The San Francisco Call

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A REFORM SUGGESTION.

THE difficulties in the local Democratic party, which have culminated in the appointment of a new campaign committee by Colonel W. P. Sullivan, chairman of the general county committee, gives us another opportunity to moralize upon the impropriety of resorting, even in making Democratic politics, to the Central American method of government. Of course, a quarrel in the ranks of the unterrified is none of our business. Our interference in any such matter may justly be resented on the ground that whatever the event we can, as a respectable Republican newspaper, have no interest whatever in it.

But we remember not long ago that Mayor Phelan dismissed the Board of Supervisors very much as Colonel Sullivan has now dismissed the Democratic campaign committee. As Mayor Phelan and Colonel Sullivan imbibe Democracy from the same fount—that is to say, as Colonel Sullivan is Mayor Phelan's secretary, and as they comprise one soul with but a single thought—it is interesting to inquire whether or not the law of the local Democracy sustains Colonel Sullivan in his attempt to Mexicanize his party as completely as the statute law sustained Mayor Phelan in his attempt to Mexicanize the city. Evidently Colonel Sullivan and Mayor Phelan think alike on this subject. Their idea of reforming governments and parties is to seize them by force. If the law stands in their way it is merely bad for the law, but it makes no difference to them.

The supreme court to which Colonel Sullivan's action must finally be submitted will be the Democratic General Committee. This body meets on Wednesday or Thursday evening of this week. It is said that the colonel is no more anxious to face the issue before this court than was Mayor Phelan in the case of the Board of Supervisors to face it before the State Supreme Court. Having the "works" he is perfectly contented to let the deposed statesmen howl on the outside, satisfied that his appointees will reform the party and put all of Boss Rainey's men to flight. On the other hand, in imitation of the "Solid Eight," Mr. Rainey is said to be yearning for a hearing before the General Committee. He thinks the law is on his side and he wants it vindicated at once.

The only point of public interest in all this, aside from the fact to which we have already referred, that the hearts of Mayor Phelan and Colonel Sullivan beat as one on most subjects, is that there is a considerable number of political gentlemen in this city who believe in revolution as a means of achieving reform. How many there are addicted to this thought we do not know. Where they get their idea is also problematical. So far as we are aware none of them were members of the "Vigilance Committee of 1856. Mayor Phelan and Colonel Sullivan, at any rate, were too young to have participated in the deliberations at Fort Gunnybags.

But, however this theory may have originated, it is our opinion that it should be eradicated before it has completely taken possession of the youth of San Francisco. The Mexicanizing process leads to anarchy, and any kind of government is preferable to a chaotic government. We do not exactly hope that Boss Rainey will beat Colonel Sullivan in this matter; we have heard that the boss is a very bad man, and that in his hands the Democratic party will give us an even worse government than it gives us when under the control of the reformers. But we note with pain that whenever it becomes necessary to vindicate and uphold the law the duty either falls upon a political boss or a "solid" Board of Supervisors. Would it not be a good idea for the Democratic reformers to occasionally appear before the public in the role of law-abiding citizens? It might help them in politics.

Apparently yellow journalism is not pleased with the explanation of the Union Pacific matter made by McKenna, which is something not to be wondered at. The explanation explains. Not only this, but it makes the yellow fellows so ridiculous that they can even realize it themselves, and they squeal and squirm like prowling pigs caught under a gate. The only fault to be found with Mr. McKenna is that he went to the trouble to tell these traducers anything about it, knowing that in anything he might say they would find material for fresh abuse.

Without desiring to interfere with the affairs of Santa Rosa it may be remarked as evident that the town is infested by some miscreant who impresses the casual observer of events as being much in need of being hanged. This thing of trying to abduct girls quickly becomes monotonous beyond the point of endurance.

The man who dived eighty-five feet into the surf at the Cliff House Sunday showed considerable of the quality known as nerve. As a display of intelligence, however, any such feat must be rated as an absolute failure.

Rev. C. O. Brown's hint that he may become a newspaper reporter shows that he overestimates his ability. He might get a job in yellow journalism, but this is different.

CHARLES FRANKLIN SMURR.

BY the death of Charles Franklin Smurr the Southern Pacific Company loses another of those earnest and faithful workers to whom it owes so much of its success during the period when it was built up from what was regarded as a speculation to be one of the greatest and most important properties in the world.

