

THE SEAT OF GOVERNMENT.

Miscellaneous Matters of Interest at the National Capital.

Governor Seale, of Arizona, telegraphs Secretary Lamf that he has taken steps to contract the incendiary articles that have recently appeared in the Arizona papers against the San Carlos Indians. These articles, he states, have had the effect of inciting the passions of the white men against the Indians, which is destructive of the peace of the territory. Indian Inspector Armstrong telegraphs that all is quiet among the Indians on the Tongue river.

Lieutenant-general Sheridan, and Inspector general Baird, who have gone to Arizona on an Indian inspection tour, received verbal instructions direct from the President. The instructions were not made public, but it is known that the President is perplexed by the conflicting reports received, regarding the management of Indians in Arizona and New Mexico, and is desirous of getting definite information on the subject that he may present it in such shape to congress as will insure fair treatment all around. Hence he desired a personal examination by these two prominent officers.

First Assistant Postmaster General Stevenson, having learned that mail contractors are going on the bonds of postmasters, called the attention of the postmaster general to the subject, who has made the following order: "Mail contractors, mail carriers and their agents, who have contracts or are interested in transporting mails, will not be accepted as securities on the bonds of postmasters at postoffices located on any mail route on which any mails are transported under any such contracts."

The necessity for a reorganization of the federal judiciary system will, it is said, be strongly presented by Attorney General Garland in his forthcoming annual report. He will urge that congress take some action to relieve the docket of the supreme court of the United States, which is now three years behind hand. A revival of the Davis bill, which Garland supported when he was in the senate, will probably be recommended. It provides that the circuit court shall be held in every district at the same time with the district court. Circuit courts shall not exercise appellate jurisdiction in cases from the district court after a certain date, and in each circuit a court of appeals shall then be established to hear cases from the district and circuit courts. The appellate court shall consist of a supreme court justice, and circuit judges and two district judges, designated by the court at the preceding term. Cases involving amounts exceeding \$10,000 or a test of the constitution may be carried from the court of appeals to the supreme court. The bill provides for two additional circuit judges for each circuit.

AS TO NATIONAL BANKS.

Synopsis of the Annual Report of the Comptroller of the Currency.

The annual report of H. W. Cannon, controller of the currency, contains much interesting information. It shows that during the year ending November 1, 1885, 145 banks have been organized with a capital of \$16,938,000 and circulating notes have been issued to these associations amounting to \$4,274,910. Since the establishing of the national banking system February 23, 1863, there have been organized 3,345 national banks. Of these 432 have gone into voluntary liquidation for the purpose of winding up their affairs, 79 have gone into voluntary liquidation for the purpose of reorganization, 64 are in liquidation by expiration of their charter, of which number 38 have been reorganized, and 104 have been placed in the hands of a receiver for the purpose of closing up their affairs. The total number in existence on Nov. 1, 1885, was 3,727, which is the largest number that has been in operation at any one time. A larger number of banks expired by limitation during the year 1885 than have or will expire during any year prior to 1900. The controller believes that the contraction of national bank circulation will continue unless some legislation is had which will increase the profit which national banks derive from the issue of circulating notes, and proposes that the tax on circulation be removed, and the amount of circulation which national banks are permitted to issue be increased to the par value of the bonds deposited by them. He refers to the fact that although there has been a contraction in national bank notes, the circulating medium of the country has been increased by silver dollars and silver certificates, and in this connection he calls attention to the statement in his last annual report that the continued coinage of standard silver dollars under the present provisions of law is in excess of the requirements of the country, and is liable to bring the business of the country to a standstill, and cause some degree of financial disturbance. Full statistics in regard to the taxation of national banks are given, showing that during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1885, there was paid to the United States government \$2,794,584 taxes on circulating notes of national banks. Tables are presented in the report in the proper order that comparisons may be made between the annual dividends paid by national banks to the United States, and those paid by foreign banks to their stockholders, which indicate that the average dividends and earnings of national banks during the United States are, as a rule, less than those of the banks in other countries. The report contains comparative statements of the resources and liabilities of the national banks during the past ten years, and a detailed statement of their condition on the first day of October, 1885. The different items indicate that the business of the national banks has largely increased during the past year, although the items of the United States bonds and circulating notes have decreased. Liabilities to depositors and correspondents have increased more than one hundred and eighty million dollars. During the year, the banks have increased their specie resources more than forty-six million dollars.

