

The Nation.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, JUNE 23, 1887.

The Week.

THAT the idea of returning the rebel flags en masse was only the wrong way of doing the right thing, is strikingly illustrated by a letter which we find in the *Philadelphia Press* of Tuesday. The survivors of the "Philadelphia Brigade," consisting of four Pennsylvania regiments in the Union Army, have invited the survivors of Pickett's Division of Confederates to become their guests at Gettysburg on July 2, 3, and 4. During the great battle on that field twenty-four years ago, three Confederate flags were captured from Pickett's Division by members of one regiment of the Philadelphia Brigade. John W. Frazier, after conferring with leading members of the Regimental Association, says: "I believe I voice the sentiment of every member of Baker's historical regiment when I state, the climax of that reunion would be complete by the survivors of Col. Baker's old regiment returning in person to the brave men of Pickett's Division, upon this occasion of national interest, the three flags captured by them—the return to be made upon the spot where they were captured, and to be made at the time when the monument of the 71st is unveiled, July 3 next." On the presumption that official action looking in this direction will be taken at the meeting of the Regimental Association on June 25, he has therefore written the President to inquire what disposition has been made of these three flags, and to ask whether it is possible to return them to the Regimental Association. Whether it proves possible to comply with this request or not, the very fact that it is made is of the highest significance, as showing that there are plenty of Union soldiers who are ready to return rebel flags. Indeed, this has already been shown by such returns, notably in the return to a Mississippi regiment of their colors by the Ninth Connecticut Volunteers.

The "rebel flag" chorus winds up most appropriately with a speech from Gen. Benjamin Butler, late candidate of the People's Party and of the *New York Sun* for the office of President of the United States. A flag, according to the General, is an "archive," an evidence of victory. Returning captured flags is therefore a mutilation of public records, depriving our soldiers of their rightful place in history. He makes it very clear that if he had been elected instead of Mr. Cleveland, this thing would never have happened. Nevertheless, he deals very gently with the President. Strongly as he reprobates the mutilation of archives, he frankly acknowledges that the President did not know any better. The poor man had never had any experience that should teach him better. He insinuates strongly that since Mr. Cleveland never captured any rebel flags, he cannot be expected to understand their true value, and hence his giving them up is not a blameworthy act. Butler would of course have kept them,

and especially all that he captured at Bermuda Hundred, Fort Fisher, and other places.

The approval by Gov. Ames of the bill passed by the Massachusetts Legislature exempting veterans from the conditions of the Civil-Service Law, is the worst blow administered to the reform since the enactment of the Pendleton law by Congress four years ago. The measure has been long and fully discussed, and the action of both the Legislature and the Governor has been taken only after ample opportunity for deliberation upon its significance. Its passage must therefore be considered as expressing the attitude of the men who manage the Republican party in Massachusetts toward the reform cause. The proposition was brought forward in the Massachusetts Legislature a year ago, and was passed by large majorities in each branch. It was supported upon the nominal ground of gratitude to the men who saved the Union, but really as an effective method of attacking the reform system. Fortunately, Gov. Robinson interposed his veto and blocked the scheme, pointing out the duplicity of its advocates and the insidious character of the measure so clearly that it was impossible to rally a two-thirds vote against him. The Republican State Convention last fall ostensibly sustained Gov. Robinson's course, and committed the party against further support of the exemption scheme by adopting a resolution which, after giving hearty support to the Federal and State Civil-Service Acts, said: "We will oppose all open or covert attacks upon them, and encourage no action which tends to impair their efficiency." The spoilsmen in Massachusetts to-day congratulate themselves that a Republican Legislature and Governor have administered what they hope may be a death-blow to the reform.

The Republican Legislature in Massachusetts, having broken the solemn pledges of the party platform to pass a prohibition amendment to the Constitution and to oppose all attacks upon the civil-service reform system, the *Boston Journal* remarks: "This seems not to be a good year for the maintenance of party promises; and political platforms are apt to pass more than ever into a condition of 'innocuous desuetude' if the precedents set this year of ignoring their provisions are followed in the future." This is quite true, and there is now every prospect that the next Presidential campaign will be fought almost entirely upon the issue of candidates, the advantage resting with that party which shall nominate a man whose own record is his sufficient platform.

