The Sun.

FRIDAY, DECEMBER 11, 1891.

It Should be Abolished.

Mr. Henry T. Blake of New Haven discusses in the December number of the very sober and conservative *New Englander*, the practical workings of the new official ballot in the last elections. He shows that everywhere and in a multitude of ways this latest hobby of cranky reformers has proved troublesome and even dangerous in actual use; that it is a mischievous innovation, with no compensating advantages of any kind whatever.

It is enormously costly. It complicates the process of voting uselessly and unnecessarily. It vexes the citizen and vastly increases the liability to mistakes on the part of both voters and election officers. As a result of its employment, contests over the canvass of the votes have occurred to an extent unknown under the old and simple system of balloting, and here in New York, more than a month after the election, the question as to the Legislature elected is not yet decided.

Mr. Blake finds also that a very striking feature of the November elections was the unusual lightness of the vote in several States using the Australian ballot, as it is called. This was especially noticeable in New York, Ohio, and Nebraska. In all of those States the canvass before the election was remarkable for its thoroughness and excitement. Yet the aggregate of the vote cast was small in each of them. His explanation of the cause of this extraordinary result is "the unwillingness of thousands of voters to go through the delays, perplexities, and vexations imposed by the method of voting." That is a very reasonable inference, the talk about bribery as the cause being of course nonsense. Hundreds of thousands of citizens are not thus purchasable, even if the enormous amount of money to buy them to remain away from the polls were available. It is true, however, as Mr. Blake says, that "a very large proportion of the voters are too indifferent about exercising their electoral privileges in any case, and the expectation of special embarrassment at the polls would be quite sufficient to keep them at home." They are sensitive about exposing themselves to the liability of making mortifying blunders under the novel and complicated requirements of the system of the cranky reformers. To get out the vote and to obtain the will of the people, the simplest system of voting is essential. The new device ought to be patented as the best method of keeping people away from the polls, and defeating the purposes of an election by universal suffrage.

Mr. Blake shows, also, that the substitution of the blanket ballot, pure and simple, for the pasters allowed in this State, would only further complicate the process and harass the voter. Such a ballot would be of cumbersome size; at an election for President it might be from four to six feet long by more than a foot wide. The troubles of the voter in picking out his candidates and marking them would be onerous in the extreme, and his liability to mistakes vastly increased. More people than ever would stay away from the polls.

Mr. Blake therefore looks forward to the operation of the new contrivance at the election for President next year with much reasonable alarm. He sees that the chances of a disputed election, with all its chain of perilous consequences, will be multiplied, and that at best the probability of vexatious and irritating delays in getting at the result will be greatly increased. "Is there not reason," he asks, "to fear what complications and dangers the next Presidential election may bring in its train?"

Undoubtedly there is such reason. The whole complicated and dangerous contrivance ought to be smashed by prompt legislation in every State which was induced by mischievous professional reformers to make the hazardous experiment of adopting it. Its defects are radical and irremediable by any alterations. It should be abolished altogether, and the old and simple method of voting restored.

Our Foreign Affairs.

It is generally acknowledged that since Mr. Blaine resumed charge of the State Department, and especially since the instrument of reciprocity was placed in his hands, our relations with foreign countries have acquired an interest and an importance such as they had not possessed for many years. We may well, therefore, give particular attention to those parts of the President's message which deal with the branch of the Federal Government under Mr. Blaine's direction.

The capital feature in the report of the Secretary of State is the account of the uses to which the reciprocity clauses of the McKinley act have already been put, and of the larger results to be expected. We have heretofore referred in these columns to the substantial advantages which will accrue to our producers of food staples and to our manufacturers when the agreement with Spain respecting the conditions of our trade with her West Indian dependencies shall go completely into effect, which will not be until July 1, 1892. Material benefits have been secured by similar arrangements for partial reciprocity between the United States and Brazil; and the fact that San Domingo has made corresponding concessions may cause the development of a considerable trade with that republic. It is understood that negotiations have been undertaken for the purpose of obtaining like facilities for trade with several other South American and Central American States, and we infer from the President's message that more than one new field of commerce will presently be opened. There are certain countries on this continent, as, for instance, Mexico, Venezuela, and Peru, with which a free interchange of many products may reasonably be looked for. If the prospect seems less bright in the direction of Chili, the Argentine Confederation, and the United States of Colombia, it is because the latter country is still in some degree tied to France by the lingering hope of seeing the Panama Canal completed, while the two former republics are too dependent upon England, commercially and financially, to accept the overtures of the United States.

It is in an equitable spirit that the Secretary of State meets the demand of the Italian Government for the punishment of the participants in the lynching at New Orleans and for an indemnity to the families of the persons who were killed. Mr. Blaine recognizes the plausibility of the Marquis di Rudini's position that, if Italian subjects can be proved to have been among the men unlawfully put to death, the State Department cannot evade responsibility on the ground that the acts complained of fall within the cognizance not of Federal but of State courts. The States having been debarred from international relations by the Constitution, their accountability has necessarily devolved upon the Federal Government; and if legislation is as yet lacking to make such accountability effective, it is time that the appropriate laws were passed. We should not for an instant permit outrages committed on American citizens at Panama to go unredressed at Bogota on the plea that the Colombian Confederation had no power to protect foreigners from a failure of justice in the courts of the State of Panama. It is a practical suggestion which is offered in the President's message, namely, that Congress should make offences against the treaty rights of foreigners in the United States cognizable by the Federal courts.

