The San Francisco Call

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TUESDAY .....MARCH 12, 1895

Help the Half-million Club.

Whatever helps the city helps every man in it.

Benicia sees business ahead and is reaching for it.

The man who talks cheerfully always talks well.

The revival of any one industry helps all other industries.

Grover for the moment seems to be as dead as Congress.

Corruption never breeds a fly that doesn't light on a silurian.

A few days more and the attaches will be statesmen out of a job.

Bond the city, pay its creditors, and then make the streets a credit to it.

Volcanic Mexico may not be hot for war, but she is smoking at the nose.

Lent may have been designed for a fast season, but society finds it slow.

Take stock in the competing road and share the profit of the enterprise.

Santa Clara Valley antagonizes nobody, but she is looking out for herself.

No adjournment until the valley road is given a terminal in San Francisco.

The future must be an illustration of progress or a chapter of apologies.

The only thing that a demagogue hasn't words to do justice to is a free press.

Oakland seems to need an anti-beggar agitation about as badly as San Francisco.

There is never any objection on the part of a silurian to let the other fellow do it all.

The London money market is said to be plethoric. California may tap it a little before long.

It will be a good trade for the State to give up fifty acres of mud flats and get a competing road.

Central California as well as Southern California, should make a feature of flower festivals this spring.

The Merchants' Association deserves thanks every day for the work done in the way of street cleaning.

The passage of the valley road terminal bill will make work lively for the unemployed of San Francisco.

If the State University is to run the forestry stations it should have the wherewithal to run them well.

The Governor can sign the bills for the benefit of the hydraulic miners without hurting any other interest.

Indiana has passed a law to prevent winter racing. There is no occasion for any such law in genial California.

The doctrine of bimetallism has been forced into the brain of many a goldbug by the pressure of hard times.

The Iowa blacksmith who committed suicide when arrested for forgery must have felt the iron enter his soul.

The resumption of hydraulic mining will create a demand for machinery and give home factories lots of work to do.

Patronize those merchants who put California goods to the front and give you a chance to support home industries.

Every citizen should remember there are less than five years left to get the city in shape to receive the twentieth century.

When you write to your Eastern friends invite them to come to San Francisco to attend the next Republican National Convention.

The old crank who is now prophesying the end of all things on our streets is way off. We are just about making a beginning of things.

Secretary Gresham is said to be better, but his foreign policy, especially in the matter of retaliation duties, shows no signs of improvement.

San Diego is not saying much about competing roads just now, but she can be counted on to swing in at the head of the line as soon as the procession starts.

After the hard winter in the East there will be a big emigration from blizzard lands to warmer climes and California will get her share of it if she invites it rightly.

Yachting seems likely to look up this season on San Francisco Bay, and as yacht clubs are nurseries of nautical spirit the emporium of the Pacific should have lots of them.

The dispute over water rates is less important than the controversy over the purity of the water, and the latter question should be settled in such a way that it will never arise again.

No sooner are we happily rid of the Gould-Castellane wedding than it is announced that Miss Pullman is to marry Count Isenberg Birstein and the whole twaddle of trousseau and pedigree threatens to begin again.

Our Chinese Vice-Consul, just back from Mexico, thinks there is a good opening for his people in that country. It would be a good opening for them to get through into the United States, and that's what they will mostly use it for.

As some of our Eastern exchanges are rejoicing over the arrival early in the month, of Florida tomatoes at 25 cents a pound, there would seem to be profit in tomato culture for Californians who live in the thermal belt, where vegetables ripen early.

The Connecticut legislator who is trying to procure the enactment of a law requiring every child to be named within three days after birth ought to provide a public official to do the naming, for the general run of parents would never come anywhere near agreeing on a name in that time.

WATCH THE SENATE.

It is now evident that a vigorous effort is to be made in the Senate to defeat the bill authorizing the Harbor Commissioners to lease a terminal on the water front in this City to the San Joaquin Railroad. This fight will force the enemies of progress in California to come out in the open. In the past men who have been on the side of monopoly against the people have been able to conceal their real animus by one specious pretext or another. In the present instance there is no possible pretext available. It is a plain, open, stand-up fight, either for the people and the competing road, or against the people and for the monopoly.

