

## THE PRESIDENCY.

### TALK IN WASHINGTON OF THE CANDIDATES TWO YEARS HENCE.

The importance of New York Democratic sentiment for Cleveland, The Republicans for a Western Man.

(Letter to the Philadelphia Times.)

WASHINGTON, October 20.—The return of the President and members of the Cabinet from their summer vacations has been followed by a lively gathering of Senators, Representatives, politicians, candidates in search of patronage and aspirants in search of office. The civil-service statutes have relieved the pressure for the places within the range of the classified service. The rank and file of the old-time office-seekers in search of clerkships, therefore, are no longer the plague of official life. The returning officials and politicians are making quite a stir in political circles. They all have much to say concerning the plans and prospects of parties, having taken advantage of their recent opportunities to meet the leaders and mingling with the people.

The Republicans appear to be most active in speculating upon their future movements. The number and variety of the aspirants for national honors about a year and a half hence prevented an open field for half a dozen statesmen and their friends. The Democrats have not quite so much to say, as their choice from present appearances will settle down to a renomination of the President. There is some talk of a Cardie flurry from the South, but that is a political chestnut which has run through at least three quadrennial nominating conventions. A few New Yorkers throw out a hint occasionally about Governor Hill, upon the ground of his ability to carry that pivotal State.

### NEW YORK'S IMPORTANCE.

The importance of the Empire State in the political balance is admitted all around. With its electoral vote the Republicans could elect their candidate and win back the control of the executive branch of the government, without the vote of Connecticut, Indiana or New Jersey, or a single State south of Mason and Dixon's line and the Ohio river. They could also afford to lose California and Oregon. The loss of New York to the Democratic candidate would leave him eight electoral votes short after carrying Indiana, New Jersey, Connecticut, California and Oregon. The Republicans could succeed without New York by carrying Indiana and Connecticut which would give one or with Indiana and New Jersey would give ten majorities. The figures used as the basis of the mathematical calculations of politicians here in computing the chances of parties show that of the 232 electoral votes necessary to an election of a President and Vice-President the Republicans have seventeen practically certain Northern States casting 174 votes. There are five doubtful Northern States, California, Connecticut, Indiana, New Jersey and New York, casting seventy-four votes. The Democrats have sixteen certain Southern States with 153 certain electoral votes. They perceive that the Republicans can carry the next Presidency without New York, but success there is indispensable to the Democracy. Carrying all the doubtful States named without New York would leave the Democratic ticket eleven short, or carrying New York they would still require the fifteen votes of Indiana or the combined vote of Connecticut, six, and New Jersey, nine, or Connecticut, six, and California, eight.

### THE TALK ABOUT BLAINE.

The friends of Mr. Blaine return with a fresh supply of enthusiasm over his prospects, especially since the election in Maine. They speak of his chances as almost equal to a realization, and refer to the canvass of newspapers friendly to his interests as conclusive evidence to that effect. An estimate of strength based on the expressed preferences of the delegates to the recent Republican State Conventions of Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, Iowa, Missouri and Texas footed up 244 for Blaine, 119 Logan, 71 Sherman and 22 Allison. Nothing is said, however, of those who did not express their views, which constituted about five-sixths of the whole number of delegates attending those conventions. Out of about 3,000 only 456 expressed themselves. It is claimed, however, that such figures show the drift of public sentiment. An intimate friend of Mr. Blaine, who has been in conference with his managers, says that the question of his candidacy will be determined later—that his personal campaign in Maine was more for position. It is hinted that should Mr. Blaine's friends, after a careful canvass of the situation, consider his election doubtful he will throw his strength for Allison of Iowa. It is his desire to get Allison into the Garfield Cabinet. But for the complications growing out of the action of the Iowa Republicans to secure the attorney-generalship for Wilson, of that State, Allison would have been secretary of the treasury instead of Windom.

The friends of Senator Sherman talk of his chances with much confidence. They have been in correspondence with party managers in almost every State and claim to be receiving much encouragement. As soon as Congress meets they expect to take up his case systematically, with a view to getting into the field early. His greatest trouble seems to be in his own State. Ex-Governor Foster very recently resorted his devotion to Blaine. If he should take an open part against Sherman there may be a divided delegation, which has already inspired Sherman's chances before two conventions. Sherman's visit to Pennsylvania during the present month as a participant in the oratorical feature of the Republican canvass is expected to

lay the foundation of a vigorous boom at the proper time.