The account of the incidents which have given rise to a misunderstanding with Chili will convince, we think, the candid reader that no exception can be taken to the course pursued by the State and Navy Departments during the recent contest between the Chilian Executive and the so-called Congress party. It is pointed out that our refusal to recognize the insurgents as belligerents was in strict conformity with the policy which our Government, when racked by organized rebellion, strenuously urged upon European nations. It is, moreover, a policy which, as Mr. Blaine aptly says, Balmaceda's successor must himself desire, now that he is clothed with executive functions, to see observed by our Government in the event of a revolt against his authority. As for the Itata case, this is disposed of by an extract from a communication addressed to Rear Admiral Brown by the Secretary of Foreign Relations of the Provisional Government established at Iquique. In this document a voluntary offer is made to return the Itata, together with her arms and ammunition, on the ground that she had violated international law by having, while in the custody of a United States Marshal, left the port of San Diego and carried off that official. It is true that a United States District Court has since decided that we had no right to seize the vessel, because we had not recognized the Congress party as a belligerent. If this is good law, it is manifest that rebels would never wish to acquire the status of belligerents, and a state of things would ensue inconsistent with international comity and offensive to common sense.

It should interest those Americans who have been swift to credit the calumnious charges brought against Minister Egan by an anonymous correspondent of the London *Times*, to learn from the President's message that up to the present hour no official complaint of the conduct of our envoy in Santiago or of any of our naval officers during the Chilian civil war has been presented to our Federal Government. Noteworthy also is the information that the new Chilian Government has not ventured to deny the right of asylum asserted for the American Legation by Minister Egan on behalf of Balmacedist refugees. To the outrages perpetrated in Valparaiso on sailors wearing the uniform of the United States the President's message refers with deserved indignation, and expresses a dignified regret that the Chilian Government should have replied in an offensive tone to the protest of the State Department. Significant is the further statement that, unless a more seemly and satisfactory answer to our remonstrance is soon received, the matter will be pressed on the immediate attention of Congress by a special message. It is, indeed, high time that the insolence of the Chilians should be fittingly rebuked, and that they should be taught their true position with respect to this republic. Nothing could be more groundless than the notion that we must put up with insult and injury from a petty State lest we should expose our seaports to bombardment from Chilian ironclads. There are a plenty of armored vessels of a high class to be bought in Europe, and, if Congress should authorize their purchase, they could be brought across the Atlantic long before a Chilian vessel could reach our waters.

On the whole, we believe that no one can read the report of the State Department without a gratifying conviction that our foreign relations are in firm, capable, and patriotic hands.

Veteran Naval Officers.

Secretary Tracy says in his annual report that some of the details of the Phythian Board's promotion plan require essential modification. Among these details should be the one that deals with officers who served in the civil war.

According to the interpretation of this plan by a high authority, there is first to be a general weeding out of the line officers by a Board appointed for the purpose. Those who have become unfitted for duty through their own fault are to be dismissed; those who have become unfitted not through their own fault are to be retired; those who are fitted for shore duty but not so well for sea duty, are to be put on permanent shore duty, out of the line of promotion. After this is done there is to be a special consideration of the case of officers who entered the navy between 1860 and 1867 inclusive, and their present number of 310, if not already reduced by the weeding-out process to 200, must be brought down to the latter number. First they will be invited to retire with the rank and pay of the next higher grade; but if that does not secure the degree of reduction determined upon, the Board will proceed to crowd the surplus among them upon shore duty, where they will be out of the line of promotion.

The special discrimination thus made is directed against officers most of whom entered during the civil war period. It will be observed that by previous processes under this plan not only those of them who have become disqualified for duty, but even those not so well fitted for sea as for shore service would have been disposed of. Accordingly a subsequent compulsory setting aside of those who are competent for sea duty is manifestly a discrimination against officers entitled rather to peculiar consideration. It is true that the Phythian Board shows how the crowding of the naval service during the war period disturbed the normal numbers in the various grades, and has since, joined with seniority promotion, produced a block in grades below. Still, this portion of the proposed remedy sacrifices men who entered the navy in time of war for the benefit of juniors who have served only during the time of peace.

Secretary Tracy proposes to begin the reorganization by voluntary instead of compulsory transfers. He would offer retirement in the next higher grade to all officers of war service or who have passed more than fifteen years in their grade, provided they themselves wish and apply to be retired; and on similar application he would allow any officer of twenty years' service or more to go upon shore duty with no further promotion. After that, should further action be required to increase the flow of promotion, he would select eighty-five per cent. of the remainder for sea service, the vacancies at the foot of the list being filled only as casualties occur in the

original body of officers, both of the active and reserve lists.

Whatever plan to secure the desired flow of promotion may be fixed upon by Congress, it should not set aside proved competency in war time and since, simply in order to accelerate the rise of those whose fitness has yet to be determined. We have the only navy in the world whose officers have seen much real warfare, and those who rendered the Government service thirty years ago, and have since been found worthy to remain on the active list, should be kept there as long as age and ability to serve continue to permit. That a Board having the fate of every officer in the navy in its hands should undertake a special mowing down of officers of the civil war period so that others may have quicker promotion, appears neither wise nor grateful. It should be possible to secure a reasonable degree of promotion for the present and the future without the compulsory removal from the active list of war veterans whose records and existing abilities show them to be competent to remain there.

Abandoned Farms in New England.

The business of advertising farms for sale seems a remarkable undertaking for a State Government. The Commonwealth of Massachusetts has entered into it, however, and the State of New Hampshire has gone even further, having published a pamphlet, of which more than ten thousand copies have been distributed, giving an account of the various localities within the State limits at which summer boarders may find desirable accommodations.

