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SOCIETY MEETINGS.

WASHINGTON CHAPTER, NO. 43, R. A. M.—Regular Convocation Friday evening, Dec. 6, at their hall, corner of Randolph and Halsted-sts., at 7:30 o'clock, for business and work on the Royal Arch Degree. Visiting companions cordially invited. By order
L. MUNSTERMAN, H. P.
CHARLES B. WRIGHT, Secretary.

COVENANT LODGE, NO. 526, A. F. & A. M.—Regular Communication Friday evening, Dec. 6, at Corinthian Hall, No. 187 East Kinzie-st., at 7:30 o'clock, for business and important work. The members are requested to attend. Visiting brethren cordially invited. By order of H. W. WOLSELEY, W. M.
WILLIAM KERR, Secretary.

CORINTHIAN CHAPTER, NO. 69, R. A. M.—Special Convocation Monday evening, Dec. 2, at 7:30 o'clock. Council Degrees will be conferred. The members of Corinthian Chapter who have the degrees are requested to be present. Visiting Companions are invited. By order G. W. BARNARD, H. P.

D. A. CASHMAN LODGE, NO. 686, A. F. & A. M.—Regular Communication Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, at their hall, corner West Madison and Robey-sts. Business: Annual report of Treasurer and Secretary. Work in M. M. Degree. Visitors welcome. Gavel sounds at 7:30 sharp. G. A. DOUGLASS, Secretary.

NATIONAL LODGE, NO. 596, A. F. & A. M.—The Annual Communication will be held on Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, at their hall, cor. Randolph and Halsted-sts., for the election of officers and payment of dues. All members are notified to be present. By order W. M.
A. C. WOOD, Secretary.

CHICAGO COMMANDERY, NO. 19, K. T.—Special Conclave Monday evening, Dec. 2, at 7:30 p. m., for the transaction of business. The Order of the Temple will be conferred. Visiting Sir Knights welcome. By order of the Eminent Commander.
JAMES E. MEGINN, Recorder.

APOLLO COMMANDERY, NO. 1, K. T.—Stated and annual conclave next Tuesday evening (Dec. 3) at 8 o'clock, for election of officers, payment of dues, and other important business. A full attendance is requested. Visitors welcome. By order of the Commander. J. R. DUNLOP, Recorder.

ASHLAR LODGE, NO. 308, A. F. & A. M.—Regular meeting Tuesday evening, Dec. 3, in their hall, 76 Monroe-st., for business and work. All members are requested to be present. The fraternity cordially invited. C. H. CRAM, Secretary.

DIVISION NO. 2, OF THE A. O. H.—All members are requested to meet at their hall this morning at 9 o'clock sharp, to attend the funeral of our deceased brother, John McGarry. By order of
JOHN BURKE, President.

ST. BERNARD COMMANDERY, NO. 35, K. T.—Annual Conclave Wednesday evening, Dec. 4, at 7:30 o'clock, for the elections of officers and the payment of dues. By order J. S. WHITE, E. C.

CHICAGO CONCLAVE, NO. 81, RED CROSS OF Constantine—Rendezvous Saturday, Dec. 7, at 7:30 p. m., sharp. JOHN D. M. CARR, Sovereign.
H. S. AUSTIN, Recorder.

VAN RENSSELAER GRAND LODGE OF PERFECTION.—There will be a Regular Assembly on Thursday evening next for business.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1, 1878.

In New York on Saturday greenbacks ranged from 99½ to 99⅝.

The excommunication of Mrs. TILTON by Plymouth Church reminds one of the jury-verdict which found the plaintiff guilty and the costs to be paid by the Court.

LIVINGSTONE, the Crow Creek Indian Agent, has been indicted by the Grand Jury of Yankton for forgery, embezzlement, and conspiracy, and there are other Agents yet to be heard from.

The news from Afghanistan is not cheering to the friends of the invading troops. The Indian army, after having taken the Khyber Passes and penetrated the country beyond, has been caught in the trap of its own making. The Afredies have reoccupied the principal thoroughfare and cut off retreat.

As far as can be ascertained, a movement is on foot among a number of members of the Bar of this city looking to the impeachment of Judge BLODGETT, of the United States District Court. Just what it will amount to can hardly be predicted as yet, the effort being still in its infancy. The immediate cause for it, we believe, was the disagreement between Judge BLODGETT and the recent Grand Jury regarding the suppressed HIBBARD indictment.

The Town of Jackson, Ky., is in the full enjoyment of a civil war of its own. Two lawless mobs have been fighting each other all the past week, and half a dozen men have been killed, including the County Judge. It seems as if this charming exhibition of neighborly hospitality ought to be interfered with before long by the Governor; although it may be that he is holding off in hopes that the opposing parties may all be killed. If so, his intentions are laudable.

When the Irish members of Parliament are opposed to any measure they pursue the obstruction plan, sometimes with success. The policy of the Government in the Afghan business has caused the Home-Rulers to unite with the Liberals in opposition. But the Home-Rule leader, Dr. BUTT, it is reported, has decided against the obstruction plan this time. Hence Parliament may go ahead and do some of its pressing work before the holidays. The rumor of a dissolution and a general election is hardly credible under the circumstances.