It will not be courage but audacity, not nerve but gall, not firmness but insolence, that will in this case animate any member of the Legislature who seeks to thwart the will of the people. The issue is too important to be set aside lightly. Every vote upon it will be remembered for the rest of this generation. No Legislator will be forgotten who stands with the people and none will be forgiven who is opposed to them. It is therefore a critical point in the political career of every member of the Legislature. It behooves each and all of them to look carefully into the situation.

In the past, the people have been oppressed, and every industry has been injured by the lack of a competitive transportation system. In the present, the people have aroused themselves, not in foolish wrath, but in a wise resolution to establish competition by constructing a new road. From the oppression of the past, and from the hope of the present, are derived the forces that make the public sentiment in favor of the proposed bill. That sentiment is just now the strongest in California. It cannot be provoked with impunity. It ought not to be provoked at all.

It is not necessary to review again the arguments in favor of the bill. They are familiar to every intelligent man in the State. It is a clean, honest, straightforward bill providing a means, and the only means, by which the competing road can get a terminus in San Francisco and the City be relieved from the blight of monopoly. It will not do for any man who hopes for a political career in this State, or who desires the esteem of honest men, to oppose the bill. To help it forward is to help forward every interest, every industry and every section of the State. To oppose it is to hamper every energy and baffle every hope. On the side of the bill are progress and statesmanship. Against it there can be nothing but treason, stratagems and spoils.

THE HALF MILLION.

The work undertaken by the Half-million Club is of a nature to arouse the interest and engage the sympathies of all progressive citizens. It involves the increase of the population of San Francisco from 325,000 to 500,000 within five years. This means an average increase of 35,000 a year, a number in itself sufficiently large to form a city of considerable size.

Great as the undertaking is, however, it is by no means an attempt to achieve the impossible. While sufficiently vast to tax the best energies of the club and to appeal to the support of every member of the community, it is not beyond reach of accomplishment. Well-directed efforts, made with vigor and continued with perseverance, will bring it to success and enable us to begin the twentieth century with a population of half a million and an impetus that will soon carry the total to the million mark.

To accomplish this it will be necessary to bring to the State a class of people who will support the increased population of the City. This means that we must advance the interior in order to prepare a way for the advance of the metropolis. We must furthermore induce to make their homes with us men of capital and energy who will give employment to workingmen and build up the great industries by which the half million of population is to be provided with the means of earning a living.

To effect these things the Half-million Club should co-operate with the various counties of the State to attract immigration to the rural communities. The advantages of the climate from a business standpoint, as well as from that of health or pleasure, should be made known. The profits to be derived from farming and fruit-growing should be revealed to the people of the blizzard States. Special stress should be laid upon the mining industry, which, at this time, ought to be particularly attractive to capital and which can afford employment to a large number of men whose trade would be beneficial to the city. And in addition there should be the fullest possible advertising given to the advantages in the way of water-power, fuel and raw material in various localities for the development of manufacturing industries in the State.

The work done in this way for the State at large would advance the City and materially help every industry within it. The growth of the State would form a basis on which to build the structure of our commercial and manufacturing prosperity. To increase our shipping, extend our railroads and reach out in this way for the commerce of the ocean and the trade of the Pacific Slope, would be necessary and natural results of the upbuilding of the interior, and as each of these would in turn attract men and capital, they also would add to the population of the City.

Acting on these broad lines, therefore, and giving assistance to every enterprise in the State, the Half-million Club would do a notable work for California in the next five years. The promoters of the club are, fortunately, men to whom we can look for such far-reaching work as this. They have started right on their enterprise and with the popular support they deserve, will accomplish their task and be prepared at the beginning of 1901 to call themselves the Million Club.

READY-MADE HOUSES.

The CALL recently suggested that California lumber might be profitably worked up in the construction of ready-made houses, only needing to be put together, for shipment to the South African mining regions, and perhaps other countries bordering on the Pacific and Indian oceans. Word now comes from Washington that one of our Consuls in Italy has discovered a fine market for such houses in parts of that country. The recent earthquakes in Sicily and Catalonia have destroyed many buildings. It is believed that these American structures, light and well braced, would stand the shocks better than any other kind of dwellings. A member of the Royal Earthquake Commission has interested himself in the subject.

