The Call

TUESDAY.....FEBRUARY 8, 1898

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AMUSEMENTS.

Baldwin—"Girl from Paris."
California Theater—Black Patti's Troubadours.
Alcazar—"Charley's Aunt."
Morosco's—"The Unknown."
Tivoli—"The Pearl of Pekin."
Orpheum—Vaudeville.
Olympia, corner Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.
The Chutes—Chiquita and Vaudeville.
Mechanics' Pavilion—Mining Fair and Klondike Exposition.
California Jockey Club, Oakland Racetrack—Races to-day.

AUCTION SALES.

By Easton & Eldridge—This day, February 8, Turkish Rugs, at 625 Sutter street at 2:30 and 8 P. M.
By Frank W. Butterfield—This day, February 8, Turkish Rugs, at 116 Sutter street, at 11 A. M. and 2 and 8 P. M.

CHALLENGED BY THE MORMONS.

CONGRESSMAN KING of Utah is a Mormon, and proud of it. On behalf of his faith he has thrown down the gauntlet to the orthodox churches and thus won the approval of his own and the chance of re-election.

There is no other church which so thoroughly mixes business, politics and religion as does the Mormon. While it has much good in its creed, and much which according to generally accepted tenets is bad, it cannot be denied that it is perfect in organization. The head of the Mormon church is more respected in Utah than the head of the National Government. The fiat of the land is of less weight than the officially expressed wish of the man who holds the place once held by Brigham Young. When the church tells an adherent to do a certain thing he does it. There is no thought of questioning the wisdom of the decree. Yet it could be desired that the Mormon church, like other churches, might attend to its business. It has no right to be a dictator in politics. It has no warrant for obeying laws under protest, and teaching that its own laws are more to be respected than those enacted for the whole people. Congressman King must not overlook the fact that he was elected for other purposes than to glorify the church, albeit therein he is an ornament and a shining light.

THE SCHOOL SCANDAL.

IF it be true, as charged, that certain members of the Board of Education have engaged in the business of selling places in the department, no punishment prescribed by the law is sufficiently severe for them. Hanging is too good for a man who will accept the sacred trust of School Director and betray it. Such a man, in order that he may pocket a few filthy dollars, would corrupt the morals of a generation of youth and sow the seeds of dishonesty where the rank resultant growth may never be exterminated.

In advance of an investigation or a public trial, perhaps an opinion cannot be properly expressed as to the truth or falsity of the charges which have been preferred against two School Directors in this city. But it must be said that the allegations of the accusers bear all the marks of circumstantiality, and are in strict accord with the probabilities. In a general way the public will believe that a man who as School Director will make places for all his relatives in the department will also sell positions when he gets a chance. Foisting one's ignorant and disqualified relations upon the schools is not any more creditable than selling the places they fill to qualified persons. In both cases it is a boodle proposition, and in each case the result is to degrade the service and drag the schools through the political mire.

Probably a determined attempt will be made in the Grand Jury to whitewash these accused School Directors. This will be the case whether they are guilty or not. But even if probable cause is found against them by the Grand Jury the difficulty of proving such charges in court nearly always enables the culprits to escape with everything except their reputations. The great problem that confronts the people, therefore, in connection with this affair, is not how to get rid of dishonest School Directors, but how to provide a remedy for their corruption. To convict and to send to prison the entire present Board of Education would not prevent a repetition of the offenses charged. In November next another board is to be elected, which, under the present system, will probably contain more boodlers anxious to gather a profit out of their trust. Even if the people should make a special effort to get honest Directors next time, at some subsequent election the boodlers will again appear on the scene.

Evidently corruption in the School Department has its root in machine politics. So long as the men chosen to conduct the schools are selected by political conventions from the ignorant and selfish members of the community, so long will they be dragged in the mud and continue to be the football of corrupt politicians. What should be done with the School Department is to take it out of politics. This might be done by conferring the appointment of three or five Directors for long terms upon the Mayor and paying them a moderate salary for their work. Experience has proved that Boards of Education should not be elected in this city. If the Freeholders now in session do not adopt a provision which will take the schools out of politics, they may anticipate the disgraceful defeat of the instrument they are framing.