Whether Mr. BURLING intended it as a joke or not, his letter to the County Commissioners resigning his membership in that body because he had been indicted in the United States Court proved to be a good one. The moment that letter was read the majority rose to their feet instantly. To them it was full of meaning. "Resign the office of County Commissioner because of an indictment? Forbid it, Heaven! Make that a rule, and who of us would be safe? Such a rule will leave this Board without a quorum in sixty days." So the resignation of Mr. BURLING was unanimously refused.

There is a rumor that Germany has proposed a Congress of reigning Princes to consider the subject of Socialism. But as the reigning Princes of Europe just now, with one exception, have very little to do with law-making, the prudent reader will avoid attaching too much credence to the report. Societies, classes, and individuals are subject to certain laws which can only be changed or destroyed by Parliaments. WILHELM, VICTOR, and AMADEUS might confer together for a twelvemonth, but they could not then carry their plans into effect without the consent of the people's representative. Since the Napoleonic era times have been mighty hard for the sovereigns of Europe. France has been permanently reclaimed by the Republicans; in Austria the Hungarians have gradually crept into power; Italy has become modernized; the revolutions in Spain have rendered the royal tenure of office uncomfortably frail; and even in Germany we find avowed Socialists sitting in Parliament. What could all the Kings and Emperors accomplish by a Congress except to expose their own weakness?

The general trade depression now prevailing in England may be guessed at by the items which now and then stray across the ocean by cable. Almost every day there are announcements of heavy failures and allusions to widespread strikes which, if occurring in this country, would cause great excitement. The British newspapers, however, take these things philosophically. It is stated this morning that the Chatterly Iron Company has refused an offer of 900 men to resume work at a reduction of 5 per cent. This is a suggestive paragraph. The Company some months ago decided to reduce all hands 10 per cent, and the men quit work. If there were any money in the business at 5 per cent off the Company would without doubt accept the terms now proposed. That they cannot is only another evidence of the break-down of this branch of manufacture in England and Wales.

Last night the Board of County Commissioners for 1878 went out of existence, smelling badly to the last. Even with the recruits from the "Reformers" elected in 1877, its last hours were full of sorrow and trouble. The $30,000 involved in the HARMS case was just beyond their reach, always eluding their grasp. Desperate as were the efforts made to get it, "solid" as the "8" voted every time for its division, the Board expired officially, leaving the money in the Treasury. The Ring is broken; the magic power that governed a majority of votes has lost its potency. The new Board will begin its existence on Monday, and if it would do well it will begin with a general break-up of the whole county organization, from top to bottom. In the meantime there will be mourning and weeping among the retainers of the old Board, but there will be a feeling of relief on the part of the public that the corrupt and dishonest County Ring shall rule no more.

The BAUMER case has not been definitely settled by the German and American Governments. Nor is it a case that will come to an end for a long time yet, as it involves a most important question,—that of citizenship. BAUMER, it will be recalled, was a Chicagoan who returned to his native country about a year ago and was immediately ordered away by the authorities on the ground that he was subject to military service as a German citizen. After a year's meditation on the case Secretary EVARTS has reached the conclusion that a naturalized German who sojourns in his native land over two years gives the German Government the right to consider such sojourn as a renunciation of American citizenship. But this does not touch the BAUMER case, or in fact the majority of such cases which may arise hereafter, as BAUMER did not remain in Germany but a few months. This Government surely ought to take some definite position in a matter which is of vital importance to a very large class of our naturalized citizens.

THE PUBLIC-WORKS ORDINANCE.

So far as the creation of an office under the title of Commissioner of Public Works is calculated to relieve the Mayor from a burdensome complication of duties, the project is not objectionable. We believe it to be the fact that, as the working head of the Department of Public Works, the Mayor is charged with more than ought to be expected from him in connection with the other duties of his office. Nevertheless, the ordinance creating this office, which comes up for passage to-morrow evening, ought to be amended in several particulars before adoption. It is especially defective in two respects,—first, in not providing for the inauguration of the new Department with the new Mayor, so as to give every Mayor the privilege of appointing the Commissioner who is to serve under him, and, secondly, in not making the Commissioner and the sub-departments properly subordinate to the Mayor. The passage of the ordinance in its present shape will entail more confusion than now exists, and it will become a fruitful source of contention in the future.

