# The Telegraph.

MONROE, LA., MARCH 24, 1888.


### Fops and Foppery.

Alcibiades, whose powers of pleasing were such, that, according to Plutarch, "no man was so sullen but he would make him merry, or so churlish but he would make him gentle," was the earliest dandy of whom history informs us; and Beau Nash and George Brummell have been classed among the latest. We can, however, console ourselves with the fact that the foppery of to-day is of a much milder type than that which prevailed in the days of Lucullus, who, according to Horace, had five thousand rich purple robes in his house. The earliest English dandies were, it appears, known as "Fopdoddles." Butler mentions them in his "Hudibras." "You have been roaming," he says,

"Where sturdy butchers broke your noddle,
And handled you like a fopdoddle."

Coming to the time of the English revolution we find that the designation by which fops were known had changed several times. "It was a favorite amusement of dissolute young gentlemen," says Macaulay, "to swagger by night about the town, breaking windows, upsetting sedans, beating quiet men and offering rude caresses to pretty women. Several dynasties of these tyrants had, since the Restoration, domineered over the streets. The Muns and Tityre Tus had given place to the Hectors, and the Hectors had been recently succeeded by the Scourers. At a later period arose the Nickers, the Hawcubite, and the yet more dreaded name of Mohawk." In the time of Dr. Johnson the Sparks were in great force; while the Beau also flourished in the last century. He seems to have been somewhat like Lord Foppington in Sheridan's "A Trip to Scarborough"—very choice in the matter of oaths especially dainty in shoe-buckles, which were as large as the shoe could possibly support, ablaze with jewelry and extremely fond of powder and patches; altogether one of the most ridiculous caricatures of a man one can easily conceive. Next we come to the Macaronies, who were so called because they introduced Italian macaroni at Almack's subscription table. Addison gives the following derivation: "There is," he says, "a set of merry dolls whom the common people of all countries admire and seem to love so well that they could eat them, according to the old proverb; I mean those circumforaneous wits whom every nation calls by the name of the meat which it loves best. In Holland they are termed 'Pickled Herrings,' in France 'Jean Potages,' in Italy 'Macaronis,' and in Great Britain 'Jack Puddings.'" The transference of the word from fools and clowns to men of fantastic refinement and exaggerated elegance is, as has been well observed, a singular circumstance, of which philologists have not as yet given a satisfactory explanation. Dandyism brings to mind the Dandies, who were probably in their prime in the "palmy days" of the Regency. "I like the dandies," says Lord Byron; "they were always very civil to me; though in general they disliked literary people and persecuted and mystified Madame de Stael, Lewis, Horace Twiss and the like. The truth is that, though I gave up the business early, I had a tinge of dandyism in my minority and probably retained enough of it to conciliate the great ones at four-and-twenty." The Dandies, however, received a severe handling from Carlyle some years later. "Touching dandies," he says in "Sartor Resartus," "let us consider, with some scientific strictness, what a dandy specially is. A dandy is a clothes-wearing man—a man whose trade, office and existence consist in the wearing of clothes. Every faculty of his soul, spirit, purse and person is heroically consecrated to this one object—the wearing of clothes wisely and well; so that as others dress to live, he lives to dress. The all-importance of clothes has sprung up in the intellect of the dandy without effort, like an instinct of genius; he is inspired with cloth, a poet of cloth. A divine idea of cloth is born with him." After the Dandies came the Exquisites and the Loungers, who did everything in a style of their own, and whose motto was "Look and die." These fools fancied themselves great lady-killers. The Exquisites and the Loungers were succeeded by the Corinthians, who were fops of a more adventurous and rough-and-ready kind. The word is derived from Corinth, whose immorality was proverbial both in Greece and Rome. A Corinthian, according to Dr. Brewer, was the "fast man" of Shakspere's period also, hence the reference in "Henry IV": "I am no proud Jack like Falstaff, but a Corinthian, a lad of mettle, a good boy." "Snobs" was the designation by which the fops of the next generation were known. Thackeray, who has made us familiar with the word, gives the etymology of it as pseudo-nobs—that is, false or Brummagem nobles. Two or three years ago the Daily News, in a notice of Punch's Almanac, observed: "Those who are curious in the matter of 'neology' should note that in this number the word 'masher' has finally usurped the place of 'swell' just as 'swell' superseded 'dandy' which itself was the successor of buck, blood, corinthian, exquisite, macaroni, beau and numerous other kindred designations." Partly in consequence of this and similar paragraphs in other periodicals, the origin of the word "masher"—the term by which another generation of fops were known—was attributed to our old friend Punch. But Dr. Charles Mackay says the word, which came to us from the United States, is of Gaelic origin, and was introduced into the country by the Irish immigration. It is derived from the Gaelic maise—pronounced "masher"—and signifies fine, elegant, handsome, and was originally applied in derision to a dandy. This derivation cannot, however, be regarded as final, as the French marcheur and other words have been claimed as the origin of masher. "Dude" and "Chappie" seem to be the latest synonyms for fop, but the words do not appear likely to come into general use. The foppery of great men has always been a source of amusement—sometimes of disgust—to their contemporaries. The curled and scented ringlets of Disraeli were laughed at by his political friends; and it is very probable that Julius Cæsar was also laughed at because he set the fashion of wearing earrings, which before that had been confined to women and slaves. Disraeli's letters, however, prove that he could laugh at his own foibles, in dress. Like Byron the great duke of Marlborough was a dandy when young, but he lived to see the folly of his ways. Whether the present generation is wiser than its ancestors is perhaps open to question; but there can be no doubt that foppery as an institution is dying out, although mild specimens of the genus may probably exist until the end of time.—*Chambers Journal.*