### LOGAN'S CHANCES.

General Logan is expected here early next month. His champions claim that his Pacific slope trip has added much strength to his position as a candidate. His action on the Payne investigation is commended to his friends in his party in Ohio. It is not likely, however, that he would pick up any delegates there, as Blaine and Sherman cover that ground. There is much talk of Foraker as a possible dark horse in event of an irreconcilable contest between Blaine and Sherman. The status of Edmunds is a matter of speculation. The chances of Harrison, of Indiana, are coupled with the result of his present Senatorial contest.

Summing up the situation at this early point of observation the sentiment of Republicans is very generally in favor of a Western man at the head of the ticket with an Eastern man, some strong person from New York, for the second place. Judging from the talk of politicians on both sides the meeting of Congress will witness the laying of tin wires for the picking up of delegates by the different aspirants for nomination, so as to enter the convention with as good a showing as possible. From present indications Blaine's friends will control the convention to a greater extent than any one candidate, but whether he can control it as against the field may be considered doubtful, after the experience of the mismanaged interests of the candidates in the field in 1884.

### RANDOLPH.

### NIHILIST DEGAIEFF'S ESCAPE.

Horrible Accounts of the Prisoner's Condition in the Siberian Mines.

The New York Sun's St. Petersburg correspondent telegraphs that he learns, despite official secrecy, that the police have received a full confirmation from Siberia of the reported escape of M. Degaiëff, the famous nihilist conspirator who planned and assisted in the murder of lieutenant Colonel Sudeikin, the chief of police and one of his staff, nearly three years ago. The police have traced Degaiëff to Geneva, and have vainly tried to wheedle the Swiss government into extraditing him.

The police are getting nervous over the frequent escapes from Siberia this year. The few who have ventured to return to St. Petersburg have been captured, but the majority have made their way to Geneva and London, and the plotting against the government has been renewed with redoubled fervor. Since June at least twenty Siberian prisoners have escaped, including two cavalry officers and several students, some of them escaping by way of Cambodia. The precautions which are observed throughout Siberia are so stringent that the government is persuaded that the escape could not have been effected without connivance with the prison officials.

So great a commotion has been caused by these repeated jail deliveries, that a special commission has been sent to Siberia to inquire into their causes, and to reorganize the entire system of prison government. A number of high officials, under whose charge the escaped prisoners were, have been suspended, and some officers, who were either criminally negligent or else assisted in releasing the prisoners, have been arrested and thrown into prison.

The refugees report that the Siberian prisons and mines are crowded with criminals. Disease is rampant, and surgery is especially severe. The mortality, they say, is frightful. The nihilists are greatly excited and rejoiced over the many escapes, but declare that they will not strike again until they are sure of their men. M. Degaiëff, alias Jablonski, the nihilist, whose escape is related above, has had an eventful and checkered career. He had been identified with nihilism for many years, but did not come prominently into notice until the murder of General Streinikoff at Odessa. For his connection with this crime he was transported to Siberia, but escaped and returned to St. Petersburg. There he professed to have renounced nihilism and offered his services to Lieutenant Colonel Sudeikin, the chief of police for the District of St. Petersburg, and soon became his confidential spy. On the night of December 18, 1883, Degaiëff was seated in a room with Colonel Sudeikin and his nephew, an assistant detective, when, at a signal from Degaiëff, the door was suddenly thrown open and a shot fired at Colonel Sudeikin, which was immediately followed by a blow on the head with a crowbar. Sudeikin seized two heavy candlesticks and managed to severely wound one of his assailants before he was finally overcome by the superiority of numbers and stabbed to death. Meanwhile his nephew was struck down and left on the floor mortally wounded. Degaiëff, with the assistance of the other nihilists, removed their wounded accomplice, and all made their escape.

