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SOCIETY MEETINGS.

LAFAYETTE CHAPTER, NO. 2, R. A. M.—Hall, 76 Monroe-st.—Special Convocation, Monday evening, Oct. 28, at 5:30 o'clock p. m., for work on P. and M. E. Degrees. Stated Convocation at 7:30 o'clock, for business and work on R. A. Degree. Visitors cordially invited. By order of W. H. REID, H. P.
E. N. TUCKER, Secretary.

WILEY M. EGAN CHAPTER, NO. 126, R. A. M.—Special Convocation Saturday evening, Nov. 9, at 7:30 o'clock, for the purpose of work on Council Degrees. All members requested to be present.
Per order H. P.
E. F. NEWELL, Secretary.

CORINTHIAN CHAPTER NO. 69, R. A. M.—Regular Convocation Monday evening, Oct. 28, at 7:30 o'clock. Work on the M. E. Degree. Visiting Companions are cordially invited. By order.
G. W. BARNARD, H. P.

ST. BERNARD COMMANDERY, NO. 35, K. T.—Stated Conclave Wednesday evening, Oct. 30, at 7:30 o'clock. Work on the K. T. Order. A full attendance is requested. Visiting Sir Knights are courteously invited.
J. S. WHITE, E. C.

BLAIR LODGE, NO. 393, A. F. & A. M.—Regular Communication Monday evening, 28th inst., at Free-Masons' Hall, 76 East Monroe-st., at 7:30 o'clock. All resident members are requested to be present. Visiting brethren cordially invited. By order of
D. H. DICKINSON, W. M.

VAN RENSSELAER GRAND LODGE OF PERFECTION will confer the Sixth, Seventh, and Eighth Degrees of the A. & A. Scottish Rite on Thursday evening next. By order of
AMOS PETTIBONE, T.·.P.·.G.·.M.
ED. GOODALE, Grand Secretary.

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1878.

In New York on Saturday greenbacks were steady at 99⅞ in gold and silver coin.

The Cashier of the St. Gothard Railway in Switzerland, having adopted the American system of keeping accounts, is now in jail.

The Surgeon-General's report for the past week shows that there were 699 cases of yellow fever and 229 deaths at New Orleans; at Memphis there were 50 deaths; at Chattanooga, 80 cases and 23 deaths.

The second snow-storm of the season visited Chicago early this morning, and our telegraphic dispatches report snow at various points north and south. This change in the weather is said to be produced by the traditional Manitoba wave.

Ex-Gov. Kellogg denies any knowledge of the Sherman letter referred to by Anderson in his confession. Kellogg's private secretary also waxes wroth at the statement that he forged the letter. There will be, of course, denials all around on the part of the Democrats.

The Arctic schooner Florence Tyson supposed to be lost, arrived yesterday at Provincetown, Mass. Her Captain reports more icy seas in the North than have been known for thirty years. This may serve as a hint to the weather-prophets and to the ulster-dealers.

Whatever may be the present relations between Russia and England, it is certain that the former Power does not intend to get into another broil with Turkey. The Russian Government has repeated its previous assurances that it proposes to evacuate Turkish territory immediately, without waiting to enforce the provisions of the Treaty of Berlin. This is another back-down.

Mexican troops are marching towards the Rio Grande for the purpose of co-operating with the United States troops in preventing further depredations. President Diaz is said to be anxious to secure more amicable relations with this Government than have lately existed. This dispatching of troops to the border is a tardy, though acceptable, recognition of the duty of the Mexican Government in a matter which has caused great suffering to the Americans in Southwestern Texas, and which has embittered the American people generally against the Mexicans.

Although the money to be paid by the United States to the British Government under the Halifax award is now in London, awaiting orders from the State Department for its final disposal, some new objections have lately been raised to the settlement of the claim. It is stated by the London correspondent of the New York *World* that Lord Salisbury has indorsed the report of Capt. Sullivan, a British naval officer, stating that the people of Newfoundland were justified in their assault upon a number of American fishermen on the 8th of last January, because, under the local laws, mackerel-fishing is prohibited on Sunday. The point which is raised by the State Department is that the British Foreign Minister should not decide as to the right or wrong of the assault in question without first consulting this Government. Still, it is hardly probable that anything more will come of it than a protest from the State Department. The time for paying over the Halifax award expires Nov. 24, and, although it is conceded by all fair-minded people that the decision of the Halifax Commission was unjust, there is little ground for believing that the money will not be promptly handed over to the British Government. To refuse would be to put an end to international arbitration; and, of all Governments, this should not be the first to overturn a system which was originated in the interests of peace.

