Lehnl remains to talk to Loni about Pauli, whom he wishes her to marry. The better to persuade her, he reminds her of her lonely position in the world, and this leads her to reproach her parents for having, as she thinks, heartlessly abandoned her. The old man tells her that she cannot divine her parents' motives, and he speaks with so much passion of the nature of parental affection that she guesses a part of his secret, and he is obliged to confess that he once had a child, whom misery and want and the death of his wife had compelled him to abandon. Of course, the audience at once understands that Loni is this child, but he does not tell her so, and she goes into the cabin, while he disappears in the wood close by. As soon as both have disappeared, Muckl comes on the scene and creeps stealthily towards the hut. Unfortunately for his ends, he overturns something on the bench in front of the door, and the noise of the fall brings old Lehnl, who has not gone far, back to the hut. Muckl tries to escape without being seen, but as the old man is in the way, he gives him a push that causes him to fall over backwards and strike his head against a sharp stone. The sight of blood alarms Muckl, and as he hears footsteps approaching, he conceals himself in the woods, from which he sees Pauli emerging. Pauli comes to Lehnl's rescue, and bathes his wound with water from the spring near by. The old man, who thinks he is going to die, speaks of Loni as his child, and Pauli promises not to betray his secret. Muckl, who has heard it all, escapes, and Pauli takes Lehnl to his own cot-

At the beginning of the third act, we are introduced to the official appointed by the village to assume charge of all the wedding arrangements for the year. He it is who announces the matches, delivers the invitations, engages the band, and draws lots to see who shall be partners in the dance. When there has been no Verlobung, or engagement ceremony, for a long time, he takes it upon himself, in order that his administration may not be discredited, to provide one, and assists young people to make up their minds and come to an understanding. He is a jolly old man, profusely decorated with colored ribbons, and has a series of jokes, of the order we eloquently describe as "gags," all written out beforehand for use on the festal occasion. The scene represents one of these occasions, when several young couples have been betrothed, and the whole village is gathered to dance and drink to their honor and future bliss. Each village character is called out in turn to hear what the Master of Ceremonies has to say about him, and to be laughed at by his comrades. The jokes relate, for the most part, to his personal appearance, and are not, as a rule, witty enough to bear repetition. Before the lots are drawn for partners in the dance, Muckl, who has thought of a plan to conceal his part in the affair of the previous evening, persuades the Master of Ceremonies to put the names of Pauti and Loni together on one of the slips of paper. The old official has long had his eye on this pair, and he readily consents.

When the announcement is made, Loni is very angry, and declares that she will not dance with Pauli, whose fashion of quiet, long-suffering love-making has greatly exasperated her. All the peasants cry out at her refusal, and tell her that the lot is the will of God. Loni is obstinate, however, and then Muckl comes forward and impertinently asks her why she keeps up such a pretence when the whole village knows that she is going to marry Pauli. Loni declares that this is a lie, and then the coward asks her, in the hearing of all the others, what

Pauli was doing the evening before on the hill by the cowherd's hut. The poor girl grows crimson with shame at the insinuation, and is angrier with Pauli for having given occasion for such a reflection on her character than she is with Muckl for making it. Just then the young crucifix-carver, who has heard of his good luck at old Lehnl's bedside, runs in to claim his partner in the dance. Loni turns upon him furiously, and slaps his face in the presence of the assembled villagers. Pauli stands for a moment dazed by the blow; then he realizes who it is that has done him the harm, and tells Muckl that he will know how to punish him. As for Loni, he tells her that she shall dance that dance with him, and after that he will never speak to her again. With his strong arm he lifts the girl bodily off the floor, and sets her down at the other end of the room. Then he rushes out, leaving Loni to bear the gaze of all the eyes turned upon her, and the curtain falls. As he is an excellent actor, it is only fair to observe that he has a chance to return two minutes afterwards and bow his thanks to the audience. Loni on this occasion comes forward with him, and they both smile and appear very happy. You see, this is an absurdity common to peasant plays and Shaksperian tragedy.