Though comparatively a young man (he was but 48 years of age at his death) Mr. Smurr was in the service of the Southern Pacific for twenty years and belonged to the group of strong men Senator Stanford gathered around him to administer the complex affairs of the great business of the company. Despite his comparative youth, therefore, he was associated with the generation of Southern Pacific managers that is now so rapidly passing away, and in his special line of work was not inferior to any among them.

The story of his life is the simple one of success attained and a fair fortune achieved by the practice of the rule of fidelity to duty, of doing well all that was given him to do, and of mastering the details and the governing principles of the work in which he was engaged. During the time he was in the service of the Southern Pacific he filled, in the course of his advancing career, almost every position in the offices of the company, from that of clerk to the high and responsible position of freight traffic manager, which he held when he died.

The record of this life contains better lessons for the youth of the land than can be found in the lives of many who were more brilliant and more widely known. The path by which he attained honor and esteem in the community is one which can be followed by every young man who has a clear brain and honest heart and the will to make the best use of them. He was never aided by good luck. Chance brought him nothing. What he won was gained by honest work honestly done. He rendered service to the community as well as to the corporation with which he was identified, and California has much to regret in the death that has carried him away in what should have been the prime of his life.

LABOR'S PROTEST AGAINST COOLIES.

LOS ANGELES workingmen have been not only among the first but among the clearest and most forcible in expressing the opposition of American labor to the scheme for annexing Hawaii with its hordes of coolies. These men have seen in California the effect of Chinese competition upon the welfare of wageworkers of the white race, and are not willing to rob the Hawaiians of their country for the sake of opening a way for the Chinese to enter our country.

In a letter to THE CALL, published yesterday, M. M. McGlynn, a member of the organizing committee of the Council of Labor in Los Angeles, points out that there is not a single cogent argument for annexation that does not smack of robbery, actual or premeditated, and declares: "From the viewpoint of a wageworker on the Pacific Coast, I can but protest against the addition to our already overcrowded labor markets of some 60,000 or 70,000 cheap wageworkers. And no one can or dare deny that this would be one of the first results of annexation."

Captain F. B. Colver, editor of the Labor World, Los Angeles, who has given to this subject much study and careful thought, declares in a communication to THE CALL:

It should be the settled policy of this Government not only to carefully watch at the Golden Gate, but at Hell Gate, so that the pauper labor of Europe and Asia is not dumped upon our shores. Why annex a territory in which no American workingman can successfully compete with three-fourths of the population of an island so far from our shores, and who have no sympathy with American ideas and customs, and who are illiterate and dangerous? I say, emphatically, no!

It would be folly to suppose that these expressions represent the sentiments of labor in California only. The interests of all American wageworkers are the same on this issue. The menace of coolie labor is better understood on this coast than in the East, but wherever it is understood the voice of the wageworker is against annexation. Captain Colver is fully justified in asserting the opinion that "the 1,400,000 men in the ranks of organized labor throughout the United States would be a unit in opposition to annexation if they but knew the facts of the case."

As the time approaches for the meeting of Congress the workingmen of the country will become more active in opposing this scheme of grab and cheap labor, which is being cunningly exploited under the guise of a patriotic movement for the extension of territory. Workingmen can be deceived some of the time, but not all the time. This question has now been before the country long enough for the people to see clearly all that is involved in it, and as a result popular opposition has become so manifest that the promoters of the project would never dare to submit it to a vote of the people as a whole.

We cannot impose our Government upon the Hawaiians against their consent without violating the principles of the Declaration of Independence and the spirit of our political institutions. We cannot make this aggression against a weak people without diminishing for all time to come the force of our protest against similar acts of oppression by other nations. We cannot do this wrong without inflicting upon ourselves the wrong of exposing our workingmen to the competition of the coolies in Hawaii and subjecting the growing industry of sugar production in California to that in the islands. Is it any wonder that intelligent workingmen, proud of the high traditions of their country and devoted to the welfare of American labor, should protest against a scheme which threatens injury to all?

There are several peculiar things in connection with the "expose" of the Union Pacific plot. In the first place the exposing was all done by the New York *World*. Alone, unassisted and tireless, it attended to the whole business, and it is not ashamed to say so, either. Strangely enough the *Journal* did the same thing, and it, too, modestly proclaims its prowess as an exposer. Just how the two accomplished so remarkable a feat is far from clear; indeed little short of miraculous. To make the matter the more a mystery the fact is plain that there was no plot, that there has been no exposure save that of yellow ignorance, and that the papers in question have had on the adjudication of the affair precisely the influence that a pair of flies, alight on the wheel of a locomotive, might have on the speed of a train.