One of the unaccountable things in the management of the Legislative canvass is the dereliction of the Executive Committee in regard to the abatement of the nuisance that exists in the First Senatorial District. The members of that Committee (or at least a majority of them) have been informed by a prominent West-Side citizen of certain things in George White's Aldermanic career that render it their duty to disprove or remove his name without further delay or ceremony. With the information in their possession they will reflect discredit on themselves as honorable and trusted men if they don't proceed at once to place some name on the ticket whom the voters will support. They have puddled and muddled over this matter already too long, and have acted as if they intended to sacrifice a Senatorial seat in order to uphold the sanctity of a "regular nomination," which, by the way, White has not received. What do conscientious Republicans care about regular nominations when notoriously improper names are presented to them for their support? Is it necessary that The Tribune should speak any plainer, and give publicity to what a responsible citizen has told some of their number? There is not a man on the Committee who remembers White's record in the Council, independent of the transaction alluded to, that believes for a moment he can come within 2,000 votes of an election for Senator. Then why are they throwing away the seat by their puttering procrastination and timid irresolution?

THE TWO COOK COUNTY TICKETS.

We ask the attention of every voter in Chicago and Cook County to the striking contrast between the two tickets submitted to them to be voted for at the coming election. (We omit the Fiat and Socialist candidates, because their candidacy is more nominal than substantial.) The vote of the county will be mainly divided between the Republican and Democratic parties, and voters will have to choose for their future officers men on one or the other of these tickets. Here is the list:

Offices.	*Republicans.*	*Democrats.*
Sheriff	John Hoffman.	Charles Kern.
Coroner	O. L. Mann.	E. F. Cook.
State Senate—		
District 1	Abner Taylor, George E. White.	George Everhart.
Senate Dist. 3	No candidate.	H. F. Sheridan.
Senate Dist. 5	W. T. Johnson.	M. J. Dunne.
Senate Dist. 7	W. J. Campbell.	Wm. Doepp.
Representatives—		
Dist. 1	D. W. Clark, W. H. Thompson, D. J. Lyon.	M. J. Wentworth.
Rep. Dist. 2	Solomon Hopkins, Benj. Wilson.	P. T. Barry.
Rep. Dist. 3	J. B. Taylor.	Thomas Cloonan, T. J. Walsh.
Rep. Dist. 4	E. B. Sherman, L. H. Bisbee.	M. M. Miller, James E. Murray.
Rep. Dist. 5	W. E. Mason, P. A. Sundelius.	S. F. O'Malley, A. LaBuy.
Rep. Dist. 6	H. H. Thomas, W. H. Batterman.	A. O. Sexton.
Rep. Dist. 7	Geo. Struckman, L. C. Collins.	B. F. Webber, Clayton Crafts.
Commissioners—		
City District	J. W. Stewart, C. E. Coburn.	Pat M. Cleary, Mike Mulloy.
Commissioners County Districts—		
Evanston, etc	C. S. Ayars.	N. Morper.
Lake, etc	W. H. Wood.	P. J. O'Connell.
Several Towns	Adam Miler.	William Skelly.

The comparative merits and qualifications of the candidates for Sheriff have been discussed extensively during the last week, and will be up to the hour of election. Kern was elected Sheriff two years ago owing to a serious defection from Clough in the Republican ranks. He has so borne himself in office that he has enriched himself, and concluded that, despite all opposition in his own party, he would force his nomination and secure his re-election by the free use of money. The history of the Convention at which he was nominated was wonderful even in the history of Democratic Conventions. With a large majority of the delegates opposed to him, by the free use of money he paralyzed his competitors and then bought a majority of the delegates. Such a nomination has, of course, necessitated a very liberal expenditure of cash to purchase support at the polls. All this spent money he expects to recover from the office, if re-elected, and all the income he can draw from the Sheriffalty, regular and irregular, must be paid by the taxpayers of this county. To elect Kern Sheriff is to authorize the payment to him, out of the public funds, of all the money he has expended to procure his so-called nomination, and all that he will have to invest to get re-elected. It will be a public indorsement of corruption in elections, and the payment of the corruption fund out of the public treasury.

Maj. Hoffman, the Republican candidate, is an old and respectable citizen, and will make an excellent Sheriff, and will not ask for a re-election.

Gen. Mann, the Republican candidate for Coroner, is so well known and so universally esteemed that it is a waste of time and of words to enter into any comparison between him and his opponent.

Chicago is more deeply interested in the character of the persons to be elected to the next Legislature than in all the other offices to be filled. This city needs much and important legislation, and in the whole list of Democratic candidates for the Senate and the House, there are not more than three who have the remotest idea of what a Legislature is, what its duties, or what it is to meet for. With the exception of Messrs. Dunne, Sheridan, and Wentworth, not one of them has the remotest knowledge of the City Charter, or the State Constitution, or the Revenue law; not one of them has the capacity to draw a bill, or knows what a bill is, if shown to him; nor understands or comprehends an act of legislation. The nominations of that party for Representatives in the Second, Third, Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, and Seventh Districts are utterly disgraceful, when the character of the office, the duties to be performed, and the experience and knowledge required, are considered. The nomination of most of these men, so notoriously and disgracefully unfit for the office, was bad enough, but the election of them would be a public calamity.