In the next act there is a session of the Common Council of Ammergau at the inn, and an excited dialogue is carried on between the burgermeister and the next leading citizen. No one else is given a chance to speak, and one member slumbers peacefully until somebody mentions refreshment, when he wakes up, and declares that he must clear his throat with a little beer. Some time is supposed to have elapsed since the scenes of the last act, and Baumeister, the artist, is anxious to return to the city. He wishes, however, to take Pauli with him, and as he has tried in vain all other means to get the young man to consent to go, he determines at last to make Loni speak to him. The girl demurs at first, but when she understands how important it is for Pauli's future, she reluctantly consents. Then follows an amusing scene between the two young people. Loni has had time, since Pauli has ceased to come near her, to find out that she loves him. She begins now by asking him to go away, because it is for his own good, and because his presence in the village is embarrassing to her. Pauli is naturally very angry, but he replies that he will go because the place has become hateful to him. Then Loni discovers that she has brought about just what she does not want to have happen. In despair, she suddenly bethinks herself of his old mother, and tells him, with as much show of sincerity as she can command, that he ought not to leave her. This is very transparent, Pauli's mother being abundantly able to take care of herself, and the young man is somewhat mystified. Loni, however, takes courage to beg him to shake hands with her; and once their hands have touched, explanations follow quickly, and the question of Pauli's departure is indefinitely postponed. The play might well come to an end with this scene of mutual understanding, but another act is taken to explain old Lehnl's relations to the newly-betrothed pair. The old man, who is now recovered from his wound, will not hear of remaining to humble his daughter in the eyes of the village by declaring himself to be her father. He wishes to go away, and holds Pauli to his promise net to tell Lonihis secret. While they are arguing about it, Loni, who has learned the truth from Muckl, steals up behind them and embraces Lehnl, claiming him as her father. After this, there are no more intricacies to be unravelled, and

the curtain falls on the usual picture of felicity.

This is the story, and there remains to be said only a word or two about the characters. Some of them are very amusing, and have evidently been studied in their setting. First, there is the half-witted boy Loisl, to whom something desperate is always happening, and who pervades the play with his cry of "Schenk mir etwas!" (Make me a present of something.) A long, bony lad, with a curious peaked face, always holding out a hand for something to be dropped into it—he would be a striking figure on the canvas of any painter. Then there is Resl. the kitchen-maid at the inn. (The similarity of masculine and feminine proper names among German peasants is constantly misleading.) Resl is one of the sulky sort of Dienstmädchen that look daggers at you whenever you express a desire, and are animated on all occasions by a spirit of obstinacy that is simply mulish. For instance, Resl comes in with her broom, and insists upon sweeping the floor upon which the company has assembled to dance. Even after the dance has begun, she pursues her intention, and is not satisfied until she has caused the burgermeister to trip and nearly fall to the ground. As a specimen of the loquacious old peasant woman, superstitious and a gossip, Pauli's mother, the Lohner-Trandl, as she is called, is a character very well drawn. Losing her temper, with her prayer-book in her hand, she bangs it against the table to enforce her words, and then, remembering what book it is, she lifts it up and kisses it passionately, in hopes of soothing its injured feelings. Pauli himself is of course somewhat idealized, as a stage hero must be; but Muckl, his rival, is an excellent example of the ease-loving, swaggering peasant, goodnatured, and at bottom good-hearted, but liable to be carried away by his passions, and capable of any meanness to protect himself from the consequences. Lehnl, the old pedler, belongs to the class of general dramatic conceptions rather than to that of particular types, but it is noteworthy that he is represented with no qualities above his class. The landlord, the master of marriage ceremonies, the village teacher, and the artist are all characters sketched with care enough to take their places in the background of a canvas by Defregger.

J. K. P.

# Correspondence.

INDIFFERENCE TO CORRUPTION.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The discussion invoked by the lavish and effective use of money in the late election has so far been characterized by a lassitude of expression which bodes ill for the immediate correction of the evil. It may be pleasant enough to attribute this coolness in the presence of a danger which menaces the perpetuity of our institutions to an ignorance of it, or to the usual reluctance of the defeated to confess before the victor to the pangs of defeat. But there is noticeable about the whole discussion a want of hopefulness which is not accounted for by either of these explanations. Is it because people do not grow indignant over what they think to be hopeless, or remote of remedy; or, worse still, because they are indifferent to it? Certain it is that we hear nowhere a voice full of that burning indignation which stirs masses of men to remedial action.

