

corner, the rest in the windows. . . . The President, sitting before a zinc urn of an antique shape, is serious. The call is for one o'clock; at half-past one he looks at the clock and says solemnly, 'Gentlemen, I am afraid we shall not be more numerous; don't you think that we might begin the deliberation?' There is a mute assent; the pens continue to glide over the paper, the clouds of smoke to rise. Then comes the deliberation, which is no deliberation at all; the bureaux have each to elect a commissaire, and all the commissaires together appoint a reporter. There is often no candidate. 'Gentlemen,' says the President, 'I beg you to nominate a commissaire.' Somebody nominates a republican colleague, who is smoking at the end of the room. 'Why,' says this gentleman, 'I don't know the question at all; anybody would do better than myself.' 'You will study it; you are too modest; do accept.' And he accepts, and the same ceremony begins for some other law; and this is how the laws go through the first stage, the deliberation in the bureaux."

I cannot follow the Duc d'Harcourt in the details of the discussion of the law by the commissaires. The end of it is that, of the military law—a very elaborate law, which had no less than 299 articles—50 articles (all containing some innovation) were voted without being even read, and full powers were given to a sub-committee to make all the necessary modifications. These gentlemen remained away about ten minutes, and, when they returned, they found that the commission had voted the whole law *en bloc*. This is not all. On the day of the final vote on the law in the Chamber, all the members of the commission voted against it, with the exception of the reporter whom the commission had charged with the defence of it. The Minister of War begged them to bring in a bill of their own, and a whole year was spent before the matter came again before the Chamber.

There is a class of men who seem to be independent of the caprice of the multitude—the functionaries. Their power is derived only indirectly from the people. The Duc d'Harcourt studies in turn the obscure functionaries of the bureaux, the innumerable receivers of taxes, the prefects and sub-prefects, the military, whose promotion is not arbitrary, but subject to strict laws. He passes a severe criticism on the ambition of some, the servility of others; his conclusion is this: "The efforts of individuals do not concur in procuring the good of society if they are not inspired by moral principles; and personal interest is not a sufficient force." The second part of the book is the analysis of the intellectual forces which have to play their part in a well-organized society; and the Duc d'Harcourt places above all the religious sentiment.

## Correspondence.

### A CARD FROM MR. SCHUYLER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: After your statement of the result of your search for the nominations made by Mr. Washburne, published in your number for July 29—which, I must admit, greatly surprised me—nothing remains but for me to express my very great regret at the appearance in my 'American Diplomacy' of the erroneous paragraph. My publishers have been requested to cancel it in copies still for sale.

What I said was solely from the point of view of the good of our service, and I had no intention of accusing Mr. Washburne of any moral obliquity. In the interest of civil-service reform it is gratifying to note that a wholesale removal of officials, which twenty years ago was considered by politicians as not only justifiable but praiseworthy, now meets with general reprobation.

I am, sir, your obedient servant,

EUGENE SCHUYLER.

ALASSIO, ITALY, August 21, 1886.

THE SPRINGFIELD (ILL.) POST-OFFICE.  
TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Through the columns of the *Nation* I desire to call attention to a notorious instance of violation of the spirit, if not of the letter, of the Civil-Service Law. I allude to the discharge, by the newly appointed Postmaster of Springfield, Ill., of the whole force of letter-carriers employed in that office, and the filling of their places by stanch Democrats. As a consequence, most of the mail is delivered two hours later than ever before, and the weekly list of uncalled-for letters is three or four times larger than under the old régime. The gentleman who is at the head of the Post-office, Mr. H. W. Clendenin, continues to serve as a member of the Democratic State Central Committee.

It seemed fitting that the friends of reform throughout the country should be made cognizant of the above painful state of affairs. These transactions are rendered more painful when we reflect that they are carried on within sight of the last resting-place of Abraham Lincoln. In such a place we might reasonably look for the prevalence of something higher than the spoils theory; for who can doubt that, if living to-day, the great President would stand with his great coadjutors in the work of emancipation—would stand with Beecher, Curtis, Lowell, etc., in the Mugwump party of 1886?—Respectfully,

J. B. BARNHILL.

XENIA, ILL.

### GEN. WEAVER AND THE ADMINISTRATION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: While your correspondents are calling your attention to the unanimity and heartiness with which Democratic conventions, State and Congressional, are endorsing Mr. Cleveland and his Administration, I want to direct your attention to one notable exception.

