and always in regular sessions of the board.

There is not even a grain of comfort in this report for the purloiners of the public funds of Lewis and Clarke county. We have no doubt that the Court will make such orders as the interests of the public may seem to demand. The Commissioners should resign.

THE MORMON'S REVENGE.

The Saints in Utah continue blindly to drive nails in their own coffins. It is a surprise to civilization that these idiots, with the light of experience of ages staring them directly in the face, are so stupid as to persist in heaping upon their own heads piles of burning coals which will, as certain as the sun rises and sets, utterly destroy them, together with their infamous system of polygamy. One overt act after another follows in rapid succession. Not content with stigmatizing the morals of a land which, out of pure mercy, has so long tolerated the infamous, yes, brutal practices, they now sillily hope to suppress the execution of the laws enacted by Congress to peacefully prevent their nefarious and outrageously disgusting system of prostituting lovely woman to gratify their hellish lusts, by waylaying and cowardlike attempting to assassinate officers of the law. Their devilish schemes, to cast suspicion upon the chastity of judges and other officers, and prominent citizens who are striving to lawfully suppress polygamy, having failed, they now resort to assassination as a means to intimidate those whose sworn duty is to enforce the laws.

An affray occurred in Salt Lake last Saturday which clearly shows one of the desperate methods adopted by them to avenge their pretended wrongs. They seem to ignore the fact that the days for using such cowardly weapons as the poignard, dagger and stiletto have passed, and that by resorting to similar means they can prevent a due execution of the laws of the land. This last outrage, though it occurred in the capital of Utah, having telegraphic communication with all the civilized world, was concealed from the knowledge of those residing outside of Saintly Mormondom, until the mail placed them in possession of it. The facts, as published in Sunday's Salt Lake *Tribune*, are as follows:

Deputy United States Marshal Collin passed north on the west side of Theater street on his way home. He had frequently been cautioned about going through the alley north of Social Hall after night, and last evening, by way of precaution, he removed his revolver from his hip pocket to his coat pocket. It was very dark through the alley, but while crossing the street and before entering the alley Collin noticed two men, one of whom he thought was Bishop McRae, standing just within the entrance and on the north side of the narrow lane. Near the east end of social hall a door opens from the building into the alley. Just in front of this door two more men were standing. Collin entered the alley on the south side and then started across at an angle, in order to avoid both groups of men. When he got between them one man started toward him from each point. One of the men, whom he afterwards recognized as McMurrin, seized him by the collar, brought him to a halt and struck at him with a club. Collin dodged the blow, the club grazing the side of his head, and McMurrin then placed his arm around Collin's neck, pulling his head downwards. Collin considered that this was a proper time to defend himself and therefore drew his revolver and commenced firing. Five shots were fired, two of which took effect in McMurrin's body, three bullet holes were found in Collin's coat, but he is not certain whether the shots were fired by his assailants or were from his own weapon.

"Good God, boys, he'll kill us all!" exclaimed McMurrin. Three of the men, one of whom was McMurrin, then started westward out of the alley and the other ran east. Collin also went home as quickly as possible. Mr. M. Mix, an acquaintance and neighbor, who heard the shooting and suspected something was wrong, came in and found Collin reloading his revolver. As soon as this was done, the two went east through the alley to First South street, north to Brigham and west to Marshal Ireland's residence. The Marshal, who was down town, was telephoned for, and when he arrived Collin surrendered himself. He was placed in the custody of Deputies Greenman and Vandercook, who took him immediately to the Pen.

The only pity is that the whole four of those polygamous wretches who made this cowardly attempt to assassinate a United States officer, were not made to bite the dust. That it was the result of an infamous Mormon conspiracy there is no room to doubt. All the assailants were Mormons, and Deputy Collin had been advised that they intended to waylay him, for no other reason than that he was a faithful public officer, one who, without fear or favor, executed all processes placed in his hands against persons transgressing the laws, whether they defiantly violated the Seventh Commandment, which says, *Thou shalt not commit adultery*, or not. These wretches have now run the full length of their rope. Polygamy must cease and those who persist in such a disgusting practice must suffer the penalty of the laws prohibiting it. The present laws are too lenient. What is required is a statute imposing imprisonment for life. This is the only way to effectually rid an outraged civilization of their leprous presence. They must go. The pent up indignation of the people can be restrained no longer. Away with them.

THE JUDICIARY.