The Prohibition advocates in Michigan have scored an important victory in securing the passage through the Legislature of a local-option bill applying to counties. It provides that whenever one-fifth of the voters at the last preceding election for Governor in any county shall petition for a special election to be held on the question of prohibiting the sale of liquor throughout that county, such election shall take

place, no other question being voted upon at it. An affirmative vote will establish prohibition in the county. Such election can be held only once in three years, and the decision reached shall be binding during that period. The bill received a very large vote in both houses. It is said that the prohibition partisans repudiate it because it interferes with their prosperity as a party organization. They are probably sound in this objection, for there can be little doubt that the bill will have that effect. According to the vote in the last election, forty-eight of the eighty-three counties in the State are now in favor of prohibition, and under this act they can not only secure it, but, what is far more to the purpose, can enforce it by having public sentiment in its favor.

Michigan is now one of the most advanced States in the Union in the matter of regulating the liquor traffic. Its present tax law levies a uniform tax of \$500 upon every wholesale dealer and \$300 upon every retail dealer, the proceeds to go into the local treasuries. An amendment to the law has been passed by one house of the present Legislature, and is now pending in the other, which raises the tax to \$800 on wholesale dealers and \$500 on retail dealers. By adding the local option principle to the uniform State tax, Michigan follows the example of Ohio and Illinois, though her proposed tax is much higher than that of either of those States. Taken together, taxation and local option have been found to work most effectively for both the restriction and suppression of the traffic. Taxation works well where the majority of public sentiment is against prohibition, as it is in all the large cities; and local option easily maintains prohibition in the rural portions of the States. This is a rational and statesmanlike solution of the problem. It could have been reached in this State long ago without the slightest difficulty had the Republican leaders been sincere in their professions of friendliness to temperance legislation.

The Andover trouble has taken a singular shape—such, moreover, as of all imaginable shapes is least likely to satisfy anybody, and happily, therefore, is least likely to be permanent. The Board of Visitors of the Seminary have no original jurisdiction of the subject of removing a professor, their duties in this respect, as prescribed by the Seminary statutes, being to "hear appeals from the Board of Trustees," to "review and revise and reverse any censure passed by said Trustees upon any professor." The constitution of the Seminary provides that "no man shall be continued a professor in this institution who shall not continue to approve himself, to the satisfaction of the Trustees, a man of sound and orthodox principles in divinity," according to the standards established in said constitution; and that, "if at any meeting regularly appointed it should be proved to the satisfaction of a majority of the whole number of the said Trustees, that any professor in this institution has taught or embraced any of the

heresies or errors alluded to in the declaration aforesaid, he shall be forthwith removed from office"; and that "every professor in this institution shall be under the immediate inspection of the said Trustees, and shall be by them removed" for neglect of duty, immorality, incapacity, "or any other just and sufficient cause." Nevertheless, in spite of these provisions, the Board of Visitors did allow original proceedings to be taken before them, and they have now brought in their judgment that Prof. Smyth is guilty of heresy concerning matters which he did not write, and must be removed from office, while Profs. Tucker, Churchill, Harris, and Hincks, who did write the inculpatory matter, are acquitted, on the ground that one member of the Board "was not present on the day of the hearing on said complaints when said respondents severally appeared and made their statements in defence thereto."

Perhaps it may seem that nothing could be added to this (except, perhaps, by the author of 'Alice in Wonderland' in a peculiarly happy moment), but in fact the Trustees, who had the power of judging, but no charge before them, thought fit to supplement the work of the Visitors, who had charges before them, but no power of judging. As the Trustees say, "We still considered that we were not relieved from the obligation laid upon us by the constitution, and that it was our duty to pass upon the charges made against the professors." "Accordingly," they say, gravely, they "have carefully weighed the evidence . . . presented at the trial," i. e., before another court at another place, "and have sought light from all other accessible sources; and our judgment is that the charges brought against the professors are not sustained." So the Faculty is pronounced wholly good by the rightful tribunal without a hearing, and partly bad by the wrongful tribunal with a hearing in part. What would have happened if Dr. Eustis had actually heard the defence of the four exonerated professors instead of reading it at his leisure in a verified verbatim report, can only be imagined.