Somebody thoughtlessly accused this paper of getting after the corruption of school boards in other cities and overlooking the corruption in its own. Well, if there is any corruption it is overlooking near home it is because local experts have been successful in concealing it.

If, as stated in the daily news, Uncle Sam holds the key to the situation in the East, he would better hang on to it. Somebody with less qualification as a custodian might secure it and monkey with the lock.

IS ANNEXATION REPUBLICAN IN PRINCIPLE?

THERE is something more than the alliance with Gorman to put Republicans to thinking on the relation of annexation to the principles of their party. Under the Government which was overthrown, for Dole's benefit, by the United States in 1893, there were about 16,000 qualified voters in Hawaii. They were by its constitution the makers of the Government. They elected its legislative body and its judiciary. We had recognized them in their capacity as electors by entering into treaties ratified by the Senate which they elected, and by diplomatic relations with the Government which their votes instituted and maintained. Under the Government of the oligarchy which we made possible, these electors are disfranchised. Their places have been taken by about 2500 men, a considerable number of them being adventurers new to the islands who went there since 1893, attracted by the opportunities for plunder and piracy always to be found where government is subject to revolutionary changes. Conniving with this limited number of electors, and with a Government upon the form and functions of which even they have not been permitted to vote, we propose by annexation to force a people resistant and unwilling into our system in spite of their protests. Members of the Republican party are told that this is a party measure and their allegiance binds them therefore to its support.

Now no measure can be a party measure that is not justified by party principles. Every political party has certain fixed principles. These are its reasons for being. The Republican platform came into existence on a platform of principles every one of which is antagonized by Hawaiian annexation.

After the admission of California to the Union as a free State, there was a struggle to maintain the sectional balance in the Senate by dragging Kansas in as a slave State. War broke out in that territory. Federal power was on the side of the slaveholders, but a majority of the people of Kansas were for a free State. In this situation it became necessary to suppress the expression of the majority and force the State into the Union in defiance of the popular will. This was attempted by the Lecompton constitution, and then the Republican party, loosely organized in 1856, suddenly advanced to a first position as a defender of human rights.

No better statement of the issue was made than that by James G. Blaine in his speech in Farmington, Me., in 1860. After describing the issue made in 1856, he concentrated the entire contention in this sentence:

"The contest goes on and has been deepened by the atrocious effort to compel Kansas to enter the Union under the fraudulent constitution made at Lecompton against the will and wish of her people."

Has the old spirit died out? Remembering the early principles of his party, what Republican can reconcile with them the forcing of Hawaii into the Union against the will and wish of her people?

When considered as a violation of national policy and of party principles and with a train of evils following it, it is no overstatement of the case to declare that annexation is the most repulsive proposition ever made to the people of this country.

THE CORRUPTION OF YOUTH.

AMONG the offenses known to Athenian law and punishable by death was that of corrupting the morals of the young. Against no class of offenders was the public sentiment of Athens more resolute and determined. It was under that law Socrates was put to death. Neither his splendid intellect, his personal virtues, nor the potent influence of powerful friends could save the philosopher when once his enemies had succeeded in convincing the people that by his teachings and his example he was "a corrupter of youth."

Under our law we have no such specific offense as that of corrupting youth. There is no penalty against it as such. Even when carried on by practices which violate statutes and ordinances we allow it a large toleration. It seems at times, so indifferent is public opinion on the subject, as if the youth of the city were regarded as of no value. A thousand corrupting influences are permitted to be spread about the streets to entice the young, and so careless are the public officials in respect to it that it requires persistent and vehement urging to induce them to arrest an offender even when in his viciousness he has openly defied the law.

A striking illustration of the extent to which the corruption of youth is permitted in San Francisco by practices in violation of law is to be seen in the multitude of downtown pool rooms where young men and boys, and occasionally even young women, are enticed to gamble away their earnings, and tempted to steal in order to gamble more. A city ordinance forbids the running of such places. To maintain one is to violate the law even if none but grown men resorted to it. Nevertheless they are more than tolerated by the community and its officers. The nefarious trade is carried on without a pretense at concealment, with insolence as well as with infamy.