The Republicans are afflicted in the First Senatorial District by a candidate who is the peer of the least fitted and least competent and most disreputable candidate on the Democratic ticket. George White, whose election would be a disgrace to the State Senate as well as the First District, is determined to defeat or disgrace the Republican party. If on election-day there be any other person a candidate for Senator in the First District it is to be hoped that the voters will see to it that the Ringster White is defeated, no matter who the other man may be.

With the exception of this blot the Republican Legislative ticket is especially creditable. Many of the candidates have experience as past members of the Legislature. Several of the nominees are lawyers of credit, and are familiar with the legal and financial embarrassments of the city, and will be able to make an intelligent effort to obtain such remedial legislation as will extricate the City Government from complications which can only be relieved by legislation.

It is only necessary to call attention to the names of the four candidates for the office of County Commissioner to be elected in the city. The names of Cleary and Mulloy have become familiar to the public as members of the ruling majority of that profligate Board during the last three years. Their record is odorous with extravagance, waste, and shameless disregard of taxpayers' interests. It is useless to rehearse the action of that Board,—the public are too familiar with it to again elect Mulloy and Cleary. Mr. Stewart, ex-Alderman of the Fourth Ward, and Mr. C. E. Coburn are the opposing candidates, and are well-known business men, who enjoy public respect and confidence.

We are fully aware that there are thousands of Democrats who concede that the Democratic ticket, with a few exceptions, is weak and disreputable, and ought to be defeated. There is no Democrat, not personally interested in the fortunes of some particular candidate, who is not willing to admit, even ten days before the election, that the ticket will be defeated, as it ought to be. Thousands of Democrats, disgusted with the mob-like character of the Conventions, and the worse than mob-like conduct of those who have managed the party nominations and proceedings, will give their silent votes to crush out the entire Democratic ticket, good and bad, and thus teach these self-appointed managers that the voting public have some rights, one of which is to reject the rule of corruptionists and disreputables at the polls.

Never in the history of Chicago politics was there a ticket of candidates nominated by any party so generally incompetent, disgraceful, and unworthy of either party or public support as the Democratic ticket now before the people of this city and county.

WHY A CHANGE OF SHERIFF IS ADVISABLE.

In all public offices of a local character, where there are large receipts and expenditures of public money, nothing is more conducive to proper administration than prompt settlements and strict responsibility. The business of the office of Sheriff is largely continuous, extending beyond the term. The officer is officially a party to a large number of suits, and is defendant in actions on his bond for his conduct and for that of his deputies. He has settlements to make with litigants, and to close up the business of one term will take at least two years after the term has closed. If the Sheriff have any ambition to fill the office again he will, if not elected his own successor, labor industriously to be able to present a clean record, not only as to the discharge of his duty to the public, but also to those individuals whose interests may have been in his hands. The office of Sheriff in this county is a profitable one, netting the incumbent, if not a candidate for re-election, at least $25,000 or $30,000. With that compensation he can afford to step aside, at least for two years, and give time and opportunity to ascertain how far he has been faithful to his trust, and how far he has settled all his official accounts and liabilities. The people of this county have already experienced the costly folly of re-electing men to office when there are large accounts to be settled and large balances to be paid over. The county has also experienced the benefits resulting from rotation in such offices, when outgoing officials have been cut off from the opportunity of settling with themselves as their own successors. No better rule could be devised in all cases where the office is one of large income and expenditure than to have but one term. After that, if the officer shall be able to show clean hands and a clean record, such evidence of his official fidelity will of itself commend him to popular favor if he should again ask for the office.

Mr. Kern has been two years in a highly-important office. How he has performed his duties, how his accounts stand, what the liabilities he has incurred, are all a sealed book to the general public, and must so remain as long as he is in the office. To re-elect him is simply to make him his own executor, leaving the settlement of his accounts until such time as the public may finally secure a settlement by electing some other person.

The wisdom of a change in office was shown two years ago, when the voters changed the County Clerk. We make no charge of defalcation against Sheriff Kern, but advocate the general policy of making a change at the end of every term in all such offices as Sheriff, Treasurer, and County Clerk, and will two years hence insist just as strongly that Maj. Hoffman shall step out and settle up, and be succeeded by some other person. If Sheriff Kern, instead of being made the custodian of his own official secrets, shall, at the end of two years, be able to point back to an honorable and faithful record, and an honest adjustment of all his accounts, the public will give him full credit, and it will have its full weight in his favor, should he then seek the office. At present he has no official record that he can produce, save such as he has kept himself, and of his own preparation. That kind of evidence, the people have a painful and costly experience, is often wholly fictitious and delusive.

Let the people, therefore, at the coming election make a change in this office of Sheriff. Let Mr. Kern have two years in which to close up his business and settle his accounts, and let that rule be made general, and applicable to all ministerial elective offices where there is large official income and expenditure and vast and complex business, and there will be fewer official defalcations and corrupt administrations, and more purity, independence, and fidelity in the discharge of official duties.

THE COUNTY-BONDS SCHEME.