If Eastern manufacturers can find an opening for such a trade in Italy why cannot Californians do likewise around our own waters? Italy is no more given naturally to wooden houses than Latin America from Panama to Valparaiso. Yet an earthquake-proof house at low cost would find a field for its peculiar qualities all along that coast. Chile is progressive. The petroleum industry of northern Peru is assuming large proportions. Japan is essentially an earthquake country, and modern progress is taking her people beyond the paper-house area. Aside from the question of temblors, such structures would be a convenience to any new country, especially if it lacks building material and manufacturing facilities. The mining and pastoral regions of Australia ought to furnish a market for them.

If some of our wood-working establishments would take the trouble to make inquiries in this connection they might hear of something to their advantage. At least they have plenty of natural advantages in the way of raw material.

BENICIA'S PROSPECTS.

Historic Benicia is anxiously looking forward to a share in the prosperity which the San Joaquin Valley Railroad is to bring to all parts of the State coming within its influence. The construction of the Southern Pacific line from Sacramento to Oakland, via the Straits of Carquinez, gave the old town a little lift. It has also for many years done considerable manufacturing, and the Government barracks, arsenal and ordnance works have lent it some importance. Yet Benicia has not enjoyed the growth and prosperity to which its favorable location and other advantages fairly entitle it.

The CALL recognizes that the welfare of San Francisco is intimately connected with that of its neighbors. It hopes to see Benicia and other towns in that vicinity enjoy the fullest measure of that prosperity which is offered by the revival in enterprise and public spirit now manifesting itself throughout the State. There are many reasons why Benicia in particular should have a large share of that prosperity. It stands on the north side of the straits, through which pour the waters of both the river systems of the great valley of California. It has a good frontage with ample depth of water. The climate is ideal for industrial purposes, neither too warm in the summer nor too cold in winter. There is a good neighboring agricultural district. Coal can be obtained from the Mount Diablo mines on the other side of Suisun Bay. All that is now needed is cheap transportation, the development of its natural advantages and an act of Congress to make Benicia one of the most thriving towns in the State.

The execution of the plans for the fortification of San Francisco and other ports on this coast will require the construction of several hundred guns of the largest caliber. Similar work is projected for Eastern seaports. The resources of the army gun foundry at Watervliet, New York, are not nearly equal to the requirements for arming these forts. The foundry at Washington is devoted to supplying guns for the navy. That also has all or more than it can do to get the batteries ready for the new ships as soon as they are ready for them. The ships built on this coast are also armed from that foundry. It is slow work and heavy expense to send 50-ton and 100-ton guns, with their massive carriages, across the continent by rail.

A board of officers has strongly recommended Benicia as a site for a Pacific Coast gun foundry. Probably its recommendation would have been accepted and an appropriation made two or three years ago, but for the opposition of the Oregon and Washington delegations, who wanted to get the works for their own section of the coast. The present arsenal and ordnance works at Benicia already form the nucleus for the proposed foundry, and every consideration of situation, communications, coal supply, etc., points to that place as the proper location for the plant. An appropriation for that purpose would soon make Benicia hum with industrial life.

But that would be only one feature of the prosperity that should follow. Benicia is even now the largest leather manufacturing town of the Pacific Coast, and the quality of its output is first class. Yet California last year imported 6,000,000 pounds of leather and 100,000 cases of boots and shoes. Benicia should have worked up her own leather instead of shipping it East for manufacture.

The largest agricultural implement works in the State are also located at Benicia. They are now working only about a two-thirds force, while we are annually importing hundreds of thousands of dollars' worth of such goods. Such facts indicate one direction which industrial reform should take.

When Government and private manufactures begin to gather population at Benicia the new-comers will find one advantage which every intelligent head of a family will appreciate: the educational facilities of the town, both public and private, are of the first order, and will only need a material expansion to meet the needs of an increased population. This, combined with the healthful climate and beautiful location, will be a valuable inducement to work and home seekers.

A POSTAL LABOR EXCHANGE.