It is gratifying to note that the pastors of our churches are not among those who regard the corruption of youth in these pool rooms with toleration or indifference. More than once the churches have spoken in earnest warning and indignant protest against the evil. At one time in cordial co-operation with The Call they took up the issue with such force and vigor that a public sentiment was aroused which compelled the closing of the pool shops. As soon as the storm blew over, however, the trade began again and proceeded until now it is conducted as openly and notoriously as ever.

One more a concerted and combined effort must be made to put an end to the evil. If there be any defects in the law let it be remedied. If any lack of zeal on the part of the police let that be seen to. The wrong is one of the most pernicious which affects our civil life. As was well said by the Rev. William Rader on Sunday:

"It is time that the ministers of the gospel should rise up and assist the authorities in their fight for purity and right. Women are forced to remove their hats in theaters, Chinamen are forced to quit gambling and stray dogs are caught and put to death, but the pool-room evil lives on. And murderers, drunkards, broken homes, blighted hopes, ruined young men and women and poverty are its children."

Certain contemporaries seem to be not pleased with the language employed in describing the capture of the Dixon murderer. Their disapproval is not unnatural, and yet the burden of their displeasure is not grievous to be borne. We scan their columns vainly for a description of the affair in language either good, bad or indifferent. Perhaps this fact is the basis of their sorrow.

Evidently the vigilantes of the far north have not been educated up to the '49 standard. The report that they have permitted a murderer to be rescued by "Soapy" Smith is a surprise. Vigilantes really keyed to the proper pitch would have hailed the interference as a glorious opportunity to hang Soapy.

ATTENTION, REPUBLICANS.

THROUGHOUT the East in nearly all the States where the result of coming Congressional elections is regarded as at all doubtful, the Republicans are making ready for the campaign. The preliminary work of organization has begun, clubs are being formed, workers are being enrolled in all counties, and steps taken to awaken the spirit of the rank and file so that when the contest opens the party will be ready to enter upon the fight at once with vim and vigor.

This wisely directed action in the East should be imitated in California. This State, though reasonably safe for protection and sound money, is by no means assured. Of our seven members of the present Congress only three are Republicans. When it is remembered that these Congressmen were elected in the year of a Presidential campaign, when the full party vote was brought out in almost every section of the State, it will be seen the result does not incline to overconfidence. To carry districts that were lost in '96 and to elect at least five out of seven Congressmen this fall will require a long contest fought arduously from first to last.

The Democratic State Central Committee has already held a meeting and started the ball rolling in that party. In several Congressional districts one or more Democratic campaign clubs have been formed in the interest of popular candidates. The silver men, who in this issue are virtually all Democrats, though some of them still style themselves Silver Republicans, have perfected a strong organization in the southern part of the State and are actively at work increasing the membership of their clubs and winning converts where they can. The enemy, in fact, is alert along the whole line.

It is time for Republicans to be at least as active as their opponents. It will be folly to wait for the campaign to open before we prepare for it. In every Congressional district and every county the work of organizing clubs should begin forthwith. As the dominant party in the nation the Republicans will be expected to take the initiative in the contest of the fall, and for that reason they should begin now to arrange for a State convention at a comparatively early date, so that full time will be given afterward for carrying vigorous war into the Democratic Congressional districts and electing Republicans there.

A JAPANESE INVASION.

REPORTS from Hawaii are to the effect that a syndicate in Japan is arranging to transport about 5000 Japanese laborers to the Klondike gold diggings this summer. Most of the laborers are to be taken, it is said, from coolies now employed in the Hawaiian Islands, but considerable numbers will, of course, be carried direct from Japan itself; and it is equally a matter of course that if the venture prove profitable this year, there will be a large increase in the number sent to the diggings in the following season.

