

## THE MESSENGER.

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BY

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### Labor and Politics.

The rapid growth of the Knights of Labor has caused considerable anxiety among the politicians of Boston, who think they see evidences of an inclination on the part of the knights to make their influence felt at the polls. Although politics is supposed to be tabooed in the assemblies of the organization, it is claimed by some of the members that "a word passed along the line" will be sufficient to unite them almost to a man upon any and all candidates who are favorable to their interests. A move is said to have been started already, which, if it continues, may make the contest in that city next November one of peculiar interest, and also test the strength of the Knights of Labor in controlling politics. The Boston Herald, actuated by a desire to find out how much there is in this movement, recently interviewed a prominent member of the order. He failed to throw much light on the existing situation, preferring to let his prophetic vision extend into the political haze of 1888. In regard to the next presidential contest he made some observations which are of special interest to Pennsylvanians. His deductions from the condition of the political parties at present, the events now taking place in Congress and the solidifying of the laboring men for purposes of self protection, were that the race for the Republican nomination for the presidency has already begun, and Senator Edmunds of Vermont, is it with Logan and Blaine as his competitors. After expressing the opinion that President Cleveland would not be renominated unless he should materially change his policy, the labor representative continued: "Now, what will the Democrats do if they reject Cleveland? No one can tell. But it strikes me that Sam Randall would not be objectionable to the Knights of Labor was he nominated for the presidency. I think Randall would be a strong man in the fight. Before they get through, Blaine and Logan will be at dagger's drawn. Randall would make a strong man in some of the doubtful states, and that's just what the Democrats want. Wait and see what time will develop." The opinion was expressed that Mr. Randall's position on the tariff would be acceptable to the workingmen, while he was not too stiff a protectionist to drive away Democratic support. - [Erie Herald.]

The death of Mr. Hahn leaves Louisiana without a republican congressman. Ex-Gov. Hahn was elected from the Second Louisiana district in 1884, receiving 6,446 votes to 6,103 for Houston, Democrat. The district was carried by the Democrats two years before, and they will probably elect Mr. Hahn's successor. The deceased congressman was much stronger than his party, numbering among his friends a good many Democrats. He was an ardent Douglas man before the war and earnestly advocated the election of "the Little Giant" to the presidency in 1880.

### Pirates on the Spanish Main.

New York Times.

The curious information comes from Aspinwall that the supposed filibustering craft city of Mexico, was really engaged in a piratical expedition, and had several consorts engaged in the same lawless business. Still more curious and interesting is the statement that these free booters of the "Spanish Main" were "backed by American capital and brains." Is it possible that American capital and brains have so far exhausted the opportunities for enterprise in legitimate channels as to venture for larger gains in the perilous business of piracy? There is yet another incident connected with this tale from the Isthmus that is still more mysterious. One of the piratical craft, the Fram, narrowly escaped the fate of the City of Mexico, and ran up the Norwegian flag and took refuge at Kingston Jamaica. Admiral Jonett endeavored to have her held there until the flagship Tennessee could run over and look after her, but without success. Somebody had however, been frightened, and word came from the navy department not to interfere with any Norwegian or other foreign vessel.

A rumor is current in Washington that the President will appoint Blanch K. Bruce, ex-register of the treasury, as civil service commissioner to succeed Dorman B. Eaton. As a Republican must be appointed, under the law to succeed Eaton, the Democrats would not be likely to object to the election of Mr. Bruce. As a Republican politician he ranks as Fred Douglass and has the respect of both races.

A traveling "Mikado" company gave that opera for the entertainment of 500 convicts in the Michigan State prison on Thursday. The warden apologized to the prisoners for not allowing them to go out between the acts, on the ground that the prison was in a temperance town.

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