According to one of our consular reports the Grand Duchy of Luxembourg has a very effective system of labor exchange. The postal department receives, registers and transmits applications from wage-payers and wage-earners, and posts them in railway stations, hotels and other public places. Applicants are notified of replies by postal cards. During the last two years from 75 to 90 per cent of such applications have fulfilled their purpose.

Luxembourg is a small State, and some things might work very well there that would not answer in California or other parts of the United States. We have also extensive private employment agencies which fill a large demand. Yet it is noticeable every year, especially during our long drawn out harvest season, that there is often a failure to bring work and workers together. Men and boys who are willing to work may be idling in San Francisco and other towns while farmers in various sections of the State are at their wits' ends to secure labor to get in their crops. The existing agencies do not seem to altogether fill the bill.

Of course the Government would have to take in hand any such scheme as the Luxembourg system, but the Government seldom takes the initiative in such matters. Private effort has to first work up a sentiment and suggest action. We have many bright and energetic persons interested in improving the relations between work and workers. Would it not be worth while for some of them to take up this question, study its possibilities, and work out of it some practical plan for submission to Government? The new era in California is going to make employment, and it will also attract laborers. Anything that will help to bring them together will be a public benefit.

The London *Times* thinks Newfoundland's financial salvation lies in union with the Dominion. Substitute the United States for the Dominion and it would be all right.

HOME NEWS FIRST.

From the San Francisco Argonaut.

The San Francisco CALL under its new management has caused quite a shaking up among the other morning papers of San Francisco. The CALL has brought this about by a daring innovation. Being published on the Pacific Coast, in the State of California and in the city of San Francisco, the CALL has begun publishing the news of San Francisco, of California and of the Pacific Coast. To add to its daring, the CALL has put this news prominently upon its first page. If anything more were needed to complete its revolutionary practices, we may add that it puts just as large headings on its local news as it does on the Eastern and European news.

This new departure of the CALL has filled the other dailies with a mixture of disgust and alarm. Disgust—because it is contrary to the canons of San Francisco's daily journalism. Alarm—because it seems to be applauded by the public. It is freely stated, and generally believed, that the CALL has added several thousand subscribers to its list during the past few weeks.

The principal canon of San Francisco daily journalism which the CALL has been violating is that which concerns the relative importance of news. According to the San Francisco canons, a thing to be important must have happened somewhere else. Thus the dailies have lately been giving columns to a Minneapolis murder case, in which nobody here was interested, and which probably nobody read, while they have been giving half-columns to a Santa Clara will case, in which many people here were interested, in which some of the leaders of the California bar were retained and which nearly everybody read. But the Minneapolis murder was telegraphed from a distance, and hence, according to the San Francisco canons, was "good stuff." Correspondingly any amount of drivel from abroad is first padded, then printed, because it is "cabled." A London person who in consequence of a horse slipping is thrown out of a hansom in the Strand and lights upon his occiput, plebeian or noble, as the case may be, is frequently given more space in the San Francisco dailies than would be accorded a similar accident to even so distinguished a local personage as Mayor Sutro. Columns of scandal from Paris, London and Berlin about American millionaires and their mistresses, about foreign princes and their mistresses, about all sorts and conditions of men and women, whom nobody here knows or cares anything about—for scandal, backbiting and calumny to interest us, must be about our friends, or at least about our acquaintances—all this stuff is set before us by the yard, with a whoop and a hailoo. Nobody reads it—nobody can read it—nobody wants to read it. What on earth do the dailies print it for?

It is our belief that the function of a daily morning newspaper is to print the news—primarily the news of the place in which it is printed, and secondarily the news of the world. People do not care for other matter in a morning newspaper, and few have the time to read it if they had the inclination. The daily papers of San Francisco have for a long time been wandering far afield. In their efforts to distance each other in reaching what is apparently an undetermined goal they irresistibly remind one of a gang of bumpkins shambling variously across a field in a "sackrace," their heads enveloped in bags. The CALL has apparently marked out its goal and knows where it is going. It will be curious to see whether the experiment of a San Francisco newspaper publisher publishing San Francisco news will succeed in San Francisco.

AROUND THE CORRIDORS.