The ordinance as it stands provides for the appointment of a Commissioner by Mayor HEATH in the latter part of his term, who shall hold office for two years, or during the greater part of the term of Mayor HEATH's successor. And thus, in the future, every outgoing Mayor would have the privilege of appointing the Commissioner who should serve with the incoming Mayor. There is no justice in this feature of the ordinance. The new Mayor should have the privilege of selecting his own Commissioner, by and with the consent of the Council, and of removing him at any time he may deem it best for the public service. It is only in this way that the Mayor can be fairly held responsible for the management of the Department, and it is highly desirable to fix this responsibility upon the Mayor. The terms of the ordinance, as it reads now, are further favorable to a division and shifting of responsibility by making the Mayor dependent upon the Commissioner in some cases and the Commissioner subordinate to the Mayor in others. For instance, it is provided that the Mayor shall appoint the Secretary of the Department, but only such person as the Commissioner may recommend. The Mayor may also appoint the City Engineer, but must procure the Commissioner's consent to his choice, and then the Commissioner may remove the City Engineer, but must secure the acquiescence of the Mayor in such action. The Superintendents of the various sub-departments are to be appointed by the Commissioner, the Mayor's consent having first been obtained, and may be removed by the Commissioner under the same condition. All this is needlessly involved, and the effect will be that the Mayor may always shift blame upon the Commissioner and the Commissioner upon the Mayor, while the public interests will fall between two stools. The administration of the public works in Chicago is a charge amounting to at least a million of dollars a year, and it will not do to afford any opportunity to those in control for avoiding responsibility to the public.

The proper model for organizing the Public Works Department is furnished by the President and his Cabinet. The purpose is to relieve the Mayor from the mass of detail, but not from responsibility. He should have the appointment, with the approval of the Council, of the Commissioner, Secretary, City Engineer, and the heads of the several sub-departments, and the privilege of removing these officials at will. To the Commissioner should be intrusted a general supervision of all the departments, and the appointment and removal of the clerks and subordinates, who should be hired and discharged according to the necessities of the service and their individual conduct and usefulness. Under this condition of things a thorough-going system could be established, the people could properly hold the Mayor to account for the satisfactory and economical administration of the public works, and the Mayor could make the Commissioner and the head of each sub-department directly and personally responsible for the management of his particular branch of the service. With such a system there would be no opportunity for the disagreements that formerly arose between the Mayor and the Board of Public Works or the Board of Police, through which the efficiency of the public service was constantly impaired. Unless the Council is disposed to provide a simple and rational system of this kind, it will do better to let matters stand as they are now.

THE ITCH FOR OFFICEHOLDING.

According to latest accounts the attempt to run the office of Sheriff of Cook County by injunctions has been abandoned. It would have been more creditable to Mr. KERN's sense of honor and the judgment of his friends and advisers if the scheme had never been suggested. The shape the project assumed when it was announced warrants the belief that it was conceived more with the purpose of keeping KERN *in* the office than of keeping HOFFMANN *out.* In the same column in which the KERN organ set up the theory that Maj. HOFFMANN is ineligible it also insisted that, in such case, Mr. KERN would continue to be Sheriff. The latter assumption was very quickly exploded upon an examination of the law bearing on the case, and since then we have heard no more of the unselfish and pure-minded patriots who proposed to contest Maj. HOFFMANN's eligibility to the office for the sake of public morals. The fact seems to be that Maj. HOFFMANN's right to the office, since he has been fairly elected by a majority of the people, and has properly qualified, can only be contested by a *quo warranto* proceeding, which is a judicial inquiry into the authority by which a certain person assumes to exercise the functions of any given office, and that such proceeding can only be instituted after Maj. HOFFMANN has actually taken possession. In that case KERN would no longer be Sheriff, but an ex-Sheriff, and there is no law or precedent which could re-establish him in a position to which the people refused to elect him. The idea of resorting to an injunction to restrain KERN from turning over the office was a desperate one, and we do not believe there is a Judge in Cook County who would consent to issue such an injunction for fifteen minutes after the expiration of KERN's term. The latter's talk about his own responsibility and that of his bondsmen was all weak and insincere twaddle, for the law expressly exempts KERN and his bondsmen from all liability after turning over his office, except as to business transacted during his own official term. If Maj. HOFFMANN were ineligible to the office of Sheriff, and if there were any honest intention to raise that question, it would have been done without reference to KERN's selfish interests. The way would be to file a *quo warranto* after Maj. HOFFMANN had taken his position; and, in case his ineligibility were established, Coroner MANN would become Acting Sheriff till a new Sheriff should be elected. It is safe to say that no proceeding of this kind will be taken unless it be prompted by malice on account of the prompt defeat of the effort to keep KERN in office.

The controversy that has been raised in this matter can only serve to illustrate once more the inordinate passion for officeholding which seizes upon most men who have once had a taste of it. It is like the opium habit, and worse than Dr. D'UNGER's alcoholic infusoria, for no variety of cinchona bark will cure it. Men seem to be willing to sacrifice money, reputation, and friends to keep in office after they have once been there. The combination of "a little brief authority" and easily-gotten emoluments exercises a curious and mysterious influence upon most human nature. Once an officeholder always an office-seeker, might well become a maxim in popular government. An impression seems to prevail that a vested right is acquired by election or appointment, and that there is an abrogation of contract in choosing a successor. KERN's case is a conspicuous example of this monomania. Two years ago he was elected Sheriff by a good round majority, and he went into the office with the warm friendship of those who had voted for him, and the confidence of the entire community. He seems to have begun to electioneer for a re-election almost before he was warm in his chair, and during the two years made a host of personal opponents by his promises and disappointments. It was only after a fierce struggle that he secured a nomination, and then his own party helped to defeat him. A sane man, outside of the influences of politics, would say that this experience, including the expenditure of a large part of the money his office yielded him, would have been enough,—and yet he was not satisfied. He seemed to be willing to clutch at a straw to retain his hold. Without the slightest prospect of success he has gained the reputation of desiring to impose himself upon the people after the people had expressed their desire that he should retire, and there is no conduct which calls out so much popular resentment. We presume from reports that come to us that Mr. KERN has reconsidered any intention he may have had to resist the popular will, whether he has been persuaded by more judicious friends or whether he has become convinced of the inefficiency of injunctions in such a case, and that he will turn over his office, public property, and prisoners to-morrow, take his receipt from Maj. HOFFMANN, and retire in as good order as possible; and, after he shall have recovered somewhat from the itch for officeholding under the influences of private business life, he will recognize how narrow an escape he made from a fatal mistake.