As the coolies are to be taken to Canadian territory, and as the syndicate, it is said, will arrange to transport them without landing on American soil, the matter is one with which we cannot directly interfere. It is for the Canadian Government to decide whether or no the proposed Asiatic invasion of the gold fields will be permitted. If Canada consents to admit the coolies to free competition with her white miners, then the United States will have to watch the Alaskan mining districts carefully, for once established on the Klondike it will be easy for the Japanese to spread over the whole Yukon Valley.

European aggression on the Chinese coast makes much noise and attracts the attention of the whole world. A thousand diplomatists and ten thousand newspapers are kept busy in giving warnings of the disasters likely to result from that invasion. Nevertheless it is doubtful if the accomplishment of all that Russia and Germany aim at on the coast of China would so seriously affect civilization as would a free admission of coolies to any part of the Pacific Coast of America. The one invasion goes forward with a beating of drums and the roar of guns of mighty warships, while the other is as silent as the spreading of a pestilence, but the pestilence is more terrible than the battle.

The white man and the yellow man are face to face in a struggle for supremacy on both sides of the Pacific. While the white man of Europe aims at political domination in Asia, the yellow man aims at industrial domination on the American coast. The Chinese and the Japanese are hereditary foes, but in this issue they work together with a common will, and the exclusion of the one will be futile if the other be admitted.

The people of the United States have therefore a great, though indirect, interest in the proposed introduction of coolie labor into the Klondike. The home of no man is safe when pestilence has found its way to the house of his next-door neighbor. Coolie labor in the upper Yukon Valley will sooner or later affect the white miner who develops the placers in the United States territory lower down.

The issue is one of growing importance, because the danger of an Asiatic industrial invasion of the American coast increases with the years. Even under present conditions it has been found impossible to wholly exclude Chinese from the country. It is easy to see that the difficulty of guarding the white labor of the Union will be much greater if Hawaii is annexed, or if coolie labor gets a footing in Alaska. The issue at present is in the hands of Canada, but so far as the Government or the people of the United States can do so, they should exert every influence to prevent the consummation of the Japanese scheme.

The German Government invited us to make a display of our fruit at the Hamburg Exposition, which we did with such success that the German people demanded large quantities of it. Now the Government proposes to shut it out on the ground that it is unsanitary. This is what we get for sending abroad such fine fruit as to make the foreign growers feel sick at the very sight of it.

According to the view taken by himself the latest man to shoot his wife in Oakland is crazy. Possibly he is an expert in the matter, and yet the probability that he is prejudiced is too reasonable to be overlooked. In either case any interference with his scheme of starving to death seems to be immaterial and irrelevant.

Prisoners in the City Jail complain that they do not get enough to eat, and if they do not, they have good right to make a fuss about it. They cannot reasonably expect to be fed on pie nor furnished with napkins, but bread is inexpensive.

"What conflict with Spain actually means," is the recent theme of a diplomat. He devoted to its consideration an unnecessary amount of words. Everybody knows it means that Spain would get a worse licking than it has ever experienced.

A Board of Education should have something more to do than furnish citizens an opportunity to be ashamed, and the Grand Jury a subject to investigate.

ON THE MERRY MADNESS OF GENTLEMEN WHO MALTREAT THEIR WIVES.

The latest fad among husbands is not wholly original. It's a variation upon the old doctrine that a good wife is all the better for a good beating. The rule is nowadays, catch your wife, administer the beating or the murder—according to the degree of provocation—and then promptly become insane.

John Lynn of Oakland casually called his wife's attention to something occurring out in the street. Then he carefully emptied the contents of his revolver into her body.

"The Lord told me to do it," he said, and then subsided into wordless insanity.

D. C. Vanier of 1113 Jones street in this city brutally beat his little wife, and when she complained and made trouble for him, he beat her again for objecting to being beaten. Vanier, too, followed the Scriptural injunction about casting all one's burdens upon the Lord. And then he became garrulously insane.

Steiva, an Italian over in Berkeley, is a follower of the prevailing mode. He had long abused his wife. A week ago she complained to one of her neighbors that her husband was trying to kill her. If that were true, he succeeded; for she died Monday last after struggling in convulsions for forty-eight hours.