The Cincinnati *Commercial Gazette* severely castigates the Chicago *Tribune* for its irreverent treatment of Senator Sherman's notions about sugar duties and sugar bounties. The *Tribune* objected to the scheme because it believed that Spain would immediately put an export tax on sugar equal to the amount, by which our duty is lowered, thus preventing American consumers from getting any benefit from the reduction. The *Commercial Gazette* replies that this might be met by a discriminating duty on our part against countries that levy an export tax, and then it goes on to expound the benefits of the bounty system, which, it says, would not only compensate the Louisiana planter, but stimulate the production of beet and sorghum sugar in this country to a remarkable degree. We quote one paragraph which strikes us as a melancholy symptom of decrepitude in a newspaper way:

"The United States has any quantity of land admirably adapted for the production of beet

and sorghum sugar; and in several States, notably in California and Kansas, this home industry is now flourishing, though in its infancy. Mr. Sherman contends that the same policy in this country would produce the same results, with enormous benefit to almost every State in the Union. A bounty of say one-half to one cent a pound, according to quality, paid directly to the producer of domestic sugar, would probably increase the production four-fold within the period of ten years. Upon the basis of the present production, this bounty would amount to about \$3,000,000 or \$4,000,000, and if it should in time amount to \$12,000,000, there would still be a large revenue from sugar over and above the bounty."

We leave this remarkable sprouting of protectionist conceits in the soil of free trade to notice the Chicago *Tribune's* objection to Mr. Sherman's project. There is not the slightest danger that Spain will put any greater export tax on sugar than she now imposes, by reason of the reduction of our import duty. She cannot do this without losing the American market. Sugar is now an article of such world-wide production that the very smallest fraction, say a sixteenth of a cent per pound, will determine whether this country shall be supplied by the Spanish islands, or the British islands, or by South America, or by the beet-growing countries of Europe. The world is literally glutted with sugar. There was a time when Western farmers burned their corn for fuel. The only reason why the West Indian planter does not burn his sugar for fuel is that he does not need fuel. The planters of both the Indies, Spanish as well as British, are either bankrupt or on the verge of bankruptcy. None of them can concede the smallest advantage to their competitors in the American market. If Spain should put on a new export tax, she would complete the ruin of the sugar industry in Cuba at once, and would probably have to face a new rebellion in that island. We may therefore act our own pleasure with reference to our sugar duties, and we need not trouble ourselves to devise retaliatory measures against any country on that behalf.

A correspondent, apropos of recent events in the exchanges, asks, "What is the difference between gambling with dice, cards, or roulette tables, and betting on the future prices of wheat and coffee?" The frame of mind of the proposer of this venerable conundrum is apparently that of one who regards the legislative power as an agency for purifying the public morals. Of course a purifier of morals must be consistent with himself. He cannot condemn one form of gambling and wink at another. With him sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander. But it is a total misconception of the theory of law to suppose that it deals with morals at all. It concerns itself only with acts. These are indeed the outward manifestations of the moral nature, but a man may be as immoral in thought as you please: the law does not concern itself with him until he does something. Then it asks the question: "Shall I do more harm than good by putting this act under the penalty of fine and imprisonment?" The men who do a strictly gambling business in wheat and coffee cannot be distinguished from those who do a legitimate business. It is neither illegal nor immoral to buy or

to sell wheat for future delivery. There are great advantages to both producers and consumers in such trading. In point of fact, the markets are steadied by dealing in futures. Fluctuations are lessened. Other business arrangements which depend upon the price of wheat, and, most of all, the arrangements of those who work for wages, are in a measure protected against uncertainty.

Now, the answer to our correspondent's question is, that whether there is or is not a difference in the arcana of morals between the gambler in wheat and coffee and the gambler with cards, or dice, or roulette, the former cannot be reached by the law without doing more harm than good to society as a whole. The gambler with cards and roulette can be so reached. There are no wise and beneficial social arrangements to be upset in seizing his tools and shutting up his place. All that he does is bad. There is no room for argument concerning any of his doings. The evidence of the badness of his acts is subject to no doubt. There are not two classes doing the same things side by side, one beneficial and proper and the other criminal and degrading. Differences of other kinds exist between the two things—moral differences, we think—but these we shall not now consider because the law does not take cognizance of moral differences when not translated into acts. A large part of the philosophy of Burke, which is more strikingly than anything else in literature the philosophy of Anglo-Saxon law, consists in the wholesale expulsion of what is mis-called "consistency" from the body of legislation. True consistency is the framing of laws for the best ordering of society, and is the result of experience. The consistency which calls for one law merely because another law resembling it exists on the statute-book, and without reference to its effects, is of the kind which Burke hammered to pieces in Parliament, although it still rears its head in the pulpit and the Sunday-school, where, indeed, it properly belongs.

