THE EVENING STAR.

WASHINGTON.

MONDAY.....February 24, 1902.

CROSBY S. NOYES.....Editor.

THE EVENING STAR has a regular and permanent Family Circulation much more than the combined circulation of the other Washington dailies. As a News and Advertising Medium it has no competitor.

☞In order to avoid delays on account of personal absence, letters to THE STAR should not be addressed to any individual connected with the office, but simply to THE STAR, or to the Editorial or Business Departments, according to tenor or purpose.

Prince Henry of Prussia.

Washington's welcome to Prince Henry is of the heartiest and sincerest character. The people are truly happy to see him. His mission is of so gallant and interesting a nature, and he is so admirably qualified to discharge it both by reason of his exalted station and his attractive qualities as a man, that everybody is at attention. Even the clerk of the weather, who has been having his own time with us for several days, has taken his cue from the faces of the people, and the day smiles too. May the distinguished visitor's stay in town afford him as much pleasure as it will us, and may he carry away a lasting impression of our friendship and good will.

He is advised of course that this is but the beginning of what awaits him all along the line of a well arranged itinerary. He is in good hands, and the purpose is to "show him the sights," as the American phrase is. He is an experienced traveler, and he starts in fine health; but there are enormous crowds awaiting him and feasts with many new dishes and beverages, and his warmest friends may justly be a little solicitous as to the condition of his right hand and his digestion when all is over and he sails from New York for home. The brew will suit him, because much of it answers to old world receipts, but some of the pastry proves formidable at times even to native stomachs, and he might surrender to that without losing caste at table. Still he should take the chances, for he will not have sudied us in one of our most interesting estates unless he masters the mysteries of the American pie.

So while the newspapers here and there abroad may be talking about solemn questions of state, and reading this result and that and this aim and that in the visit, Prince Henry and the American people, now that they are face to face, will devote themselves solely to the social aspects and opportunities of the occasion. And in doing that they will serve every possible end that either directly or indirectly may attach to the presence of the prince in the United States. Both sides are at their ease. Prince Henry cannot turn in any direction without seeing evidences of the ties that already bind the United States to Germany, while the American people in taking his hand will be reminded of their already abundant knowledge of the sturdiness of the German character and the firmness of the German purpose.

Once again then, a cordial welcome to Prince Henry, in his own right and in that of the representative of his brother.

The Manhattan Club Dinner.

There was some very pretty and harmless generalizing at the Manhattan Club dinner in New York Saturday night. Harmony was the watchword, and nobody offended. Every shopworn political platitude was mustered for service. "We must get together," was the cry, but nobody showed the road. A national platform constructed out of the suggestions offered would be a curiosity of political literature and the jest of practical men everywhere. There is little risk in the prediction that no such platform will be constructed by the democrats in 1904. They may not deliver themselves in the boldest way, but they are reasonably certain not to make "Jack Busby" chairman of the committee on resolutions. It would be better for them in the end to say the wrong thing than to say nothing.

David B. Hill and Mayor Collins of Boston uttered the only two things worthy of serious attention. Mr. Hill declared that New York would be the battle ground in 1904, which, in effect, was also to declare that New York must give to the democracy its candidate. Mayor Collins, as in reply, said this:

"From our New England experience, we stand by our ancient principles of nominating the best democrat, wherever he lives. The party as a whole will rally to him and public opinion will support the choice."

The Bostonian ought to have known that if any definite purpose is to be descried on the democracy's horizon at this time that purpose is to return if possible to the old arrangement which prevailed between 1868 and 1896, by which New York as the tail wagged the party dog. The south is ready again to efface herself at the nominating convention, and for that matter so is New England, and let New York have her way about the candidate and a very great deal about the platform. The talk therefore about "nominating the best democrat wherever he lives" is moonshine. There is no doubt about his residence. He lives in New York, and the difficulty now is about picking him out.