The Chicago *Times*, as the organ of the County Ring, is making so lame a defense of the proposition to issue $750,000 of county bonds that the scheme cannot be more successfully antagonized than by reproducing the reasons it gives why the bonds should be voted.

One of these alleged reasons is that the attacks of The Tribune on the job "are conceived wholly in a spirit of partisanship." If there is any "partisanship" in this matter, it is a partisanship for and in behalf of the taxpayers on the one side, and for and in behalf of the tax-devourers on the other side. The Tribune's "partisanship" is in behalf of the people, and its attacks are designed to prevent the people from voting the County Ring the privilege of expending this $750,000 borrowed money in addition to the $1,600,000 of tax-levy and receipts from the public offices. This kind of "partisanship" scarcely furnishes a good reason why the people should concur in the proposed mortgage on their property when they can prevent it by their votes.

Another reason given by the *Times* why the people should vote the bonds is because The Tribune calls it a "swindle." "That is no argument," says the *Times*. But it is the best kind of an argument, if true, and its truth has been virtually admitted by the *Times*. The Tribune denounces the scheme to sell bonds as a swindle, because The Tribune contends that all the way from $300,000 to $500,000 can be saved out of the excessive appropriations for general expenses, in which case there would be money to go on with the Court-House without borrowing. Only a week ago to-day the *Times* declared that the Board can save $500,000 out of this year's tax-levy for general expenses; then it is a swindle to squander this half-million and borrow three-quarters of a million more, and the fact that it is a swindle is one of the best arguments that can be made against the issue of the bonds.

Another reason given by the *Times* is, that "unless there be some money borrowed, the [Court-House] job must stop." This is false, and has been admitted to be false by the *Times*. If, as that journal has asserted, $500,000 can be saved out of the extravagant appropriations, then it will not be necessary to stop the work on the Court-House unless money be borrowed; let the $500,000 be saved, and the work will go on, but the $500,000 certainly will not be saved if the Board be authorized to issue bonds to continue the work. Besides, this same threat of stopping the work was made when the Board asked the people once before to vote bonds. The people refused, and then the Board saved money enough from the general expense to proceed with the work. This can be done again, but the Board must be compelled to do it by refusing to place any more money in its hands than it can lawfully exact from the people in taxes.

The *Times* admits that "the Board is composed of swindlers who are robbing the community," but denies that this is a reason why the bonds should not be voted. That is to say, a gentleman of means who has employed an agent to manage his estate sees that the agent is swindling him, and that he proposes to spend $500,000 more than he ought to spend during the coming year; and yet this gentleman should turn around and borrow $750,000 to enable the swindling agent to go on with the construction of a certain building. This is the advice of the *Times*; how many private persons would follow it? "But," it is added, "the people who vote the loan are the ones who, at the same time, vote for the officials who are to spend the money." But the *Times* knows that the Board consists of fifteen members, that the people only elect five this year, and that two of the worst members of the Board are striving for re-election. Whenever the people can elect an entire new Board, and shall be satisfied that they have secured an honest and economical administration of the county moneys, then they will be willing to vote any bonds that may be necessary; but that is no reason why they should vote bonds that are not necessary, to encourage a dishonest and extravagant administration.

The *Times* further admits that the appropriations for 1878-'79 are too high (it had formerly stated the figures at $500,000 too high), but says *that* is no reason why the bonds should not be voted. We cannot conceive of a better reason. If the appropriations are $500,000 too high, let that amount be saved and devoted to the Court-House. Then no bonds will be needed. The proposition of the *Times* is, that the present Ring shall be allowed to squander $500,000 in general expenses in order to secure an excuse for borrowing $750,000 more, which will add $45,000 to general expenses in the way of interest, and further mortgage the taxpaying property of the county to the extent of three-quarters of a million.

This bond question is a very simple one viewed in the light of the facts bearing on the case. These can be best ascertained by the comparison which The Tribune has already made between the present expenditures and those of an inflation period, when the cost of everything was higher and the ability of the people to pay much greater than now. The County Board will have nearly $1,600,000 in money for expenditure during the year 1878-'79. The total tax-levy (including the amount in excess of 75 cents on $100 which is permitted to be raised for payment of interest on old debt) is $1,427,555, and the receipts from the various departments—Sheriff's, County Clerk's, and Recorder's offices, and the Courts—will bring the total revenue up to nearly $1,600,000. Of this, it is proposed to expend about $1,300,000 in the support of the county institutions and officials, for the interest on the total debt comes within $300,000. The only plea on which the Board seeks to justify this enormous appropriation is that about $750,000 have been illegally spent during the past two years in overrunning the appropriations and voting "extras." The property from which this monstrous expenditure is to be collected is valued at $164,757,430. In 1874 the taxpaying property of the county was valued at $318,822,573, or twice as much as now, and yet in that year the Board exacted only $576,000, or less than half as much as now, for the support of county institutions. Yet, in 1874, money did not have more than two-thirds the purchasing value it now has. The rule of the present Ring seems to be that the expenditures shall increase in the exact ratio that the value of the taxable property and ability of the people to pay shall decrease. It is this infamous practice which prompts the Board to ask the privilege of issuing $750,000 of bonds at a time when the tax-levy should yield ample funds for building the Court-House under an economical administration of county affairs.