A CHANCE FOR PRISON REFORM.

IT will be a misfortune for the State if the discussion of prison reform begun by THE CALL in its review of conditions at San Quentin, and augmented and intensified by the controversy over the reform schools at Whittier and Ione, should be allowed to pass without leading the public mind to some definite conclusions in regard to prison improvement in California.

From the old maxim, "In time of peace prepare for war," it is an easy inference that the time to prepare for good legislation is in the peaceful off years, when no party politics disturbs and no Legislature is in session to require watching. If we are to have prison reform at any time in the near future the campaign of education on the subject cannot be entered upon too early nor carried on too vigorously.

There is no need in this discussion to raise personal issues nor to blame this man or that for existing evils. According to the consent of all who have studied the question with impartial minds the system is wrong. The personal equation is, of course, an important factor in this as in everything. Under one man almost any system will be made to work good results, while under another even the best system will prove ineffective. It is not, however, the personal management that is most defective in any of our prisons, and there can be little question but what most of the sins of omission and commission in prison management of which the people rightly complain are traceable directly to the rules and regulation under which the management is carried on.

According to Chief of Police Lees a considerable part of the failure of the prisons to either reform or repress criminals is due to causes that lie even further back than the prison regulations and the prison system. He attributes much of the evil to the inequality of the sentences imposed by Judges upon convicted offenders and suggests the establishment of a board to equalize sentences in much the same way that taxes are equalized, so that the criminal will be punished in proportion to his crime and not at haphazard as at present.

In a multitude of counsel there is wisdom. The more thoroughly the subject is discussed from all points of view the nearer we will be to the attainment of some definite conclusion of practical value. It is clear that California is behind the age in the science, or, at least, the practice, of penology. Something ought to be done in the interest of all parties. Our present system is a complete failure either for punishment or reform. It will be no difficult task to devise improvements on the condition at present, and it should not take us long to do so.

In the name of charity yellow journalism has turned many a thrifty trick, but seldom one quite so palpably fraudulent as its baseball tournament. People were a little slow to realize the real character of the scheme, but they know all about it now. Yellow charity is apt not only to begin at home, but together with the proceeds, to stay right there.

It would seem that the Chinese exclusion law is regarded by some people in authority as having been contrived for the purpose of promoting the influx of Chinese. Just how they figure this out is of course beyond the comprehension of a layman, who still clings, in his ignorance, to an ancient idea that a law means what it says.

The Police Judge upon whom falls the duty of sentencing a man, so called, who, after chaining a horse, beat the animal nearly to death with a hoe, should bear in mind that this sort of a man cannot be outside of jail without the fact causing a feeling of uneasiness in the community.

There would be genuine comfort in hearing somebody say that any one of the State's reform institutions was being run in the interest of somebody besides the ones running it.

PERSONAL.

C. R. Tillson, a jeweler of Modesto, is at the Lick.

State Senator J. H. Seawell of Ukiah is at the Grand.

C. E. Roberts of Suisun is at the Cosmopolitan.

Dr. Wakefield of San Jose is visiting at the Occidental.

Dr. and Mrs. Thomas Flint of San Juan are at the Grand.

State Senator H. V. Morehouse of San Jose is at the Lick.

Dr. W. H. Davis of Detroit arrived at the Grand yesterday.

Dr. W. M. Johnson of Santa Cruz is registered at the Russ.

F. S. Winsinger, a dairyman of Freestone, is at the Occidental.

J. Sweeney and F. Kelly of Tacoma, Wash., are at the Cosmopolitan.

Dr. and Mrs. A. E. Spohn of Corpus Christi, Tex., are guests at the Palace.

C. W. Clough, the well-known journalist of Salinas, is at the Cosmopolitan.

H. R. Wright, a commercial traveler of Portland, Or., is at the Cosmopolitan.

A. F. McPhail of Lompoc, formerly a liveryman of Santa Barbara, is at the Grand.

A. M. Rickert, a mining man from Rossland, is in town and has a room at the Grand.

Martin Winch of Portland, Or., a breeder of thoroughbred horses, is a guest at the Lick.

William Niles, a rancher from Los Angeles, is staying at the Occidental with Mrs. Niles.

R. M. Hurd, formerly of New York and now of Seattle, arrived at the Baldwin yesterday.

R. Mainwaring and A. F. de Ruizen of London, Eng., are among the latest arrivals at the Palace.

V. F. Hatch of New Bedford, Mass., is among the guests that arrived at the Occidental yesterday.

George E. Dilvisen, one of the biggest merchants of Sacramento, is a late arrival at the California.