A correspondent writes a long communication for our waste-basket, because he does not sign his true name, complaining that the churches in this city do not welcome transient visitors more cordially than they do. He asserts—what we do not think is warranted by the facts—that strangers are hustled into the poorest and most undesirable seats, and that most pew-holders are distant, and often insolent, to persons not belonging to the regular congregation. No doubt a fine bit of irreligious sarcasm might be woven into an article on the exclusiveness and aristocratic tendencies of our fashionable churches, and Mr. ROBERT INGERSOLL and his adherents will probably not be slow in making the most of that aspect of the situation. But there are two sides to this question. It must not be forgotten that the regular pew-renters in a church pay a high price in cash for the privileges they enjoy, and that the courtesy which they extend to strangers and others springs more from a desire to do them good than from the recognition of any other obligation. But to return to the complaint of our correspondent. We do not believe that people suffer much from neglect in any church in Chicago. On the contrary, both pastor and all the active members in every congregation that we know anything about are always glad to see all who wish to come, and it seldom happens that anybody has to stand during service. Certainly no one is regarded as an intruder, and we suspect that this is a trumped-up excuse on the part of those who could really find no other excuse for staying away from church on Sunday.

CHURCH-ABSENTEEISM.

The Rev. A. B. MOREY, of the Fifth Presbyterian Church, Cincinnati, preached a sermon on Sunday last upon the subject of non-attendance in the Protestant churches of that city. The statistics upon which he based his sermon are sufficiently startling to have justified the reverend gentleman in making a close search for the causes, although, with all respect for his honesty of intentions, we conceive he has ignored the real ones. The substance of his statistics may be stated as follows: The Protestant population of the city is at least 120,000 souls. Of church-going age there are, say, 80,000. The seating capacity of the Protestant churches is 60,000; the membership 20,000. On Sunday morning last the attendance was 12,500. That is, a little more than one-sixth of the Protestants of church-going age went to church, and of the actual members one-third were at home, and in all the churches there were 47,500 vacant seats. It is little wonder that Brother MOREY is startled at the rapid growth of absenteeism.

In searching for the causes, the reverend gentleman found that the first was the newspaper which was issued on Sunday; the second, the existence of so many foreigners; and, lastly, the want of efficiency in the work of the Church. The first and second reasons are too weak and flippant to deserve notice. The third is stated too much in the manner of a glittering generality, and does not go to the roots of the trouble. In such an important matter as this it is wiser to look the truth right in the face and frankly concede it, because a thousand such sermons as the Cincinnati clergyman preached will not induce another soul to go to church, while so far as his discourse was in the nature of a rebuke it was not pointed enough to pierce any conscience in the pews. In stating what it conceives to be the reasons for this alarming growth of absenteeism from the Protestant churches, THE CHICAGO TRIBUNE is only actuated by a desire to help the clergy correct the evil, for an evil it assuredly is.

The most comprehensive reason for this absenteeism is to be found in the growing tendency of the Church to become a "society" affair, and the disposition to run and manage it after the manner of our social clubs. If one does not belong to the clique or coterie of "society," there is little room or use for him in most churches. It is coming to be necessary to go to church in your own carriage, with a liveried driver and horses that step high. The low-stepping horses that drag the street-cars cannot take you into the church "society," unless it is known you have a carriage at home and are eccentric enough to take the democratic conveyance. It is coming to be necessary to wear very good clothes to the church, and to manifest an esthetic taste and disregard of expense about it, so that what is lost in the loudness of the opera, for instance, may be made up in cost. It is coming to be necessary for the coterie of church society to put on an air of exclusiveness that freezes out those who do not move within its limits. This, we assume, is a wide departure from the foundation principle of the Church on earth contained in the instruction to go out into the highways and byways, and compel them to come in. The Church has a firm grip on the avenues and stone-fronts, but it does not reach out into the byways or bring any influence to bear upon the cottage of the workingman. Nor would it be of any use to invite the mechanic in to hang on a ragged edge, because his pride would revolt at it, nor would it be possible to induce a poor man to partake of a religion that was beyond the possibilities of his pocketbook, when salvation should be without money and without price, and the Scriptures request him to partake of the waters of life freely.