The people are not to be deceived in this matter. Whatever the result of the election may be as to party candidates, it is in the interest of all property-owners, whether Democrats or Republicans, to vote down the bonds. Not one dollar should be authorized beyond the tax-levy until there shall be a reasonable assurance that the present Ring has been made to give way to a set of men who are willing to disburse county moneys on an honest and economical basis.

THE LAST OF "FRAUD."

As George Washington lives in loyal school-books as the man who couldn't tell a lie, Jim Anderson will figure in political history as the man who couldn't tell the truth. This fellow is out with another story. It is the third complete statement, aside from the running fire of side-speeches which he has kept during the past year, and each statement differs from all the others as widely as any two articles in the Chicago *Times* on any given subject. This time he relieves Secretary Sherman from all the responsibility for that apocryphal letter which he had previously charged upon Mr. Sherman. This much is probably true, but its truth is only used, we presume, to further some lie of Anderson's in another direction. Anderson wanted to turn the statement over to Mr. Shellabarger, Secretary Sherman's counsel, but, we believe, both Mr. Sherman and his counsel refused to have anything to do with the fellow. So far as Sherman is concerned, the fact had been well established in the minds of all impartial people that he never wrote any such letter, and even Anderson's recent assertion to the effect that Sherman is innocent will not be sufficient to make anybody believe that Sherman is guilty. The only importance which Anderson's present statement has is to further establish his character as a mendacious and irresponsible adventurer, who was the chief reliance of the Potter-Butler Committee in the effort to smirch President Hayes and his Administration. Anderson is the corner-stone in the foundation on which the whole structure of evidence has been erected with which the Democrats have hoped to crowd Hayes out of the Presidency. Nobody will now deny that he is a very weak prop, and the edifice must tumble down. The fellow is no more entitled to belief now, though he may be telling the truth, than he was when he made any of his previous contradictory statements. But his conviction as a consummate and professional liar, which this last escapade secures beyond cavil, reveals the desperate and unscrupulous ambition of the Democrats who entered into the conspiracy to impeach President Hayes through the agency of such despicable creatures as Anderson and most of their other witnesses have proved themselves to be. We think Mr. Potter was right in declining to be a candidate for re-election to Congress. Ben Butler may also congratulate himself on the fact that he will not be a member of the next House, and the other Democrats who have been active in the so-called "investigation" had better resign. The lives of all these people will be made uncomfortable in Washington this winter by the jokes that will be poked at them. With the evidence of Republican corruption resting mainly upon the shoulders of Jim Anderson, and confronted with the Tilden cipher in Florida, South Carolina, and Oregon, we think the American people will henceforth enjoy immunity from the Democratic cry of "Fraud." We understand that Dana has issued an edict that the word shall never again appear in the New York *Sun*.

THE HERESY OF THE REV. DR. THOMAS.

"After the manner which some call heresy, so worship I the God of my fathers," was one of St. Paul's most notable and apologetical sentences, that has often been quoted by public teachers inclined to do their own thinking and speaking. Somehow it has always been regarded as one of the unquestioned functions of the Church—Protestant as well as Catholic, but not so much the custom of the former as the latter—to govern men's minds as well as their acts, and to put their members in the right way of thinking as well as of doing. Indeed, there have been times in the world's history when a man's belief was considered of infinitely more importance than his acts; and in this error the Church has fallen quite as often as any other organization of fallible human beings. Hence some of the most bloody and cruel wars that have ever disgraced the annals of mankind have been those that are called in bitter irony "religious," and some of the most fiendish persecutions which have ever been conceived by a bad brain and inspired by a wicked heart against innocent and inoffensive persons, have been perpetrated in the name of God, and oftentimes in the firm belief that His Kingdom would come upon the earth all the more speedily as the result of such labors. It is no new thing that ideas govern the world. Galileo is not reputed to have been a bad man by any historian, and yet we all remember the trouble and vexation that came upon him because he entertained certain opinions upon the (then) uncertain subject of astronomy inconsistent with the popular belief of his day and generation. And the persecutions, the cruelties, the indescribable and incredible torments that one class of professing religionists have inflicted upon others for mere opinion's sake, are they not all crystallized into the history of the race, and sealed with the blood of innocent men and women ever since the first religious creed was promulgated? Even after Protestantism had made its final protest against the Church of Rome, we find John Calvin imitating the refined cruelties of the Inquisition by consenting to and advising the burning of Servetus with a slow fire of greenwood because he had the temerity to deny what he could not understand and what few theologians can understand to this day,—a certain orthodox view of the Trinity. The most singular phase of religious persecution, zeal, and bigotry that blackens the history of the human race is the fact that the fury of the Church and the insane anger of its adherents were never spent upon the wicked and corrupt portion of society, but generally against those of correct lives and unimpeachable conduct, who held to certain mental errors, as their persecutors supposed, incompatible with the fashionable view of the case. One would naturally suppose that a church or a sect which is wholly engrossed with the idea of reform, and dominated with the belief that men are only kept out of endless perdition by leading correct and godly lives, would be content with that, and not waste its energies in the vain and fruitless effort to hamper the thoughts and limit the speculations of its members.