The descriptive catalogue of abandoned or partially abandoned farms in Massachusetts, issued a few days ago by the State Board of Agriculture, has been prepared under the authority of a statute enacted in May last, which provided for the collection of "all necessary information in regard to the opportunities for developing the agricultural resources of the Commonwealth, through the repopulating of abandoned or partially abandoned farms." The facts obtained and a statement of the advantages offered were to be circulated in such manner and in such places as the State Board of Agriculture might deem best. Hence this pamphlet. It shows the entire number of abandoned or partially abandoned farms in Massachusetts, as reported to the Secretary of the Board, to be 906. The largest number, 256, are in Worcester county. The only other counties with more than a hundred are Berkshire, 146, and Franklin, 103. Eighty-six acres is the average area of abandoned farms upon which there are buildings, and eighty-seven acres the average area of those without buildings. The average value of the farms with buildings is stated to be $894, and those without, $561.

Following the report of the Secretary of the Board of Agriculture is a particular description of abandoned farms which the owners desire to sell, arranged alphabetically according to counties and townships. As an example, we copy the first item relating to farms in the prosperous town of Princeton, ten miles north of the city of Worcester, in Worcester county:

> "Farm of 85 acres: mowing, 12; pasture, 35; woodland, 38; suitable for cultivation, 10. Grass can be cut with a machine. House, 30x25; L, 28x14; 12 rooms; fair repair. Barn, 36x40, in fair repair, with cellar. Fenced with stone wall and barbed wire in good condition. Three wells of soft water. Fifty apple, 12 peach, 6 pear, 2 cherry, and 1 apricot tree. Good grapes. Railroad station, Brooks Station, 2 miles; Post Office, Brooks Station, 2 miles. Price, $1,800; cash at sale, $900; interest on balance, 5 per cent. Henhouse, newly shingled, 40x14; henhouse, 20x10; good wagon house. Address Levi H. Howe, Holden, Mass."

That very many of the farms described in this catalogue would make delightful summer residences for city people there can be no doubt; but it is not only to attract such persons that this publication has been undertaken by the State of Massachusetts. The idea is to make known to those of moderate means, who have to work for a living, that the country offers inducements which compare favorably with the conditions that now prevail in many of our cities, owing to the excessive competition arising out of the tendency of the population everywhere to flock into the cities. On this subject the report speaks the case very clearly thus:

> "This competition reacts upon those who come to the city for the purpose of improving their fortunes only to find the opportunities open to them constantly growing less. On the other hand, the life of the farmer, notwithstanding its burdens, was never so easy in many respects as at present. The farms of New England have in the past nurtured strong and brave men, but it was not because of any specially favorable economic conditions. It was the New England character, the New England home life, the New England respect for the church and school, which, frequently in the face of adverse circumstances, developed the New England citizen. It could be easily shown that the hardships and poverty among farmers in the early part of the century were much greater than they are to-day. The improvements due to modern invention have lightened farm labor, while the railroad, the telegraph, and the press have brought the most retired farms into communication with the activities of the age. The farmer may not be able to amass wealth, nor can the majority of those in cities hope to do so. He is generally sure of a comfortable living as the reward of his toil, and the contingencies that affect his employment are usually no greater than those affecting employment in cities. If opportunities for large profits are not opened to him, he is relieved from the risk incidental to such opportunities. That some of the burdens under which he suffers might be and ought to be removed is undeniable; but there are those in the city, working for low wages, liable to periodical unemployment, to whom life upon the abandoned farms would offer an agreeable change; only they must first be convinced that such a change is desirable."

At present the fascination of city life seems so potent that it is difficult to keep the farmer's sons on the farm. A young man who is engaged in a prosperous and profitable occupation in a country village, affording him a fair income and some leisure, will leave it to slave as a clerk in the city, only to find himself at the end of each week with less money in his pocket than he had in the country, when the expenses of living are deducted. The task of overcoming these tendencies is necessarily difficult; but we believe that there are thousands of persons in our great cities who, if they did but know it, would find life far better worth living on the abandoned farms of New England than in the crowded communities where they now exist.

The Louisiana Lottery Company.

The New Orleans *Delta*, the only organ of the people of that city who are opposing the Louisiana Lottery, gives this as the actual financial exhibit of the concern:

"Ten drawings per annum—two special drawings.

INCOME.

Ten drawings, 1,000,000 tickets at $20 each	$20,000,000
Two drawings, 200,000 tickets at $40 each	8,000,000
Total	$28,000,000

EXPENSES.

Prizes, ten drawings	$10,548,000
Prizes, two semi-annual drawings	4,219,200
Commissions to agents	2,000,000
Advertising	2,000,000
All other expenses	1,000,000
Net profits	8,232,800
Total	$28,000,000

"In this exhibit no account is made of the daily drawings, the exact figures of which are not obtainable, but they exceed $2,000,000 annually, making the enormous annual income of $30,000,000, or twice the sum that was paid Napoleon by Jefferson, in 1801, for the entire *Louisiana* purchase."

It is no wonder that the Lottery men can afford to offer $1,200,000 a year for a further twenty-five years extension of their license to keep up a business so rich in profit. But there seems to be a good chance that even their treasury will not be able to buy the support of legislation.

At the primary election held a short time ago for delegates to a State Convention, the Lottery men carried the parish of Orleans by some eleven thousand votes, and of course they were jubilant. It looked as if their complete triumph was secure. But a private letter from New Orleans informs us that although their very lavish use of money gave them a seeming temporary advantage, their opponents are confident that they will down them before the people, even if they do not capture the Convention on the 16th. "It looks now," continues our correspondent, "as if we would have a clear majority of the members of that body."

We hope this confidence is well founded; but the Lottery bribe is very tempting.