A few days ago the Democrats of this district, the Sixth, met in convention at Oskaloosa and re-nominated Gen. Weaver for Congress. They adopted four resolutions. One, the first, endorses the State platform; the second laments the death of Mr. Tilden; the third asks the miners to vote for Gen. Weaver because the last Legislature refused to give them relief; while the fourth is a lengthy and fulsome eulogy of Gen. Weaver and his work in Congress. Neither Mr. Cleveland nor the Administration is referred to. I suspect that Gen. Weaver either wrote these resolutions himself, or, through one of his henchmen—and they were present in full force—dictated them. I can in no other way explain the shameful performance, for I know that the Democrats of this district are very proud of Mr. Cleveland and of this Administration. Some of them, indeed most of them, are not in sympathy with Mr. Cleveland's civil-service ideas, but they see the hand-writing on the wall and are preparing to submit to the inevitable.

I desire in the near future to give the *Nation*, for the benefit of our civil-service reform friends, a brief summary of the manner in which the patronage in this district has been distributed under that eminent reformer, Mr. Weaver. If perchance the facts could be brought to the President's notice, he would be able to form a more accurate opinion of Mr. Weaver, and of the value of his pretended friendship for him and his administration. Of course I do not hold the President responsible for Mr. Weaver's shortcomings, but the story will serve to show up the iniquity of the system that recognizes the offices in his district as the property of the Congressman.

A good many Democrats, the writer among the number, believing as we do in the President and his methods, cannot support Mr. Weaver

and preserve our self-respect. But we cannot support his opponent, Mr. Donnell. He is a gentlemanly man, and has fair ability, but he is a thorough spoilsman, and has no well-defined ideas on any public question. On the tariff and finance he is all at sea. I am told that he will make his canvass on the "war" issue, while Mr. Weaver will find his strength in advocating cheap money and in appealing to the basest elements in human nature. The Democrats in this district are sadly in need of a Moses to lead them out of the wilderness. DAVID W. NORRIS.

GRINNELL, IOWA, August 30, 1886.

## Notes.

THE fall announcements of G. P. Putnam's Sons include a large number of historical works. Besides some nine volumes in the "Nations Series," we notice Mr. Howard W. Preston's 'Documents Illustrative of American History, 1606-1863,' with introduction and references; a 'History of the U. S. Navy,' by Edgar Stanton MacLay, in two octavo volumes, with maps and documents; 'Reminiscences of the Filibuster War in Nicaragua' (1855-60), by Gen. C. W. Doubleday, a participant; 'Memorials of Half a Century,' by Bela D. Hubbard, whose field of reminiscence is the region of the Great Lakes; 'Woodstock,' an historical sketch, by Clarence Winthrop Bowen; and, among children's books, 'Uncle Sam's Medal of Honor,' by Gen. Theo. F. Rodenbough; and 'Chivalric Days and Youthful Deeds,' by E. S. Brooks. Retrospective also are 'American Literature from 1607 to 1885,' by Charles F. Richardson, Professor of English Literature in Dartmouth College; and 'Humorous Masterpieces from American Literature,' edited by Edward T. Mason. Other announcements by the same firm are as follows: 'The Romances of Chivalry,' by John Ashton, with fifty illustrations "in facsimile" (a term used by this compiler in a peculiar sense); a poem, 'Risiti's Daughter,' by Anna Katharine Green, hitherto known as a writer of fiction; 'The Old Order Changes,' a story of to-day, by W. H. Mallock; 'Outlines of Music,' by Louis S. Davis; 'Problems and Social Studies,' by the Rev. R. Heber Newton; and 'A Study of Sociology,' by President John Bascom.

Leach, Shewell & Sanborn will publish 'Forty Lessons in Punctuation and the Use of Capitals,' by Milton Quay; and 'Good Reading, for School and Home.'

In November E. P. Dutton & Co. will have ready 'Twenty Sermons,' by Phillips Brooks, D.D.; and 'Sermons, Doctrinal and Practical,' by Morgan Dix, D.D.

Thomas Whittaker publishes directly 'Half Hours with a Naturalist: Rambles near the Shore,' by the Rev. J. G. Wood.

'The Terrace of Mon Désir,' a story of Russian life, by an American lady; Grimm's stirring brochure on 'The Destruction of Rome,' translated by Miss Sarah Holland Adams; and 'Ralph Waldo Emerson: His Maternal Ancestors,' with reminiscences of him, by his relative, David Greene Haskins, D.D., are in the press of Cupples, Upham & Co., Boston. Of the interesting sketch last named only 350 copies will be printed, and from type.

Harper & Bros. have nearly ready 'Contributions to the Science of Education,' by Prof. W. H. Payne; and 'Mary and Martha' (Washington), by Benson J. Lossing.

A Texan novel, 'Cynthias Dallas: a Nymph of the Colorado,' by Howard Seely, author of 'A Ranchman's Stories,' will be published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

T. Y. Crowell & Co. will publish next week 'The Labor Movement in America,' by Prof. Richard T. Ely, of Johns Hopkins University.