In the second place, the management of "society" in the Church, as elsewhere, involves an immense expense. The expense of the carriage and dress is but one item. The expenses of social competition are always an onerous tax. The fashionable church, or any church in which "society" controls affairs, must of necessity impose very heavy pew-rents and frequent assessments to make the wheels go round. When the rent of a pew in one of these churches averages as much cost as the rent of the average workingman's house, how in the name of all that is mathematical and moral can a workingman afford to go to church? It will not do to say that the workingman can have a back seat in the gallery. The workingman has some pride. He can have his seat in the theatre, or the concert, or in any worldly entertainment at the same price as the rich, and he meets them there on the level. His natural pride revolts at being stuck off in a corner where he is the victim of social distinctions. If a man is expected to go to a church that cares nothing for him, because he is not in "society," it is but natural that he should soon care nothing for the church and stay at home. There is one Protestant church in this city whose seating capacity is 2,000, and there are always 2,000 people in the seats. This church is the Temple of Thalia, on Madison street, in which, for want of conformity to dogma, Prof. SWING is obliged to hold his services. In this church one seat is as good as another, and "society" does not manage it. It is practicable for a poor man to go to it. It is practicable for young men to go to it and feel at home, and more young men go there than to any other Protestant church in the city. There are no extraordinary expenses to this church that involve the necessity of a contribution-box, with its weekly suggestions. Madison street is filled with horse-cars to take away its worshipers. There are no side-entertainments. It does not give concerts, readings, or dramatic shows, is not in the oyster, strawberry, or necktie business, and has no mortgages to lift from its organ, furniture, bell, or building. The Church should be the most democratic of all institutions. The Roman Catholic Church management understands this. That Church has five or more services each Sunday. Four of these are free and open to the world. The pew-holder has no claim to his seat except at the fifth. Thus it is that the Roman Catholics have one church with five congregations, and the Protestants have five churches with one congregation.

All denial to the contrary notwithstanding, the growth of absenteeism, we believe, is due more to the encroachment of "society" upon its direction and enjoyment than to any other cause, the natural result of which is an alarming increase of expense. Still, the statistics of Cincinnati are not safe guides as sources of comparison. Cincinnati never was a truly good city, and for some time past, notwithstanding the efforts of its one truly good man, the editor of the *Gazette*, it has been going more and more to the bad, until it is now pretty much given over to music, hogs, beer, and BOB INGERSOLL, who has recently been holding crowded levees to the edification of its people. It has almost entirely let go of Christianity, and one truly good man cannot save it, any more than LOT was able to save Sodom. There is too much church-absenteeism even in our own pious city, which does so much for Christianity, charity, and mission work; but it is not fair to measure our spiritual condition by that of such a wicked city as Cincinnati, which has hopelessly gone over to the "demnition bowwows." Still, the causes we have indicated are also at work here, and they should be removed, lest we reach the pitiable condition of Cincinnati.

AMERICAN EXPENDITURES IN EUROPE.

The American Consul at Stuttgart, in Wurtemberg, Mr. JOHN S. POTTER, in his annual report to the State Department, makes special reference to the number of Americans residing in Europe, their probable expenditure, and the purposes for which many remain in Europe for a term of years. He devotes a large part of his report to what he deems to be generally a great mistake: having American children educated in European schools, especially in those of Germany.

He has, by a diligent correspondence with the American Consuls in Europe, reached an estimate of the number of Americans visiting Europe annually, by which it appears that from July 1, 1877, to June 30, 1878, there arrived in Europe from the United States 36,555 cabin passengers and 59,334 steerage passengers; and from Europe there arrived in the United States 30,974 cabin passengers and 77,360 steerage passengers. The steamship lines report that 80 per cent of the cabin passengers both ways were Americans, which would show that 29,244 American residents visited Europe during the year, which is about the average number each year. He also finds that the average time spent by Americans in Europe is two years, though that of the mere sight-seers is much shorter. Young persons, and families who go to Europe with children for educational purposes, remain from three to eight and ten years. Families with young children often remain until the youngest has acquired the language and obtained an education. There is a large number of American families residing on the Continent, whose heads have made fortunes in the United States, who prefer European life, and who live expensively, supporting considerable style, but who draw all their incomes from investments in this country. The reasons generally given for foreign residence is that the educational institutions of the United States do not offer the advantages which they desire for their children. Mr. POTTER estimates the *daily* average expenditures of each person, including cost of living, education, traveling expenses, and the purchase of expensive trifles, at $5. Assuming that 29,244 persons justly represent the current number of Americans annually crossing the sea, and that the average stay is two years, the number of Americans constantly abroad would be 58,488, their daily expenditure $292,444, and their annual expenditure $106,594,600, drawn from the United States in gold.