A Wise Conclusion.

Since his return from Europe, Mayor Grant has had opportunities of expressing himself concerning various public questions, and on the subject of rapid transit he holds an opinion with which the majority of the people will be sure to agree.

"There is a public aversion," says the Mayor, "to descending into the bowels of the earth in order to take a train." This is so, and the aversion is so well founded that if there were fifty subterraneous railways in New York, nobody would ever embark upon one of them unless compelled by some necessity. So long as it is possible to find standing room in a train of any elevated railway, where there is sunshine and air, all the underground tunnels that may be constructed will be neglected, even though they should offer to carry passengers at half rates.

"The underground system in London," says the Mayor, "is not a perfect system." We add that no underground system can be made perfect enough to compete with our rapid and comfortable elevated railways.

Evidently Mayor Grant brings home with him the level head which he took away.

Sunol.

Yesterday the champion American trotter, Sunol, came to town in obedience to the influence that has brought to New York all the record holders of the past twenty-five years, with but a single exception. Leaving out of consideration Occident, St. Julien, and Jay Eye See, each of which held the record for a day or so, Goldsmith Maid has been the only leader for any length of time that never entered the stable of Mr. Robert Bonner. Dexter, Rarus, and Maud S., not to mention the two extraordinary animals which at different times all horsemen looked to see step to the front, Grafton and Edwin Forrest, have followed each other here before Sunol.

In our opinion this latest comer is the fastest of the procession, at any spot in the mile. A fair comparison of records simply makes her slower than Maud S., but her extreme bursts of speed are known to be swifter, and her great mile was made under circumstances too disadvantageous for it to be set down as near her limit.

Respecting Sunol's prospect of further improvement, three interesting facts among others point consistently to very strong chances in her favor. Maud S., it will be remembered, came into Mr. Bonner's hands with a record of 2:09¾, and it dropped to 2:08¾. Rarus left the turf with a mark of 2:13¼, yet within a year he finished his mile on his owner's three-quarter-mile track at Tarrytown in 2:11½. And Edwin Forrest, retiring with an exhibition of 2:14½, followed Rarus's footsteps in 2:11¾. If these matured campaigners could be urged on to such tremendous strides, why should not the far less practised and less fortunate Sunol cut her record until the pessimist, refusing to believe in the two-minute mile, shivers in dismay?

The Rev. Dr. Parkhurst of this town made an address before the Presbyterian Social Union of Chicago the other day, and in the course of his remarks he said:

> "You can manufacture in cold weather, but all creating is done in high temperature."

We quote this remark in illustration of the difference between the Hon. Benjamin Harrison's message and "Childe Harold."

During the seventy years of Chili's independence, which was won after a long war with Spain, the Chilians have fought each other in their civil wars; they have fought the Araucanians many times; they have fought the Peruvians and fought for them; they have fought the Bolivians, and, in fact, they have always been fighting or ready to fight. Their ancestors began fighting soon after arriving in Chili, and generation after generation kept up the fight with the aboriginal race of the country. The Chilians or Chilenos, some of them, anyhow, would now like to have a fight with the United States, as they have felt that things were dull ever since the ending of their last civil war and the downfall of Balmaceda. They are able to boast that they put 50,000 fighting men in the field in the last war with Peru, and that they made the Peruvians suffer, even though the Peruvian army was bigger than the Chilian.

We don't want to fight the Chilians, who had knocked out the Araucanians, and the Spaniards, and the Peruvians, and the Bolivians, and other adversaries, when not engaged in knocking out each other, and whose ancestors suffered at the hands of the warlike Purumancians. We trust that President Jorge Montt will not fall foul of President Benjamin Harrison, or at least that Admiral Montt will not exchange shots with Admiral Gherardi, or anyhow that the star-spangled battle ship New York, which we have just launched, will not need to show her colors at Iquique Coquimbo, or Valparaiso. We are a peaceful people, desirous of living in amity with all the powers of the world.

In reading about the disturbances among the Cheyennes we notice with interest that the Indian police have arrested Walks Nights, while No Brains has laughed in their beards and taken to the hills. Evidently No Brains has been so called in irony, and when the time comes he will probably head the Cheyenne delegation to the Minneapolis Convention.

The new orders just issued by the Salvation Army in this city regulating the conduct of funerals have the novel and laudable purpose of making the last duty of affection and respect that man pays to man less hideously sombre and saturnine. The odious mutes that once made English funerals grotesquely horrible have fortunately disappeared, but still an unnecessary terror is added to death by the peculiar, grim, black hearse, the nodding ostrich plumes, the heavy, long black crape veils, the tediously slow procession, and the tolling bell. Far simpler and saner will be the funeral rites of a soldier of the Salvation Army. No black is to be worn, but only a white band on the left arm. Instead of a hearse there will be an open cart or wagon. The company will march singing to the grave to the music of a band, and will return at quick step.

The new way surely is more reasonable and not less Christian or reverent than the old. The mystery of death is no greater than the mystery of birth, and the inevitable should not evoke, as a duty, an unavailing sorrow. A brave, quick march, a fair ribbon on the arm, and a short, resonant song of praise—such is

not unfitting farewell to a soldier of the cross who has fought a good fight and entered into his rest.

We have the skill to build the finest ships afloat, and we have the capital, and we ought to do it. We must do it, and there must be fleets of them engaged in commerce before the bells of the steeples ring in the twentieth century.

