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THE SUMMER MONTHS. Are you going to the country on a vacation? If so, it is no trouble for us to forward THE CALL to your address.

THURSDAY, AUGUST 8, 1895

THE CALL SPEAKS FOR ALL.

It may be counted a busy and profitable day that finds a new juror for the Durrant case.

The Durrant case has discovered an extraordinary prevalence of deafness in the community.

In selecting its name the Half-million Club did not count on stupidity to judge its purposes.

The Hawaiian President is said to be writing a book entitled "Whiskery Tales of the Dolorous Isles."

The Horr and Harvey debate broke out again on Tuesday, but we are promised that it was the last spasm.

They may call Bland "Silver Dick" if they choose, but after his triumph in Missouri Richard is himself again.

If the goldbugs really believed that the silver movement is dying they would let it alone and talk of something else.

Spontaneous conventions of silver Democrats in the South can hardly hope to change the yellow hue of Gray Gables.

If the Grand Jury will read Judge Slack's decision on the case against the Solid Eight, it will see an opportunity before it.

Cleveland would only accept a third term in case of an emergency, but he is trying his worst to make one, and to make it bad.

Persia is becoming civilized, for she has had a bread riot and a military maintenance of the dignity of the law just like Europe.

The Defender has now won enough victories over the Vigilant to convince even the most conservative that the centerboard must go.

The expediency of preserving the wonderful features of its topography is a question that San Francisco should seriously consider.

Every day at Camp Roache is one of profit to the granters, and the course of instruction promises to be a benefit to the whole State.

The wind that blew the tent off Buffalo Bill's Wild West show in Oswego, simply added another feature to the realism of the plains.

As those who were recently called rebels and insurgents in Cuba are now spoken of as patriots the grip of the Spanish: bit must be relaxing.

It will probably soon become a question whether there is a sufficient number of thin-legged men in the country to stem the knickerbocker tide.

In its march through the Democratic ranks of the South silver has a sorry time dodging the stones that Cleveland and Carlisle keep slinging at it.

The Manufacturers' and Producers' Association should be incorporated by all means. It has the right spirit, and ought to have a permanent body.

The Democratic majority of the Railroad Commission are maintaining a silence that roars and thunders threateningly at the industries of the State.

In measuring his influence in Missouri against that of Cleveland "Silver Dick" Bland should not overlook the efficacy of watermelons and navy tobacco.

It is a significant fact that those who organize expeditions in aid of the Cuban revolution are no longer called filibusters, but members of patriotic expeditions.

It is hardly surprising that Vice-President Stevenson (of whose existence we are pleased to be reminded) finds it advisable to seek the cooling influence of Muir Glacier.

It is hinted that a good many citizens leave their consciences at home when they sail forth to be examined as to their qualifications to serve as jurymen in Judge Murphy's court.

Santa Rosa has a right to be proud of her new High School building, for there are many larger and wealthier cities in the State that are far behind her in this form of educational equipment.

The fact that the negroes of Chicago raised 100 volunteers to fight the Italian miners at Spring Valley while they could raise only \$20 to pay expenses affords another proof that men are more willing to raise Cain than coin.

One of the surest signs of the revival of prosperity is to be found in the fact that the real estate sales of the City for the first six months of the year amounted to \$3,904,171, being \$1,000,000 ahead of those of any similar period since 1892.

The periodical literature of Masonry has been enriched by the establishment at Seattle of a new monthly, The Pacific Mason, under the editorship of E. B. Wishar. It is devoted to the interests of the fraternity within the jurisdiction of Alaska, Washington, British Columbia, Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Nevada. The first number contains portraits of several leading men in the order, and gives promise of a useful and profitable career.

JUDGE SLACK'S DECISION.

The decision of Judge Slack in the matter of the accusation brought against the Solid Eight, charging them with malfeasance in office, relegates the matter to the Grand Jury, and if the good law puts an end to the case in its present form. It is to be noted that Judge Slack does not pass upon the main question at issue, nor attempt to construe that portion of the statute of 1893, the violation of which would amount clearly to malfeasance in office. In that portion of the decision in which it is intimated that the Board of Supervisors may ignore the applicant for a street railroad franchise, it would seem that Judge Slack arrived at a conclusion with a degree of haste which precludes the idea of matured deliberation, and which is not a very logical deduction from the reading of the whole statute. It is certain beyond dispute that the Board of Supervisors must award franchises to the highest bidder and that they have no discretion in that respect. If therefore should appear quite plain that if the Board of Supervisors are not permitted to indulge in any discretion between bidders, they are equally prevented the exercise of such discretion before applicants for railroad franchises. If it were otherwise the rejected applicant might still become the owner of the franchise by being the successful bidder. If the decision of Judge Slack had been the result of a more mature deliberation, the logic and consistency of this view would doubtless have induced him to arrive at a different result with respect to that branch of the case.