A brutal murder of a woman occurred in the village of Medina, N. Y., and the result has resulted in the arrest of her husband charged with the crime. The first dispatch received stated that when John Miles returned to his home at 12:30 o'clock he found his wife, Amelia, aged 55, lying on the floor dead, with her throat cut from ear to ear. The coroner was speedily summoned and an investigation begun. It was shown that Miles himself was the only person seen around the premises, and his answers to certain questions were so vague that suspicion was aroused and the coroner ordered his arrest. The case against Miles is regarded as strong. The character of the man is fair, there never having been any quarrels between him and his wife, so far as the neighbors are aware. He says they never had words between them of an angry nature. Miles is a Frenchman about 67 years old.

He said her hair was dyed; and, when she indignantly exclaimed, "This false!" he said he presumed so.

DEALING WITH THE RED SKINS.

The Annual Report of Commissioner Atkins—How He Would Manage the Indian Business.

Gen. Atkins, commissioner of Indian affairs, has submitted to the secretary of the interior his annual report for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1885. The commissioner prefaces his report with the statement that "it requires no acrobatic feat to foresee the civilization of the Indian race as a result naturally deducible from the knowledge and practice upon their part of the art of agriculture, for the history of agriculture among all people and in all countries intimately connects it with the highest intellectual and moral development of man." He continues: "The increased interest in agriculture manifested since the opening last spring and preparations of several reservations for future greater or less increase in farming are among the hopeful signs of Indian progress and development. This brings me directly to the consideration of the practical policy which, I believe, should be adopted by congress and the government in the management of the Indians. It should be industriously and gravely impressed upon them that they must abandon their tribal relations and take lands in severalty as the corner stone of their complete success in the agriculture, which means self-support, personal independence and material thrift. The government should, however, in order to protect them, retain the right to their land in trust for twenty-five years or longer, but issue trust patents at once to such Indians as have taken individual holdings. When the Indians have taken their lands in severalty in sufficient quantities, (and the number of acres in each holding may and should vary in different localities according to fertility, productive capacity, climate and other advantages), then, having due regard to immediate and future needs of the Indians, the remaining lands of their reservations should be purchased by the government and opened to homestead entry at 50 cents per acre. The money paid by the government for their lands should be in trust in 5 per cent bonds to be invested as congress may provide for the education, civilization and material development and advancement of the race, reserving for each tribe its own money. If this policy were adopted systematically by the government it would be strange if, in five years from its inauguration and establishment, there should be an Indian among the tribes in the whole civilized world would refuse to accept so favorable and advantageous a measure. Every step taken, every move made, every suggestion offered, everything done with reference to the Indians, should be with a view of impressing upon them the policy of civilization which has been permanently decided upon by the government in reference to their government. They must abandon tribal relations; they must give up their superstitions; they must forsake their savage habits and learn the arts of civilization. They must learn to labor and must learn to rear their families as white people do and to know more of their obligations to the government and society. In a word, they must learn to work for a living and they must understand that it is their duty to send their children to school. When the farm and school have been familiar institutions among the Indians, and reasonable time has intervened for the transition from barbarism or from a semi-civilized state to one of civilization, then will the Indian be prepared to take upon himself the higher and more responsible duties and privileges which appertain to American citizenship. There are in the United States, exclusive of Alaska, 250,000 Indians, fully half of whom have as yet declined to commit themselves to the life of the farmer. Exclusive of the lands cultivated by the five civilized tribes, the number of acres in cultivation by Indians during the year number 248,241, an increase of 18,473 since last year's figures." Referring to the Indian outbreaks in the southwest the commissioner says: "It has been deemed advisable to place all the Apaches temporarily under the control of the military, and that department to have the full authority necessary for their management. This office heartily sympathizes with the effort of the war department to control the Chiricahuas, and I trust that the military will be able to capture the murderous band now skulking in the Sierra Madre mountains and to bring them to condign punishment."