I don't know whether Steiva will claim divine instigation, but as surely as he's arrested and accused of the crime, he'll become insane, too.

These are only a few cases happening in so many days. But they are the Paris fashions in murders, the advanvce sheets, so to speak, of the new spring designs. It therefore behooves the up-to-date husband to study with care these artistic productions, in order to work out appropriately the special kind of wife-beating or wife-murdering that may suit the degree of his ferocity and of her offense.

As to this last, gentlemen will be glad to know that much patience is not required on the part of the husband in the very latest marital code. A comparatively small sin on the part of the wife is all that is necessary.

Husbands will readily understand that the new fad is merely a survival of the beautiful old idea that wives are property, like one's furniture or one's horse. If, my dear sir, your old arm chair, in which you have sat and smoked so comfortably and so long, were to rise against you and decline longer to bear your weight, you would be justly incensed, and if the concoction of wood and springs could feel, you—if you would follow the latest style in husbands—would certainly administer corporeal punishment. Just as you do when your horse tries your temper.

It is treason, then, against the most sacred rights of husbands for wives to object to punishment. For to question the justice of the husband's decree is to question his supremacy. And where can you find bloodier treason than that?

It is high treason, punishable by death, for a wife to leave her husband. The petty excuses she may proffer are irrelevant, immaterial and incompetent. If she weary of non-support, if she tire of wrangling and bickering, if she be fastidious about intemperance or any other of the manly vices, she presumes to be human. And to be human and a wife at the same time is utterly out of the question, if the new decree of fashion is to be followed.

I would recommend to diligent students, anxious to qualify in the new school of nuptial ethics, the case of Mr. John W. Lynn of Oakland. Mr. Vanier, unfortunately, has no diploma, Judge Low having sentenced him to six months in the House of Correction—for the awkwardness with which he simulated insanity, presumably. Signor Steiva is not yet a graduate, as the Coroner is only now investigating Signora Steiva's death. But Mr. Lynn is an adept, having had unequaled opportunities in the insane asylums at Utica and at Agnews for studying just this most important branch of a husband's education—how to feign insanity.

Of course, it may be possible that Mr. Lynn's mastery of the subject is not that of the amateur, but of the professional. But if his insanity be not feigned, it must be real, wherefore it is more and more worthy of study.

I saw John Lynn in the jail at Oakland Saturday. Since his arrest he has spoken no word. His lips move continually, and if one listens closely he can hear disjointed sentences and numberless repetitions of phrases. "O Lord! O Lord!" he whispers. I remembere a lunatic of my acquaintance who punctuated the babel of sound that came up from the yard in which the insane were kept, with this same "O Lord! O Lord!" spoken in as many different tones as there were moods to this poor—bona fide—madman's despair. But to the everlasting repetition of Lynn's words there is not the slightest tinge of expression. The physicians have tested his nerves and his endurance. They have subjected him to what would cause a normal man acute physical pain. But Lynn did not wince. Yet his jailer, who has watched him closely, believes him to be sane, and he has the testimony of the two men who never leave Lynn.

Lynn was lying upon a cot. He had been sleeping, or pretending to sleep, all morning. To rouse him, the jailer had to shout in his ear and literally drag him to a sitting posture. This sort of collapse is the latest stage of Lynn's insanity. He appears to be an inert bundle of flesh, a little man, growing bald, with scanty brown hair and a face that looks absurdly immature. His hands lie feebly in each other. His head was bent and from his rapidly moving lips only the faintest whispers fell.

No spoken word seems to penetrate to this man's consciousness. He leans heavily upon those who support him, falling back limply as soon as the support is withdrawn. It was only when his wife's name was mentioned that one could tell that he was not wholly unconscious of the presence of those who for a few minutes filled the little cell.

"Your wife will live. Are you glad of it?"

"Yes—yes—yes-s-s—" and a nodding of the sessile head.

But Lynn's jailers will tell you that it wasn't an answer, that from this man's lips the hissing "yes-s-s" falls continually, and that the head bobs weakly just as the body appears to be on the verge of disintegration.