Degaiëff made his way to Geneva and afterward to London, where he intended to embark for America. He was detained for some reason, and when next he was heard of had been captured on Russian soil and sent to Siberia for life. The murder of Colonel Sudeikin was attributed to revenge for the arrest of Mme. Wolkstein, who went to St. Petersburg from Kharkoff for the purpose of murdering the Czar. Her arrest was due to the energy of Colonel Sudeikin and his nephew.

### Don't Want to Cheat the Hangman.

Chicago, October 20.—A rumor was current to-day that Anarchist Spies and Parsons had attempted suicide in their cells. A reporter hurried to the jail, where he found both of the men alive and apparently happy. Spies could not be approached during the hour of exercise for the press of women—handsome, stylish, and respectable women too—about him. Parsons kept aloof, and, with his little daughter on his knee, read his correspondence at length. He laughed when at last the reporter gained his attention and informed him of the rumor. "Why," he said, "you can't bear it always in mind that neither Mr. Spies nor myself will accept such a piece of nonsense. As for me, I am personally concerned I want to live to be as old as Methuselah, and, furthermore, I don't want to swindle John Harper out of his job. Let me see—yes, the hangman gets \$35. However, set it down that I will not die by my own hands."

## MARRIAGES IN HIGH LIFE.

Some Notable Weddings in the Early Part of the Century—Marital and Connections of Washington, Adams and Jefferson.

(Quoted in Cincinnati Enquirer.)

Even our Presidents have poor luck with their marriages. Washington married his adopted daughter, who was his wife's grandchild to his own nephew, and the last I heard of them was the sale to the government of some of Washington's old furniture by the posterity. John Adams had a daughter named Abigail, who married a young revolutionary officer named Smith. In taking care of Smith, who was but mediocre, Adams incurred many enemies.

The subject of the marriages of important people. Mr. Jefferson had very interesting daughters, and they married Virginia politicians around him, to very little satisfaction in at least one case. Maria, the best looking of these girls, died in 1804. Her husband had been a sporting man and horseman, and it appears that both the sons-in-law of Jefferson required endorsements, etc., which brought the old man's gray hairs down to mendicancy, in addition to his own financial errors.

Aaron Burr, on the other hand, had one daughter, and she made a brilliant marriage, but it was her father who involved her and her husband in his unscrupulous financial and political tricks, ruined her husband, and when she emigrated from South Carolina with her child to seek her father, she met some where in this world an agonizing death. It is a legend that pirates took the vessel and her child walk the plank. No evidence, however, exists on the subject, except hearsay; at that time there were privateers and pirates.

The most brilliant marriage ever made in the political circles of the country in the times of Washington was that of Ann Willing to William Bingham. They married early in those days, especially where there was money, and Ann Willing married at sixteen. Her husband was descended from a Quaker blacksmith, but his family had for four generations made prosperous marriages, and during our revolutionary war the husband got out of the country and held a position of half British, half American consul in one of the West India islands to which privateers resorted. He came home very rich, and received as well the Bingham money, and he chose the daughter of Willing, who was president of the United States Bank, and business partner of Robert Morris. The Willings were the finest people in Philadelphia. Secretary Bayard is descended from one of them. Formerly married in her bloom, the bride and husband went to Europe and remained away five years. They were introduced at the court of the French king by Minister Adams, and the young man was greatly admired as the first American ever seen abroad. When he returned, at the commencement of Washington's administration, they built the finest house ever seen in Philadelphia up to that time, and not excelled perhaps in the present day. It was filled with the best furniture to be bought in France and the best pictures from Italy. Along came young Henry, the English banker, and saw the daughter of this pair so superbly brought up, with a town house and country house, and he married her, and the larger portion of the Bingham property, which amounted to \$1,200,000 in money, went to the capital of the Barings. The young mother, however, having lost herself in society, caught cold in an imperfect dress one night, and was seized with consumption, and she died in the West Indies at an early age. She had a sister of whom great things were expected, but along came a dissolute French nobleman, without any standing or property, and he tempted this girl to go out with him one night, and he kept her all night, to the horror and wonder of the town, and then made a compromise with her parents whereby they gave him money to send her home; she was divorced by the Legislature, her father having become United States Senator, and so little was made of the matter by the Baring family that she was solicited in marriage by her brother-in-law Baring, and after living with him until his decease she married another French nobleman and passed out of notice.