The Union Labor party of the State of New York held a conference at Elmira on Wednesday week, and decided to call a State Convention in August next. The conference consisted of twenty-seven men and one woman, and its deliberations were carefully watched by ten newspaper correspondents and a much larger number of politicians of both "great parties." There was a general atmosphere of suspicion hanging around the meeting. In the first place, the Labor representatives were all more or less suspicious of one another, each being afraid that his associates would sell him and the organization out to some politician or other. Then the friends of Gov. Hill who were on the ground were keeping a sharp eye upon the conference, lest Tom Platt should capture it bodily; and Tom Platt's emissaries were watching the Hill men, lest they bag the game. Then the United Labor party of this city, supposed to be Henry George's property, looked askance at the Conference as an attempt to cut in ahead of them with a similar party name and steal all the Labor thunder. Several suspicious Labor repre-

sentatives were excluded from the final deliberations, and the Conference exhausted itself by appointing a State Committee, or as much of a one as could be supplied by the size of the party at present.

The new testimony which the counsel for the people presented in the Sharp trial on Friday was very interesting. With Fullgraff's story the public is familiar. After him came a bookkeeper who testified that his firm had received from Fullgraff, in February, 1885, \$8,000 in payment of a loan, and that most of it was in \$1,000 bills. This is not the first appearance of Aldermen of 1884 with \$1,000 bills. Alderman Farley, it will be remembered, testified before the Senate Committee that he started a bank account in 1884, though previous to that period he had kept a bottling establishment and had had no use for such an account. He remembered that after starting it he frequently received and deposited \$1,000 bills. "How many were there?" "Oh, I suppose about twenty." There were also several \$500 bills. He got five or ten of the \$1,000 bills from a "young man in Ludlow Street Jail, named Billy Jones," and four or five \$500 bills. Billy was the engineer of the jail, and Farley had got him his place. Where Billy got them he didn't know. He merely brought them to him to be changed. "I knew Billy was straight as a string, and so I never asked him where he got them. I supposed he was obliging some wealthy prisoners who were confined in the jail." Farley also received "fifteen or twenty \$1,000 bills" from William Hall, a liquor-dealer, now dead. Billy Jones subsequently testified that he frequently got large bills changed for visitors to the jail. In fact, he was so accustomed to handling bills of large denominations that the simple fact of a total stranger calling him up from the cellar and asking him to run out and get change for a \$1,000 bill, made no impression upon him.

Other interesting evidence on Friday was that of an ex-clerk of the Assembly, who testified that Sharp had personally offered him \$5,000 to make a change in the General Railroad Act of 1883; and that of Col. George Bliss, one of Sharp's counsel, who testified that a false entry had been made upon the books of the Seventh Avenue Railway Company, charging him with receiving \$11,500 for services from that company. His services had been paid for by Richmond with \$1,500 in cash and ten \$1,000 bonds of the Broadway Company. This is the second time in which false entries have been discovered upon the books of the Seventh Avenue Railway Company. The first was the use made of the \$500,000 mortgage placed upon the road for the avowed purpose of enlarging its depot and extending its facilities. This mortgage was sold for cash, the money was placed in a safe-deposit vault, no entry of its sale was made upon the books of the company at the time, but subsequently a false entry was made, first as "sundries," and afterwards this was erased and "proceeds of bonds" was written over it.

We doubt if the people of this city realize fully the importance of the experiment which Mayor Hewitt is making in the City Hall. He is trying with great sagacity and pluck to give us a local government conducted upon honest principles. He is greatly hampered by his limited powers; for so long as we consent to be governed mainly from Albany, no Mayor can do more than show us what might be done if we were trusted to govern ourselves. But he is doing a great deal to call attention to the enormous expense which our present system entails upon us, and that is a service of no slight value. There is one class of the community which ought especially to support the Mayor's efforts, and that is the large one composed of salaried and other men of moderate means. Their only hope of an easier living lies in the success of the kind of government which Mr. Hewitt is trying to give us—that is, a government conducted upon the same principles which every merchant observes in the conduct of his business. Government by "halls" means the support at the public expense of a vast army of incompetents, loafers, and thieves; and the cost of this support falls finally upon the rent-payers of all degrees. Mr. Hewitt, as a business man of great ability and experience, sees that employees of this sort ought no more to be tolerated in public than they are in private service, and is doing his utmost to drive them out. It is almost impossible to over-estimate the saving to the city which would ensue, could his efforts in this direction be entirely successful. The political leaders of the various "halls" and their subordinates at present upon the pay-rolls of the city draw at least one million dollars a year in salaries. As they give not only the larger part of their time and energy to "politics," but also contribute a large percentage of their salaries to the expenses of elections, they are forced to recoup themselves from the city treasury in various ways, including inefficient service, exorbitant pay, and support of all kinds of "jobs." Business principles applied to them and their work, business principles applied in the same way to all branches of the city service—that is, the securing for the city the best possible return for its outlay—would make the problem of living in New York a much less burdensome one than it is to every man of moderate means to-day.