But Lynn did answer, though perhaps not in words. When the words "your wife," were spoken there was a quick start of the arm the jailer held. Lynn hears, whichever of his other senses have left him.

Once the jailer helped him to raise his heavy head which hung animal-like from his short neck. And then the weak face with its additional weakness of an utter lack of expression, with its wandering pale blue eyes, uncontrolled by the muscles, rolling gently as an infant's eyes do, seemed that of an idiot.

But John Lynn, despite the excellent opportunities he has had for studying the vagaries of insanity, cannot continue his role—if it be a role—for any length of time. The fearful strain which such an impersonation must necessitate will culminate in making of the actor that which he pretends to be. If this would-be murderer is not insane now, he will become so if he continue to act the part so well. And if he be already unbalanced, his present weakness, bodily and mental, his utter collapse will be transformed into the violence and insane vigor of the raving maniac.

In either case he is recommended to the patient study of husbands of the Lynn sort.

MIRIAM MICHELSON.

COLLECTED IN THE CORRIDORS

A. Alexander, a large rancher of Watsonville, is at the Baldwin.

F. J. Brandon, ex-clerk of the Senate, is at the Grand from his home in San Jose.

F. A. Johnson, a prominent business man of Toronto, Canada, is registered at the Lick.

Henderson Hayward, a leading merchant of Los Angeles, is a guest at the Occidental.

W. H. Tobey, a big railroad man of Carson City, is staying at the Palace with his daughter.

C. R. Scott, a leading merchant and politician of Portland, Or., is on the register of the Occidental.

State Senator C. M. Simpson of Pasadena has come up to the city on a short business trip and is at the Grand.

A YELLOW JOURNAL SCOOP.

When the recent scandals connected with the Board of Supervisors and the School Directors were first published by The Call the effect of the news was to cause every office in the City Hall to swarm with reporters from the scooped papers the next day, in the forlorn hope that something might possibly be found that had been overlooked by their hustling rival.

As District Attorney Barnes was away on a trip in the southern part of the State the supreme authority of the office was represented by his assistant, Mr. Hosmer. That gentleman had hardly seated himself in his chair on the morning spoken of when his office boy entered with the announcement that waiting without was a representative of a Mission street publication devoted to fiction, who said he must see the Assistant District Attorney, as he had a very important question to put to him which his paper intended publishing exclusively the next day. The scribe was admitted, when the following conversation ensued:

"Good morning, Mr. Hosmer. I have come to tell you that a red-hot story has been dug up in the Board of Supervisors."

"So I see," said Hosmer.

"What do you think they will do about it?"

"I have not the slightest idea."

"Well, what I called to particularly ask was, What will you do if the matter is taken before the Grand Jury?"

"Why, I will do what I would in any other case—perform my duty to the best of my ability," replied the Assistant District Attorney.

"Would you mind putting that on paper?" again queried the visitor. "You see, my editor told me this time he wanted a story based on facts."

"I have not the slightest objection to putting my name to such a statement," replied Mr. Hosmer. Whereupon he did so, and the reporter hurried away with the happy glow of anticipated triumph mantling his features and the light of an exclusive story beaming from his shrewd eyes.

Captain J. L. Coster, manager of the Spreckels refinery at Watsonville, is registered at the Grand from that place.

T. G. Johnson, a well-known mining man and vineyardist of San Jose, is at the Lick for a short stay in the city.

Colonel J. F. Gaynor, W. F. Gaynor and Eugene Hughes constitute a party of well-known New York society men on a visit to the coast who are at the Palace.

Dr. W. H. Davis, formerly a well-known physician of New York, but now heavily interested in Klondike business schemes, is at the California. His present visit to the city is for the purpose of securing, if possible, ships for the Alaska Skaguay Gold Mining and Transportation Company, of which he is the organizer.

S. T. St. George Cany, a wealthy Englishman on a sightseeing tour of the United States, is one of yesterday's arrivals at the Palace.

A STORY OF WOUNDED VANITY.