So far as Judge Slack's decision relegates the subject to the Grand Jury it is not very material at present to consider whether they would stand in the best of their present session. It has been decided while the mistakes and shortcomings of the Grand Jury which was its immediate predecessor are fresh in the public mind. It has been especially enjoined that its duty is to act in the finding of indictments for such offenses as come within its scope and are brought to its attention. The offense of the Solid Eight has been brought to the attention of the Grand Jury, and the court decides that it is an offense over which the Grand Jury has special jurisdiction.

There is a growing belief in the minds of men that the Grand Jury system is a failure and that Grand Jury sessions are an expensive farce. Here is an opportunity for the present Grand Jury to vindicate the institution and to show to the public that there are times when its usefulness justifies its existence. Let the Grand Jury take up this charge against the Solid Eight. Let them consider it seriously, honestly and fearlessly. Let them lay an accusation before the proper court setting forth the particular official wrongdoing of the Solid Eight. Such a procedure will bring the matter before the courts in the exact way which Judge Slack has intimated to be the proper one, and leave it there to be decided whether the facts constitute malfeasance in office as defined by the statute of 1893. We repeat that the Grand Jury should do this as a two-fold duty to the law under which they act, and to the people of the City of San Francisco. It is imperative that the question whether the statute of 1893 means something or means nothing should be given a judicial test.

AN IMPLACABLE MONOPOLY.

We call the attention of the State Railroad Commission to the fact that the official bulletin of the American Pharmaceutical Association in announcing the arrangements made for the forty-third annual meeting of the association, which is to be opened in Denver on the 14th of this month, says: "We shall then have half rates from practically every point in the United States and Canada east of the Rocky Mountains. Morrison has been a leader in the party faction fights of Illinois and any attempt to advance him would as surely divide the party in the West as the advancement of Hill himself would divide it in the East." The nomination of Morrison would be the triumph of the extreme free-trade wing of the party, and while it might therefore be of advantage to the country in giving to the people a chance to crush out that faction, it would be a severe defeat of the party's policy, and it is not at all likely that such a chance will be given. The free-traders are in fact discredited at the present time even in their own party, and to put Morrison forward would be simply to provoke a split in the party ranks and encourage desertion. The fortunes of the Democratic party are indeed desperate. Not even in the South does it present an unbroken front on a single issue of importance before the country. It is in fact doubtful if Hill himself was really seeking to promote harmony in the party when he suggested Morrison's name for the Presidency. It is more than likely that he was inspired mainly by a desire to head off the movement in the party toward Whitney. The Cleveland faction has been steadily building up a sentiment in the party favorable to Whitney, and it behooves the Tammany leaders to start a counter movement if they would retain any prestige in the party ranks. If Hill had in view the object of causing a diversion from the administration candidate when he put forward the name of Morrison it may prove to have been a wise move, but if he had any real desire to promote the success of his party it can hardly be reckoned wise. To nominate one of the ranked free-traders in the country at a time when free trade is utterly discredited with the people by the disastrous experience of the last two years would be a forlorn hope indeed. In fact the party might just as well commit suicide at once.

GOLD BONDS IN OHIO.

A new and important point in the controversy over the silver question has been raised in the East by the decision of Chief Justice Marshall of the Supreme Court of Ohio affirming it to be unlawful for a municipal corporation to contract that its debts shall be paid exclusively in gold. The statement of the facts in the case is thus given by the Chicago Inter Ocean: "The trustees of the sinking fund of the City of Cincinnati are anxious to refund a 4 per cent interest-bearing debt of \$3,000,000. A syndicate of capitalists are ready to furnish money for the refund on the condition that provided that the new bonds shall be made payable, principal and interest, in gold. The trustees are about to accept the offer of the syndicate when certain citizens pray for an injunction in restraint of obligation to pay in gold only. The common Pleas Court ruled that the trustees were empowered to enter into such obligation; the plaintiffs appeal to the Circuit Court and the decision in Common Pleas is overruled. The trustees now appeal to the Supreme Court, and by it the ruling of the Circuit Court is affirmed. The result is that the highest court of Ohio can determine, if it is made unlawful for a public body to discriminate between silver and gold. As the decree was issued in vacation time the argument upon which the decision was based has not been made public, and it is not clear, therefore, upon what ground it rests. It has, however, created considerable discussion in the East, and

CONCERNING CONTOURS.