We all remember the great excitement that prevailed throughout the United States a few years ago in consequence of Bishop Cheney's new departure from the ways and methods of the Episcopal Church, and a little later the commotion was repeated and increased by the arraignment and trial of Prof. Swing for heresy before the court of last resort in the Presbyterian Church. And now the Methodist Conference has seen fit to formally censure the Rev. Dr. Thomas, of Chicago, for holding and promulgating doctrines not in harmony with a strict construction of its formulated creed.

As a secular newspaper, not much given to the discussion of religious questions, and yet quite deeply interested in the growth and progress of religious ideas, and the liberty of conscience, The Tribune is slightly puzzled, and a little disheartened, at the prospect of denominational toleration as it is presented in the three cases referred to above. If Messrs. Cheney, Swing, and Thomas had been bad men, leading vicious lives, or guilty of wicked practices, corrupters of youth, or destroyers of virtue, and doing those things that are forbidden by the laws of God and man, then we can easily see why they should be formally denounced and branded, and the fellowship of all good Christian men withdrawn from them. Or if they had been found guilty of preaching false doctrines which are pernicious and immoral in their tendency, then their brothers in the Church would be justified in the opinion of all good citizens in placing the seal of their disapprobation upon their pernicious public conduct. But this is not alleged nor pretended. They are all acknowledged to be moral, pious, devout, zealous, discreet, and consistent. Presbyterianism is none the stronger or better by the expulsion of Swing, nor will Methodism be made more popular because the Conference has slammed the door in the face of Dr. Thomas. Not long ago Methodism itself was a much-abused and despised heresy. When the two Wesleys, John and Charles, started on their new departure, they met with the most violent opposition, not only from the Episcopal Church of England, but from the populace, and mobs were not infrequent. The Wesleys and Whitefield were denied admission into other pulpits, and often the power of the law was invoked against them as disturbers of the peace. They had to hold meetings in private houses, in barns, and often in the open fields. Their followers were reviled, despised, ridiculed, and persecuted. One would naturally think, from reading the trials and tribulations of the founders of that sect, that it would have learned the lesson of toleration and liberality by sad experience, and that the democratic policy of its early founders would have leavened the whole lump with the spirit of charity and religious liberty. In Wesley's day the sole condition of membership, one account says, was "a desire to flee from the wrath to come and be saved from sin." Dr. Thomas is quite up to that simple standard. In his admirable sermon last Sunday morning, printed in The Tribune on Monday, he exclaimed with an eloquence and religious fervor that Wesley or Whitefield would have admired and envied:

> I have lived much in the broad life of humanity, and I can permit no badge or name to stand between me and the great brotherhood of the race; and I must stand, and I do stand, and for years have stood, and by the help of God I shall continue to stand, in uncompromised loyalty to Jesus Christ and my deepest convictions of truth and right; and I must study that my ministry be approved unto God, and not unto man. O that He would give me more and more the hearts of mankind, and fill me more and more with the riches of His grace and truth to build them up in righteousness. Gladly would I pour out this truth like living waters upon the thirsty land till my life shall end.

The early teachers of Methodism did not carry about a Procrustean bedstead with which to measure the length of their converts. The life and character—the "daily walk and conversation"—were the essential tests then, not mere matters of speculation and belief, that admitted them into fellowship with the saints. Methodism furnishes one of the most remarkable histories of any of the religious denominations that have sprung into existence since Christianity was founded. Its origin was as humble as the manger in which its great progenitor was cradled, and its spread is one of the marvels of religious propagandism. Its strength, cohesion, unity, and popularity to-day ought to incite it to cultivate liberty and encourage the spirit of inquiry among its preachers and members. It cannot afford to prohibit investigation nor shackle the freedom of speech.