But this difficulty is of considerable proportions, and it is even now in evidence. A governor is to be elected in New York next November, and in order properly to impress themselves on their party friends in the south and in the middle states the democrats of the empire state must elect their candidate. Is it within their power? They are divided into two factions. Mr. Hill is the leader of one faction, and Richard Croker of the other. Nobody of course is counting Mr. Croker out of politics. If Mr. Hill names the candidate will the Croker faction support him? If Mr. Croker names the candidate will the Hill faction support him? If the candidate is slaughtered at the polls what will be the effect on New York's purpose to name the presidential candidate in 1904? New York is a great state, and was never more interesting as a political quantity than now.

Public men will hereafter be awake to the fact that an invitation to a public function is sent with the condition implied that they shall be good in the meantime.

It is safe to assume that Representative Wheeler was not on the sidewalk watching the princely procession this morning.

The Hawaiian Situation.

"Kamehameha's" latest letter to The Star, printed in today's issue, clearly reveals the state of mind regarding the possibility of Governor Dole's removal on the part of those in Hawaii who stand for honesty and effectiveness of administration, for progress and for peace. These are the men who, with Governor Dole at their head, successively and successfully opposed the elements which would have held Hawaii in the mire of corrupt royalism. They are the men who secured annexation, and who, pending the acceptance of the islands by the United States, at the peril virtually of their lives and surely of their estates, maintained a friendly attitude toward this government during its war with Spain, when it sorely needed a Pacific half-way house. They represent today the highest character in the islands.

Governor Dole is undeniably antagonistic to the radical reactionary party of Hawaii. As The Star's correspondent says, he has fought them as in one guise and another they have undertaken to break down the republican structure which he and his colleagues painfully reared in the islands. When the misguided natives placed this factor in control of the legislature Governor Dole was required either to surrender the archipelago deliberately to their mischievous incompetency and their royalist schemes or to stand staunchly by the principles which he had so long represented and which had been with Hawaii adopted by the United States. He would have been recreant to his trust had he yielded then to secure the ease of a pusillanimous peace between him and the dominant legislative party.

That he did not weaken, that he preserved Hawaii from a scandalous regime of misgovernment and corruption, is now the basis of the charges against him, upon which his enemies hope to secure his removal from office. The very fact that he and the so-called "Home-rulers" cannot agree, averred as a reason for a change, is the strongest possible indorsement of his administration for the good of Hawaii.

Governor Dole personally is willing enough to retire from office, provided he can yield to a successor capable of maintaining the territory upon a sound basis and of safeguarding its interests. But the white residents of the islands are not willing that he should be forced out of office by the malcontents, the schemers, the royalists and the place-seekers who now constitute the "anti-Dole faction." The President, according to "Kamehameha's" letter to The Star, has summoned Mr. George Carter to Washington for consultation. It is evident that Mr. Carter, while worthy to be summoned in a council of conference, will not prove a reliable sole adviser upon Hawaiian affairs. His prejudices, possibly his own ambitions, prevent him from being entirely acceptable as the Warwick of the situation. If the President wants light upon Hawaiian affairs he should summon here the men of highest standing in the islands, including Governor Dole himself, who knows Hawaii probably better today than most others and whose personal character is such that he is surely at this critical juncture entitled to be heard if not in his own behalf, at least in behalf of the islands he loves and with the rescue of which he has been so closely identified.

The Senate Must Act.

The Senate must surely do something in this latest emergency to maintain and protect its dignity if it is to retain national respect. The episode of Saturday was so disgraceful as to warrant the severest penalties. When analyzed it discloses three distinct stages: First, Senator Tillman's charge that a fellow senator had accepted a bribe in the shape of patronage from President McKinley as the price of his vote on the treaty of peace; second, Senator McLaurin's denial of this charge in language which is generally conceived to be prohibited by the unwritten laws of parliamentary usage; third, Senator Tillman's savage physical assault upon his colleague, which the latter met in self-defense.