Samuel T. Brant, manufacturing jeweler, of Twenty-third street and Lexicon avenue, Chicago, who is at the Palace, told a good story yesterday about two well-known Chicago men. Ed and Jim Keene, or the Keene boys as they were called, were very proud of their city, and when they went to Europe on a visit never admitted that anything there was superior to what could be found in the Windy City. No matter what was seen by young Ed—how grand the cathedral, how beautiful or sublime the scenery, how imposing an antiquity—it was all the same to him. There were things in and about Chicago which surpassed them all. In conversation at dinner in the presence of many was the occasion that best suited him to enter into his fabrications. "Now Jim," said Mr. Brant, "is and was more 'foxy,' as the boys say, and saw that Ed's stories didn't go, so taking him into counsel he told him he must cut his Chicago stories down, and as a reminder he would sit next to him at dinner, and when he thought Ed was going too far he would tread lightly on his foot, and he could come down. This arrangement was entirely satisfactory to Ed, and was to be put into operation on the first occasion. The opportunity came at a dinner in Rome, after a visit to the celebrated Collisseum. Ed was asked what he thought of the structure, and right in his element, he launched off by saying that the building was all right for an old concern, but that in Chicago there were buildings which would make it dizzy. 'Why,' said he, 'we have buildings there four miles long, two hundred stories high (Jim tramps on his toe) and two feet wide.' You see, he cut it down," concluded Mr. Brant.

"The cable chess match between the British Chess Club of London and the Manhattan Club of New York makes one wish for the old days of blindfold masters of the game," said Charles McCormick as he stood in the Palace Hotel lobby. "Of course the game has made strides since Paul Morphy's day, but I do not think there is a chess-player alive who will say he thinks that any man now playing could have touched Paul Morphy, even in his latter days.

"I remember when I was down in New Orleans in 1870," continued Mr. McCormick, "and even then Paul Morphy was a familiar figure on Canal street. It was said that his mind was weakening, but if such was the fact he showed no sign. I have sat at the table with Morphy, Judge Alexander Walker, Jack Wharton (the famous United States Marshal) and half a dozen others. The talk was general, but every now and then Morphy would look solemnly at a picture or piece of tableware and say softly to himself 'check,' as though busy in the middle of all the talk, thinking out a chess problem. Always perfectly dressed and with the manners of the 'old school' Morphy was still the master of the chess board. If in these days of cable matches he were still alive I fancy our English cousins would give even heartier cheers than they did for the American club."

"I see that Cecil Rhodes, the South African Premier, is coming in for considerable notice of late," said Arthur Humisand in the Baldwin cafe last night. "I met Rhodes in Cape Town a year ago last January, just after he had cabled to the Premier of Victoria, Australia, and the Premier of New South Wales offering to help them, if they would accept, in their financial crisis. I was looking after the interests of a proposed prospecting party, but the people had very little money, and were, in fact, emigrants from Australia just before the Coolgardie and Wyalong gold rushes assumed such strong proportions. I then asked Mr. Rhodes what he would advise, and shall never forget his reply. 'If they are poor, the sooner they leave South Africa the better for them. Civilization is the pauper's home,' said he. When talking earnestly, Rhodes' face sets itself into strong lines and his manner is most impressive. As a result my party went back to Australia on the bark Parsons that took them to Delagoa Bay. Afterward they made good finds in Coolgardie."

"COMMISSIONS."

BY JANET M'DONALD.

Possibly a knowledge of the extent of obtaining trade on the commission basis is not as widespread as it would seem to be, considering the number of people who engage in it. Upon investigation it is discovered that "commission brokers" and "purchasing agents" are not the only classes indulging their propensities in this direction for "what there is in it."

Madam, my lady, takes a friend where she may obtain a good bargain in gloves, laces, hosiery, dry goods, groceries, furniture—anything under the sun that a woman may want (and that includes most things on this mundane sphere), shops in the usual manner, calling down from the shelves all sorts of bargains, admiring their beauty and utility, expatiating on the rare opportunity, declaring it such a bargain, and occasionally making a small purchase herself.

After having exhausted her enterprise or her friend's purse she walks away, first having exchanged a look of intelligence with the merchant.