I believe the true explanation to be that thoughtful men see in the appearance of Mr.

Wanamaker and his like in our national politics the symptom, not of a temporary evil, but of one inherent in free government, the remedy for which is not the makeshift of legislation, but the slow growth of an intelligent civic virtue. Where men have come to worship wealth, as they have in this country, they learn to hold their freedom as their property, but without the obligations of property; and there will always be found those who will sell their freedom, and ambitious rich men to buy What sort of rich men these are who find in the ignorance and corruption of voters a way to gratify their detestable ambitions, we all know. Wanamaker is only a type of them, long ago described by Ben Jonson in his "Magnetic Lady," where Sir Moth, enumerating the manifold uses of wealth, says:

"Wealth gives a man the leading voice In all conventions, and displaceth worth, With general allowance to all parties. It makes a trade to take the wall of virtue, And the mere issue of a shop right honorable."

Was Ben Jonson a prophet? Did he see "the mere issue of a shop" in years to come assume the shape of a Cabinet officer of "the greatest nation on earth"?

Respectfully,

ROGER W. CULL.

Baltimore, December 7, 1888.

#### THE BASIS OF AN INVESTIGATION.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Before it is too late to collect the evidence, would it not be a good plan to start a preliminary investigation into the use of money at the last national election, especially in New York? The report of this investigation could be made the basis of a well-signed petition to Congress, such as could not be ignored, asking for a committee of inquiry, with full powers to summon witnesses and compel the production of documents.

The testimony of the committees of both parties, the accounts of the banks where they made their deposits, and the examination of some of the business men who raised money, and of the John J. O'Briens and Barney Biglins who received it, would, it seems to me, arouse the public conscience.

The preliminary investigation would require funds, and I am encouraged to believe that the necessary amount can be raised if a subscription is properly started. Would not your paper undertake the charge of the preliminary investigation and the request for funds?

Could there be any better work for reform just now than this?—Yours truly,

R. H. DANA.

Boston, December 7, 1888.

### THE CHOICE OF ELECTORS.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In the last number of the *Nation* your correspondent "H." suggests a Constitutional amendment for choice of Presidential electors by Congressional districts, instead of, as at present, by whole States.

This amendment was highly recommended in an article in the North American Review for January, 1877 (vol. 124, 1) by the late Richard H. Dana, jr., and it seems to have no small advantages over any other plan. Up to the present, this reform has not received the attention it appears to deserve, and one objection to it seems to have been that, if carried out, it would have worked to the disadvantage of one party or the other. Just now, however, seems to be a peculiarly favorable time for urging the change. We have seen the evils of confining the contest for President to a few large doubtful States, as in the last election, under

the present system; and to-day the Congressional districts are nearly evenly divided between the parties, and also the majority of electors, if chosen by districts, would be on the same side as if chosen by States.

Yours truly, Boston, December 8, 1888.

#### REFORM IN ELECTIONS.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: The readers of the Nation will probably be interested to hear of another successful experiment in municipal reform. The last Legislature passed a bill applying to elections in the city of Louisville the principles that have been repeatedly advocated in your columns, and the measure received its first thorough trial last Tuesday. The law provides that the ballots be printed by the city and arranged in the form of a stub-book. The voter's name, after having been verified on the registration books, is recorded on the stub from which the ballot is torn. The ballot is then indorsed by the clerk and handed to the voter. The latter retires to an apartment where he is completely hidden from view, indicates by a cross the candidates of his choice, and places the ballot (folded) in an envelope, which is then deposited in a sealed box. No one, except the officers of the election and a representative of each candidate, is permitted within fifty feet of the polls; nor is there any possibility that any one of these can know how the ballot has been cast except in the case of blind voters.

The law, though apparently intricate, is, as the above sketch will show, really very simple, and it worked admirably. The election of last Tuesday was the first municipal election I have ever known which was not bought outright. As a matter of fact, no attempts at bribery were made, and a few comparatively unimportant infringements of the law will be severely handled.