WRONGS THEY WANT RIGHTED.
An Assemblage of Postmasters for Consideration of Their Interests.
Chicago dispatch: A large number of postmasters of the third and fourth grades arrived in Chicago, to attend the national convention which opened at McCarty's hotel Dec. 2nd. A total attendance of five or six hundred was expected. The object of the convention is to make arrangements for a still larger convention, at which action will be taken with a view of inducing congress to grant relief in the shape of adequate allowance for rent, light and fuel.
The principal mover in the matter is John A. Petersen, editor of the United States Mail. He said that there were 53,000 postmasters of the third and fourth grades in the country, and they were dealt unfairly with by the national government. They were compelled to pay out of their own pockets every dollar of expense incurred by them except perhaps a slight allowance for clock time. A postmaster might have to pay fifteen cents to dispatch and receive a week, besides a large amount of separating for other offices, sufficient oftentimes to require the services of three clerks, and the bulk of the expense thus incurred he has to pay out of his hard earned salary. More than this, they are compelled to pay their own expenses for rent, light and fuel and other incidentals; while in the case of the first and second class postmasters, every item of expense is borne by the national government. While, moreover, the postmasters owned the boxes, the government took the largest portion of the revenue from their rental. He had been in correspondence with many thousands of postmasters of the grades affected and all were agreed that it was time that congress should be asked to remedy these wrongs.

BIG RUMPS IN A CHURCH.

The Priests Pelted With Chunks of Mud and Stones.

A Detroit special says: Another scene of tremendous uproar and excitement occurred this morning at the St. Albert Polish Catholic church. The masses were drowned in jeers and screams of the women, who pelted the church and pelted the priests with chunks of mud and stones. One of the new priests was attacked on the steps of the altar and his priestly robes torn from his back by the infuriated women. The priests then feared for their lives, and surrounded by thirty policemen, ran full speed across the street to the priests' house amid a shower of stones and brick-bats. Several of the rioters were arrested by the police. The streets became a howling mob at dark. Father Kalacinski, the deposed priest, appeared at the scene. He was instantly surrounded by women and children, who kissed his hands and vowed they would never have any priest but him. Kalacinski persuaded them to clear the street. All was quiet but more violence was likely to follow, unless the bishops restore Kalacinski to his charge.

UNCLE SAM'S STANDING FINANCIALLY.

He Enlightens the Public by a Statement of the Government's Indebtedness.

The following is a recapitulation of the debt statement issued on the 1st:

INTEREST-BEARING DEBT.	
Bonds at 4 1/2 per cent.....	250,000,000 00
Bonds at 3 per cent.....	737,472,850 00
Refunding certificates at 4 per cent.....	221,750 00
Navy pension fund at 3 per cent.....	14,000,000 00
Pacific railroad bonds at 6 per cent.....	64,623,512 00
Principal.....	\$1,260,778,612 00
Interest.....	11,853,088 51
Total.....	\$1,272,631,700 51

DEBT ON WHICH INTEREST HAS CEASED SINCE MATURITY.

Principal.....	\$ 3,569,105 26
Interest.....	217,035 76
Total.....	\$ 3,786,141 02

DEBT-BEARING INTEREST.

Old demand and legal tender notes.....	346,738,806 00
Certificates of deposit.....	17,555,000 00
Gold certificates.....	105,554,092 00
Silver certificates.....	92,702,642 00
Fractional currency, less \$8,375,934 estimated as lost or destroyed.....	6,959,574 92
Principal.....	\$ 569,510,114 92
Total.....	\$1,838,857,832 18
Interest.....	12,070,124 27
Total.....	\$1,850,927,956 45

Less cash items available for reduction of the debt.....

Less cash items available for reduction of the debt.....	\$ 231,452,594 55
Less reserve held for redemption of U. S. notes.....	100,000,000 00
Total.....	\$ 331,452,474 55

Total debt, less available cash items.....

Total debt, less available cash items.....	\$1,514,475,361 90
Net cash in the treasury.....	61,930,595 33
Debt, less cash in the treasury Dec. 1, 1885.....	1,452,544,766 56
Debt, less cash in the treasury Nov. 1, 1885.....	1,447,657,568 09
Increase of debt during the month.....	\$ 4,887,198 47

CASH IN THE TREASURY AVAILABLE FOR REDUCTION OF THE PUBLIC DEBT.

Gold held for gold certificates actually outstanding.....	\$ 105,554,092 00
Silver held for silver certificates actually outstanding.....	92,702,642 00
U. S. notes held for certificates of deposit actually outstanding.....	17,555,000 00
Cash held for matured debt and interest unpaid.....	15,639,229 53
Fractional currency.....	1,631 02
Total available for reduction of debt.....	\$ 231,452,594 55

RESERVE FUND.