Few of the present residents of the City have heard the old history of the plan upon which the streets as they exist were laid out, but in view of the activity recently developed in extending streets through unsettled hilly regions it may be well to recall it and make some suggestions for the future. According to this old account two conflicting parties in the municipal government contended each for its own plan in projecting the streets. One, the Philadelphia party, demanded the rigid rectangular system distinctively characteristic of their city, and the other, the New York party, saw in the hilly configuration of the peninsula a superb opportunity for picturesque effects by establishing a system of curved and winding streets following the contours and ascending the steep elevations by easy grades. The cast-iron plan of Philadelphia prevailed, and it was this that afterward made the cable system possible. The cable has served a most useful purpose in the development of the City, but it is rapidly becoming obsolete and will soon be seen only on grades too steep for electric lines. When it comes to the development of the trolley points to the time when by one device or another it may be made to supplant the cable on any grade. All this opens up an exceedingly interesting question. This is, should we hereafter make straight streets in the hilly regions of the City which at present are undeveloped, or should we again raise the question of contours and winding ways? The hardships, to say nothing else, of the rectangular system are already being felt in the Potrero, where owners of unsettled and therefore unproductive property are assessed heavily for the expense of cutting through the hills. This is only the beginning of their hardships. The cutting leaves the owners of high banks, which have to be cut down to the grade of the street. In addition to this the refractory rock of which the hills are constituted has to be chiseled into channels for sewer and other pipe service. The trolley takes to curves much more kindly than does the cable, and so far as it is concerned the reduction of hills is unnecessary. If easy grades are established by following contours all vehicles drawn by horses can use them. Hence the necessity for the cutting down of eminences does not seem to exist. If it is argued, however, that such a procedure has its good reasons, it cannot be denied that the preservation of the hills may possess an advantage. It thus becomes a matter of weighing one consideration against the other. In this process it is proper to take into account the enormous expense of cutting and the severe hardships which accompany it. It happens that no other city of consequence in America has a hilly topography, and that no other in the world has so peculiar and attractive a topography as San Francisco. From the lofty eminences which abound in the City the most wonderful views are to be had. The finest, most picturesque and most traveled drives on the peninsula are the winding roads, like McDowell avenue and the Corbett road, which follow the contours of the hills on easy grades. More than that, the tendency of home-makers among the well-to-do is to seek as high eminences as they can find which are convenient to streetcar lines. Further, a winding road has charms and graces impossible to a rectangular system of streets. These are merely suggestions, to be considered in the extension of streets through the hilly regions of the City. San Francisco will have lost much of its glory when its noble hills are cut down.

ROME NOT TO BE SOLD.

AN INJUSTICE TO ITALIAN PATRIOTISM. The Examiner of Sunday, in the first column of its first page, reproduces a cablegram from London, signed by the well-known French correspondent, Ballarín, which reads: "According to that cablegram several rich Catholics of Spain, France, Austria and England will form a syndicate to purchase from Italy its capital, the city of Rome, those philanthropists of a novel type believing that such a transaction would, as the present financial condition of Italy threatens to lead the nation into bankruptcy, thus menacing the peace of Europe, as the people, overburdened with taxes, will naturally throw the country into anarchy. If the character of the newspaper reproducing such news was not enough serious as to exclude all doubts of its authenticity, we would consider that cablegram as a canard of the worst kind, and we would not be surprised if the bankruptcy of Italy is an abominable falsehood that does not deserve refutation. Two years ago the financial condition of the nation was indeed bad, but by the situation has improved gradually and to-day its bonds are very little better than those of Austria, and much lower than in Spain. On the course of France the Italian consolidated bonds are selling to-day at 90 to 92, while the Spanish bonds, 4 per cent, are sold to 67 or 68. Before talking of buying Rome the Spaniards would do well to chase the wolf out of their own home. We do not deny that our country is overburdened with all sort of taxation, but the Italian people are not less patriotic and firm, knowing that such enormous sacrifices are needed to guard and defend their country from the rapacity of its neighbors. Italy professes and wastes its resources in making a large loan, and she has also, because of her restless and aggressive in her unbounded ambition, have forced her to enter and stay in the Triple Alliance. 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