It is a significant fact that of 111 members of the graduating class at Yale College who define their political standing, 19, or almost one fifth, report themselves as Mugwumps. It is probable that the proportion of Independents is about as large as this among educated young voters generally, and, however much the political managers may ridicule them, their votes count just as much as those of thick-and-thin partisans.

Mr. Blaine is experiencing in England some of the difficulties which are likely to beset his whole tour in Europe. He has to satisfy his American supporters, of the "capitalistic" school, that he is regarded in Europe as one of the greatest men who ever appeared in either hemisphere. Now, the only way this can be proved is by invitations from

monarchs and noblemen to "banquets" and other festivities. But it is plain that if Mr. Blaine accepts such invitations, he will lose standing with "Labor" and the Irish. Accordingly, we find that while his capitalistic friends are desirous of seeing him seated on the Queen's right hand in Westminster Abbey, and the chief guest at all the jubilee banquets, he is not able to go to any of the fêtes, but has to keep close in his lodgings. Moreover, if he speaks anywhere in England and does not say a word for home rule under the nose of the Saxons, what will the Irish say of him? If, on the other hand, he does say a word for home rule, what will the nobility, gentry, and clergy think of him? The situation is a most trying one for a man of sensitive nature. It will hardly be improved when he goes on the Continent. It will not do when there to hob-nob with military monarchs, for that would damn him with Labor also. Nor will it do not to hob-nob with them, for this would destroy the theory that all classes on the Continent have been waiting for him with hushed and respectful eagerness, which compels the rulers to run about after him. It looks as if he would have to confine himself to the society of his brother historians, Mommsen, and Curtius, and the like; but he will find this awfully dull.

Nothing can well be odder than the attention paid in England to "Buffalo Bill," or, as he is there known, "Colonel the Hon. William F. Cody." He is literally the great lion of the season in London. He is an honored guest at the fashionable parties, invited out to dinner everywhere, and passes a good deal of his time in the company of royal personages. In fact, he has had a far more flattering reception than any foreigner without official rank or antecedents to help him. Garibaldi was much less favorably received, although he was, when he went to England, one of the most famous and romantic heroes of the day. Cody's social success, like that of Fred Archer the jockey, marks the enormous space which pure amusement now occupies in the life of the well-to-do classes in England. The number of people who follow amusement as a business has probably increased ten-fold during the last forty years, and the place of people who furnish amusement has been correspondingly exalted. Americans of any grade or species who can do this are especially successful in London society. Their stories, their jokes, their songs, their new card tricks, their skill in poker and euchre, sometimes supply the place, in giving them social consideration, of nearly everything else which makes a human being respectable. We by no means wish to underrate Buffalo Bill's character or capacity in his line, but it seems very odd to see the highest circles of a civilized nation paying to the proprietor of an equestrian show all the honor it could bestow, and far more than the honor it would bestow, on a great author, or inventor, or statesman. A large number of those who are fêting Buffalo Bill are, in fact, taking pains to inflict slights and insults on Mr. Gladstone whenever they get an opportunity.

SUMMARY OF THE WEEK'S NEWS.

WEDNESDAY, June 15, to TUESDAY, June 21, 1887, inclusive.]

DOMESTIC.

THE President gave verbal assent to a proposition, which was suggested by Adjt.-Gen. Drum, to return the Confederate battle-flags now in the War Department at Washington to the Governors of the States from whose troops they were captured. This order provoked indignant expressions from Gen. Fairchild, Commander of the Grand Army of the Republic, from many posts, and from the Governors of several Northern States. Before it was executed—on June 16—the President revoked it, expressing the opinion “that the return of these flags in the manner thus contemplated is not authorized by existing law, nor justified as an executive act.”