There is little if any complaint against the Judges in this Territory, so far as their ability or the impartiality displayed by them in administering the laws are concerned. The offices hold by them, being Executive appointments, are, however, regarded as political, because they are liable to be removed with every change in the National Administration. Notwithstanding the law fixes their term of office at four years, yet they stand upon the same delicate ground occupied by thousands of other Federal appointees. The Judges themselves are aware of the precarious nature of their tenure, and as they were all appointed through political influence when the Republicans were in power, they do not ask for nor expect any favors from the Democrats. Judges in some of the Territories have already been removed and others, Democrats, appointed to their places. In the usual course of events, the time will soon come around when our Judiciary will be required to surrender their robes of office to their successors. In doing this, it is only an act of justice to them to say, that when their successors put on the judicial ermine they will find it unsullied.

The change in the Judiciary being imminent, there ought to be steps taken, without delay, to secure the appointment of Montana lawyers to these judicial offices. Our bar stands second to no other in the country for its learning and ability. The gentlemen composing it, as a class, are characterized for honor and integrity; hence they are eminently qualified to discharge the important duties of the judiciary, in a manner alike honorable to the government, the people and themselves. So far as the peculiar litigation in this country, relating to mines, mining interests and cattle raising, is concerned, there is no class of lawyers in the land so well adapted to adjudicate such questions as our own. If no efforts are speedily made to secure these positions for our own lawyers, others will be commissioned and sent here from the states. This would be very unpopular with our people; for no matter how well learned in the law they might be, the prejudice against carpet baggers is so great that it would prevent them from commanding that degree of respect and confidence so necessary to make their decisions acceptable to the people.

If the lawyers and other citizens interested in securing the appointment of acceptable judges in the respective districts will only come together and unanimously agree upon three gentlemen, from our own bar, qualified by experience and learning for the bench, there is no doubt that influence enough can be brought to bear upon the President and Attorney-General to secure their appointment. There must be no delay in this important matter. It must be attended to at once. There is, we well understand, a difficulty in the way of harmonious action, and that is that there is too much jealousy among the lawyers themselves. A few of them have practices too valuable to sacrifice for a temporary judgship. The great mass of them, however, would like such positions. They cannot, however, all be appointed, hence they should lay aside personal aspirations, and, with a higher motive, that of securing acceptable judges, agree with intelligent laymen in recommending suitable lawyers for the positions.

Who will take the initiative in this matter?

WRITE more letters and help make up the deficiency, to meet expenses, in the post-office department.

THE school population of Butte has increased 35 per cent. since 1884, as the census just taken shows.

THE brawny representatives of labor on the Pacific Coast, in convention assembled, say that "the Chinese must go."

THEY still keep on striking oil in Pennsylvania. New wells spurt the oleaginous fluid high up in the air, and every spurt upward forces the price downward.

THE Philadelphia *News* says: "One way to get up happy to-morrow is to go to bed 'happy' to-night." What have headaches to do with happiness?

THE storm experienced in California last week assumed the proportions of a terrific gale on the coast. A large number of coasting vessels with valuable cargoes were foundered, and many lives lost.

HEAVY snows in the mountains of Pennsylvania have crowded the Philadelphia markets with wild game. This is good news for rich epicures but rather bad for the poor who want coal and wood to keep warm with.

THE Miles City *Journal* says: "Coasting is the popular sport at Butte. They have plenty of snow there." Go away from home to hear the news. No part of the Territory has been enjoying pleasanter or more mild weather than Butte.

THE majestic warrior of the forest whose noble bearing has so often charmed the poet's lyre, is once more displaying his athletic feats in scalping innocent children, ravishing unprotected women and butchering defenseless whitemen in the hills of Arizona.

THE Denver *Tribune* says that city has 110 suburban villas. Too bad! Butte can boast of no less than five: Walkerville, Centerville, Burlington, Meaderville and South Butte, and as she is now growing the time is not far distant when Helena will be one of her suburbs.

Thomas A. Hendricks—the prayers of a grateful Nation accompany thy soul today, to the very throne of God, there to make intercession for thee, that thy spirit may be honored in Heaven as thou wast on earth.

THE electric lights are found to be a public convenience.

A NATION mourns to-day for one of her purest statesmen.

DON CARLOS rather appeals to matrimony than to arms.

BI-METALLISM is the remedy. It alone can remove the currency difficulty.

THE assessment of Silver Bow County figures up $7,546,731. Not so bad.

THE rows in Ireland must make the late Premier Gladstone grin with satanic satisfaction.

THE Irish will fight among themselves over an election, but they are as one against English oppression.

THE Pacific Express Company has concluded that it was delinquent on county taxes and has paid up.

DURING November the Government paid out on account of pensions alone, $11,000,000. Who says that Republics are ungrateful?

THE discharge of minute guns, the tolling of bells and the display of mourning today indicates that the Nation bereaves the loss of her cherished son.

THE Republican Surveyor General of Wyoming is vacating his office. The Meldrums have been a most successful family in politics. But they now have to go.