President Taylor's daughter ran away with Jefferson Davis. President Monroe's daughter married her cousin, and they have left some descendants at Washington and some in the State of Maryland. Nellie Grant is the last President's daughter to draw attention. She saw a young, bright-faced Englishman on a steaming ship and fell in love with him without much reason or request, and he turned out to be apparently a sort of boys' companion, hardly ever looking up to the dignity of acquaintance with grown-up in London, when she has any money to spend, and she stays at home with her baby. The marriage of Blaine's son is a testimony to the beauty, modesty and sweetness of Mrs. Nevins, the mother of the bride, who has been too much esteemed on all these points for her daughter to pass into nothingness. In this case we know what the poet means when he says:

A thing of beauty is a joy forever; Its loveliness increases; it will never Pass into nothingness, but still will keep.

### An Acquittal of Murder Does Not Stop Trial for Manslaughter.

PITTSBURGH, October 18.—The Supreme Court to-day rendered a decision in the case of James W. Hildens, of Mercer county. Hildens had been placed on trial for murder, and the jury was discharged without his consent. He was again called up for trial, but put a plea that his life had already been placed in jeopardy. The Court overruled the plea and he was convicted. He appealed to the Supreme Court and the decision of the lower court was reversed and he was set at liberty. Subsequently he was arrested and tried and convicted on a charge of involuntary manslaughter. He was sent first to prison, but afterwards appealed for a second trial. Judge Paxson rendered the decision of the Court and held that the acquittal of the higher grade did not preclude the Commonwealth from trying and convicting him of the lesser crime, which is a misdemeanor and not a felony. Hildens will consequently have to serve out his term.

### Celery and cranberries are heard, and the gobble gobble of the turkey is heard in the Thanksgiving land.

## TIMELY TALK FOR FARMERS.

Green Fodder in Spring—How to Counteract Leaching.

(From the Atlanta Constitution.)

The harder small grains, such as rye and barley, may be sown during this and the next month. They are valuable as soiling crops in early spring; barley richer and more relished by stock, rye harder and better adapted to poor land. Where there is more rye than can be fed in its green state, it is cut and cured as hay, provided it is cut before the heads are out. It becomes woody and hard soon after the heads form, and is then of little value. Barley may be allowed to ripen, and be harvested and fed like oats. There is a general impression that the beard is in the way of doing this, but a gentleman recently informed us that he has fed barley in the sheaf to his horses for twenty years without injury; that sometimes the beards collect between the lips and jaws, but are easily removed by the finger, and the animal suffers no special inconvenience. We are also reliably informed that unthreshed barley is quite commonly fed to horses in California. Where one has pretty good land, therefore, barley might be sown as a substitute for fall oats, in localities where the latter is very liable to be winter killed.

But our special object in calling attention to these crops is to present their claims as means for preserving the fertility of soils. In the first place, a very large portion of our lands are left bare through the winter, with nothing to protect them from being washed away by the heavy rains of that season. A growing crop, especially one with numerous roots, tends to hold the soil firmly. For this reason alone, were there no other, it would pay a farmer to sow from a half bushel to three pecks of rye per acre in his cotton fields at the last ploughing of the crop. The rye, after having been grazed, or cut in the spring for soiling purposes, or might be plowed under to enrich the soil.

But there is another very important work which a green, growing crop has to perform, which is not generally or fully appreciated. It is a great anti-leacher; it prevents the washing out of the available nitrogen in the soil by rain water. The ultimate form which nitrogen assumes in the soil is nitric acid (aqua fortis) and is found in combination with potash, soda, lime, etc., forming salts known as nitrates. Now all nitrates are soluble in water, and besides are not held by rocks as phosphoric acid and potash are. The nitrates are very easily washed or leached out. This is not only capable of demonstration in a laboratory, but has been abundantly shown by collecting the water from underdrains (tiles) and analyzing them. It has been found that where the water came from tiles under a bare, unkept piece of land, the nitrates in it exceeded by a considerable quantity that from tiles overlaid by a green, growing crop. The growing crop appropriated and held the nitrates—the bare soil let it go.