Mr. Jefferson was of the opinion that every State would outgrow its Constitution once in every twenty years, and need a new one; and why may not a religious denomination outgrow its creed, and require an enlarged one that is more in accord with the spirit of the age? Granted that the formulated expression of belief and the articles of faith are the best that the wisdom and piety of the times could possibly conceive, yet the idea of progress should not be repugnant to the minds of the most devout and conservative Christians. The world moves, and everything opposes inertia. The great army of Conservatism lies encamped to-day upon the very ground that Radicalism occupied on yesterday, and will follow on as fast as it is possible for it to travel with its surplus baggage. In its outward form, the Methodist denomination has undergone many remarkable changes. Once it was a plain, simple, unostentatious sect, with no steeples on its meeting-houses, and no ornaments of any sort on the bonnets of its female members. Its ministers were the ignorant, uneducated, but zealous and devout circuit riders, whose home was in the saddle, and who made up in devotion to Christ what they lacked in worldly knowledge. Its members walked with God, and illustrated by their lives and conduct the pure and simple faith they professed. In every home was erected the family altar, and around it every member knelt night and morning in prayer. What it is now everybody knows. It is conforming more and more to the ways of the world. In learning, ability, and scholarship, its ministry stand in the front rank, and challenge comparison with the other denominations in the land. Its churches are as costly and well furnished as any, and their attendants are no longer conspicuous for the mean simplicity of their plain attire. It is a great pity that their internal church polity does not show a corresponding growth and development with these other outward signs of culture, so that such an able, eloquent, charitable, and devoted Christian minister as Dr. Thomas might find sympathy, and encouragement, and godspeed from its highest tribunal, and not be placed under ban by its unmerited rebuke and censure. When the great Apostle had enumerated the cardinal virtues that are to distinguish Christians in all generations, he emphatically declared that the greatest of all is charity.

HOW THEY MANAGE PANICS IN CHINA.

They have had a financial panic in the Imperial City of Pekin, mysteriously begun and speedily ended, and, as showing the difference between the methods of Occidental and Oriental civilization, the story of the panic is worth narrating.

The first feeling of insecurity arose from the famine and the financial pressure growing out of it, which enhanced the price of rats, puppies, rice, and birds'-nests to an extraordinary figure. Then certain of the palace eunuchs were detected in what is called, in Occidental phrase, "financial irregularity." In the Oriental language, however, it is pleasant to note that they were called villains and thieves. These pestilent eunuchs also circulated the rumor that the Fire-God, who, we presume, is the equivalent of the reportorial Fire-Fiend of the Occident, had been seen hovering over the palace. This produced so much excitement among the people that the Government called out the entire Pekin field-force, and excluded all the foreigners from the Imperial quarter of the city. Things might have quieted down had not the sun and moon commenced to act in a manner that was alarming to the average Chinaman. They became lurid and fiery in their appearance, and the astronomers commenced to discover all manner of disastrous portents. The eunuchs joined in with them, and set up a more dismal howl than ever. The people, who look upon any diversity of solar or lunar appearance as a sign of grave calamity to the reigning house, were filled with alarm. The Pekin field-force might possibly charge upon the Fire-God and rout him, horse, foot, and dragoons, but none of their longest-range blunderbusses or culverins could hit the sun or moon, nor was it possible to appease them with offerings of rat-pies, the heavenly bodies not being fond of that style of diet. Things grew worse and worse. Those who could run away ran. Some of the native bankers hid all their available property and declared themselves bankrupt, and the Register, we imagine, rapidly amassed a fortune, though there is no statement to that effect. Other bankers decamped with all their available assets, after the manner of some Occidental financiers, and left their notes in circulation. The private fiat became worthless, and, as there was no absolute promise as to redemption, the public fiat fell to half its value. The effect supplies a very vivid picture of what our own condition may be if the fiat lunatics get control. The Government, as fast as the money depreciated, issued more of it, and stamped it, "This is a dollar," or words to that effect, by the authority of several thousand Chinese gods. The Chinese having as many gods as they can possibly issue greenbacks, there could be no theological limit to the inflation of the currency. Notwithstanding, however, the heterogeneous divine authority, the more the stuff was issued the more rapidly it declined in value. The more it declined in value the more rapidly the merchants ran up prices, until at last it took about all a man could carry to buy an A No. 1 rat, while a wagon-load of the stuff was necessary to a negotiation for a superfine puppy-pie. In addition to the official chaos, a commercial panic was now in full tide. Fortunately, there were no Communists bent upon improving the situation by destroying the railroads, because they have no Communists, and, even if they had Communists, they have no railroads. The hoodlum of the sand-lot is a type of civilization not yet reached even by the Chinese. The Government at last waked up to the necessities of the situation. The Emperor recently died and went to his pig-tailed fathers, and the Empresses, several in number, are in power. The aggregation of female cunning and good sense saved the day. They discovered that there was nothing unusual in the appearance of the sun and moon if rain fell within three days of the occurrence, and they issued a document to that effect, in which they said:

> We have received memorials from the Reader of the College, the Tutor of the Imperial Academy, and his Imperial Highness Prince Chun, requesting us to practice virtue, to possess ourselves in quietness, and to promulgate an edict for the re-establishment of order and the stamping out of false rumors and floating gossip. The memorials point out that rain has fallen abundantly, the autumn crops are assured, and the famine refugees have been sent back to their homes, and on these points the minds of our subjects may be at perfect ease. They point out, further, that the representations made to us by the Astronomical Board regarding the appearance of the heavens need excite no apprehension, for the "True Principles of Astronomy" state that when signs appear in the sun and in the moon portending calamities they mean nothing, and may be disregarded if within three days a fall of rain occurs. Under these circumstances it is our bounden duty to lay the actual condition of things candidly before our people in order that popular suspicion may be disarmed. We therefore command that full publicity be given to the memorial of the Board of Astronomy, that the traffic at the gates of the palace be restricted in the manner best adapted to promote quiet within, and that a strict supervision be maintained over the eunuchs in every part of the palace.