A law of this kind does more, however, than prevent bribery: it prevents in the first place, intimidation, which is all the more galling because it is felt by those whose dearer interests will not allow them to record their honest convictions. How far motives of this kind have in the past led to results which do not represent the wishes of the voters themselves, there is, of course, no means of telling. It is cowardly, to be sure, to yield to such considerations; but it can never be prevented by any denunciation, however severe. The law now in operation, by removing all witness of a voter's action, makes intimidation of any kind impossible.

In the second place, the election proved that when the market for the floating vote is cut off, voters of this character become altogether indifferent to their privilege of suffrage. The bill creates a precinct for every 350 regularly registered voters, and in the precinct where I vote I suppose there are between fifty and a hundred colored voters, and perhaps more: vet I was informed by a friend who was representing a candidate at the polls that up to three in the afternoon only three negroes had voted. It will be evident at a glance how much this fact can accomplish, not only towards making the intelligent vote effective, but also towards bringing it out in full strength. The danger of their being outvoted by hirelings once removed, the opportunity of making their influence felt is again extended to the better classes.

But no reform, however salutary, can be secured except at the price of constant vigilance, and, for the benefit of those interested, I will detail a scheme by which it is proposed in the future to restore to the purchasable element its

former power. It is arranged that some early voter shall, instead of enclosing his ballot in the envelope provided, deposit an empty envelope, or one containing a blank slip of paper. This ballot, filled now by some one on the outside, is to be handed to a hireling with instructions to place it in the envelope and bring back the ballot which he receives from the clerk; and this blank ballot, when handed to the bummer without, will witness that he has fulfilled his contract and entitle him to bis due reward.

The plan seems plausible enough, though it will require considerable astuteness in the manager, and rather more intelligence in the purchased voter than that unsavory individual is ordinarily endowed with. A single break in the chain would necessitate a new start; and a traitor would possess unimpeachable evidence of the whole plot. Still, a change has been suggested which would reduce to nothing even this chance for fraud. The envelope can be dispensed with; and, with a little mucilage, the ballot may be folded and sealed. This, of course, would prevent all fraud by interfering with the original operation.

Louisville, Ky., December 8, 1888.

## THE ST. LOUIS CONGRESSIONAL ELECTION.

#### TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: Your readers are so accustomed to see that the *Nation* bases its opinions and conclusions only on correct and proved premises, that those of us in this city who value its great influence for good were greatly astonished at the articles in your issues of November 21 and 28, in which you ascribe the large Republican majority for Governor at the last election here solely to the saloon influence.

Of the saloon in politics, we, alas! all know: but we also know, and we need only to point to your columns for the assertion, that the saloon is for itself first and all, and next only for that party, be it Democratic or Republican, which holds its caucuses or primaries there, spends most money, and pays most liberally for helping to run the Machine. Granted that the German beer-saloon is more sought after, on the average, by Republican statesmen, it must be equally granted that the Irish-American whiskey saloon is the arena where the Democratic Machine men fight their most effective battles. To contend that at that election the Democratic workers attained such a degree of moral purity as to keep aloof disdainfully from all saloons is, to say the least, a delusion.

Per contra, it is well known here that the most powerful liquor interest in this city, the brewers', employing and influencing, directly and indirectly, thousands of voters, exerted itself to the utmost, openly and earnestly, in favor of Francis, the Democratic candidate for Governor. It is whispered that they did this in return for Francis's assurance that prohibition, which is being strongly agitated in the State, will find no favor from him as Governor. Be that as it may, that fact would seem to eliminate the beer-saloons as the "only factors" that brought about the Democratic defeat.

As to the Sunday liquor law, the alleged enforcement of which you say was resented by the united saloon influence against Francis, you are greatly misinformed. That law took effect only a few months ago. It was enacted over thirty years ago, but had been treated, under an old police justice's decision which nobody had contested, as a dead letter by every city administration, Mr. Francis's included. A Prohibitionist unearthed it, made a test case, and brought it up to the Supreme Court, which

affirmed its legality and ordered its enforcement, with which latter Francis had nothing to do, inasmuch as that lies with the Police Commissioners, to whom the mandate of the court was directed.