But this is not all. The frequent plowing and stirring of the soil encourages the formation of nitrates—the insoluble, inert forms of nitrogen in the soil, are thereby changed into soluble nitrates. Hence in autumn the soils of our cotton fields are comparatively rich in nitrates, and continue so until the winter rain leaches them out. A cotton field is not only, therefore, most liable to washing, but most exposed also to greatest leaching. Above other fields it needs the protection of a growing crop through the winter and early spring. It is not too late yet to give it this protection. Sow rye now, and continue to sow, if needs be, till the first of December. Sow southern raised or home seed—that from the northwest will not give satisfactory results. Even if a field is intended for corn the next year, sow it in rye now and turn it under next spring. Farmers think it right to sow and plow in peas for enriching land in summer; let them try the same thing with rye in winter. It will cost no more, and probably do more good. Peas increase the supply of available nitrogen in the soil; rye will hold that already present and prevent its loss. Fields covered with winter grasses are neither washed nor leached—they increase in fertility. Let us bring our summer cultivated lands as nearly as possible into the same condition by clothing them in winter with a carpet of green. W. L. J.

### A Gorgeous Rival of Senator Taylor.

A young lady who has just returned from a long western trip says that the most entertaining feature of the whole excursion was Lord X, a distinguished elderly Englishman, and his baby-blue nightgown. Lord X traveled with a valet, of course. He retired to bed on the palace car quite early, and every night withdrew to the masculine preservers at one end of the car and had his valet undress him and rig him for the night. When all was done he marched down through the aisle to his section at the other end of the car magnificently arrayed in a baby-blue flannel nightgown that hung to his feet and had a beautiful frill at the neck. Upon his head was a white knitted nightcap, and his ruddy countenance and his yellow side whiskers helped, with the valet following behind with his lordship's day clothes on his arm, to make up a picture never to be forgotten. His lordship's bathtub came with him all the way from San Francisco to New York, but as to whether it was ever used on the sleeping-car journey the Boston lady deposed not.—Boston Record.

### Num setting a Masonic Offense.

LOUISVILLE, Ky., October 26.—The Grand Lodge of Kentucky, F. and A. M., resumed its session at the Masons' Temple this morning. About 500 delegates were present, and the interest in the proceedings was great. Grand Master B. G. Wet called the assembly to order at 9 o'clock. The greater part of the morning session was consumed in hearing committee reports. The following resolution was read and adopted:

Whereas the use of intoxicating liquors as a beverage is the greatest detriment to the growth and prosperity of the Fraternity; therefore, be it

Resolved, That the business of sloop keeping be deemed a Masonic offense, and punishable as other offenses contrary to the rules of the order.

## AN APOSTATE FOR LOVE.

Brooklyn's Married Priest Tells Why He Left the Church.

(From the New York Star.)

The Rev. Wm. J. Sherman, the priest of Red Hook Point, whose marriage with Miss Tillie McCoy a short time since created such an excitement in Roman Catholic circles, yesterday received a reporter in the little house where he is now living with his wife, and for the first time told how he was led to change his happiness hereafter for the enjoyment of matrimony in the present. Dr. Sherman has lost much of his priestly appearance. His hair is longer and brushed straight up from the forehead, his mobile lips are shadowed by a heavy moustache, and the gravity of this piteous manner has given place to the frank, hearty manner of robust youth.

"I left the Catholic Church because I was in love," he said. "I had known Miss McCoy for sixteen years, and when I was a priest called on her often in a friendly way. When I found that I loved her I proposed to her. She accepted me, and we were married. I was not drugged or made drunk, but was married with my eyes wide open, and have lived happily with my wife ever since. After our marriage we went immediately to Boston on our honeymoon, and stayed there until July 6, when we came back to Brooklyn for a few days. I then took my wife to Philadelphia, where I obtained employment, through Councilman McCullough, of that city, as clerk in the Ohio Railroad office. We stayed there about two months, boarding in the Girard House.