Without regard to the personalities of the two men, it cannot be denied that the last item of this disgraceful progression of events was the most flagrant offense against the Senate and the country at large. As to the first stage, Senator Tillman's charge of bribery, that belongs to another line of inquiry, and must be considered and answered at greater length than is necessary in the present adjustment of the immediate issues growing out of the assault. As to Senator McLaurin's language in denial there may be two opinions. Point-blank refutation of assertions is common in congressional debates. A week seldom passes when the declarations of speakers are not flatly contradicted. Usually, however, the language employed is more or less euphemistic. It must be remembered that the Senate of the United States is not the state of South Carolina, or a public street of Washington. Whereas outside of its walls a principle prevails generally among men that the "passing of the lie" is tantamount to a blow, such a principle cannot be extended to excuse physical violence in the chambers. Conduct permissible, or excusable, under ordinary circumstances is reprehensible in the course of debate, in the solemn processes of legislation for the country. The mere fact that Senator McLaurin did not see fit to employ a synonym in his denial, that he chose to use the most specific and direct language possible, did not warrant the invoking of the privilege which some men claim and some concede of instant retaliation by physical force. Senator McLaurin's words and blows were both delivered in self-defense. With the one he met in denial a foul and offensive charge; with the other he resisted a physical assault.

So a line of distinction must be drawn between the two cases. The Senate, pending further action, has properly adjudged both men to be in contempt, thereby preventing further disturbances within the legislative halls for the present and securing a truce which will permit calm judgment. It is confronted with a serious duty in dealing with Senator Tillman. If it palliates this assault upon its dignity by a mild rebuke or a technical punishment it invites future disorder and disgraceful consequences. It weakens its prestige and lessens its public usefulness. By boorish and insulting language Mr. Tillman has many times brought discredit upon the Senate; and to violence-provoking words he now adds blows.

Whatever the judgment of the Senate may be, it should be and presumably will be so declared as to permit no misunderstanding. Debate in Congress must be preserved upon a plane of substantial respect for the traditions, and for the present responsibilities of the national legislature. Unparliamentary language and fist-fights must be proportionately punished unless the country is to henceforth regard Congress with utter contempt.

Prince Henry would doubtless have appreciated more thoroughly the courtesy conveyed by the flying of two brand-new flags hoisted today over the Post Office building if he could have seen the tattered remnants which they replaced and which fluttered Saturday in honor of Washington's birthday.

President Palma of Cuba says that there must be a 50 per cent reduction before the island can be prosperous. The ways and means committee suggests only 20 per cent and it is not likely that either party would be content with a compromise of 35 per cent.

The country scarcely gets rid of a controversy between naval officers before a controversy between senators is thrust upon its attention.

The Park Avenue Hotel was called "fireproof." That word is one of the most abused in the modern vocabulary.

Manslaughter by Inattention.

The latest holocaust reported from New York has been followed by the customary investigation into the cause and responsibility, and the inquiry has brought the usual revelation that there was gross indifference to the ordinary precautions to protect life. The hotel building was a quarter of a century old, and though excellent in its day was antiquated. Judged "fireproof" when built, it was a veritable fire trap under modern conditions. Trusting to its original reputation, the managers neglected to arouse the guests when fire broke out in an adjoining building, and nearly a score were killed in consequence. There were no fire escapes, no safety ropes in the rooms, no fire proofing around the elevator shafts, no fire hose in the corridors, not even a fire bucket. Evidently the law had slumbered while this hotel was being rendered obsolete and dangerous by the changes in the building conditions, and the multiplication of dangers of proximity.

After the Windsor Hotel burned, a year or so ago, very much the same state of affairs was disclosed. It was shown then that the building was obsolete in the most important requirements of precaution. The floors and walls offered the widest possible spread of fire, although the intervention of a few brick "fire stops" would have greatly reduced the danger, and, in the event of a fire, would have confined the conflagration to a comparatively small portion of the building, or at the least checked the rapidity of its spread.

It is seldom that the public learns of official intervention to compel proprietors of hotels to adopt new precautionary agencies. It has been many a day since a hostelry was condemned and destroyed by municipal order. Few instances are on record of reconstruction in the interest of public safety. Do not public officials take cognizance of these disasters as they do occur, and sweep the horizon for chances to better the conditions of the hotels that remain intact?

In the case of the Windsor Hotel horror not a stroke in punishment was laid on by the courts for the neglect of somebody to cure the palpable inadequacies of that building. Here is a far more flagrant case of dereliction, virtually the basis of a broad charge of manslaughter, besides indictments for official neglect of duty. New York has taken a step in the right direction in the case of the rapid transit tunnel dynamite explosion. Will it teach a wholesome lesson to all hotel proprietors and building inspectors throughout the land by moving sharply and uncompromisingly against those who are responsible for the condition of the Park Avenue Hotel?