Mr. POTTER has compiled from information collected by him a statement of the number of Americans who are residing at the localities named for educational purposes:

Germany—		Italy—	
Berlin	200	Naples	40
Brunswick	30	Palermo	15
Carlsruhe	16	Messina	20
Bohemia—Carlsbad	30	Rome	120
Germany—		Milan	111
Cologne	20	Austria—	
Dusseldorf	22	Trieste	5
Dresden	350	Vienna	220
Frankfort	50	Switzerland—	
Freiburg	15	Berne	50
Gottingen	30	Geneva	350
Hanover	500	Lucerne	20
Leipsic	321	Zurich	90
Munich	210	Belgium—	
Stuttgart	600	Antwerp	25
Heidelberg	30	Brussels	260
France—		Sweden—Stockholm	250
Boulogne	60	England—	
Bordeaux	20	Glasgow	42
Marseilles	100	London	700
Paris	*1,900	Russia—	
Italy—		St. Petersburg	60
Florence	80	Warsaw	40
Nice	12	Portugal—Lisbon	15
Messina	30	Tuscany—Leghorn	19
Total			7,048

* Estimated.

This number does not represent students alone; it includes families and others who accompany their children during the period of their studies; and there are other places besides those named where Americans are studying languages, art, and science. But putting the average expense of each person thus engaged in acquiring an education at $650 a year, the expenditure for those enumerated would be $4,500,000 a year, and Mr. POTTER thinks this money, in an educational way, might be more profitably expended at home. On this point he writes with feelings inspired by actual observation, and so earnestly that we think what he says worthy of reproduction and of careful consideration. He writes:

The Government institutions of the United States, and the whole current of practical life under them, is so different from those in Europe that the wisdom of sending American youths to be educated where they will be constantly subject to teachings and influences that are incompatible with the institutions upon which the prosperity and existence of their country depends, and under which they must live, may be safely questioned. Parents who love their country would do well, before sending their children abroad, to satisfy themselves that the precise culture they seek for them cannot be attained in a higher degree, quicker, cheaper, and more practical in character at home. . . . Instances are known where, to learn the German language, American children have crossed sea and land to enter a large school in Southern Germany, in which the text-books or grammars used were printed and published in Boston and New Haven, and the instruction given by an eminent and gifted Professor who acquired the mastery of the German and other languages in America. But, while American young ladies, and gentlemen, and children are pursuing studies abroad, they naturally fall into the free and easy ways of the social life that surrounds them, and unconsciously imbibe a love of foreign customs, which makes them restless under moral restraints and weakens their attachment to the laws and systems of their native land; and thus, with rare exceptions, they become unfitted for nearly all the paths of practical, energetic life under the republican institutions of the United States.

This much applies generally to all parts of Europe. Residing, however, as he does, in Germany, he makes special reference to those who attend the universities in that country, and the pictures he draws of university life cannot prove attractive to American parents. Here is a portion of what he says on this subject:

The music and technical schools of Germany constitute the main attraction for American youths of both sexes. In these institutions the courses of study are thorough, and students must work hard and long in order to obtain marks of distinction. But the scholars have no spur to energetic work except that which is self-imposed. They go to their lessons and lectures when they please,—every day, once in a week or month, or not at all. Their position, as members of the school, is not disturbed, nor a reprimand given, so long as the tuition fee is promptly paid. The Professor will, perhaps, mildly say to a derelict student, "If you do not study, you will not learn. It is wholly your affair, and you alone are the loser." No effort is made to develop his moral capacities, or to assist him in the promotion and refinement of his character. Indeed, it would not be wide of the truth to say that much is done which is positively injurious to character. The organization of the students into "corps," represented by different colors, if not encouraged is certainly permitted, and "dueling" is one of the principal pastimes of the "corp student," who soon becomes proud of his membership in an organization where ghastly scars and mutilated features are regarded as the highest marks of honorable distinction.

In these great educational institutions, which are professedly established for the purpose of developing the highest and most refined capacities of mankind, the "Kneipe," or drinking carousal, is an organized department of student or "corps" life, and excesses are cultivated with method and regularly by meetings held once or twice in each week.

He further describes the "Fest" days or nights, when the Professors attend these drinking banquets, and enter heartily into the dissipation which is thus openly encouraged. He also describes the fighting halls, the scenes of bloody encounters, and where men acquire fame in the proportion that they take life in the dexterous use of the sword among their fellow-students. Considering the time thus wasted as taking a large fraction from the natural period of life, he declares that "It would not be an exaggeration to say, that a bright boy in an American school would finish his studies with honor, enter upon the practice of his profession, make his mark in the world, and a fortune as well, and retire from business before some of the students in a German scientific school had completed their studies."

It is possible that Mr. POTTER has exaggerated the number of Americans residing abroad for an average period of two years, and in this way has magnified unduly the amount of money expended by Americans annually in Europe. It is true that the average American with a large and suddenly-acquired fortune does expend his money lavishly, and generally foolishly, but it requires a great many of this class, even with the help of medical and musical students of both sexes, to expend a hundred and four millions of dollars a year.

EDISON'S ELECTRIC LIGHT.