Held for redemption of U. S. notes, acts Jan. 14, 1875, and July 12, 1882.....	\$ 100,000,000 00
UNAVAILABLE FOR REDUCTION OF THE DEBT.	
Fractional silver coin.....	27,920,309 44
Minor coin.....	617,171 34
Total.....	\$ 28,536,480 78
Certificates held as cash.....	66,737,432 00
Net cash balance on hand.....	61,930,595 33
Total cash in treasury as shown by treasurer's general account.....	\$ 45,667,102 67

SOME POLITICAL GOSSIP.

Under instructions from Secretary Manning the customs collector at Baltimore will make retrenchments in salaries to the extent of \$20,000 per annum.
The electors of Great Britain have thus far returned to parliament 191 liberals, 175 Tories and 35 Parnellites. The nationalists of Dublin are wild over the triumph of Harrington and Sullivan.
Justice Miller is quoted now in Washington as being of the opinion that Edmunds is still president pro tem of the senate. He holds that the senate is a body in perpetuo, and that when it has elected a presiding officer he holds the place until his successor is elected.
The Ohio supreme court rendered a decision in the Daggett habeas corpus case, brought up from Cincinnati, discharging the defendant and holding the Cincinnati and Cleveland Election Registry law to be unconstitutional. The decision of the court was unanimous.
The president has appointed John A. Sullivan to be collector of internal revenue of the second district of New York. Sullivan is a well-known business man of New York City, and has been a prominent member of the produce exchange for many years. He was particularly active in the last presidential campaign, and was a leading member of the conference committee of the business men's club, organized in the interest of the democratic ticket. The president also appointed Lafayette Dawson, of Missouri, United States judge for the district of Alaska; Wm. G. Langford, of Walla Walla, Washington territory, associate justice of the supreme court of Washington territory; Charles R. Pollard, of Delphi, Ind., associate justice of the supreme court of Montana territory.

Killed by the Indians.

A dispatch from Deming, New Mexico, says: Two men were killed by the Indians near Solomonville, Arizona. The bodies were found by a stage-driver on his way to Fort Thomas. Ben Crawford, the sheriff of Graham county, Arizona, and two others are also reported killed, but this is not confirmed. On the 2nd the hostiles were in the neighborhood of Duncan. They attacked the section men at work on the railroad, but they escaped. Two cattlemen are reported to have been killed near Duncan. The military from Clifton and Pary and citizens are in hot pursuit. Later dispatches state that the two men who were killed by the Indians near Solomonville were Wright brothers, pioneers living at San Jose, on the Gila river, and a dispatch from Wilcox confirms the killing of sheriff Ben Crawford, of Graham county, by Apaches. The Indians are divided into bands of fifteen to twenty. The killing of sheriff Crawford has created the wildest excitement. Men, women and children are fleeing in all directions and couriers are being sent out to warn the settlers. The bodies of the two Wright brothers were horribly mangled. The Indians passed on to Coronado ranch, on the Gila river. At that place they killed two cattlemen, one named Dick Mays, the name of the other is unknown.

A FORTUNE FOR TWO MULATOES.

The Legal Fight for \$400,000 Bequeathed by Eccentric David Dickson to a Former Slave.

Sparta (Ga.) dispatch: The Dickson will case, which has been before the jury for the past week, ended with a verdict sustaining the will. David Dickson died suddenly on Feb. 13, 1885, leaving an estate worth \$400,000. In this will he bequeathed \$5,000 to each of the four children of his sisters, \$2,000 each to five or six other persons, and \$1,000 each to a half dozen others. The rest of his superb property was sent to Amanda Dickson, a colored woman, in trust for her two mulatto children. The legatee is about 45 years old. Mr. Dickson had deeded to her and her mother a handsome property before his death. They had been slaves of his, and had lived on his plantation for many years under circumstances which did not elevate Mr. Dickson's social standing or exalt the regard in which his neighbors held him. He lived twelve miles from Sparta in the center of a plantation covering about 3,000 acres of land. Until he was sixty years old he was a bachelor and a man of solitary habits. He seldom went to Sparta, and the chief break in the monotony of his life was his annual visit to Augusta. He attended regularly the Georgia state convocations in this city, probably because he was one of the largest stockholders in that road. In 1870 he married Miss Clara Harris, of this county. She lived as his wife for about two years and died childless.

The morning he died he called for his favorite saddle horse and rode several miles over his plantation. On returning to his house he complained of a pain in his side, and, lying down on his bed, expired in a few minutes. By his own direction he was buried in a grave with an open silk handkerchief across his breast, a gold toothpick in his right hand and a penknife in his pocket. Soon after his death Amanda Dickson, her mother and her sons moved to Augusta, where they now reside in a house of their own.