The First Nationalist Club of Boston has passed a resolution thanking Mr. John Wanamaker for his recommendation that the Government shall control and manage the telegraph and telephone service of the country. The Postmaster-General has taken up a Nationalist principle, and he deserves the thanks of the Nationalists. As the Republican party, however, is becoming more and more a Nationalist and Socialistic party, there seems to be no need for the separate existence of other parties specifically devoted to Nationalism and Socialism. Should these other parties refuse to join the Republicans, Mr. Wanamaker would be their appropriate candidate for President; and doubtless he would be glad to furnish campaign badges and banners at reduced rates.

Not since the retirement of Bismarck has there been an event so thrilling to the world as the resignation of the captain of the Yale crew. The athletic leaders of Cambridge, New Haven, and Princeton are really the great men of the day, and Cæsar at the height of his fortune never knew the sweets of fame as the captain of the winning eight or eleven knows them. That a man should voluntarily give up the post of captain of a university crew shows that Charles V. was not the greatest of abdicators.

The International Fish and Game Commission has taken a step toward destroying the illusions, or at least maiming the romantic imagination of anglers. It will introduce into the State Legislature laws prohibiting the taking of salmon, trout, and whitefish weighing less than two pounds each. Such laws could have no effect, for no fisherman of true fame ever catches fish of this smallness. But the wickedness of the proposed legislation consists in the attempt to apply to an art essentially imaginative and poetical the cruel tests of mathematics. A fisherman's fish should be considered to weigh what he says it weighs. To force him to put his treasure into the balance is like estimating "Hamlet" by its weight for old paper.

A few days ago it seemed that the Twin Cities were weeping on each other's bosoms, and that peace with rainbows had been brought back to the Northwest. But St. Paul has succeeded in attracting to itself, after competition with the other Twin, some big harvester works, and our esteemed contemporary, the *Minneapolis Times*, pours forth a wail of woe:

> "Whenever our down-river twin grows affectionate and gushing, and talks the sweetest about peace and concord and union, she most needs watching. When she grows most loving look out for her; she is going to steal something or commit some other act of treachery. Just now she is gloating over the success of the unneighborly and traitorous scheme to steal away from Minneapolis the Walter A. Wood Machine Works, and this under the guise of the most endearing friendship. While beslobbering us with her hypocritical caresses, she stabs us under the fifth rib, and grins and chuckles sardonically over our guilelessness and gullibility."

Cannot these things be referred to arbitration? Or must Minneapolis be bound over to keep the peace? The Twins have given the kiss of peace in the presence of the world; and they must not make faces or say naughty words.

It is a new route that the British authorities have chosen for the relief crews recently sent to the squadron in the Pacific. These crews are hastening westward across this continent by way of the Canadian Pacific Railroad, and the trip is to be a test of the availability of this route as compared with that of the Panama route. The troop ship in which they crossed the Atlantic arrived at Halifax from Portsmouth on Monday last, and they ought to be in Vancouver on an early day of the coming week, thus making a speedier passage by this route than they would have made by Panama.

The new route is that which the British War Office is to try for the transportation, in an emergency, of troops destined for service in any part of Asia, and which is likely to be tried for that purpose soon after the report of the arrival of the relief crews in the Pacific has been received at the War Office in London.

The trial trip is interesting to several of the military powers of Europe.

A citizen of Beaver, Pa., suing for a divorce, brings against his wife the charge of having thrown a dish of fried eggs at him. Surely the man must be unreasonable. How does he like to have his eggs when they are thrown at him? The usual missile form of eggs must be distinctly more severe than are fried eggs. Of course he may not like to have eggs in any shape thrown at him. Many people share in that aversion. A woman who fires fried eggs at her husband is certainly too emphatic, but why this prejudice against fried eggs? Does the man prefer to have a stove lid or flatiron shot at him? Some people are hard to please.

The English, and the Scotch, and the French, and the Germans, and the Italians, and the Netherlanders run the carrying trade of the Atlantic in these times. But why should not the Americans have their share of it, their full share?

A recent investigation of some of the poorhouses of Connecticut brought out the fact that persons who had money in the banks or who had relatives well able to support them, were living upon public charity. In some parts of this State also there are persons of that kind. In the city of Kingston, for example, an investigating committee has procured evidence that a good number of well-off paupers draw supplies regularly from the Alms Commissioners, and that others of them are boarders in the almshouse. The revelations that have been made about this sort of thing there are queer.

Swindlers of the kind ought to be punished. They are guilty of defrauding the public treasury; they are violators of law, and liable to its penalties. It must not be forgotten also that they bring discredit upon deserving objects of charity.

The news has gurgled under the Pacific that the Japanese Cabinet received, three weeks before the big earthquake, an anonymous letter predicting that event to the day. This news must be true because it ought to be, and the Japanese Cabinet was singularly uninformed if it failed to recognize in that letter writer the Canuck Merlin, the Hon. Earthquake Seismic Wiggins. Between the electric forces under the earth and the electric and cerebral storage batteries in Wiggins, there is infallible and almost instant communication; and ere the earth prepares to quake or a comet combs its hair, the midst of Wiggins and the head of Wiggins are electrified, inspired, and filled with prophecy.

When war begins there is great demand for good maps of the scene of hostilities. Any one who has tried to gain light from the maps concerning the revolt in Manchuria has learned that most of our maps of that region are very inadequate. Taku, where three hundred native Christians are said to have lost their lives, is found on very few maps, though it appears in the southwestern part of Manchuria in one of the best German atlases. War often adds a great many details to the maps. The Russian-Turkish war, for instance, almost completely changed the delineation of the topography of that part of the Balkan territory in which the hostile armies operated.

Horror that Makes Every Citizen a Sufferer.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

It is difficult to overcome the sense of horror that attends death by the electrical current.

SENATOR ALDRICH'S SUCCESSOR.