### General Bragg and His Spanish.

General E. S. Bragg, the new United States minister to Mexico, was at the Leland Hotel in this city yesterday and I thought it would be a good time to give him some instructions as to how he ought to attend to his business when he reaches the land of pulque and senoritas, so I thought I would call on him, says Ben Wylie in the Chicago Times.

"Buenas dias, senor," I said on entering, and extending my hand added, by way of breaking the too long silence: "Como estad usted."

"Ah, Mr. Usted," said the general, "I am glad to see you."

Plagued if he didn't think I was introducing myself.

"No habla usted Espanol?" I persisted, but I saw it was of no use. The minister only glared at me a moment and then began looking around for something heavy enough to knock a lunatic down with.

"You do not speak Spanish, I see" said I.

"O, ah," said the general, coloring very deeply. "Was that Spanish? Well, I do speak Spanish somewhat, but I was unprepared to hear it here."

"And where did you learn the language?" I asked.

"O, I picked it up from some books I have here in my trunk. You see this appointment came to me all of a sudden, and I have been so busy making ready for the removal that I have not had much time to devote to a lady. Won't you please say that over again, and say it slowly?" and he picked up a Spanish-English lexicon from his trunk. I began:

"Habla——"

"Hold on!" he interrupted; "wait till I find that."

"You won't find it where you are looking," I suggested. "It is pronounced 'alos,' but it begins with 'h.'"

He ran his finger down that "a" column.

"There is no 'habla,'" he said.

"No, of course not; it is from the infinite verb 'hablar,' you——"

"Yes, yes," said the general; "here it is. 'Hablar,' to speak; I see. Now, go on."

"Habla usted——"

"Wait a minute," said he. "How do you spell that 'usted business?'"

I told him and he found the word.

"All right," said he; "now we've got 'hablar usted,' to speak you. Go on.

"Habla usted Espanol?"

"Espanol! I understand that—that's Spain," said he, proud of his accomplishment. "Now, let's see! What you said was: 'To speak you Spain,' wasn't it?"

"That's pretty near it," I told him. "In English 'Habla usted Espanol?' is 'Do you speak Spanish?'"

"Well, I got pretty near it, didn't I? O, I'm all right. I'm going to take this book along with me, and I guess I'll get on with it well enough to do the business of the United States. Don't you think so?"

"Yes," I said, "you need only two or three things in addition to that book."

"And what are they?" asked General Bragg.

"Well, one is a good interpreter."

"And what else?"

"O, I should say get another good interpreter."

"Do you think I will need anything else besides this book and the two interpreters?" asked the general.

"No-o-no," I remarked doubtfully, "unless you get—"

"Get what?" he said. "Speak it right out."

"Well, one more interpreter."

The general appeared to think I had advised him wisely, and, unlike most men who had long been in politics, he appeared also to be grateful. If he gives good dinners and keeps plenty of first class pulque on tap I have no doubt he will make a good average Mexican minister and have the respect and confidence of the dons and donnas.


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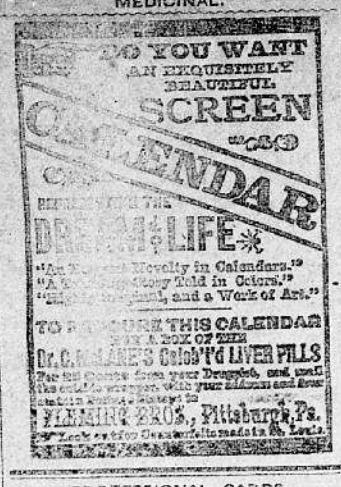


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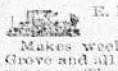
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**General Assembly**
—IN—
**1884 and 1886.**

STATE OF LOUISIANA,
Office of the Secretary of State.