Dr. W. J. Nelson of Boston, who is interested in some California mines, is a late arrival at the Grand.

Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Eyre, Miss Eyre and Robbie Eyre have left their Menlo Park home and taken apartments at the Palace for the winter.

Ex-Senator and Mrs. A. P. Williams returned last night from a tour of the large Eastern cities and have taken apartments at the Palace.

L. N. McQueston, "Father of the Yukon," who has been here since his return from Alaska, left last night on a business trip to New York.

Mr. and Mrs. H. Morgan Hill and Miss Diane Morgan Hill returned here last night from Paris, where they spent the past two years. They are on their way to their old home in Santa Clara. Mr. Hill and his name are well known in Santa Clara County.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Gray arrived here yesterday after completing their bridal trip and will reside in this city. They were married in Victoria, B. C., on October 25. The bride, who was Miss Hilda McLaughlin, is the daughter of J. H. McLaughlin, assistant receiver-general at Victoria. The groom is a native of San Francisco. Both were students together for several years at Stanford University, from which the bride was graduated in 1896.

J. B. Donner, the recently appointed superintendent of telegraph of all the lines of the Southern Pacific Company, arrived here yesterday from New Orleans to assume charge of his new duties, with San Francisco as his headquarters. He will pass on the qualifications of operators, and will conduct all correspondence with the Western Union Telegraph Company. Mr. Donner is a self-made man and has since boyhood risen step by step in the profession he represents. He has been with the Southern Pacific since 1880, when he was a car-checker. In 1892 he had risen to superintendent of telegraph of the Atlantic system, with headquarters in New Orleans, where, according to newspaper accounts, he was very popular and will be greatly missed.

CALIFORNIANS IN NEW YORK.

NEW YORK, Nov. 1.—At the Imperial—T. M. Crane, C. E. Hayes, Miss A. Neilson, Mr. and Mrs. A. Ottinger, E. S. Churchill; St. Denis—L. McMullin; Astor—H. L. Perrine, J. Rutherford; Gilsey—F. L. Orcutt; Metropole—A. Wunch, G. H. Robinson; Holland—O. T. Sewall; Hoffman—H. Summer. Mr. and Mrs. Daniel Easterbrook arrived on the Fulda from Genoa. Mrs. Hastinger and Mrs. Schmidt arrived on the H. H. Meier from Bremen. Hilda Brown, Johann Jachens, Sister Pia, F. C. Siebe, Sister Seraphina, Mrs. Louise Schiller and also Miss Anna Guldee of Sacramento arrived on the Saale from Bremen. A. E. Loesser is here buying.

THE LETTER.

The letter my lady wrote to me—
I would you could see the lines!
There's a flavor of orange blossoms
And a tangle of jessamine vines!

O the letter my lady wrote to me—
I sit in my room and see
The sails on the ships, and her red, sweet lips,
In the letter she wrote to me!

O the letter my lady wrote to me—
Here is the word she missed!
And here is the word that was never heard
On the line her lips have kissed!

And the letter my lady wrote to me
Close to my heart shall be
Till the judgment day—when I drift away—
Life of my life, from thee!

—Atlanta Constitution.

A PROBLEM OF THE PLACERS.

Washington Post.

"A great problem in placer mining," said W. A. Salter of California, "has been to find a method of saving the finer particles of the precious metal. The coarser ones are easily caught in the riffles of sluices, but thousands of dollars of fine gold go to waste in the sand and gravel.

"One of our Western men is the inventor of a machine that will no doubt solve this problem and put an end to the loss. It is in the shape of a cylinder and operates on the principle of centrifugal force, with a heavy iron shaft extending through the cylinder. On the shaft are three copper bowls, and facing the shaft on the interior surface of the cylinder are many smaller bowls covered with mercury. In the three large bowls is placed the gold-bearing gravel, and the revolutions of the machine throw the finer gold against the small bowls, where it comes in contact with the mercury, forming an amalgam.

"It is estimated that one of these machines will save from $200 to $300 a day, but if it does only one-quarter as well it is a splendid invention and will add immensely to the world's stock of gold."

A BIG BIT OF CHALK.

A sheet of chalk more than 1000 feet in thickness underlies all that portion of England which is situated to the southeast of a line crossing the island diagonally from the North Sea at Flamborough Head to the coast of the English Channel in Dorset. This massive sheet of chalk appears again in France and as far east as the Crimea, and even in Central Asia beyond the Sea of Aral. There can be little question that all these now isolated patches were once connected in a continuous sheet, which must, therefore, have occupied a superficial area of about 3000 miles long by nearly 1000 broad. And to think that these enormous deposits are made up of the microscopic remains of minute sea animals.