"At the end of the second month I received a letter from my wife's uncle, asking me to return to Brooklyn, as he thought I could do better there. We returned on the 28th of last month, and I found that my wife's uncle wanted me to go and see a well-known Baptist clergyman, whom he thought would befriend me. I went to see the reverend gentleman, and after he heard my story, he asked me if I wouldn't like to join the Baptist Church. I did not answer this question for some time, until, in fact, I thought it over thoroughly. In the meantime, I mingled with Baptist people and went to their meetings, and the consequence is that I am now studying for the Baptist ministry and expect to be ordained some time in January. Of course my plans are not definite as yet, and I have no special church in view, but if I am accepted and ordained I will go wherever the conference decides to send me. A number of other people have been after me to join the Independent Catholic Church, whatever that is, but I have finished with the Catholic religion.

"How do you people feel in regard to my marriage? Well, I haven't been home since, but I have seen my father, and he is reconciled. Of course some Catholics feel bitterly toward me, but these threats of shooting don't trouble me in the least. I am perfectly fearless and can defend myself. Finally I will say that my marriage and departure from the church were entirely my own doing, and no one else had anything to do with them. I am ready alone to stand the consequences, whatever they may be."

## RAPID RUNNING BY RAIL.

How a Train Traveled Three Hundred Miles an Hour.

(From the San Francisco Chronicle.)

When George Stevenson asserted his ability to run passenger coaches at a speed of twelve to fifteen miles an hour, scientific and practical men deemed him fit for a lunatic asylum, but time has shown that trains may be run at a much greater velocity without materially adding to the dangers of railway travel. The flight of the fast express on the Pennsylvania railway is a marked example of the possibilities in the way of sustaining high rates of speed. This road now runs the fastest train in America. Nine hundred and twelve miles, including seven stops, are accomplished in 25 hours, and the average time is 36.30 miles an hour. A portion of the distance is run at the rate of 75 miles an hour. At a speed of 60 miles an hour the driving wheels of the locomotive on this train make 258 revolutions a minute. Wm. Vanderbilt's spurt of 81 miles in 61 minutes on the New York Central is declared to be the highest rate of speed ever attained in this country, but this speed was not a surprise to good engineers, many of whom are firm in the belief that 100 miles an hour will yet be accomplished on American roads.

Thirty-one years ago Colonel Meigs read a paper before the New York Farmers' Club on "Future Traveling," in which he expressed the belief that railroad cars could be safely propelled by steam at the rate of 300 miles an hour. He said: "The Emperor of Russia has taken the first great step toward what I deem the ultimatum of railroad travel. Instead of cutting what I call a mere drill through the country and going around everything in the way for a straight line, he has cut a broad way for 500 miles from St. Petersburg to Moscow. He has made it all the way 200 feet wide, so that the engineer sees everything on the road. This is part of the future—the railroad from point to point with a mathematical line; the rails ten times stronger than are now used; the locomotives on wheels of far greater diameter; the gauge of a relative breadth; the signals and times perfectly settled; the roads on both sides during the transit of trains having the gate of the walls all closed—then instead of traveling 100 miles an hour, we shall more safely travel 300 miles an hour."

One of the latest efforts at improvement in locomotives is that of a Frenchman named Estrade, who has constructed an engine which he calls La Parisienne. La Parisienne, when watered and fired, weighs 42 tons. Its driving wheels, six in number, are 8 feet in diameter. The cylinders are outside, with valve boxes on the top. The diameter of each cylinder is 18 inches, and the length of stroke is 2 feet and 3/4 inches. This engine is built for high speed, and will carry a pressure of 200 pounds, or an absolute pressure of 215 pounds. Estrade's engine is designed to run at the average rate of 78 miles an hour.

It is said that the latest now among the young ladies is a little brush broom. This is used to dust the coats of their lovers, where they have laid their pretty powdered faces.

It is conjectured that the residence of the War Department is owing to the fact that it is waiting for Genoa's report on Gen. Miles.

## A SAD COURT SCENE.

Two Little Boys Accusers of Their Father—A Thrilling Temperance Lecture.

(From the Philadelphia Telegraph.)

"Patrick Collins." A manly little fellow of twelve years, with a round bright face and dark eyes, and dressed in a neat knickerbocker suit, walked erect and rapidly toward the clerk in the court of over and termizer in Jersey City yesterday. He had his hand on the Bible, and promised to tell the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth.