A postal treaty between the United States and Mexico was signed by the President June 21, which provides that the same rate of postage shall be charged on mail matter from either country to the other as each charges on domestic mail matter. It will take effect July 1.

Gov. Ames of Massachusetts, on June 16, signed the bill “giving preference in appointments to office in the State to honorably discharged soldiers and sailors, without civil-service examination.” The same bill was passed last year and vetoed by the Governor. It is regarded by the civil-service reformers as a severe blow to the reform in the State. The Massachusetts Legislature adjourned June 16.

The famous ecclesiastical trial of members of the Faculty of Andover Theological Seminary, provoked chiefly by the controversy about the doctrine of future probation, was ended, for the present at least, by the decision of the Board of Visitors on June 17. Prof. Egbert C. Smyth was declared guilty of heresy, but the four other professors, Churchill, Harris, Hincks, and Tucker, who share Prof. Smyth's view about future probation for the heathen, were not declared guilty, because the chairman of the Board of Visitors was absent when their cases were heard. The Board of Trustees, with one dissenting voice, has upheld Prof. Smyth. The case will be carried to the Supreme Court of Massachusetts to determine whether or not these “heretical” professors have violated the conditions under which the institution was endowed. This technical compromise of the case has brought the ecclesiastical quarrel no nearer to a settlement than it was before.

The discussion of the usual method of teaching children arithmetic, begun some time ago by Prof. Francis A. Walker, has caused the Board of Boston Public Schools to reduce the time given to it and to order a simpler way of teaching it.

The Governor of New York on June 20 signed the bill that makes it unlawful for any steam railroad, after May 1, 1888, “to heat its passenger cars on other than mixed trains by any stove or furnace kept inside the cars, or suspended therefrom, except in case of accident or other emergency.”

The Secretary of the State Board of Health of New York has been obliged to insist on the local boards' making more nearly complete returns of vital statistics. Although this is of the utmost importance, there is a strong tendency to neglect it.

The Board of Aldermen of this city passed an amendment to the ordinance that prohibits the discharge of fireworks, whereby July 4 should be excepted, and Mayor Hewitt has vetoed the amendment.

There was a conference at Elmira, June 15, of representatives of the Union Labor party in this State to make preparations for issuing a call for a State Convention. This declaration was made: “Be it known to all people that we, the undersigned, have severed our connec-

tion with all political parties, and that we will not give our influence or vote to any party except the Union Labor party, and we will support its principles as promulgated at Cincinnati, O., on February 22, 1887. We further assert that we do not hold any appointment from any political party, and hereby declare that we will not do so until we publicly sever our connection with said Union Labor party.” The suspicion has found free expression in the Democratic and Independent papers that the leaders in this conference are preparing to make a “deal” with the Republican party in the State.

There was a long parade of working people in this city on Saturday night, June 18, in honor of Dr. McGlynn, the deposed priest. The resolutions adopted by the crowd declare “that we firmly protest against interference in American politics by any foreign power, whether civil or ecclesiastical, and that we denounce with especial indignation the arbitrary, unjust, and tyrannical attempt to interfere with the civil rights of the Rev. Dr. Edward McGlynn, to whom, with one heart, we pledge our devoted and unwavering support.”

After consuming more than a fortnight in filling the jurors' seats, the trial of Jacob Sharp for bribing New York Aldermen to grant the franchise of the Broadway Railroad Company in 1884 has been begun. On Friday afternoon the defendant was taken to Ludlow Street Jail and confined in the room which Tweed occupied. “The time of the court has thus far been consumed in hearing witnesses for the prosecution. The General Term of the Supreme Court on June 18 handed down a decision in the case of ex-Alderman John O'Neil, convicted of bribery, which affirms the judgment of the lower court.

Mr. Junius S. Morgan, the well-known American banker in London, has presented to the Metropolitan Museum of Art in this city a painting by Sir Joshua Reynolds which he purchased for £10,000. It is the portraits of Henry Fane, Charles Blair, and Irving Jones, trustees of the tenth Earl of Westmoreland, for whom it was painted.

Both branches of the Michigan Legislature have passed a county local-option bill, whereby any county can vote for a prohibitory law.

A new \$1,000,000 3½ per cent. loan by the State of Connecticut was taken June 20, half by the Aetna Life Insurance Company at 103.27, and half by the Williamsburgh Savings Bank of Brooklyn, N. Y., at 102.55, and all the bids that were made aggregated nearly \$7,000,000.