GOOD IDEA LONG IN COMING.

New York Sun.

Until within a few years spirit-levels were made with perfectly smooth sides, and there was more or less danger of dropping them in carrying them about. Half a dozen years ago somebody thought of cutting a groove or channel in the wood on each side of the level, to make a handhold. It may seem strange that nobody had thought of this simple device before, but apparently nobody had. The man that did think of it got it patented, and now levels are made with this improvement.

INCREASE OF POPULATIONS.

During the last sixty-five years the increase of population has been: In France, 18 per per cent; Austria, 45; Italy, 48; United Kingdom, 63; Germany, 75; Russia, 92; British colonies, 510; United States, 626.

THE SPIRIT OF '76.

Indianapolis Journal.

Foreign Governments will find that the United States is more easily coaxed than coerced. They had better try reciprocity than retaliation.

CAMPBELL VERSUS BARNETT; Or, IS THE DOOR OPEN OR CLOSED?

The door is open.

No, I dare not state positively that the door is open, but the door was open when last I saw it. It's remaining open depends upon the weather, which is changeable, and upon the masculine temper, which is also changeable, and upon the bodily condition of two men, which is changeable as well.

I am assured that the door shall remain open.

I am also assured that the door shall be closed.

I am bound to believe both statements, for they were made to me with all the force that sincerity and determination lend. Mr. Campbell's vigorous young body straightened portentously as, looking toward the open door, he said:

"It's open now, and it shall stay open."

And Mr. Barnett took his hands from his pockets and desisted from leaning against the side of the house, while he said in a dangerously quiet voice:

"It shall be closed; I'll see that it's closed."

So, with the best and most credulous intentions, I find myself in a state of uncertainty as to the end of the momentous affair. Try as I may, I am unable to imagine the door as both open and closed. If I decide that Mr. Campbell has prophesied correctly as to the unfolding of the future, my ear reminds me of the dread solemnity with which Mr. Barnett played the Sybil. If, in my mind's eye, I see the door closed, memory bids me not forget the gleam in Mr. Campbell's keen gray eyes as triumphantly he looked at the open door—the token of his triumph.

The result is a mental veriscope of swiftly opening and alarmingly closing of that same famous door. The question is, will the door survive till the end of the month, when Mr. Barnett shall move and leave Mr. Campbell in undisputed possession of his office—and the door?

It may be that you are not familiar with the history of the door.

It was told—that is, the account of the skirmishes and battles of the first great campaign was given in Judge Joachimsen's court last week. But the decisive action, the final struggle, the Waterloo of Campbell or Barnett—Campbell thinks he knows, Barnett thinks he knows. The other tenants in Campbell's office, the typewriter, the bookkeeper, the clerks, the messengers, and even the occasional visitor—all know the end and are willing to bet on it. But the odds vary so distressingly from opening-door time to closing-door time that I am not prepared to advise anybody as how to place his money. My own—but that's quite a different story.

"It's just this way," explained Charles J. Campbell, real-estate agent of 224 Montgomery street. "I am the sole lessee of the entire premises, and I sublet a portion of my office to other parties, among them Barnett, editor of the Commercial Bulletin. There is but one door, as you see." Mr. Campbell waved a hand in explanation. "He wants that door closed. I want that door open. And it shall stay open," he said in determined parenthesis.

"It is my door; the place is mine, and Barnett, nor any other sub-tenant has the right to assume control over it."

"There was trouble, then, I conclude?"

"Yes. I found the door closed. I opened it. He closed it and I opened it. I want that door open so that the air shall be fresh back here"—Mr. Campbell's office is in the rear—"and for business purposes, too. People are more likely to come in when the door is open than when it is closed."

I listened sympathetically to this fresh-air fiend, with his young, athletic body, his clear eye and his fair mustache.

I decided inwardly, then, that the door was likely to remain open.

"He came for me, and—and I claim—there's some dispute about who struck first—but I say he kicked me, and then I promptly knocked him down. But the question of who struck first hasn't anything to do with it. It's my place, my door, and I want it open."

"What was the end of the story?"

"Oh, I was arrested for battery."

"And—and is the case decided?"

"Yes. The Judge dismissed the case—said it wasn't worth any further consideration."