IN PURSUANCE of the provisions of the Constitution, publication is hereby made and given to the qualified electors of the State of Louisiana of the proposed amendments to the Constitution of this State, which have been concurred in by two-thirds of all the members elected to each house of the General Assembly of this State, at the regular sessions thereof, held at the city of Baton Rouge, in the years 1884 and 1886, and which are required to be published for the information of the qualified electors of this State for three months next preceding the General election for Representatives, and which proposed amendments more fully appear in Act No. 43 and Joint Resolution No. 112 of the Regular Session of 1884, and in Joint Resolution Nos. 28, 75, 88 and 92 of the Regular Session of 1886, which are hereinafter officially published for the information of the qualified electors of this State, and which will be submitted to them for their approval or their rejection, at the next general election which will be held on Tuesday, the 17th day of April, A. D., 1888, (it being the Tuesday next following the third Monday of said month) in such manner and form that the qualified electors may vote for or against each amendment separately; and if a majority of the qualified electors voting, at said election, shall approve and ratify all or either of said proposed amendments, then such proposed amendment or amendments or either of them, so approved and ratified, shall become a part of the Constitution of this State.

Act No. 43 of the Regular Session of 1884.

Amendment No. 1.

TULANE UNIVERSITY AMENDMENT.

The terms of Act No. 43, of the Regular Session of 1884, adopted at the session of the Legislature in the year 1884, and hereby ratified and approved; and all provisions of the Constitution of 1879 repugnant thereto, or in any way impairing the passage thereof, are hereby repealed, so far as the operations of said act are concerned.

Joint Resolution No. 112 of the Regular Session of 1884.

Amendment No. 2.

"The General Assembly may divide the State into levee districts and provide for the appointment or election of Levee Commissioners in said districts, who shall in the method or manner to be provided by law, have supervision of the erection, repair and maintenance of the levees in said districts; to that effect the Levee Commissioners may levy a tax not to exceed ten mills on the taxable property, situated within the alluvial portions of said district subject to overflow; provided that, in case of necessity, to raise additional funds for the purpose of constructing, preserving and repairing any levees protecting the lands of the district, the rate of taxation, herein limited, may be increased when the rate of such increase and the necessity and purpose for which it is intended shall have been submitted to a vote of the property taxpayers in such district, paying taxes for himself, or in any representative capacity, whether resident or non-resident, on property situated in the alluvial portion of said district subject to overflow, and a majority of those in number and value, voting at such election shall have voted therefor."

Joint Resolution No. 28 of the Regular Session of 1886.

Amendment No. 3.

"In those districts composed of one parish, there shall not be less than six terms of the District Court each year."

"In all other districts, there shall be in each parish not less than four terms of the District Court each year, except in the parishes of Cameron, Franklin and Vernon, in which there shall not be less than two terms of the District Court each year."

"Until provided by law, the terms of the District Court in each parish shall be fixed by a rule of said court, which shall not be changed without notice by publication at least thirty days prior to such change.

"There shall be in each parish not less two jury terms each year, at which a grand jury shall be empannelled, except in the parishes of Cameron, Franklin and Vernon, where there shall not be less than one jury term each year, at which a grand jury shall be empannelled."

"At other jury terms the General Assembly shall provide for special juries, when necessary for the trial of criminal cases."

Joint Resolution No. 75 of the Regular Session of 1886.

Amendment No. 4.

Article 189—"The New Basin Canal and Shell Road and their appurtenances shall not be leased or alienated."

Joint Resolution No. 88 of the Regular Session of 1886.

Article 62—"That in the event of the death, or from whatever cause the office of Lieutenant Governor shall become vacant, then, and in that event the President *pro tempore* of the Senate shall fill the office of Lieutenant Governor, performing all the duties incident to the office and receiving its emoluments."

Joint Resolution No. 92 of the Regular Session of 1886.

Amendment No. 6.

Article 207—"The following property shall be exempt from taxation, and no other, viz: All public property, places of religious worship or burial, all charitable institutions, all buildings and property used exclusively for colleges or other school purposes, the real and personal estate of any public library, and that of any other literary association used by or connected with such library; all books and philosophical apparatus, and all paintings and statuary of any company or association kept in a public hall; *provided*, the property so exempted be not used or leased for purposes of private or corporate profit or income. There shall also be exempt from taxation household property to the value of five hundred dollars; there shall also be exempt from taxation and license for a period of twenty years from the adoption of the Constitution of 1879, the capital, the machinery and other property employed in the manufacture of textile fabrics, leather, shoes, harness, saddlery, hats, flour, machinery, agricultural implements, manufacture of ice, fertilizers and chemicals and furniture and other articles of wood, marble, or stone, soap, stationery, ink and paper, boat building and shoeing; provided, that not less than five hands are employed in any one factory."

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto affixed my signature and attached thereto the seal of the State of Louisiana at the city of Baton Rouge, this 13th day of January, A. D., 1888.

OSCAR ARROYO,
Secretary of State.