As soon as the will was offered for probate notice of a contest was served upon the executors by some of the children of Mr. Dickson's brothers and sisters, who would have inherited his property but for his extraordinary will.
The case was tried before Hancock superior court, Judge Lumpkin presiding. It was all the talk in Hancock and surrounding counties, and its progress was watched with intense interest, not only because of the large amount involved, but by reason of the delicate questions of evidence and law which arose. Two days were consumed in an effort to obtain a jury. At the close of the trial the jury retired, and in two hours and a half returned with a verdict sustaining the will. The case now goes to the supreme court.

AFFAIRS IN WASHINGTON TERRITORY.

As Set Forth in the Annual Report of the Governor.

The annual report of Governor Squire, of Washington Territory, has been received by the secretary of the interior. He states that the wheat crop was unparalleled, and the other interests have been successfully developed. The population is 129,597, showing an increase in ten years of 37,930. The cash in the treasury is \$72,597, while ten years ago the territory had a debt of \$22,000. There yet remains more than 23,000,000 acres of public lands unsurveyed, and of this 16,000,000 acres are good agricultural and timber lands. The governor states that by the territorial census of 1885 there were 3,376 Chinese residents in the territory, and during the business depression a strong popular agitation has recently sprung up in a few of our large places, having for its object the expulsion of the Chinese from our midst. The hostile feeling against the Chinese has been greatly increased by the reason of the failure on the part of the government to equitably enforce restrictive action. Large numbers of Chinese have stolen into the territory from the neighboring province of British Columbia in violation of law. It is very often difficult to identify them, and the customs force in this district is evidently too small to prevent the wholesale smuggling both of the goods and Chinamen. The report suggests the necessity of increasing the customs force, and in view of the feeling among the people and especially the laboring classes, the governor recommends the necessity of protective legislation, such as a revision of the restrictive act, and also advises a revising or repeal of the Burlingame treaty.

Postmaster General Vicks' Report.

The annual report of the postmaster general for the year ending June 30, 1885, shows a deficiency in the postoffice account of a little more than \$8,000,000. The revenues have decreased \$3,000,000 and the expenditures increased \$5,000,000. The chief cause of the decreased revenue is the reduction of letter postage from 3 cents to 2, but the report points out that there is in this result no warrant for believing that the reduction was made too soon. In fact, the falling off in postage revenue during the last year preceded much less than during the year 1884. An analysis of the receipts makes it quite plain that the growth of business under the cheaper rate has reached the point of counteraction of the falling off of the revenue caused by the reduction. The general business condition of the country being somewhat unsatisfactory has also affected the postal receipts. The money order and registered letter departments are pointed out as excellent barometers of business, the money order revenues falling from \$519,000 in 1884 to \$400,000 in 1885, and the decrease in the number of registered letters and parcels being 3 per cent, whereas there had formerly been an increase each year. During the last quarter of the fiscal year there has, however, been a gratifying growth in the receipts of the department—surely indicating the revival of general business.

The new Kansas City Short line is opened for business from Des Moines to Kansas City, via Indianola, Charleston, St. Joe and Atchison, leaving Des Moines daily except Sunday, at 9 a. m. This train makes close connection at Charleston for all points east and west. The night train leaves Des Moines at 10:15 p. m., and has through sleeper to St. Joe and Kansas City daily, except Saturday. This train also makes close connection at Charleston for all points east and west. Tickets are sold at the office of the E. B. & Q.

Defending Kiel's Execution.

The defense of the dominion government on the execution of Kiel is published. The document, which covers five columns, is in the shape of a report to the privy council by the minister of justice, Sir Alexander Campbell, and reviews the whole subject in an exhaustive manner, declaring that according to the authorities of the Roman Catholic church in the northwest Kiel was not entitled to any mercy, his motives being purely mercenary.

The Black Hills branch of the F. E. & M. V. road has been completed to Buffalo Gap, where it will rest until next spring. There was an interesting ceremony connected with its completion, in which a tin spike was driven with a mica mallet, the material for both of which were taken from mines near there.

A Dearth of Good Actors.

The death of John McCullough has served to remind the country in a striking and impressive way that our list of really competent dramatic artists is a very small one; and to this may be added the equally significant fact that there is little room to hope for the early coming of fit successors to those who have in the past adorned and dignified the American stage.