Now, I call this unfair of Mr. Campbell—or of Mr. Barnett, as the case may be. For, manifestly, it isn't kind to further befog one whose mind is a chaos of opening and closing doors by the addition of yet another unsettled problem.

"And how was the case decided?" I asked Mr. Barnett.

"The Judge fined Campbell $10," he answered, with a sweet, slow note of triumph.

Now, who is in the right—the Front or the Rear? Did the Judge dismiss the case or did he fine Rear? Or is it possible that he did both? If a door can be both closed and open, what is to prevent a Judge from deciding a case in two opposite ways?

"He," said Mr. Barnett with a nod to the rear, where sat his landlord, "he's an athlete; I'm a cripple. I haven't used my right arm since I was a child. My office, as you see, is right in front, and when it's cold or raining or windy I want that door closed. As I sit here and write all day and am right in front I feel the cold more than he" —Front nodded his head toward Rear—"does. I want that door shut when it's cold. When it's warm or pleasant I don't mind. But when its cold" (he caught my eye straying toward the open door and added with quiet emphasis)—"that door shall be closed."

I listened sympathetically to this member of the guild of scribes. Although he's an older man than the real-estate agent; although Front has wrinkles while Rear has none; although Front leaned back while talking and Rear sat up straight and aggressive, yet there was something convincing in those quiet, deliberate words.

I decided inwardly then that the door was likely to be closed.

"He," went on Front, with a contemptuous avoidance of names, "he promised when I came here that we should have a stove in the office when it was cold."

"But who is to blame for the fight?" I asked.

"He goes to the Olympic Club. He's a fighter. You can see who is to blame, for the struggle took place up here by my office. He came for me clear from down there."

The words seemed strangely familiar. Oh, yes, it was Rear's voice that had said a moment before:

"The struggle took place right here in front of my counter. You can see that he came down here after me."

"Now, I want that door closed," went on Mr. Barnett, "and it shall be closed—but I'm not the only one that wants it closed. The other tenants object to its being open, and I'll see that they shall have it closed."

Isn't that beautiful unselfishness? But no more beautiful than the kind forethought of Rear, ever anxious to minister to the comfort of his tenants.

"The other tenants object to having the door closed. They want air, and I'll see that they have it," said Mr. Campbell.

So, really, when one comes to analyze the situation, it is not a petty, ill-tempered struggle between a stubborn man and an obstinate one. I must confess that I had a mistaken idea when I went down to see these two men about their Puny War. I thought to find two people who had not learned the great lesson of civilization—compromise. Instead I found two men, seeming prosaic, business-like men; but in the small area of an office, to reach which one must descend a few steps below the pavement, there is the heroic spectacle of brave men devoted to principle and to the good of others.

Do you suppose Front really cares that the door be closed except from an unselfish desire to make others comfortable?

Do you fancy for a moment that Rear insists upon the door's being open for his own sake?

One might as well believe these two grown men willing to sacrifice themselves physically and financially to the juggernaut, "Having His Own Way." One might as justly attribute to them the qualities which make a passionate, headstrong child rush blindly on to punishment and a balky horse endure agony rather than obey.

A holy stillness reigns in the office at 224 Montgomery street. Clerks pass in and out, fastidiously careful not to leave the door open behind them if it was closed; not to close it if it was open. The casual visitor or those who enter on business, all unaware of the significance attached to that dread door, are watched narrowly, so that not the smallest evidence of partisanship shall go undetected. It would not surprise me if Rear, in his determination to conquer, removes the door from its hinges. I should not be at all amazed if Front is reported to have nailed that door closed. The greatest generals have resorted to strategy.

In the meantime the door serves as a barometer for the rest of the business men in that part of town. It marks not only the atmospheric pressure, but it foretells and is evidence of storms, material and mental. As the stock market is rather dull at present those business pugilists, the bulls and bears, have taken to watching the opening and closing of the door. Fortunes will be made and lost, as in the old days when the Comstock was in its glory. Shares will be sold short, and bulls will inflate the values, now of Rear stock, now of Front. Messenger-boys will be kept busy running up to 224 Montgomery to report the present status of affairs, and bets will be made not only upon the final outcome, but upon the aspect it may present from time to time. At last accounts the solid business men of Montgomery street, as well as the more enterprising ones, were discussing the advisability of connecting the seat of war with the rest of the world by means of a special telegraph station, and in the near future it is probable that poolrooms for the accommodation of the wagering public will be opened in every large city of the Union.

* * *

The door is still open.
Later—The door is closed.
Latest—The door is open.