ALL the Republicans remark the weakly support that the *Inter Mountain* is giving the Republican nominee for City Attorney. THE MINER has received this information at first hands.

COMMISSIONER SPARKS seems to be determined to keep up his persecution of the Montana Improvement Company and other Montana interests. The President should see that Commissioner Sparks is fired.

EVERY laborer, mechanic, lawyer, doctor, merchant, manufacturer, farmer and everybody else, except the gold bugs, stock jobbers and gigantic speculators, are in favor of making silver coin a legal tender, without limit, for all debts.

A FELLOW who is evidently married, and who knows how it is himself, suggests that, as the ladies now have only six days and nights in which to enjoy themselves, the skating rinks should be kept open on Sunday. "A friend of the friendless" is evidently in a facetious vein.

THE toiling millions, all over the land, should write at once and compel Congress to enact such laws as will hasten the adoption of a bi-metallic currency by the civilized nations. The dollar in silver will be worth as much as a dollar in gold, and the gold bugs will have to take a back seat.

AGRICULTURAL College endowments by the Government do not seem to accomplish the object they were intended for. The pensioned professors in those institutions take up too much time of the students in scientific researches. What is most desired is that they should instruct in practical farming.

THE only time for the current week that the Opera House will be open will be on Friday night, when the young men of the city will give an amateur minstrel performance in the interest of the ladies' fair of the Episcopal Church. We hope to see the Grand crowded to its utmost capacity on this occasion, as both the show and the object are equally worthy of patronage.

THE Grau Opera Company will open at the Butte Grand Opera House on Monday evening next. The press everywhere speaks most highly of this company, and we feel sure that a rare treat is in store for our people. It is a long time since our people have had an opportunity of listening to good operatic music and they will give the Grau company a great reception.

THERE are some prospects of the General Land Office at Washington resuming business soon. The suspension was brought about by Mr. Sparks, the Commissioner, in order, it is presumed, to give him time to get posted in the land laws. This serious derangement of public business might have been avoided if Mr. Lamar had appointed a Montana pettifogger to that office, for even such an one is better posted in land law than professional politicians.

GHOSTS have always been supposed to be æsthetic in their tastes; but such a thing as a musical one was never heard of before last week when, it is reported, one was seen in the little church at Walnut Grove, Illinois, where a young man with a shining countenance was seen sitting in a window in the upper story of the church. The deacons went the next morning to investigate the story, and, according to report, found the young man sitting in the window. He retired for a moment, but returned with a harp, and, with that for an accompaniment, sang a strangely moving song. Then he disappeared, and the deacons went home without daring to enter the church. Since then, the story runs, the young man has been often seen and has often sung his strange song. The country people look upon him as a celestial visitor.

THE Irish do not seem to be all of one opinion in regard to Mr. Parnell's policy for promoting their welfare, for, by the telegraphic reports, it appears that there is a series of serious riots going on between his party and their opponents in Ireland. Quite a serious row took place at Dublin and at Dundlock. Mr. Parnell was not only prevented from speaking, but he was hustled from a wagon from which he attempted to address the crowd. At Nolan the Parnellites had to withdraw from the field and seek shelter in a public house. This state of affairs can hardly be realized by Irish-Americans, because among them there is a unanimity of sentiment in favor of Mr. Parnell. It is to be hoped, however, that the friends of Irish liberty will come out of the fight victorious, and that all the Parnell members of the House of Commons will be elected.

CHINESE interpreters have been permitted to testify in the courts for some time, against repeated protests of the bar, who so well know their utter disregard for the truth. They always put words in a Chinese witnesses mouth and interpret his testimony to suit the Chinese side of the case. One of them, as it appears by the San Francisco *Chronicle*, has been doing still worse things, for it says: "It is whispered about that the suave Moy Jim Mun had been informed against by another Chinese, who testified that Moy, while interpreter, did a land office business in assessing the Chinese attempting to land. He assessed them $250 to $500 each, excusing the high figures with the explanation that he had to divide with a great many officials." This seems to explain the modus operandi for smuggling Chinamen into this country. Everybody knows they have no regard for an oath, unless it is administered with Chinese forms, and even then they disregard its binding force. The impartial administration of the law demands that they should be prohibited from testifying, and it ought to be done.

ILLEGAL FEES.