Federal Territorial Judges.

From all that the public knows of the facts, Attorney General Knox's report to the President upon Judge Noyes of the Alaska circuit is eminently proper and the President's expected indorsement of the recommendation of dismissal will doubtless meet with the approval of the country. Having given an earnest of his desire to purge the territorial judiciary, the President should next turn his attention to Judge Humphreys of Hawaii, who has clearly proved his judicial unfitness and whose interference in island politics has further diminished his usefulness as a judge.

The three greatest disasters which New York has suffered for many years, the tunnel collision, the dynamite explosion and the latest hotel fire, occurred on the same street, Park avenue. Superstitious Gothamites will soon begin to wonder whether there is a bona fide hoodoo connected with the thoroughfare.

The welcome to Prince Henry in this city was made doubly earnest by the fact that his coming led the authorities to clean up Pennsylvania avenue. For practical, as well as sentimental reasons, the Prince would be welcome two or three times a winter.

There is no good reason why Mr. Carnegie should not be photographed in his evening clothes if he desires. In spite of his munificence, he still has money enough to buy the clothes and pay the photographer.

Considering how much available space for physical encounters may be found in the parking around the Capitol, it is very inconsiderate for senators to risk upsetting the furniture.

New York's municipal government may not be always ideal. But the city must be credited with some of the most interesting homicide mysteries that the continent produces.

Miss Stone has been set free again. Constantinople correspondents say farewell to a good thing if they let this report reach the verification point.

It must be confessed that the sporting editor of the Congressional Record has a very amateurish account of the Tillman-McLaurin affair.

There will be no fight between Tillman and McLaurin. The duelling ground at Bladensburg is of interest only to tourists now-a-days.

The country will probably not adopt the South Carolina method of celebrating George Washington's birthday in Congress.

The situation in Spain seems so desperate that Don Carlos may conclude that it is not prudent to interfere.

SHOOTING STARS.

Self-Distrust.

"What you lack," said the person who reads your character, "is self-confidence."

"I can't help it," said the young man. "You see, I was for a number of years employed in the work of preparing weather predictions."

Apprehensive.

"Charley, dear," said Mrs. Torkins, "I'm going to learn to play golf."

"All right. We'll both learn."

"No Charley, I'd rather give it up myself than have you try it. Anybody who can get as much trouble out of a tack and a hammer as you do would be sure to get suspended from church if he tried to handle anything as difficult as a golf club."

Indications.

A dinner is a strange affair.
You sometimes learn a lot
By noticing just who was there,
And likewise, who was not.

A Dread Alternative.

"I hope that the differences between these two gentlemen," said the dignified statesman, "will be patched up."

"I'm afraid it will not be."

"It must be. Otherwise we shall be continually interrupted in our business by the necessity of patching up the senators themselves."

Unsentimental.

"George Washington got a great deal of credit for not telling a lie."

"Yes," answered the man who thinks that all is fair in business; "truthfulness often helps a man to get credit; but it sometimes interferes with his profits."

Resentful.

I tells you plain, Miss Weather,
You shorely treats me wrong.
You give me de cold shoulder
An' you gives it to me strong.
You jes' kep' on a-scowlin',
An' a-th'owin' snowballs, too.
I tells you plain, Miss Weather,
I were feelin' mighty blue.

An' now you comes a-dancin',
Wif de laughter in yo' eye,
An' you ac's like nuffin' happened
In de days dat done gone by.
An' I's mighty glad to greet you,
Wif yoh sunshine an' yoh song,
But I tells you plain, Miss Weather,
You shorely treats me wrong.

A Question.

From the Chicago Tribune.

What was the object in freeing Cuba from the grasp of Spain, anyhow?

Gales of 1888.

From the New York Tribune.

The drifts and the gales of 1888 will never be forgotten by those who fought them. Monday's winds and snows were halcyon airs and lotos leaves in comparison.