MIRIAM MICHELSON.

FLASHES OF FUN.

"I never shall love again," he cried;
"Ah, yes you will," said she:
"A year from now you will wonder how
You could ever have worshiped me."

He went his way—when a year had passed
He had learned to love again,
And it made the the girl who had sent him hence
"As mad as a settin' hen." —Chicago News.

"So she jilted you?"

"Yes, and then married my son, who is depending on me for everything."—Judy.

"One touch of nature, you know, old man—"

"Of course, of course; but you're not nature, and consequently I refuse to be touched."

Thus the promptness with which he saw the point saved him.—Chicago Post.

"I see," said the shoe clerk boarder, "that there is a king in Africa who has been drunk for fifteen years."

"That," said the Cheerful Idiot, "is what might be called a soaking reign."—Indianapolis Journal.

Love is a grand sweet song,
E'en in the case of her
Who can't love to the tune of anything less
Than $10,000 per. —Detroit Journal.

"Why is it that Chumpley always buys another new gun at the opening of the game season?"

"Because the one he had the year before never killed anything."—Detroit Free Press.

Figg—But what possible objection could the order have had to electing Colonel Jones as ancient patriarch?

Fogg—Oh, the majority of the members thought the duties of the place demanded a younger man.—Judge.

MONEY IN ABUNDANCE.

Indianapolis Journal.

The fact that the Government of France proposes to reduce the interest on its vast volume of bonds from 3 to 2½ per cent proves that money was never so plentiful as at the present time.

PEOPLE TALKED ABOUT.

Rev. Thomas Ewing Sherman, the priest son of General William Tecumseh Sherman, says that his duties have compelled him to travel over 100,000 miles in the last two years.

When Goethe was first in love he went into the forest, selected a beautiful tree, engraved thereon two hearts united by a scroll, and received from the forester therefor a sound thrashing.

Within one week Paris sheltered three monarchs—King Alexandria of Servia, King Leopold II of the Belgians and King Chulalongkorn of Siam. All three maintained the strictest incognito.

Hon. James G. Bailey, whom the Republicans of Kentucky nominated for Clerk of the Court of Appeals—the solitary general officer to be chosen at the coming election—is only 29 years of age.

Judge Davis, a cold-blooded iconoclast and antiquarian of Plymouth, Mass., actually says that he does not think the Mayflower brought over a single armchair, for it was a little craft of only 180 tons and carried 101 passengers besides the crew.

Dr. Peate, says London Knowledge, has completed the process of grinding and polishing a gigantic disc of glass over sixty-one inches in diameter, on which he has been engaged more than two years. By the aid of this mirror a hair can be seen at a distance of 1,000 feet, and the reflection of the moon at the focal point would be absolutely blinding.

The proposal to erect a memorial to Robert Louis Stevenson in Edinburgh, his native city, has led to the formation of a committee, headed by Lord Roseberry. Among the other members are Messrs. Sydney Colvin, George Meredith and J. M. Barrie. An American branch committee has been formed and a circular issued appealing for subscriptions. The memorial is to take the shape of a "statue, bust or medallion, with such architectural or sculpturesque accompaniment as may be desirable."

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

THE BROOKLYN BRIDGE—H. M., Oakland, Cal. The Brooklyn (N. Y.) bridge was commenced January 2, 1870, and was formally opened May 24, 1883.

ELEVATED RAILWAY—H. M., Oakland, Cal. The New York elevated railway, of which the Ninth-avenue road is a part, was commenced in 1867, and the road was opened in 1878.

AN ACCIDENT OF LONG AGO—F. S. B., City. Thomas Burns was run over by a truck owned by Merry, Faull & Co., at Bay and Webster streets and killed on the morning of the 25th of March, 1884.

FLEA BITES—G. G. F., Pacheco, Contra Costa County, Cal. Moistened bicarbonate of soda applied to a flea bite has in many cases relieved an individual of the pain following a puncture of the flesh by one of the biters.

SAN FRANCISCO'S POPULATION—F. J. B., City. The population of San Francisco is estimated at this time at 335,000, and according to the estimate of other cities of the United States it ranks as tenth in population. According to the census of 1890 it ranked as eighth.

THE DAKOTAS—C. O. K., City. The principal cities in North Dakota are: Fargo, Grand Forks, Jamestown, Bismarck, Grafton, Wahpeton, Mandau and Valley City. The principal cities of South Dakota are: Sioux Fall, Yankton, Pierre, Aberdeen, Huron, Waterton, Lead City, Deadwood, Mitchell and Rapid City.