Is Governor George Peabody Wetmore the Man for the Place?

PROVIDENCE, Dec. 10.—In connection with the election of a Democratic Mayor in Providence it may be worth noting that the same vote elected a Republican State Senator. It was a question of men rather than of party. The Democratic candidate for Mayor and the Republican candidate for Senator were generally considered superior to their opponents, and both were elected. The city of Providence has not become suddenly Democratic. The Democracy has been strong in Providence for many years, but party lines have seldom, if ever, been drawn on the Mayoralty. The late Thomas A. Doyle, who presided over the city about seventeen years, had a large Democratic support, partly on account of his name, although he was of native parentage and a thoroughgoing American, and partly because he was more personal than partisan in his political management. In 1885 the Republicans, dominated by an aristocratic clique that could not bend Mr. Doyle to its purposes, refused to renominate him. The Democrats nominated him, and so great was his popularity that the Republican candidate withdrew, and Mr. Doyle was elected without opposition. The published statement, therefore, that Mr. Potter will be the first Democratic Mayor in this generation is misleading.

The subject of greatest interest just now in Rhode Island politics is who will succeed Senator Aldrich, whose term will expire in March, 1893? As Rhode Island elections are held in the spring, the election of the General Assembly that will name Mr. Aldrich's successor is only about three months away. Mr. Aldrich has been in the Senate ten years, having succeeded the late Gen. Burnside. He has earned national standing as an earnest champion of protection, and has figured as a political boss in the State. He was chiefly instrumental, in April, 1889, in preventing the election of ex-Gov. George Peabody Wetmore to the United States Senate, as a successor to Jonathan Chace, resigned. It was reported at the time that Mr. Aldrich opposed Mr. Wetmore for fear that the latter, if elected, would with his acknowledged ability and large wealth greatly outshine Mr. Aldrich at the capital. At any rate, after a prolonged struggle Mr. Wetmore was defeated, the result being materially aided by the fact that Mr. Wetmore was absent in Europe and Mr. Dixon was a member of the State Senate. Mr. Dixon has not disappointed the expectations of Mr. Aldrich.

The friends of ex-Gov. Wetmore are anxious that he should again be a candidate for the Senate. Unlike the usual boom for rich candidates, this anxiety is not founded on expectations of favor. Ex-Gov. Wetmore long ago conquered the prejudice which attaches to the wealthy in political life, and is generally esteemed for the evidence of his personal merits. Should he conclude to stand for the Senate, the campaign would be interesting. Gov. Ladd is also mentioned in connection with the Senate. He has twice successfully led a Republican forlorn hope, and is a public-spirited Governor with progressive ideas.

If there is any sign that Rhode Island is to leave the Republican column in November next, it is not apparent to an experienced observer. The rural districts are largely Republican, and the cities and other centres are close. Besides, in a Presidential year the side-show parties do not count for much. As to candidates, Harrison is respected, but the Republican party of Rhode Island is decidedly Blaine.

THE MUGWUMP KNOCK-OUT.

No Doubt as to What Mills's Defeat Means to Cleveland and His Crew.

From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.

There is a deal of Democratic political significance in the battle just over. That the defeat of Mills means a black eye for Cleveland no political student will dispute.

From the Lynchburg News.

The defeat of Mr. Roger Q. Mills signifies that the Democratic party is tired of being ridden to defeat by a troop of dreamers, and that it proposes to enter the Presidential fight in 1892 with a purpose to win.

From the Petersburg Index-Appeal.

The result of the caucus is a distinct blow at Mr. Cleveland's Presidential pretensions. From the first the struggle was recognized as a test of his strength with the members of the new House of Representatives, and as the fight grew in warmth and interest this fact became so prominent that Mr. Cleveland was forced to retire from his proclaimed neutrality, and through trusty friends seek to uphold his own sinking fortunes in an effort to rescue from defeat his friend and most faithful exponent, Mr. Mills of Texas. The fate of the latter foreshadows the fate of Mr. Cleveland. The Democratic party could not afford to risk its destinies in the hands of the agent as Speaker, neither will it again risk success by nominating the principal in 1892.

From the Philadelphia Press.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 8.—There are very few Democrats who do not privately express the belief that the defeat of Mr. Mills was practically the defeat of Grover Cleveland for President. The warmest supporters of Mr. Cleveland, his nearest counsellors, were actively at work during the contest for Speakership in behalf of Mr. Mills. There were some Democrats, who are known as Cleveland men, who voted for Mr. Crisp, but it is noticeable that their feeling toward Cleveland is rapidly changing; for instance, Mr. Tarsney of Missouri, who has been outspoken heretofore as a Cleveland man, voted for Mr. Crisp, but Mr. Tarsney said to-day that he thought Gov. Hill was rapidly growing in popular favor, and he praised very highly his speech at Elmira. Several other Democrats heretofore known as Cleveland men talked in the same way.

From the Post-Express.

The election of Charles Frederick Crisp to the Speakership is a defeat for Mr. Cleveland.

In spite of denials and misrepresentations the Claimant has been for Mills from the very beginning. His chief organ, the *New York Times*, has labored assiduously for the Texas statesman, and two men who served in Mr. Cleveland's cabinet—Mr. Dickinson and Mr. Vilas—lobbied unceasingly for Mr. Mills among the new members of Congress. Col. Morrison, whom Mr. Cleveland appointed a member of the Inter-State Commerce Commission, was also on hand, as well as many other men, grateful for favors received and hopeful for favors yet to come—all working for Mills. In short, all the Cleveland influence that could possibly be brought to bear was exerted in favor of this candidate.