She has made a fair beginning for a good day's work; she successively recommends her milliner, dressmaker, music-dealer and a long line of merchants, from all of whom she receives fair remuneration for the custom she has brought them.

When interviewed, one of our leading merchants, a Kearny-street merchant, who deals in ladies' fancy goods, said the other day that he had allowed commissions until every other woman became a purchasing agent, and he was compelled to discontinue the practice or increase the price of his goods. Of two women shopping together one would claim the commission and divide with the other. "Oh, yes," said the merchant, "they worked us in several different ways."

Resolved to ascertain as nearly as possible how common this practice has really become, I pushed my investigation further, and was startled to find that it was not confined to these women whose necessities would compel effort in their own support, but was largely indulged in by women of affluence, and even by men, many of them adorning the learned professions. A prominent dealer in art pottery, bric-a-brac, etc., on Sutter street, related the following circumstance:

A well-known man about town, whom we will call Stevens, came in here with a gentleman whom he introduced as Mr. Trowbridge. We showed him some fine goods and sold him a bill of $300. Later in the day Mr. Stevens returned and pocketed his $15, and it was several months afterward that we discovered the fact that he had met Mr. Trowbridge at the corner, and who, when asked where he was bound for, said he was on his way to our store, whereupon Stevens said: "I will go down with you; am thinking of making some purchases in that store myself."

The merchant said they were quite willing to pay for legitimate trade, and laughingly added: "We must sometimes get taken in." While we were conversing he was accosted by a gentlemanly looking man who conversed apart with him for some little time in a very animated manner. When I heard him say, "Well, I'll be in with him some time this afternoon, I thought I'd just step in and see what there was in it for me and fix things, see?" my merchant turned to me with his ever ready smile and said: "There is a case in point: An old friend of his; he says he has plenty of money, to show him the best we have, he will stand by the sales and see us later."

At a furrier's in Thurlow block two fashionably dressed ladies entered, desiring to purchase a sealskin sacque. One of the women had previously purchased one for herself and had now returned with her friend, who desired to make a similar purchase. The furrier placed a higher price upon the garment than he had previously done, and when expostulated with by the lady, called the first woman aside and assured her that if he charged less he would be unable to pay her a commission.

The largest commission is made on musical instruments by music-teachers. They understand that by sending their pupils to the right house (I mean by this the only house that carries the only A1 instruments in the market) they will obtain handsome commissions and much free advertising. I am not a music-teacher, but was offered large commissions by three of the leading piano-houses in the city.

"In the midst of life we are in death," and no one has a sharper eye to the business end of the proposition than the enterprising undertaker, excepting, perhaps, the man or woman whose friends are considerate enough to "pass in their checks and stand the funeral expenses." At one of the oldest established parlors on Geary street the proprietor unhesitatingly told me that "of course they paid commissions. All undertakers do," he said. And growing confidential, on the supposition that I was a "commission broker," he said that some undertakers would offer me a larger commission than others; for instance, there was a certain amount of profit that they were willing to divide, but when a man offered as high as 40 or even 30 per cent, it was more than they could afford, so they got around paying it in this way. They took the business and after the funeral they refused to pay more than 10 per cent. Of course the broker would have no recourse and would have to take it. Or they kept two sets of books, and if I brought them a funeral for which they really received $300, they showed me by their books that they only received $100. He assured me that the best way was simply to bring in the business and trust to the honor of the undertaker. I feel somewhat perplexed about it in view of the information vouchsafed. But this is surely a business proposition in which your friends at least cannot go back on you. I had occasion to visit a hairdresser, and concluded to try one on Post street who does a good deal of advertising, and as a talker I will pit her against any male barber the world ever produced. She runs to religion, and in addition to trimming and curling bangs she endeavors to sell her powders and lotions and work in the Lord's vineyard by "saving your soul while you wait."

She is zealous, but undertakes too much. She commits a not unusual blunder in overestimating her strength, mental, if not physical. She struggled with me in vain, even blistering my forehead as a slight reminder of that which was to follow, and at last said, in accents of despair, "Poor suffering sinner, I have labored in vain against Satan, but God will reward me for my efforts in your behalf." Silently, thoughtfully, I withdrew from that refining influence.

PERSONAL.

Dr. Burdell of Marin County is a guest at the Lick.