Exactly as these wise women expected, the rain came abundantly. Thereupon the Government recovered from its fright. The Fire-God winged his way to other quarters. The field-force was recalled. The sun and moon resumed their normal appearance. The eunuchs sang small. The bankers began to return. Honest money made its appearance, and specie payments were resumed. Hard iron *cash* strung on strings took the place of paper bills as big as the side of a tea-chest. Prices fell to their legitimate standard. The era of good sense and confidence returned.

Now, observe the nice adaptation of means to ends, the eternal fitness of things, and the poetic justice that characterize Oriental civilization. The Government was not content with the return of good times. The Empresses, wise women that they were, determined to make an example of those who had been instrumental in getting up the Black Friday. So they ordered the noisiest of the eunuchs and the most dishonest of the bankers to be strung up in a row by the heels. When the string was complete, relays of able-bodied Chinamen were empowered to whip them with bamboos. As the whippers were chosen from those who had suffered most by the panic, one may imagine the unction and enthusiasm with which they got even with the whippees. At last accounts trade was resumed, order was restored, and Josh looked down from his airy hights with serene and smiling face as he contemplated his millions of happy pigtails. How much more satisfactory is Oriental civilization in its methods than the Occidental!

Since the trial of Prof. Swing for heresy, some years ago, a good deal of discussion has been going on among the intelligent and thoughtful members of the Presbyterian Church in regard to its Confession of Faith. A large number of good people join a Church without fully becoming acquainted with its doctrine as expressed in its creed, or, if they do understand it, they take it with a mental reservation. During the trial of Prof. Swing, the question of what was essential to believe in order to be a good Presbyterian became very prominent. Recently, the Synod that assembled at Baltimore had a very lively discussion relative to that article which refers to the Pope of Rome as Antichrist, the man of sin, son of perdition, and so on. The question was whether they should affirm or repudiate that opinion, and after an earnest and animated debate they shirked the responsibility of it by referring it to the General Assembly. Now that the subject has been fully debated in a denominational assemblage of prominent clergymen, and after many Presbyterian ministers have boldly assailed some section of the "articles," it may not be deemed sacrilegious for us to say that that portion of it relating to the Pope of Rome is repugnant to the spirit of religious liberty which is characteristic of the last half of the nineteenth century. The simple truth about the matter is, that Presbyterianism, like almost every other religious organization in America, is infinitely better, more liberal, kinder, and sweeter than its authoritatively stated doctrines. Otherwise a large majority of its best men and women would break away from it. It sadly needs a new suit of clothes; and it is a hopeful sign when a Synod composed of its best men, like that at Baltimore, begins to show signs of shame at the sight of the old ones. The noble work of such an aggressive and respectable denomination of faithful Christians should no longer be clogged by errors of belief adopted long ago.

The veteran campaigners of this county, the Republican and Democratic "wheelhorses," had a sensation yesterday morning when they read in Kern's organ, the *Times*, the editorial giving the platform on which he proposes to make the fight, or on which his organ-grinder proposes he shall make it. And when they read it they spoke to one another marveling, and they said: "What new system is this of running a campaign? Is the wisdom of the fathers to go for naught?" This card, or pronunciamento, or whatever it may be called, is so unique, that an abstract of it must be given for the benefit of the many who would not see it in a paper of the small circulation of the *Times*. It is headed "Foreign Know-Nothingism." This is meant as a hint to the Irish. It goes on to say that Sheriff Kern, though a candidate for re-election, does not need the Irish vote. No Irish need apply to him or to his ticket-peddlers on election-day for Kern ballots. He wants only respectable men—Germans and Americans—to vote for him. Kern is a gentleman; he does not want the support of Irish "sluggers, thieves, bummers, idlers, broken-down politicians, and rascals and adventurers." Kern is a law-abiding man; he does not want the support of "Irish cut-throats and thieves." Kern is an honest man; he does not want the support of Irish "lawless savages." Kern is a reformer; he does not want the support of a combination of Irish "thugs and bruisers." So says the *Times*, speaking for Kern. These "lawless thugs, bruisers, savages, and cut-throats" are all supporting Kehoe, says the *Times*, and this is the class of voters that Kern does not want. "There are some Irishmen," says Kern's organ, "who are not supporting Kehoe, and they are tolerably decent fellows." Insomuch as the Boy Miles will get the pretty solid vote of his countrymen, Irishmen can see the general idea of them entertained by Kern and his hand-organ. The *Journal* says it is rumored on the streets that Kern has to bleed heavily for all the puffs he gets in the *Times*, but it is hard to believe that he paid for the insertion of the proclamation headed "No