There is in this city a gentleman whose many accomplishments make him one of the leading men of the place. He stands high in professional and financial circles, while his mentality and education cause him to be a welcome guest wherever literary and artistic people congregate. Yet, with all these attributes, he has one weakness which overshadows all else and which he can never resist indulging. That weakness is to be considered the model of all that is proper and conventional, according to the standard of our English cousins. If the Prince of Wales had his hair cut today this gentleman would be found in the barber's to-morrow; while the information that his footwear did not conform to the latest thing in Piccadilly would send him walking on his hands until the terrible defect had been remedied.

Not long ago he had a carriage built after a pattern of his own, which he declared was the only thing fit for a gentleman to drive in, and which was being used by the aristocracy abroad, to the exclusion of all other styles of turnout for road work. When the vehicle was received it proved to be an affair that looked like a cross between a roller-coaster and a spider threshing-machine, painted in colors vivid enough to cause any passing dog a bad attack of nervous prostration.

The first day he used it he drove down to the Palace Hotel to make a call, and left the rig in charge of a friend while he went inside. When he returned he found two unmistakable English swells gazing with rapt admiration on his new acquisition. Motionless, with gratified vanity, he stood on one side, not wishing to disturb them, when suddenly they turned toward him, and one said: "Tell me, me good fellow, is that curious-looking thing what you Westerners call a buckboard?"

The answer that was received left an odor of sulphur in the air, while the team departed at a gait that awoke the policeman quietly slumbering on the corner and set him trying to remember if there was not some sort of an ordinance against fast driving.

E. S. Barnly, a mining man of Amador, is at the Palace.

F. G. Baker, a capitalist of San Jose, is a guest at the California.

James O'Neill, ex-Sheriff of Sacramento, is staying at the Grand.

Lieutenant J. H. Holcome, U. S. N., registered at the Occidental last evening.

Thomas Flint, State Senator from San Juan, was one of those to register at the Palace yesterday.

W. S. Bethen, a well-known mining man and politician of Denver, was one of last night's arrivals at the California.

J. H. Rearman of Los Angeles and A. B. Rodman of Woodland arrived in the city last evening and went to the Occidental.

Jacob H. Neff, president of the State Miners' Association, arrived in the city on a business trip yesterday and went to the Palace.

J. Friday, a large distiller of Pittsburg, is at the Palace, with his wife. They are making a tour of pleasure through the State.

M. Reis, one of the largest theatrical men in New York and probably the most widely known man in the business in the United States, is at the Baldwin on a pleasure trip. Mr. Reis, who has been shown everything by the theatrical people of the city and who has been largely entertained by the foremost Hebrew families of this place, will return to his home in a day or two, carrying with him the impression that the hospitality of California cannot be surpassed.

Albert W. Wishard, United States District Attorney for Indiana, and L. P. Newby, a Senator from the same State, who have been at the Grand for the past week, will leave on Thursday next for their home by the way of Salt Lake City and Denver. During their stay here they have been largely entertained. On Monday evening they were the guests of Mr. and Mrs. S. B. Carlton at the Hotel Savoy and participated in a theater party, which wound up the evening.

DISTRICT IRRIGATION

To the Editor of The Call: The greatest need of the State to-day is an intelligent development of her agricultural resources. These resources are practically unlimited. The State can be made to furnish food and clothing in great abundance for the entire present population of the United States, with enough to sell to bring in all the foreign luxuries the wildest fancy could desire. I have known Chinamen to grow vegetables for sale to farmers and realize $1000 an acre. These Chinamen used both irrigation and fertilization—in other words, intelligence. The State is nearly all arid or semi-arid, and needs an intelligent use of water for irrigation. We have no system of irrigation, and that fact is a libel on our intelligence as a people.