There is nobody left, it is conceded, who is worthy to wear poor McCullough's mantle in the interpretation of any of the characters with which his name is so closely and splendidly associated. It is doubtful, indeed, if we have more than three or four actors who are able to play any of the old heroic parts in a fairly creditable way; while as for actresses, there is perhaps not one who can represent a Shakespearean heroine with distinct force and skill. Booth is incomparable within certain limits, and Barrett is entitled to highest praise with a similar qualification; and when these are named, where are we to look for another who can truly be called first class in any respect? There are aspirants enough, of both sexes, but they all come short of definite and conclusive excellence, and are at best merely passable.

In all the other professions there is a steady supply of good material, and the average compares favorably with that of any former period; but in the line of acting deterioration is the rule, and the development of really substantial talent seems to have practically come to a stop. We do not lack for competent lawyers, physicians, clergymen and the like to take the places of those who pass away; but when a superior actor goes hence he leaves a gap that we must despair of filling. In the nature of things this should not be the case. The incentives to ambition and exertion in the theatrical domain are at least as great as can be found elsewhere, and the price of success is very much the same in that as in all other pursuits. An actor who succeeds is certain both of fame and fortune, the measure of each depending entirely upon his own capacity and fidelity. The opportunity is always waiting for him; the public is just as eager on its account to have him succeed as he can possibly be to earn its approval and support—and the popular favor once secured, the task of holding it is only a question of devotion to duty, of honest and faithful personal service.

It appears, however, that the present race of actors is either fundamentally incapable of doing the best kind of work under any conditions, or is unwilling to submit to the discipline which is indispensable in any profession if one would achieve a triumph worth having. There is no good reason why the example of an actor like McCullough should fail to inspire and instruct other and younger actors in such a manner as to perpetuate his methods and keep alive his understanding of given plays and characters. In former times that was the effect, and great actors, though dead, continued to be seen in the persons of those who had attentively studied them, and thus mastered the philosophy of their art. McCullough modeled his acting after that of Forrest in a considerable degree; and all other eminent actors have profited in like measure from past patterns of excellence. But the present tendency seems to be against that form of learning how to become proficient in stage work. It is taken for granted, one is constrained to believe, that it is not absolutely necessary to learn how to be an actor at all any more; but that success is to be gained in some easier and speedier way.

The result is that, instead of having actors of a conscientious sort, striving continually to improve themselves, and to rise gradually on their merits, as men get forward in other professions, we have only amateurs and pretenders, who substitute assurance for ability and insist upon trying to shine as stars when they should be taking lessons in the very rudiments of their business. It is no answer to say that people go to see these impostors and kindly smile upon and applaud them. The people have to put up with what is to be had, or abandon the theater entirely. That they are patient in the presence of mediocrity and do their best to make believe they are enjoying it counts for nothing except as going to show how much human nature can stand without open rebellion, and how determined it is to be amused even under the most difficult conditions. There is a fixed popular craving for the drama, and if it can not have what is sound and deserving, it will take what it can find and make the most of it; but it knows all the time that it is being deceived and trifled with, and it quickly seizes an occasion to get something better, even at double the price.

The fault does not lie with the public, nor can the public furnish a remedy. There will be good actors in the United States when more are willing to undergo a proper course of training and waiting in that connection, and there will be none any sooner. McCullough did not leap to the front at a single effort. He won his fame step by step, and through severe and unremitting application. No great actor has ever been made in any other way. In all the list of noted men and women who have from time to time redeemed the stage to high and noble uses, not a single case of sudden success is to be found. They all had to shine dimly at first, gaining in brightness as they learned by study and experience to exert their powers according to correct and effective principles. It was not their genius alone that gave them precedence; their industry played quite as important a part in the matter. They did not believe that triumph was a mere affair of luck, and art but another name for want of originality; they recognized the necessity of discipline, and were wise enough and honest enough to be content with nothing less than doing the best that it was in them to do by hard work and anxious attention to every source of instruction. Their successors will appear whenever like conditions of preparation are observed; and until then mediocrity will continue to hold the boards.

—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

A Tempest in a Teapot.