The Nation undoubtedly took its information from the columns of the St. Louis Republic, an ably conducted Democratic paper, whose energetic, though sensational, warfare against the slums and political saloons has the approbation of all decent men of both parties. But the purity of purpose of that paper is slightly tarnished by the fact that it had nothing to say on that subject until after the election and after the defeat of its party. As Goethe says: "Man merkt die Absicht und man wird verstimmt," or, badly translated, One divines the purpose and gets out of humor with it.

The signal defeat of the Democrats can be easily explained, though it must be confessed that the most ardent Independent did not hope for such a crushing verdict against the dominant party. The forces that were at work to bring about this result were many; but foremost of all of them was the growing disgust and bitterness, by leading citizens of all parties, against a low, corrupt Democratic ring in this city, the like of which, in brazenness, venality, and open defiance of every moral standard in politics, cannot be exceeded by its prototypes in New York and Baltimore, whom the Nation has so often and so effectively pilloried in burning words. This ring controls all primaries, barters offices, and invites the highest bidder for nomination to municipal, judicial, and Congressional positions. Its leader and "boss" is a low, vulgar, and ignorant blacksmith, to whom Governor, Mayor, Aldermen, nay, even Judges, bow and scrape, whom they address as "Colonel," with whom they shake hands-most of them would want to wash them afterwards-and whom none would hire as a porter.

Of the existence of this ring all decent Democrats are intensely aware and intensely ashamed; and two years ago, when the Congressional elections revealed the most astounding registration frauds, a committee of leading citizens, with Democrats in the majority, met and determined to investigate them and to bring the perpetrators to justice. Funds were subscribed, the best legal talent engaged, the frauds were ferreted out, and submitted to the Federal Grand Jury, ending in the indictment of forty or more "workers," and in the trial, conviction, and sentencing of most of them—the prosecuting United States District Attorney being a Democrat. At the investigation of these frauds, and in the course of the contest by Mr. Frank, the then Republican candidate for Congress, and by Mr. Kline, candidate for a judgeship, it was proved on actual count of the ballots that, irrespective of the fraudulent registry votes, these gentlemen were elected by absolute majorities. After two years' useless wrestle in the courts and before the Congressional Committee, each abandoned the contest in disgust. Both of them were elected this year to the same positions by sweeping majorities.

The registration officer under whom these frauds were committed was promptly discharged by the then Governor, and a new officer appointed, a highly respected, honest, and fearless man, against whom, though an old Democrat and ex-Confederate, the ring levelled its most venomous shafts, denouncing him as a renegade because he would insist on executing the registration laws in an honest way. He resisted successfully; and this time, at least, all decent citizens were assured that the registry books did not contain names of dead

men nor copies of hotel and boarding-house registers.

That the Independent vote was the largest factor in this result is shown by the simple fact that Cleveland received in this city two thousand votes more than Francis, clearly indicating that two thousand Democrats, sick of the ring, voted with the Republicans. The Democratic nominee for Public Administrator, who had filled that office with great credit for the last two years, received, though on the same ticket with Francis, six thousand votes more than the latter—surely showing an independent appreciation of a good officer, which had nothing to do with saloon influence.

The fact is, that the conviction had grown silently in this community that the too long continued power of one party had led to its corruption, as it always does, to the absolute and arbitrary rule by ringsters, Machine men, and bosses, who had tried bills of prices on all nominations from highest to lowest, on laws to be enacted, and on franchises that were asked for. That this conviction was deepseated, and extended over a larger circle of earnest Democrats than anybody had any idea of, is shown by the result. The saloon is bad enough, but it is seen and operates in the glaring gas-light: the rings and Machines are worse, because they are not seen, and operate in the dark. A. U.

St. Louis, December 8, 1888.

#### NASHVILLE AND MEMPHIS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE NATION:

SIR: In your issue of November 22, in your criticism of Phelan's 'History of Tennessee,' you state that "it is to this railroad (Memphis and Charleston) that Memphis, the commercial capital of Tennessee, owes much of her wealth."

Outside of her large receipts of cotton, one cannot see why Memphis should be called the commercial capital of this State, and I venture to call your attention to a few statistics from the latest sources obtainable. Memphis is in Shelby County, Nashville in Davidson; and only figures for the counties can be had.