A man of forty years, plainly but neatly attired, intently watched the child. He had shuddered when the name was called by Prosecutor Winfield, and nervously squeezed his black felt hat as the child was sworn. An expression in which admiration and fear were blended came over his face as his eyes told the bright, ready demeanor of the boy.

The spectators looked on the scene with wrapt attention, for they knew that the boy was to tell how his mother was murdered, and that the murderer, the man, was his father.

James Collins and his wife led a cat-and-dog life for many years. On May 17 last—a Sunday—they quarreled. The next morning the wife was found in bed dead, her nursing baby at her side. Forty wounds were counted by County Physician Converse on her body. The occurrences of that Sunday were known in part to the two boys; fully, only to the prisoner.

The prisoner's counsel offered a plea of manslaughter, which was refused. A consultation and another long conference with Judge Knapp and the prosecutor followed. The counsel for the defense evidently did not desire to assume the risk of a trial. They offered to plead guilty to murder in the second degree. The plea was reluctantly accepted by the court, and the accused faintly but gladly whispered "Yes" when asked if he retracted his plea of not guilty. Then Collins's son gave testimony to determine if there were mitigating circumstances. Several witnesses had testified that both husband and wife were quarrelsome.

Patrick did not realize that he was homeless and almost friendless, but frequently looked affectionately at his father, and once smiled in return as a faint smile of pride at the intelligence of his boy stole for a moment on the face of the father. Patrick did not see the fatal assault. He left his wretched home at 10 o'clock on Sunday morning because his father and his mother had been drinking and he feared trouble. He remained away until 8 o'clock that night. Tears moistened his cheeks and he sobbed as he described how on his return he went to his mother's bed. He thought she was asleep. He was hungry, and shook her to arouse her as he asked for a slice of bread. He could not wake her, and went into his father's room. His papa was awake and told him "mamma was dead." The child again wept when he related how, the night before, his mother had tried to push his father down stairs because he would not give her his wages; but the tears were chased away by smiles when he enumerated the articles his father bought that Saturday night for him and his brothers.

Martin, his brother, who is a year younger, was also called. Like his brother, Martin has an attractive face. He is of fair complexion, and has blue eyes. He showed not the least nervousness or fear. He seemed to admire his father, and was disposed to cast the blame on his dead mother. In his testimony he told how that Sunday morning his mother fell, and in her rage broke the stove with a hammer. She sent him for whisky. He broke down as he said "I didn't want to go." In a moment he recovered and resumed: "She said she would kill me stone dead if I didn't go." He brought her a bottle of whisky, and she drank it. He left her asleep in the rocking-chair at half-past 5 in the afternoon. His father was sleeping in the bed at the time. When he returned home three hours later his mother was dead. He voluntarily told of several fights in which his mother was the aggressor, and reluctantly described those in which his father was at fault. As he left the stand and passed his father, the father muttered: "God bless you, my son—God bless you!"

County Physician Converse selected Patrick's baseball bat as the weapon with which the death blow was probably inflicted. The defendant submitted a written statement. He was remanded for sentence. The extreme penalty is twenty years at hard labor in State prison. What disposition to make of the two boys puzzles Prosecutor Winfield, who is greatly attached to them, and is loath to have them sent to any institution. They will be detained for a few days in the hope that suitable homes may be found.

## A British Steamer's Peril.

(From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.)

Captain Baker, on his last trip from Liverpool to New Orleans, met with an exciting experience. It was on the forenoon of September 24, as his ship, the British steamer Red Sea, was off the Azores. The morning was clear and bright, but the vessel began to labor heavily, and was put under storm sails. The sea became rough, while the wind blew a living gale. The barometer fluctuated by jumps; the compass was affected. Suddenly the vessel received a terrific shock that rocked her from stem to stern. She appeared to bump the bottom and was thrown on her beam ends, but righted almost immediately. All hands rushed on deck to witness the appalling sight of a mountain of water off the port bow rolling down upon them. The vessel was headed bow on at the tremendous billow, and as she struck it stood on stern end, rode it gallantly, pitching over it as from a precipice into the trough yawning below. The rudder and the propeller were hoisted far out of the water, the boats swung in the davits, the yards cracked overhead, the masts strained and twisted, and the coal on deck was scattered from one end to the other. She came up out of the terrible trough, shook an instant, righted herself, shipping but little water, sustaining no material damage, and plunged ahead on her course. Captain Baker is positive that his sudden and dangerous dilemma was the result of an earthquake, and if his ship had been heavily laden he would never have ridden it out in safety.