A soldiers' and sailors' monument was dedicated at New Haven, June 17. It is of Lowell granite, 110 feet high, upon which stands a bronze statue, representing an Angel of Peace. The site is on the summit of East Rock, 400 feet above the city's level, or 526 feet above the level of the sea. At the base of the structure are statues representing Prosperity, History, Victory, and Patriotism. A speech was made by President Dwight of Yale, and the principal oration was by the Rev. Dr. Newman Smyth. On the same day a soldiers' monument at Arlington, Mass., was dedicated. On June 18 there was a celebration of the battle of Valley Forge, on the battlefield, by the Patriotic Order of Sons of America.

The Union Labor party in Kentucky on June 18 nominated for Governor A. H. Cargin, for Lieutenant-Governor O. N. Bradburn, for Attorney-General John P. Newman, for Treasurer George Smith, for Auditor John McMurtry, for Superintendent of Public Instruction R. M. McBeath. The Prohibition, Republican, and Democratic parties each had before nominated full State tickets.

A suit was begun in the Circuit Court in Chicago, June 17, by a contractor against a “walking delegate” of a painters' union, to recover damages caused by a strike which the delegate ordered.

The breaking of a “corner” in wheat in Chicago caused the bankruptcy of C. J. Kershaw & Co., and several smaller firms, and led on June 21 to the suspension of the Fidelity National Bank in Cincinnati.

William J. McGarigle, warden, and E. S. McDonald, engineer, of the Cook County (Ill.) Hospital, were convicted, June 18, of conspiracy to defraud the county, by making fraudulent charges for supplies, and sentenced to three years' imprisonment in the State Penitentiary. These are the first convictions in the notorious “boodlers” cases in Chicago. McGarigle, in the early part of the Cleveland Administration, was the candidate of the Democratic politicians for United States Marshal for the Northern District of Illinois. Few applicants for any office had stronger or more numerous recommendations, and among his persistent friends were seven of the Democratic Representatives from Illinois.

The Supreme Court of Missouri has fixed August 12 as the day for the execution of H. M. Brooks (or “Maxwell”), the Englishman who murdered his companion in a St. Louis hotel in 1885, and was captured in Australia. The condemned man's attorneys hope yet to bring the case before the Supreme Court of the United States.

Ascent was made at St. Louis in a balloon equipped by the New York *World*, June 17, with the hope of reaching the Atlantic coast. The aeronauts were compelled to land at Hoffman, Illinois, on the first night of their voyage, because the gas gave out. An effort will be made to ascend again.

A large number of Hungarian workmen at the coke ovens in Pennsylvania have gone to work again, and the long strike which caused a great scarcity of coke is broken. The negroes near Laurens, S. C., have formed a secret organization to demand a dollar a day for farm work, and, it is reported, threaten murder if necessary to obtain it. The whites have organized a cavalry company for protection, and trouble is feared.

A regular train from Altoona to Pittsburgh was run June 17 by the use of petroleum as fuel, and the experiment was pronounced so successful as to warrant the belief that petroleum for this use will in a great measure take the place of coal, by reason of economy, as well as freedom from smoke and cinder.

A passenger train was robbed on the night of June 17 on the Southern Pacific Railway near Schulenburg, Tex. Two robbers forced the engineer to stop the train where their accomplices awaited it, and money and valuables to the amount of \$10,000, it is reported, were taken from the express messenger and the passengers.

The Mormons have issued a call for a Constitutional Convention to meet in Salt Lake City June 30, to call a convention to apply for the admission of Utah into the Union.

Bryant B. Crandall, formerly a resident of Buffalo, N. Y., who disappeared at Niagara Falls more than a year ago, leaving a letter in which he declared he was about to commit suicide, was arrested in Salem, Oregon, June 16, for defrauding insurance companies. A body was found soon after his disappearance which was identified as his, and a large amount of insurance on his life had been paid.

On the night of June 16, the steamer *Champlain* caught fire off Charlevoix, northern Michigan, and was burned before it could reach land. There were fifty-seven persons, passengers and crew, on board, and of these but twenty-seven are known to be saved. The fire spread so rapidly that they were panic-stricken and perished in the water. On June 13, ninety miles east of Sand Island Light, Fla., the steamship *Vidette* from New York, with a cargo of merchandise for Mobile, sprang a leak, and was abandoned by the crew. The vessel sank, but all the men were landed safely.

The Rev. Dr. Mark Hopkins, who was from