The holders of gas-stocks in England seem to be recovering from the fright caused by the announcement of EDISON's discovery of an electric light. The London *Times* of Nov. 14 reports an advance of ½ to 2½ per cent in the principal stocks. On the supposition that the panic was caused by rumors of European inventions, this advance would be difficult to explain. The European inventions, so far as they have been tried, have more than answered public expectations. The Secretary of the Company formed to operate the RAPIEFF light, now in use in the London *Times'* composing-room, quotes with approval the statement of FONTAINE that "electric lighting costs annually 33 per cent less than gas, and gives six times more light." It is evident that the advance in gas-stocks, in the face of the results, is due to the belief that such machines as RAPIEFF's are not available for common purposes, and that the problem of the divisibility of the electric light has not been solved. EDISON has been discredited by the scientific men to such an extent that the holders of gas-stocks have got their courage again. They believe his much-vaunted "discovery" is not going to amount to anything; and, unless it does, they are perfectly safe in holding on to their shares for the present.

It is a remarkable fact that just as the people on the other side of the water have become convinced that EDISON's light is a failure, the people on this side are more confident that it has a reasonable scientific basis. We do not say that EDISON has succeeded, or that he will succeed, in doing all that is claimed for him; but we do say that there are a number of reasons for still putting confidence in his promises. Not to speak of his previous achievements, which should encourage us to believe that he knows what he is talking about, he has shown full faith in the genuineness of his invention by preparing to give it a trial on a large scale at Menlo Park. He estimates the cost of his proposed experiment at $100,000 to $125,000. It is not conceivable that he would encourage his friends to put money in such an enterprise and embark in it himself unless he had pretty solid reasons for believing that the outlay would be made good. His own confidence in himself and the value of his discovery, in spite of the storm of criticisms, sneers, and innuendoes with which he has been visited, is almost sublime. It is something like the confidence of WATTS, ARKWRIGHT, FULTON, and STEPHENSON, each in himself; and every great inventor has been compelled to persevere in the face of the same obloquy before he has been successful.

Mr. EDISON has given some important clews on which it is possible to base an opinion of the feasibility of his invention. The most important statement that he has yet made concerns the method of using power in the proposed light. His critics have maintained that it would be impossible for him to use power more economically than it is now used in the manufacture of gas. The turning of water into steam, which is necessary for the WALLACE machine, involves a great loss of heat; then there will be a loss by friction in machinery, a great loss by induction, and a loss in heat at the burner. Precisely at this point Mr. EDISON explains the whole philosophy of his system. There is a loss by heat at the burner, it is true, but that loss, as compared with the loss by heat in burning gas, is only as one to ten. Nine parts in ten of burning gas go away in heat; one part in ten makes light. The carbon in gas which is imperfectly consumed is correlated in heat; and it is not possible to consume more than one part in ten. If the whole volume of gas at any given burner could be condensed into one-tenth of the space, and burned, the intensity of the light would be increased, Mr. EDISON says, nearly thirty-seven times. Now, in the case of electricity the effect is that of condensation. Only one part in ten of the power is used for the production of heat, while nine parts in ten are turned into light. Any person who desires to test roughly the truth of this observation can do so by putting his hand first near a gas-burner and then near an electric light. It will be found that the heat emitted from gas is, the difference of intensity considered, many times that of electricity.

Mr. EDISON discards combustion of carbon altogether as a part of his scheme. His effort is to get a platinum point—that metal is chosen because it does not readily oxidize—into a state of incandescence. By an arrangement which he has not yet divulged, he keeps the platinum below the temperature of 2,500 degrees, its melting point being 2,800 degrees. He does this by checking the electric current whenever it is about to produce more than the desired heat. The consequence is that his light presents chiefly the phenomenon of incandescence, and only in an inconsiderable degree that of combustion; in other words, nearly all the power that he brings to the burner passes off in light, and very little in heat. The combustion which takes place is that of the oxygen in the air. The difference between this system and that which consumes a large quantity of carbon in a gas-flame is fundamental. The saving effected by the former over the latter is so great that Mr. EDISON calculates he might buy gas at the retail price, use its superfluous heat to make steam, and with that steam produce an electric light which could be sold at a profit. This seems a perfectly reasonable explanation of the principle which is at the bottom of the electric light, and which makes it so much more economical in use than gas. It encourages us to hope that Mr. EDISON will do all that he has promised, and that, at no distant day, we shall have a better light than gas, at a fraction of the price now charged.

It was currently reported on 'Change in this city yesterday that wheat is being shipped in large quantities from Omaha and other Missouri River points to Milwaukee at 10 cents per 100 pounds less than the rate charged to Chicago; and the statement was verified on appeal to parties stated to be interested in the wheat in question. It was also rumored that wheat is now being shipped by all-rail from Milwaukee to the seaboard at 5 cents per 100 pounds less than the lowest rate that can be obtained by shippers from Chicago. The truthfulness of this rumor was not admitted by the parties named, but it was alluded to in such a way as to leave little doubt that the rumor is founded on fact. In view of these conditions it is decidedly refreshing to read the expression of views of a leading railroad official given in yesterday's TRIBUNE. The gentleman claims to think that "the Warehouse Commissioners are mainly responsible for the diversion of this class of freight to Milwaukee, the inspection there being better than in Chicago." Parties in the trade say that the existence of a grade known as "No. 4" in Milwaukee makes it a little more difficult to pass wheat into No. 3 in that city than into the corresponding grade here; and, if Milwaukee No. 2 be inferior to our No. 2, it is well that the world should know it, as the quotations of the two grades in New York generally indicate that the reverse is believed to be the case there. The attempted explanation of the wrong referred to seems very much like adding insult to injury; and the railroad officials would do better to reform their practice than to endeavor to evade the point at issue in any such manner as that here referred to.