To Mr. Cleveland, therefore, the election of Mr. Crisp is a serious blow. To Mr. Hill and his followers in this State and throughout the nation, the election of Mr. Crisp is very acceptable.

BACK TO THE ROPE.

Electrical Execution Denounced as a Disgusting and Brutal Outrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read your article in Tuesday's SUN under the caption of "Loppy in the Death Chair." Can it be possible that we in this enlightened age can invent no more humane manner of putting criminals out of the way than by the disgusting, heartless, brutal, and heathenish method we are now using? If we must kill them let the authorities do it in a humane way, but not emulate the very victim in his brutality.

The law says they must die but once, but Loppy must have suffered ten thousand deaths in dying one. Is this in accordance with our boasted civilization? Are men, though murderers, to be singed here, and the red hot bolts of lightning poured into them until they shrivel and singe under the process? Is this law? Is it Christianity? Is it humane to strap a poor wretch to a chair and stand off like devils incarnate and watch his death struggles? Oh, shame on such a law, and shame on the men who promulgated it.

Turn off your lightning and give us reform in criminal executions. Better far go back to the rope. VAN.

Who Was the Poet?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your issue of the 4th instant you speak of Dr. Terhune's church troubles, and you have printed some verses without the author's name. You say that "all efforts to find the writer of the doggerel have been in vain." Now, sir, I believe the author of the rhymes contained in your paper of the above-mentioned date is no less a person than the distinguished Haviland Bloodgood Cutter, the farmer poet of Little Neck, Long Island. He first blew into our well-regulated city about two years ago, and it is only a few months since he floated in here again like a whirling dervish. The last we heard of the saintly poet he was tacking against a head wind toward New York city. His verses set us all agog in this town, and our hearts are filled with a desire to see his smiling countenance again.

The patriotic sentiment of his verses, as published in the press of this city, has awakened an emotional feeling in our hearts that we can never entirely root out. His rhymes are quoted in every well-regulated family here, and boys, girls, and old men toot sounds from their mouths to the words of the poet's compositions in such voluminous degree that if we ever change the modern name of our city we shall call it the Whistling Town of Haviland B. Cutter. Am I right?

TROY, Dec. 8. T. C.

P. S.—Who is Abe Slupsky? Is there any such creature? If you do not wish to see him killed, quit advertising his name. I know two or three cranks here that want to throw a bottle at his feet, and if they go down they will be very apt to choke your office cat, too. T. C.

One Duty of the Legislature.

From the New Haven Evening Register.

One of the first things the State of New York should do is to repeal its electrical execution law.

Seeking a Life Work.

Miss Backbay (of Boston)—When one graduates one's troubles are only begun, for there is a life work to be chosen. Do you think of one to which I might be adapted?

Mr. Bleeker (of New York)—No, er—of course not; you wouldn't like managing a cold-storage warehouse?

THE LATEST SING SING CIRCUS.

A Musician's Card of Thanks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In behalf of other increments of humane and fastidious Christendom I beg to return thanks for this morning's delicate and fragrant appetizer, furnished by the daily press in the masterly culinary reports of the latest star chamber electrocution (or shall we call it Dr. McDonald's allocution?) from hideous but unvocal Sing Sing. Descriptions of Thanksgiving dinners have just been before us, at which the turkeys were cooked, scorched, and browned "to a turn," and now come the admirably graphic accounts of the legal and scientific "burning," "bluing," "browning," and "scorching" of the murderer wretch Loppy, to which feast of heartlessness and flow of bedevilment (under a most plausible alias) "guests were invited from far" to partake, one of one and another of some other of the toothsome tidbits and liquors. The old hen on the dunghill says to the little chicks, "Will you have a worm, a beetle, or a maggot, dears?" Dr. McDonald asks his guests, "Which will you prefer, gentlemen? Here is some of Loppy's skin nicely 'shrivelled and blistered,' from 'the leg,' if you like, beautifully 'browned,' or, if preferable, here is some of the 'skin torn by the electrodes,' or one of the finely colored 'eyebrows' artistically 'singed.' The 'thick spittle which trickles down Loppy's chin' may serve as a rich and fragrant gravy for such of you as are *gourmets*."

This precious conclave of respectable ghouls smack their lips, say a grace in which they thank God that they were not born in the shoes of Judge Jeffries, Robespierre, or Judas Iscariot, and then proceed to enjoy to repletion this Barmacide "spread," at taxpayers' expense.

Good God! What have we come to in this age of enlightenment and common sense?

Is it necessary, can it be unavoidable, that such hideous festering sores as this picture must be paraded in public "all for two cents" (and much of it for one cent) to "act as a warning to youth?" The Lacedæmonians' drunken men publicly exhibited to school children were certainly to be preferred to the above as a circus, and surely bull fights could not be worse as "aids to morality."

History will do full justice to the prodigious quackery and Phariseeism of this day, age, and country of so-called "humanitarianism and Christian philanthropy," and it is scarcely surprising that the most conspicuous promoter if not originator of these periodical penal death shows was the same plutocratic, empiric, and *soi-disant* preventer of juvenile cruelty (which refuses to be prevented!), and who got a law passed to restrain children under 16 from singing "because it was unhealthy." Holy Moses! A very King Herod of music and musicians. Let the two big G.'s henceforward and for all time be linked together, with tears that there is now no more a Thomas Carlyle worthily to celebrate their greatness. G. for M. Guillotine, who invented the guillotine, and G. for Gerry, the inventor of the electric cooking stove for two-legged pigs!