Rev. C. M. Lynch of Sacramento is now at the Lick.

Sam Rainey, the politician, is registered at the Grand.

A. B. Jackson, a banker from Salinas, was at the Grand last night.

T. J. Donovan, a merchant of Ventura, was at the Grand last night.

Colonel W. H. Fairbanks of Petaluma was at the Palace last night.

L. W. Shinn, a mining man from Juno, Alaska, is at the Grand.

J. M. Henderson, one of the wealthiest men in Eureka, is now at the Lick.

W. C. Swain, a bridge contractor of Marysville, is registered at the Grand.

W. H. McKenzie, a banker of Fresno, was registered at the Lick yesterday.

M. L. Washburn of the Alaska Commercial Company is a guest at the Grand.

H. V. Morehouse, the well-known attorney of San Jose, is a guest at the Palace.

A. Malpas, owner of a large vineyard at Los Gatos, is registered at the Palace.

Captain W. H. McMinn, a well-known citizen of Mission San Jose, is at the Lick.

J. Ross Traynor, a commission man of Marysville, arrived at the Grand yesterday.

C. Steenbergh, owner of a large ranch at Brentwood, was at the Lick last night.

F. W. Roebling, a brother of the famous engineer who built the Brooklyn bridge, is at the Palace.

Mrs. John C. Cockerill, wife of the noted newspaper man, is at the Palace en route to Japan to join her husband.

John Caplice of Butte City, one of the first merchants in Alden Gulch, and a resident of Montana for thirty years, is at the Occidental.

W. R. Daggett, a prosperous young real estate man of Stockton, was in town yesterday.

Oscar Atwood of Stockton, who vacated the office of County Assessor of San Joaquin County the first of the year, is in town on a business trip.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

Prince Achille Napoleon Murat, who recently committed suicide at Odessa, was well known in Philadelphia. He was born in Bordentown, N. J., where his mother lived. After the fall of the empire Mme. Murat was reduced to such straits that she taught school. Some of her pupils were Philadelphians, who are still living. Mme. Murat died in France in 1879.

A minor State office is a more direct road to the governorship in the West than in the East. Nearly every man elected on a Republican State ticket in Ohio in the last decade is now a dark-horse candidate, and in Iowa Secretary of State W. M. McFarland is an avowed candidate for the governorship, with a fair show of success.

A Chinese banker, Han Quay, is said to be worth the almost inconceivable sum of $1,700,000,000. A great number of the largest banks in the Chinese empire are believed to be under his control.

ITO TO TING.

The following letter from the Japanese Admiral Ito to the Chinese Admiral Ting, calling upon the latter to surrender when Wei-hai-wei was captured, and just before Admiral Ting committed suicide, is translated from a Japanese paper, and has not before been published in this country. It is peculiarly characteristic of Japanese thought, manners and the courtesy for which the race is noted:

To Admiral Ting: I am very sorry to see you in such an unpleasant position, but of course this is not a private matter between us. My feeling of friendship is just the same as it was in time of peace. Now I do not write this letter in the spirit of a friend. A man who has charge of certain affairs often fails to show proper judgment, and if his friend sees this he must advise him.

It is not difficult to understand why the Chinese army and navy continually suffer severe losses. The cause of their defeat is not from the negligence of the present Emperor or his vassals, but it is the result of the mismanagement of China, which has been going on for years. In your country, when the Government is about to engage officers she examines them in only one kind of Chinese literature. This method of examination has not changed for many thousand years, so the great aim of the whole nation is "study the old classics alone." Perhaps this method would not be a bad one if your country were shut out from the rest of the world.

Thirty years ago Japan met with numerous calamities and passed through critical periods, while she was changing her old condition for a new one; this was the only way she could obtain her independence. In like manner your country should adopt those principles which have caused the advancement of our country. If your country does this she will be glorious, if not she will surely decay.

The result of the war seems to be determined and the duty you now owe your country cannot be performed by destroying your life. Indeed, it is not easy work to reform such an extensive country as China. There is no way for you out of this difficulty except to surrender, as the surrendering of a fleet is much better than the ruin of the whole nation. I advise you after your surrender to stay in Japan waiting the time of the reformation of your country. When the time arrives for you to use your energy for your country you may go back. General MacMahon once surrendered, but afterward he zealously assisted in the reformation of his country and became its President. Although Osman Pasha was once a prisoner, still he improved the military institutions of his country.