"Enough is as good as a feast," is a trite old adage, and everybody knows that one may have too much of a good thing. For example, the Democratic politicians have been yearning for a "Solid South," and they have got it pretty much as they want it, under the shot-gun and red-shirt method of electioneering; but they are not exactly satisfied with their work. A Democratic Congressman from the West (was it BILL SPRINGER?) remarked in Washington the other day that "The South is a little too d—d solid," the profane remark being elicited in a conversation about the condition of affairs in South Carolina. He said that it was utterly impossible to make Northern people believe that the Republicans in that State were not defrauded out of at least three Congressmen by their system of terrorism and ballot-box stuffing. No doubt the bulldozers carried their little game too far. They made too clean a sweep at the first trial. Only two Republicans in the Legislature of South Carolina—a State that everybody knows is Republican—is overworking the opportunity.

"The people of the United States have again the silver option in the payment of debts, and never will give it up—never!" This brings the buzzard-dollar issue on to its old ground again, namely, that the debtor shall have a chance to make his creditor take 85 cents for a dollar every time.—*New York Tribune.*

Oh, no; that is not the idea in your head at all. You know very well that the bullion value of silver is as great to-day as gold was previous to 1873. You know that gold has advanced in purchasing power 20 to 40 per cent within five years. What you want is to destroy the silver option of payment, and compel every man to pay his debts in dollars really worth 125 cents each, as compared with former coin values, and that is the reason you intrigue and misrepresent for the establishment of the gold standard; you seek to magnify the dollar; you talk of a "clipped" dollar—what you want is a "loaded" one. That is the true inwardness of JAY GOULD's paper and of the milk in his cocoanut.

Our readers may not have forgotten the over-issue of horse-railway stock in Philadelphia last year. The guilty President of the Company has been finally brought to trial. An exchange says:

There was a grievous sight in Philadelphia last Monday. JOHN S. MORTON was upon the stand to testify in regard to the Market-Street Railway defalcations. The ex-President of the Company told a pitiful story of his own weakness, of the over-issue of stock to an enormous amount, of the miserably weak way in which he yielded to the importunities and bullying of JOHN R. NAGLE & Co. Mr. MORTON is said to have answered in a mournful manner when he acknowledged his own guilt, but he mentioned the great sums raised by the fictitious stock as if they were small matters indeed. He has had a disastrous familiarity with large amounts of money which was not his own. He began by winking at an irregularity of the Treasurer of the Company, and he ended by being himself a self-convicted criminal, from whom only the plea of "Guilty" was possible. There have been many sad losses of character in our time, but none sadder than his.

The New York *Tribune* jokes BILL PELTON, of cipher-dispatch notoriety, in this unfeeling manner:

Col. WILLIAM TILDEN PELTON has wisely discontinued his practice of spreading the middle section of his name in full upon his cards. Col. PELTON's middle name has been in time past an extremely useful and ornamental portion of his signature, but never again will the TILDEN part of Col. PELTON's name invest him with any additional dignity or repute by reflection. On the contrary, Col. PELTON's middle name will be liable to do him sad disservice so long as he wears it. For it will continually remind him and remind other people of certain transactions in the year of grace 1876 which Col. WILLIAM TILDEN PELTON and Col. WILLIAM TILDEN PELTON's uncle would be pleased to have forgotten. For these reasons we hold that Col. PELTON exercises sound judgment and discretion when he withholds as much of his middle name as possible from the broad sunlight of publicity. A small and unobtrusive T. is every way preferable to the complete TILDEN, whether in print or in the bold, literary bureau hand which Col. PELTON used to swing when he affixed his signature to telegrams and things in the day of his authority.

Some of the Milwaukee newspapers "wonder that Senator HOWE's friends should hold a little caucus in Chicago instead of Milwaukee," but they may wonder still more to learn that there was no caucus held here at the time referred to. Senator HOWE was on his way to Washington, and some other Wisconsin men of note happened to be here at the same time. The alleged "caucus" was held in Room 239 of the Grand Pacific Hotel, and the only persons present were Senator and Mrs. HOWE and a representative of THE TRIBUNE. The proceedings of the caucus were published in our issue of the next morning in the shape of an interview with the Senator.

Congress meets to-morrow, and there are over 300 bills on the House calendar alone. Some of the important bills introduced at the last session, and ready to come up for consideration, are entitled as follows: An act to provide pensions on account of death, or wounds received, or disease contracted in the service of the United States during the late War of the Rebellion. An act to fix the pay of letter-carriers. Bill regulating the compensation for the transportation of mails on railroad routes, providing for the classification of mail-matter, and for other purposes. Bill to provide for the establishment of steamship mail-service between the United