When water was first diverted from streams for this purpose there were those who applied to the courts for the enforcement of what is known as riparian rights—which means that the man at the mouth of the river has a right to see all the water go by him undiminished in quantity and unpolluted in quality. This conflict went on for years, and millions of property rights were built on no better foundation than the sufferance of the man down the stream, or at best on shotgun law. Men from one end of the State to the other worried over this condition and met in conventions to devise a way out of the difficulty, and finally it was agreed to ask the Legislature to create districts with the powers of a public corporation, so as to bring every claimant of every kind into court and have his damages assessed. From 1884 to 1887 this phase of the problem was discussed more than all other questions combined. In 1885 a committee appointed by a convention held in Fresno prepared with great care a district bill that passed the Assembly, but it was defeated by the use of money in the Senate. Other conventions were held and an extra session of the Legislature was called, but the proper amount of intelligence or patriotism or honesty was lacking and it came to naught. Public opinion, however, had crystallized in favor of the district system, and at the session of 1887 there was no opposition to a district bill. It was most unfortunate that the same bill was not passed, but one was passed which, though very crude, was correct in principle. But it was not destined to go into operation without the old enemy appearing against it. The large landowners, who wanted to own the water as well, had the ear of the banks and the money power. The bonds were attacked before issued and thoughtless men everywhere were urged to oppose it. The courts at first sustained the system, but finally, on the most flimsy pretexts, knocked it all over.

Now the first great, crying need of California is a system of irrigation. We have great valleys of magnificent land, with climate unexcelled in the world, and these valleys are bordered around with mountains adown whose sides flow the life-giving water. An insignificant amount of labor will put the land and the water together, with a result more astounding than any Arabian tale; and all that is wanted is intelligence enough to make a system. Is it in California?

W. S. GREEN, Editor Colusa Sun.

SAN FRANCISCANS IN PARIS.

PARIS, Feb. 7.—The following San Franciscans are in this city: Mr. Adams, Mr. Armstin, Mme. Berthe, Miss Dillon, Mr. Doran, Emile Durer, Mr. Hutchinson, Mr. Leven, Mr. Mayer, Mr. Morse and wife, Miss Odoris, Mr. Stimer, Mr. Williams and wife and Mr. Zunberg and daughter.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

PREMIUM ON GOLD PIECES—J. M., City. No premium is offered for United States gold pieces that were coined after 1834.

LOCOMOTIVES—L. B., Campbell, Cal. The largest locomotives in California are used on the Central Pacific road. They weigh nearly ninety tons.

THE SAN PABLO—J. H., City. The steamer San Pablo was stranded on Turnabout Island, between Yokohama and Hongkong, April 21, 1888.

THE GREAT REPUBLIC—Subscriber, City. The American clipper Great Republic, built by Donald McKay of Boston, Mass., was launched from his shipyard in that city in October, 1853.

Cal. glace fruit 50c per lb at Townsend's.

Mocha pistache, pineapple cake. 905 Larkin.

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The nicest stationery, printing and engraving in the city. Tablets, papeteries, ream papers and envelopes in all the new shapes, tints, colors and prices. Sanborn, Vail & Co.

Congressman Belknap of Chicago is a member of a club organized in the White House stable when General Grant was President. Belknap was one of the Cabinet then, his father being Secretary of War. Jesse Grant was president of the club, and the members were generally sons of Cabinet officers, army and navy officers and prominent men in Washington.

Time Reduced to Chicago.

Via Rio Grande Western, Denver and Rio Grande and Burlington railways. Passengers leaving San Francisco on 6 p. m. train reach Chicago 2:15 p. m. the fourth day, and New York 6:30 p. m. following day. Through Pullman Palace Double Drawing Room Sleeping Cars to Denver with Union Depot change at 9:30 a. m. to similar cars of the Burlington Route for Chicago. Railroad and sleeping car tickets sold through and full information given at 14 Montgomery st. W. H. Snedaker, General Agent.

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A COUGH SHOULD NOT BE NEGLECTED. "*Brown's Bronchial Troches*" are a simple remedy and give immediate relief. Avoid imitations.

The efforts made by Cardinal Newman in his life time to establish in England a Roman Catholic public school similar in most respects to Eton and Harrow have been faithfully pursued by the Fathers of the Birmingham Oratory. The first open scholarship at Oxford won by a Roman Catholic since the Reformation was gained by an Oratory boy last year at Ned College.

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