Why all this pother about getting criminals out of the world with pomp and circumstance and with machinery requiring a dozen or more "executioners" to manage? Can the sapient "scientific corps," headed by the amazingly "scientific," forensic, logical, erudite, consummate, profound, and puissant Gerry, be ignorant of the fact that it only takes a solitary drop of prussic acid and one second of time to kill a good-sized tomcat? And yet a cat has nine lives. Ergo, but one-ninth of a drop should be enough to kill a man, who has but one. Nor does the acid ever have to be swallowed. It need only touch the nose. Dear Mr. Editor, don't thwart this humble "philanthropic effort" of an insignificant but sincere admirer of you, yours, your paper, your politics, your learning, and everything else bright and "sunny." It is a widower's if not "the widow's mite." Obediently yours,

JEROME HOPKINS.

CLOVER HILL HERMITAGE, Dec. 8.

Protest Against a Political Clergyman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For one I am opposed to politics in the pulpit. I go to church for religious instruction and worship. Hence I condemn the zeal or narrowness of any preacher who, biassed by the daily perusal of some partisan newspaper, considers it his duty to prejudge the question from his political standpoint, and to deliver a violent diatribe from his pulpit against a political opponent.

Last Sabbath I was surprised and grieved to have to listen to a violent denunciation of Governor Hill from the pulpit by a prominent pastor in Harlem. The reverend gentleman had evidently been perusing the *New York Tribune* or *Mail and Express*, and imbibed his conclusions from those bitter partisan sheets. The partisan clamor of his daily organ blinded the preacher to the fact that there was also another side. Did he not reflect that there might be, in his congregation, many warm adherents of the Governor, who believed in the latter's integrity and good faith? Was it good "religion," if good "politics," to fill these many souls with indignation over the injustice, as they honestly considered it, of the attack? Would the preacher have thus sounded the alarm if the Governor had been a Republican? Did this same highly respected and prominent pastor declaim from his pulpit against the crimes of his party in the past? The American people too well recall, and history will portray in burning letters, the Republican theft of the Presidency in 1876. Did this pastor protest from his pulpit or elsewhere against any of the following "steals"?

I. The Presidency of the United States.
II. The Governorship of Connecticut.
III. The Governorship of Nebraska.
IV. The Legislature of New Hampshire.
V. Two United States Senators from Montana.

Again, the Constitution required a reapportionment in this State in 1885; the Republican party has prevented it; over one million persons are thereby to-day unrepresented in New York. Is this honest? Under the Constitution of New York there should be at the present time a large Democratic majority in both Houses of the Legislature.

The indignation of Republican organs—all of whom on all occasions pharisaically fortified thefts on their part—would be amusing if it were not so serious, and if it did not influence the zeal of good men to their damage in their chosen field of labor.

Yet, further, the reverend gentleman is not only outside his line of duty, but is wrong in his conclusions. For I assert, and so do the Democratic organs, that at every step in the present political complications the Democrats and their Governor have appealed to the laws and courts, instead of to newspaper clamor and Union League edicts.

And we can but rejoice that we have a Governor who cannot be browbeaten, nor bluffed, nor intimidated by Thomas Platt, Noah Davis, nor any other Republican prophet or organ, but has the courage of his convictions, and the ability and watchfulness to guard the interests of his party and people against an ever alert and unscrupulous foe. L. W. R.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.

No Seats for Working Girls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In to-day's paper you describe the discomfort, &c., of "lady shoppers returning from a day's shopping," "women returning from matinées finding pleasure turned into pain," the "inconvenience of lawyers, bankers, brokers, merchants, clerks," &c., obliged to ride on the "crowded Fourth avenue railroad cars" in the "mornings, afternoons, and evenings." Now, sir, why don't you mention the poor saleswomen, who are obliged to stand on their feet from 8 o'clock A. M. until 6 o'clock, P. M.? Are they not to be more pitied than the class of people whom you seek redress for? I would be pleased to know what the inconvenience, &c., caused by this company not running sufficient cars is to these lady shoppers and matinee attendants compared to working women and saleswomen who patronize the road mornings and evenings?

The class of people you describe have some time to rest during the day, and have the time and means at their disposal to employ other means of transportation than the surface cars, while the poor saleswoman, who is obliged to stand from 9 to 9½ hours, and who is compelled to be at her post of duty at a specified time, must take the road that will bring her the nearest to her work, and not only suffer from the fatigue of standing, but bear the insults of those very people whom you champion.

We are very often obliged to ride on the platform of the cars in rain, hail, or shine, pushed and crowded by the male portion of your "inconvenienced gentlemen" (?), but let a so-called "lady shopper" or "matinée attendant" get on the car she will very quickly find a place out of the storm.

If we are fortunate enough to get inside a car we will very often have to stand the whole journey, notwithstanding there would be plenty of room for us to sit down if these gentlemen you speak of would inconvenience themselves so far as to uncross their legs and move a few inches closer. But they will not do so. They will, however, look up and, seeing it is only a working girl, continue to read their newspaper; but should they discover that the female that is standing is a lady shopper or matinee goer there is a scramble to see which one can have the honor (?) of giving her a seat.

I cannot see why the class of people you mention in your article has any more rights to comfort than any other class of people. They only pay a nickel for a ride, and so do we. Respectfully yours,

A SALESWOMAN OF E. J. DENNING & CO.

NEW YORK, Dec. 9.

Something Extraordinary.

Clara—Miss Grosgrain attracted a great deal of attention at the pink tea.

Maude—Indeed!

Clara—Yes. She wore a pink gown.

Play "Innocence Abroad."

Insist upon having it! Some sharp dealers hide the game from sight in hopes you can be induced to buy some game on which they make more money. This is not right! Make them give you just what you want—the game of "Innocence Abroad!"—*Adv.*