Our Japanese Emperor is very liberal; his Majesty never loses his princely virtues. For example, Viscount Anomot and Privy Counsel Otori were once traitors, but the Emperor knew their ability. Soon after their surrender he gave them very honorable positions. Even foreigners, if they are wise and honest, our Emperor treats with respect and kindness; and you, if you come to Japan, will surely be treated with the same kindness.

It is for you to determine whether you will destroy your life and leave your country to go to ruin or whether you will live and by your efforts achieve a great reformation in it. The Government officers of your country think the best way is to use haughty terms when they communicate with the officers of foreign countries for the purpose of showing their strength or concealing their weak points. It is not my wish to address you with any such intention. On the contrary I write this letter in a sincere friendly spirit and hope you will accept it in the same spirit. ADMIRAL S. ITO.

SPIRIT OF THE PRESS.

It is not creditable to the police system of this country when two men can hold up a train in the outskirts of a city, as was done at Sacramento a few nights ago, then rob the loungers in a brewery barroom and disappear, leaving no traceable clew to themselves or their hiding place. American genius has a good field for activity in arranging a better general detective system than the one now in vogue in this country.—Santa Rosa Republican.

The rule that is against the raising of a man's salary after his election should apply in the matter of lowering it. There is an understanding, implied if not expressed, between the people and the candidate that the rate of compensation is not to be disturbed during the term for which said candidate is chosen.—Napa Register.

The good old-fashioned ideas of marriage for love and pride of race and country is not wholly a pleasant memory of the past. It exists among the better and intelligent class, who do not buy their husbands with gold.—Marin County Tocsin.

The friends of hydraulic mining do not intend that the miners shall be permitted to injure the farmers of the valley, but they do mean that the miners shall not be deprived of the right of using their mines at all.—Placerville Democrat.

The Legislature has made the legal rate of interest 6 per cent and limited the rate collectible by law to 10 per cent. This is a good law and will put a stop to the usury that has prevailed in California so long.—Vacaville Gazette.

It is much easier to ride two horses going in opposite directions at once than for the dispenser of official patronage to please the professional reformer and the professional politician.—Martinez News.

California sends five pounds of apricots to England, where it is made into jam, and then this brilliant State buys it back in a pound can. Oh, we're a smart lot, we are.—San Jose Mercury.

It is hoped that the doctrine of home enterprise as preached by the new CALL will be heeded and practiced by every community in the State.—Georgetown Gazette.

It is a good thing that Congress did not tax prospective incomes—no newspaper publisher would then have escaped.—Mariposa Gazette.

SUPPOSED TO BE HUMOROUS.

"Jedge," said the colored witness, "I wish you, please, suh, make dat lawyer stop pesterin' me!"

"But he has a right to question you."

"Dat may be, but I'se got a kinder rattlin' in my head, en ef he worry me much, fust t'ing you know I'll tell de truf 'bout dis matter!"—Atlanta Constitution.

The Sultan of Turkey recently sent cigarettes to be distributed among a party of Americans visiting his palace at Constantinople. It is evident that the Sultan still harbors a grudge against this country.—New York World.

Little Johnny—Just hear that baby squall; I don't wonder that mens hates babies.

Little Ethel—Do they?

Little Johnny—Do they? Eagles carry off babies, don't they?

Little Ethel—Yes.

Little Johnny—Well, there's a law against shooting eagles.—Pittsburg Bulletin.

Customer (in Chinese laundry)—John, ain't you afraid you'll burn your hands with the acid you put in your washtubs?

Chinaman—No; me stull him with a stick.—Philadelphia Inquirer.

Jimson—Now, you wouldn't marry me, would you?

Miss Sears—Most certainly not; but why do you ask such a question?

Jimson—Just to decide a bet.—Kate Field's Washington.

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Carl Browne, Coxey's lieutenant, has opened headquarters at Massilon, Ohio, to boom his chief for the Presidency on the Populist ticket.

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