The fees prescribed by law in all the States and Territories, for services rendered by public officers during the incidents pertaining to suits at law, are so exorbitant as to cause many men suffering from wrongs to submit to such impositions rather than assume the responsibility of the costs attending a suit. The emoluments of sheriff's offices in some cases amount to fortunes during a single term of service. In New York and Philadelphia, prior to those offices being made salaried, it was a common thing for sheriffs to boast of having made $75,000 per year and the clerks, or prothonotaries of the courts, gathered in from $20,000 to $40,000 during the same period. These immense incomes were not composed wholly of legal fees, for it was well known among the lawyers and their suffering clients, that at least one half of those revenues were derived from moneys taxed and collected without any authority of law. The lawyers were not ignorant of the illegal exactions made by those, and other officers connected with the administration of justice, but as the corrupt system had been countenanced so long by their predecessors, they did not have the courage to protest against it. It is to be presumed, however, if they, individually, had been compelled to pay the illegal fees demanded, that the system would have been destroyed and the incumbents of those offices, instead of retiring with ill-gotten fortunes, would have been escorted to the penitentiary to the tune of the rogue's march.

The difficulties in the way of successfully breaking up any long established corrupt system are greater than most people imagine. Especially is this the case in the courts, because, first, the judges have so long, like the lawyers, tolerated illegal practices by their subordinates, and, second, they are thrown into such intimate associations with such officers that they entertain sympathies for them, and prejudices in their favor, so strong as to render it almost impossible to convince them of the enormity of the offense. Some years ago one of our prominent lawyers enjoyed a large and lucrative practice in a large city in the East. During that time a reform wave was rolled over the Atlantic metropolises, and in his city a meeting of lawyers was held, representing a bar containing 1,200 active practitioners. The meeting was very largely attended. The subject of illegal fees, and the means to prevent their further imposition, was the principal topic under consideration. There was a unanimity of sentiment manifested in favor of taking immediate steps to break up the corrupt system. Committees, composed of the most prominent members, were appointed to represent the association, and one of the ablest counsel in the city was retained to prosecute any or all infractions of the law by public officers in demanding or receiving illegal fees. A case soon after occurred, in which our informant was counsel. He, believing that his colleagues were sincere in their professions, and that they had jointly resolved to destroy the iniquitous custom, at once determined to make his a test case. He had issued a writ of *fieri facias* and directed the sheriff to levy on and sell the stock of a small farm, contiguous to the city, to satisfy his client's judgment. He found that, through the connivance of the clerk, another writ issued subsequent to his had been ante-dated so as to give it a prior lien on the fund. His client informed him that the stock levied on would realize, at public sale, more than double the amount of both writs. The sale, conducted by a deputy, was returned as realizing over $200 less than the amount required to satisfy both writs. By the counsel's advice, fortunately, his client kept a correct account of the sale and his memorandum called for $450 more than that returned by the deputy sheriff. He filed a petition in court for the removal of the officer, as this was his only remedy under the statute. Testimony was taken and at the end of six months the court deposed the officer, and the sheriff paid the money, wrongfully detained, into court. The deposed deputy afterwards acted as a runner for the sheriff until the end of his term, and actually received all the fees, legal or otherwise, collected by the deputy appointed in his place. This is not all, for the gentleman found the greatest difficulty, throughout the whole of that sheriff's term, in having his business properly attended to. This was the only attempt made to break up the system. The other lawyers, great and small, concluded that it was better to have their clients fleeced than to incur the sheriff's displeasure.

This system of extortion prevails, to a greater or less extent, all over the land. Complaints in this Territory, and some not very far from Butte, are common, charging public officers with collecting for their services fees in excess of those prescribed by statute. It is hard enough, dear knows, for a man to be forced into litigation to prosecute or defend his rights, but when compelled to submit to extortion it becomes a source of intense aggravation. How is this thing to be prevented? This is a question more difficult than one would suppose. Layman may say that in such cases the law ought to be enforced. Yes, but who among those who have been defrauded, has had the moral courage to make a complaint against a public officer exacting illegal fees from him? The courts take cognizance only of such infractions of the laws as are presented to them by complaints or indictments by grand juries. The lawyers have shown no inclination to stand by their clients, when they have been robbed by fee fiends. There is then only one remedy, and that is to require every officer collecting fees from a suiter to make out and deliver a bill of particulars, showing the nature and character of his charges. Lawyers ought to be compelled to do this by their clients. It is indeed remarkable that men who are so particular to demand itemized bills before paying other claims against them, persist in paying costs without knowing what they are for. All have the right to demand bills of costs before paying them, and therefore if the people desire to break up the system of charging illegal fees they must demand itemized accounts.

OUR Republican friends have finally scored a victory. This must be very consoling to them, for they have been thrashed unmercifully for over a year past, and, although they must have been accustomed to defeat, still they are not happy. What makes the little advantage gained by them in a small skirmish lately of importance, is the fact that the Plumed Knight, their once boasted champion, was the victor. He plunged recklessly into the thickest of the fight with flashing sabre, sparkling spurs, glittering helmet and waving plume, and charged upon his adversaries with a dauntless courage which far outshone that of Couer de Leon of old. As he emerged from the conflict, covered with dust