The great fire by which the firm of A. L. Bancroft & Co., San Francisco, suffered so severely, has led, among other changes, to the withdrawal of the publication of the historical works of Hubert Howe Bancroft, and the incorporation of 'The History Company,' of which Mr. Bancroft is President and N. J. Stone the Business Manager. Its imprint is already placed on the latest volume of the 'California' series.

The late Prof. William Cook, of Cambridge, in whom the *Nation* lost an occasional contributor, and whose department was instruction in German, published just before his untimely death a convenient "Alphabetical Table of the Principal Prefixes and Suffixes by which Nouns, Adjectives, Verbs, and Adverbs are formed in German," mostly from Whitney's Grammar, and designed mainly for reference.

Mrs. Lamb offers the most entertaining article in her *Magazine of American History* for September. Her theme is the New York Historical Society, and as usual her text is freely interspersed with portraits and other illustrations. The faces of nearly all the presidents of the Society, from Egbert Benson down, are here engraved, the array being a very distinguished one.

Mountain-climbers and humbler pedestrians alike are indebted to the Appalachian Mountain Club for a tracing from the map of the Massachusetts Topographical Survey now in progress, showing the northwestern corner of the State on a scale of 1:30,000, or twice that which will be adopted for publication. It embraces Williamstown, South Williamstown, Adams, and North Adams, with the whole of Greylock—a region of rare beauty and great variety of scenery. Figures of elevation accompany the contour lines. The map is folded in stiff covers, of size suitable for the coat-pocket, and is sold in Boston by W. B. Clarke & Carruth.

There has been no lack of school editions, *éditions classiques*, of the principal plays of the great French dramatists of the seventeenth century. A new series has now been begun by Hachette in Paris under the general title, 'Théâtre Classique' (Boston: Schoenhof). Four plays have already been published: "Cinna" and "Nicomède," by Corneille, with notes by M. Petit de Julleville; and "Iphigénie" and "Esther," by Racine, with notes by M. Lanson. Other plays by Corneille and Racine and Molière are announced to appear soon. The text followed in every case is that of the "Grands Écrivains de la France," and each play is accompanied by grammatical, historical, and literary notes, based in a measure upon the annotations of the larger publication. In many respects the notes of the school edition are fuller than those in the complete works, explaining with care allusions which might escape the young readers for whom they are intended, and also giving much collateral information interesting to readers of any age. There are copious grammatical explanations, and abundant citations of parallel passages from Greek and Latin authors.

M. Henry Becque, the author of "La Parisienne" and of other plays which have met with more or less success, has published his lecture on 'Molière et l'École des Femmes' (Paris: Tresse; Boston: Schoenhof). In it he protests against the mania which has become almost universal of attributing to writers of plays, and to Molière in particular, philosophical or political or moral ideas which they could never have had. "Tartuffe" and the "Misanthrope" are the two comedies of Molière on which commentators have especially exercised their ingenuity in discovering depths of meaning and intention. "L'École des Femmes," one of the simplest of plays, has not escaped such learned interpretations. As M. Becque remarks, a little more and the recent creation of *nos lycées de jeunes filles* would be

traced back to the exposition by Molière of the dangers of ignorance in the case of *Agnès*. The author, putting aside all the ideas of reform attributed to Molière, sees in the play only one thought, common to many comedies, that love is the privilege of youth. This he develops by a pleasant analysis of a few scenes and by constant allusion to other works of the author.

M. Jules Simon, in the eleventh edition of 'L'École' (Paris: Hachette), has inserted an entirely new preface, in which he expresses himself very energetically upon some of the recent French laws upon educational matters. He had said, in the preface to the tenth edition, published in 1881: "The republic has realized almost all the wishes expressed by the author in this little book." Now, however, he protests against the excessive *laïcisation* of the public schools, in which he sees rather "a political action than an effort for the amelioration of education." He closes by maintaining that schools cannot be neutral in religious matters.