A MINERAL VEIN—Mining, Carters, Cal. If the land into which a vein is formed runs into ground that had previous to the discovery of the vein been deeded by the Government to the holder, the discoverer of the vein on adjacent territory would not have the right to enter upon the private property of the individual to whom the land had been deeded. That is the general rule, but as the case is not clearly stated in the letter of inquiry the matter ought to be referred to the nearest land office.

CALIFORNIA CITIES—C. O. K., City. The population of cities in the State of California at this time is very uncertain, for the reason that there has not been a late census taken. It may be stated, however, that the cities, ten in number, having the largest population rank as follows: San Francisco, Los Angeles, Oakland, Sacramento, San Jose, San Diego, Stockton, Alameda, Fresno and Grass Valley.

DIVORCE—H. A. S., City. In an action for divorce in the State of California if a defendant is out of the State service by publication must be for at least two months, and not less than once a week. If the residence of the defendant is known a copy of the summons must be mailed to his address. If there is no answer a judgment by default may be asked for, but that cannot be done until a reasonable time has elapsed. The time is determined by the court.

CITIZENSHIP — J. D. B., City. This correspondent writes: "The father is English, the mother French, and while sailing from France to the United States on a French vessel a child was born to them, that is before reaching United States territory. It was the intention at the time of the parents to become citizens of the United States. Was that child a French citizen?" The child was a native of France and was a French citizen, remaining such until the father became a citizen of the United States, for the naturalization of the father carries with it the naturalization of the minor children if living in the country at the time. Section 2172 of the Revised Statutes of the United States says: "The children of persons who have been duly naturalized under any law of the United States * * * being under the age of 21 years at the time of the naturalization of their parents, shall, if dwelling in the United States, be considered as citizens thereof."

CHEAP AND SILLY.

Pittsburg Dispatch.

While the alien ownership of farms is not a satisfactory feature, the fact is that it does not include 2 per cent of the arable lands in the United States, while, except in the Southern States, where the relics of the slave-holding era are still found in the land systems, over 80 per cent of the farms—and practically all those producing wheat—are cultivated by the owners. The assertion that foreign landholders get the benefit of the wheat raise is, therefore, the product of a cheap and silly imagination.

BIG FIGURES.

Baltimore American.

There are over 450,000 miles of railway in operation in the world, and, according to Robert P. Porter, the century will close with over 500,000. Of the present number, just about one-half are in this country. The cost of railroads all over the world, thus far, has been $36,685,000,000, and it is estimated that the street railways cost $2,500,000,000. The railroads employ almost 5,000,000 of people. These are big figures, but the railroads represent a vast interest in the world's wealth.

CONVICTION MAKES CONVERTS.

New York Times.

No man can carry another away by the force of an enthusiasm which he himself does not feel. You may counterfeit emotion and make people weep real tears at the sight of your sham ones, but you cannot produce the kind of conviction that makes converts, either in politics or religion, unless you have first convinced yourself that what you say is true.

A MICHIGAN INNOVATION.

Kansas City Star.

Now that the potato crop is harvested Governor Pingree has tackled the railroads, and will force them to comply with the new law in Michigan which compels them to sell mileage tickets for $20 good for two years and without the fuss and feathers which formerly made them valueless to the purchaser.

THE SAME OLD EXCUSE.

Cleveland Leader.

The Queen Regent of Spain smokes an average of thirty cigarettes a day. We understand that she does this only because the King has a great fondness for the pictures that come in the packages.

SHADES OF T. JEFFERSON.

St. Paul Pioneer Press.

If Thomas Jefferson is keeping tab on all the different kinds of Democracy that refer themselves to him in these days, he must wonder what sort of chaff got mixed with the seed he planted.

CALIFORNIA glace fruits, 50c lb. Townsend's.

SPECIAL information daily to manufacturers, business houses and public men by the Press Clipping Bureau (Allen's), 510 Montgomery.

NEW frames, new moldings, new lamps, new tables, new leather goods, new pictures and new stationery. Everybody cordially invited to see the new things. Sanborn, Vail & Co. 741 Market street.

Thomas F. Pendel, a quiet, unobtrusive man, now visiting Boston, is the sole surving member of the bodyguard of Abraham Lincoln.

John Philip Sousa, the famous composer, said recently: "After a continuous struggle, extending over nearly a score of years, I have finally succeeded in living down the title of 'professor,' which was bestowed on me as a mark of esteem by unthinking friends in my younger days."

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