 \$\frac{\text{Shelby.}}{\\$18,145.33} \quad \text{Davidson.} \\ \\$29,445.91 \\ 3,395,621.00 \quad 13,868,947.00 \end{array}

products 4,759,091.00 9,385,211.00 and surt. G. Dun 3,600,000.00 4,500,000.00

The merchants' tax given is taken from the last Comptroller's Report; and the tax is levied on statements made under oath by the merchants as to the amount of capital used in their business.

Subscriber.

NASHVILLE, December 3, 1888.

### Notes.

HARPER & BROS. publish this week Mr. Howells's new novel, 'Annie Kilburn,' and Walter Besant's 'All Sorts and Conditions of Men' in the library edition of this author's works.

The signs of a broadening of the French literary horizon are visible on all sides, but perhaps none is more obvious than the recent announcement of a complete translation into French of Marlowe's plays, with a preface by M. Jean Richepin, who is himself sometimes a maker of mighty lines.

M. Alphonse Lemerre, the publisher of most contemporary French poets, has formed an alliance with M. Guillaume, who devised the decorations of 'Tartarin sur les Alpes,' to issue a new series of illustrated novels, to begin with

M. Daudet's 'Les Femmes d'Artiste' and MM. de Goncourt's 'Sœur Philomène,' and to include later M. Bourget's 'Mensonges.' This "Collection Guillaume-Lemerre" will cost only four francs a volume.

The fifth volume of 'Appletons' Cyclopædia of American Biography,' ending with Sumter, has just reached us. The sixth, and last, with analytical index and supplement, is promised in January, when we can speak of the completed work further than the saying here that, both in virtue of its extent and of its fresh appearance, it supersedes everything of the kind, and is indispensable for reference.

'Irish Pictures,' by Richard Lovett, M.A., is one of the best we have seen of the series of "Pictures of Different Countries" published by the Religious Tract Society and by Nelson & Sons, New York. The views are, for the most part, true to nature and to the spirit of the scenery, and the letterpress is written in a kindly, fresh, and appreciative spirit. A good balance is preserved throughout the work. The illustrations of ancient Irish art and architecture are, in spite of too dark a shade over many of them, interesting. The volume is fit to take its place on the shelves of any collection of books relating to Ireland, and will, we are sure, have a large sale, both as a souvenir to those who have visited the localities referred to, and as a book of reference to those who are anxious to have some idea in their mind's eye of places they read and hear of. Double the price of the book spent on photographs would not give as true an idea of the country. The delineations of west-coast and southern scenery are peculiarly true and impressive.

The little volumes of "Casseli's National Library" multiply apace, some of the latest being Shakspere's "Romeo and Juliet" and "Taming of the Shrew," Spenser's 'Complaints,' Southey's 'Curse of Kehama,' more of Plutarch's Lives, Carlyle's Essays on Burns and Scott, Sir William Petty's Essays on Mankind and in Political Arithmetic, and Defoe's 'From London to Land's End.'

English readers have at last obtained access to Schopenhauer's "Fourfold Root of the Principle of Sufficient Reason "and his essay on "The Will in Nature" ('Two Essays.' Scribner & Welford.) It would have been much better to omit the latter and to have included the essay on the "Basis of Morals," as this essay has not yet been given to the English public, while the substance of "The Will in Nature" was incorporated in the greater work already translated. Unfortunately, also, scholars must approach the translation with some mistrust, for the reason that it is Bohn's publication, and the translator's name does not appear. Comparison with the original text shows the usual mistranslations: ja is translated by "as well as": vollends by "let alone"; "time-server" misses all the force of Ministerkreatur as applied to Hegel. These are only samples. Besides, the translation is too literal to give any adequate conception of Schopenhauer's literary style.

The railroad articles in vols. iii. and iv. of Scribner's Magazine, now lying bound before us, are quite the feature of the year, in point of interest either of text or of illustrations. They are the work of several hands recognized experts, and render the useful service of making that which is familiar, but little comprehended, both intelligible and impressive. Doubtless, they will some day be made into a book. Mr. Robbé's "Behind the Scenes of an Opera-House" is in the same class. Next come the personal memoirs and reminiscences, as, of Lester Wallack, Hugh McCulloch, and Gen. Sheridan. Mr. Wilson's papers on the Egyp-