In *Le Livre* for August M. L. Derôme describes an edition hitherto unknown of three of La Fontaine's 'Contes,' thus contributing to the restoration of the purity (if this term be allowable) of the text of the best forgotten work of the fabulist. M. Spire Blondel concludes his agreeable series of articles on the writer's tools. P. van der Haeghen, writing of the private press of the Duchesse de Luynes, tells what is a twice-told tale in *Le Livre*, if our memory is not greatly at fault. However, he adds some fresh details concerning the cleverness of the Duchess at the case, where she even caught the swing (*un certain balancement du corps*) of the regular compositor. Among the reviews in this number we remark that of 'La Correspondance de Harper's Ferry,' by Raoul de l'Angle-Beaumanoir, which has reached a second edition. It promises a fund of amusement for the American reader. Fancy a plot which makes a charming woman compromise herself, during John Brown's trial, by writing "too pressing" letters to three of the jury which condemned him. Imagine, further, that the existence of these letters worries her after she has become the wife of the American Consul at Havre, in the midst of the civil war; that she sends a poor wretch who is enamoured of her to recover them, which he accomplishes "par des ruses sauvages et à travers les péripéties les plus amusantes et les plus dramatiques"; and that she then dismisses him as a lover, and he meekly disappears. The French historical novel could no further go.

Mme. J. W. Mario, who has but just completed her voluminous life of Mazzini, has already engaged to write a biography of her friend the late Dr. Agostino Bertani.

—Thirty-seven years ago the publication of the *Astronomical Journal* was begun in Cambridge by Mr. Benjamin Apthorp Gould. Twelve years later, in the middle of 1861, its continuance becoming impossible, the announcement of its suspension closed with the words, "It is my fervent hope to resume the publication of the *Journal* at an early day, by commencing the seventh volume soon after the suppression of the present insurrection." Dr. Gould now issues a circular letter in which he says that, under all the varying circumstances of the succeeding years, this hope was constantly cherished, and the suspension of the publication was regarded as only temporary; and at last, in 1869, arrangements were fully matured for its reappearance, when occurrences took place which led to the establishment of the Argentine National Observatory, and to his departure for South America to assume its directorship. Dr. Gould's eminent services to astronomy in this capacity are known to all; and now, on his return to this country, he proposes a resump-

tion of the publication, should the proposition meet with favor. His plan is to continue the *Journal* in the same form and spirit as before, and under essentially the same conditions. These imply a devotion to the advancement, rather than to the diffusion, of astronomical knowledge, yet without disregarding the importance of a prompt announcement of important discoveries. They imply, also, the dissemination of original researches only. The numbers of each volume will appear at irregular intervals, and it is hoped that a volume may be completed as often as once a year. It is understood that Dr. Gould will begin to issue the first volume of the new series as soon as he has the promise of subscriptions enough to cover about one-third of the outlay for actual publication; and those disposed to subscribe are asked to notify him as soon as may be convenient. We cannot but express the hope that Dr. Gould will receive the necessary encouragement from those interested in the advancement of astronomy.

—In No. 1064 of the *Nation* some account was given of the British Archaeological Association a year ago visiting Hollingbury Cope to inspect the Shaksperiana there. Those Shakspeare rarities render that "rustic wigwam," as its owner calls it, more and more a place of pilgrimage. A full hundred pilgrims have just wended their way thither, members of the British Medical Association, which last month held its annual meeting in Brighton. Though the Cope is three miles from the city and more than four hundred feet above it, Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps often walks home from town, and no doubt many of the pilgrims were pedestrians. They were well paid for their pains. The early Shaksperian relics consist of about fifteen hundred separate articles illustrative of the personal and literary history of the cosmopolitan dramatist; no other collections, not even those at Stratford-on-Avon, possessing anything like so large a number of authentic memorials of biographical interest. Sparing no expense or exertion for many years, Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps would seem to have long ago gleaned every grain that could be picked up in the field of his special research. Yet among the forty-seven articles specially described in the pamphlet printed for the convenience of the medical visitors, five are recent acquisitions and never had been exhibited before their visit. One of these five is the first edition of 'Pierce Penilesse,' the earliest work—even earlier than Greene's 'Groat-worth of Wit'—in which there is an allusion to any of the plays of Shakspeare. Only one other copy is known to be extant. Another is the head of Shakspeare in an oval, engraved by Stafford in 1655, of such rarity that only three other copies are known. A third is three of the original title-deeds of Shakspeare's residence, New Place—the only ones of the poet's time known to exist, dated 1532, 1563, and 1567. Title-deeds long after those years were jealously guarded by their owners (American public registries being unknown); and, as Shakspeare never mortgaged the estate, these three indentures, which are preserved uninjured, may be fairly included among the very few personal relics of the dramatist upon the authenticity of which no doubt can be entertained. These documents were recently discovered by Mr. Richard Sims of the British Museum in the archives of a county family, and at once came into the possession of Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps. Never was there a better confirmation of the text "He that seeketh findeth." Another curiosity, which deserves to be styled a "preciosity," is a fragment of four leaves only, but unique, no other vestige of a copy having as yet come to light, of the first edition, 1598, of the first part of "Henry IV." It contains the only existing record of what Mr. Halliwell-Phillipps holds to be the