The recently reported expulsion of German-Americans from the island of Foehr (Sleswick) by the Prussian government, which, as would appear from yesterday's dispatches, has been made the subject of protest on the part of Mr. Pendleton, the American minister, is thus explained by the correspondent of a German newspaper in New York:

In regard to the reported expulsion of a number of German-Americans from the island of Foehr, I am in a position to give the following information: "The German government has of late rendered the stay of German-Americans upon the island as difficult as possible, throwing all sorts of obstacles in the way. But the principal motive which caused this summary action on the part of the government seems to have been that several Foehrs, residing in Brooklyn, N. Y., last summer caused an article to be published in the *Insulbote*, a paper issued on the island of Foehr, in which they bitterly complained that all amusements, more especially the innocent recreation of dancing, was prohibited by the government, while in all the large cities of Germany these places of amusements were accessible to all young folk; that, consequently, nothing was offered to the German-Americans to make their stay at their old homes pleasant. This article contained the additional rather imprudent remark that a number of Foehrs would soon visit their old homes again, when they would use every effort to discover the reason of the prohibition of these amusements by the government, in which endeavor they would be energetically supported in America. The writer of that article received a friendly warning from Foehr to abstain from such expressions, as the German government had an excellent memory, which might bring them into trouble at their next visit to the fatherland. A number of German-Americans from Brooklyn and from California who had been sojourning for a few months upon Foehr have, as we are credibly informed by letter, assumed a somewhat provoking attitude. Thus, for instance, it is said that one of them decorated his saddle horse with American flags (which, of course, must be very objectionable to the average Bismarck official). The *Insulbote* of Oct. 18 contains, consequently, a warning and an order from the Prussian minister, Von Puttkammer, in relation to the German-Americans on that island (the language of which is not reported). This appears to be the full explanation for the expulsion of a number of German-Americans from the island of Foehr.

The *Illinois Staats-Zeitung* in republishing the above, says:

For want of a better explanation, the above will have to be taken as conclusive. It can be read between the lines, however, that the Messrs. Foehrs, from Brooklyn, were boasting of their Americanism in a fashion which will not be tolerated by the Prussian officials. There is also a bare possibility that the "dancing amusements" which were prohibited were not entirely innocent, but rather boisterous and coarse. Every European power reserves to itself the right to expel from its territory foreigners who are making themselves burdensome and obnoxious, and nothing can be done against it if this right is enforced in the manner its own judgment deems best. The fact that German-Americans who have not given offense have been expelled from Prussia has not yet been heard of.

New Swiss Liquor Law.

The latest Swiss papers contain the complete returns of the vote on the constitutional amendment in reference to the liquor question. Of the twenty-two cantons fifteen returned a majority in favor of the amendment and seven against. The amendment is adopted by a nearly two-thirds majority. The contest presents several suggestive features. The most striking is that the wine producing cantons such as Vaud, St. Gall, Eurgovie, Schaffhouse, Tessino, Zurich, and Neuchatel voted in favor of the amendment and with large majorities. The canton de Vaud, for instance, with its extensive vineyards of La Vana and La Cote d'Or on the lake of Geneva, cast 29,800 votes in favor and only 3,960 against the amendment, while the whisky-producing and whisky-drinking cantons of Berne and Solothurn gave large majorities against the amendment. Berne gave 36,271 votes against and only 23,921 in favor of it. The small cantons of the interior, with the exception of Glarus, gave all heavy majorities in favor of the amendment.

What little influence the press has when the public mind is otherwise properly educated upon a measure is proven in Zurich, where the leading paper, the *Zuricher Post*, carried on a bitter warfare against the amendment under the demagogical pretense that the poor workingman would be deprived of his "little drink." In spite of the efforts of this capiton of Zurich gave 31,131 votes in favor of and 22,605 against the measure. The main points in the amendment are higher import duties for spirituous liquor, abolition of the shingled (barrel money) between the cantons, and more stringent regulations for governing the retail trade and the issuing of saloon licenses.

The Reason Why.

"To what do you attribute the cause of the Republic's defeat in this State?" asked a barber, the gentleman he was shampooing.
"To the same reason that your shampooing is not a success," replied the victim, with a stifled groan.
"Why, how is that, sir?" gasped the astonished head-manipulator.
"Too much scratching at the polls and not enough soap."—*Morning Journal*.

Unparliamentary.

In a case recently tried in the Common Pleas Court a motion for a non suit was made. A colored juror approached the counsel after the case and said: "How did dat motion ob yours get along, sah?" "Oh, it was granted," replied the attorney. "Was it?" Dat queeah. I listened and listened and didn't heah nobody second dat motion."—*Pittsburg Chronicle*.