Wall street leads to Canada.

## CAPITAL PUNISHMENT IN CHINA.

It Depends Often on an Officer's Whim, and May Be Met by Proxy.

(Ben Ton in the Columbia Jurist.)

In China capital punishment often depends upon the whim of the officer of the law. Here is an instance: Pen Ta Ren, the Rear Admiral of the Yangtze district, was passing up that district and chanced to overhear a quarrel between a boatman and a soldier over the matter of two cash—the price of ferrage across a small stream. The Admiral took in the situation. The soldier had been ferried over the stream, and then refused to pay the poor ferryman. There was a principle involved. A large number of soldiers were looking on and apparently enjoying the ferryman's rage at the loss of his wages. An example was needed, and the "Great Man," as his name signifies, who was inognito, being on a tour of personal inspection, ordered the soldier beheaded, which was done on the spot.

Willful murder, piracy and confirmed thieves fall under the headman's axe. Infanticide, however, is not included as murder. The parent, by Chinese law, has the right of life over his own child; hence the practice of female infanticide. Adultery falls under the life penalty at the will of the aggrieved party. Thus, a husband detecting his wife in adultery can go to the magistrate and demand the capital punishment of one or both parties to the crime, or he may take the lives of the offenders himself and not be amenable if he can prove the fact. If, however, he fails to substantiate the crime alleged, he is held guilty of murder and punished accordingly.

Capital punishment can be met by proxy and the law be satisfied. It is not uncommon, therefore, when a man of money is sentenced to death, that he can, by the use of money, secure a stay of proceedings long enough to obtain a substitute. This is done by making an offer of one, two or more hundred "taels" (ounces of silver, about 133 cents, our standard) for a substitute. Some impetuous family, often having 200 or 300 male members, as the patriarchal plan of domestic economy prevails, will agree among themselves that they will furnish a substitute for the proffered sum. Lot is then cast to determine the victim, and the doomed man accepts his fate with stoical indifference upon the ultra predestination theory that his time has come, else the lot would not have fallen to him individually. He accordingly presents himself to the court, and the convicted man dies by proxy, while the family of the deceased enjoy the proceeds of the arrangement.

## Specimens of War Humor.

A good story is told on a young recruit who recently enlisted at Camp Hancock, near Atlanta. The young fellow joined the army while the country was threatening war with Mexico and he intended to make a good soldier. One day he was on guard duty and was slowly stepping along when an officer approached. After the usual salute the officer said:

"Let me see your gun."

The new recruit handed over his Springfield rifle and a pleased expression stole over his face.

As the officer received the gun he said in a tone of deepest disgust:

"You're a fine soldier! You've given up your gun, and now what are you going to do?"

The young Atlantian turned pale and reaching for his hip pocket drew a big six shooter and preparing for business said in a voice that could not be misunderstood:

"Gimme that gun or I'll blow a hole through you in a pair 'r minutes!"

The officer instantly decided not to "monkey" any further with the raw recruit, and the gun was promptly surrendered.

This story brings to mind one that is told of a Confederate guard who was once on duty over in South Carolina.

The officer was discussing war matters and remarked:

"You know your duty here, do you, sentinel?"

"Yes, sir."

"Well, now, suppose they should open on you with shells and musketry, what would you do?"

"Form a line, sir!"

"What! one man form a line?"

"Yes, sir; form a bee line for camp, sir."

One day Beauregard, with several lesser lights, came upon a sentinel who had taken his gun entirely to pieces and was greasing lock, stock and barrel. The great general looked like a thunder cloud, but neither his flashing uniform nor the scowl on his face had any effect on the sentinel, who quietly proceeded to rub a piece of his gun.

"Say," remarked an officer, "that's Beauregard there; he's a sort of a general."

"All right," said the unabashed sentinel; "if he'll wait 'till I get this gun together I'll give him a sort of a salute."