

OUR ALBANY LETTER.

THE NEW YORK PRESS ASSOCIATION OUTING.

Editors on a Lark at Syracuse, Albany, Saratoga and Lake George—Yet They Will Find Time for Business—How an Editorial Convention is Run.

Special Albany Letter. The New York Press Association will hold its annual excursion and convention this year on June 24th to 29th. The members of the association will rendezvous at the Yates House, Syracuse, on Monday, June 24, where a banquet will be given in the evening.

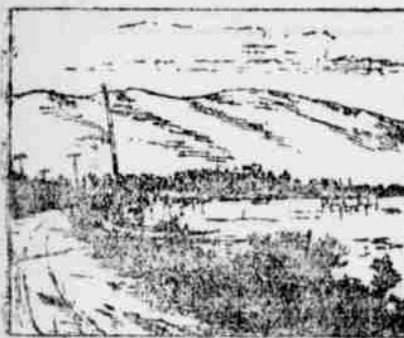


John A. Slescher

ing, to which all the members of the association are invited. Those entitled to the privileges of the association who are acquainted with the brand of hospitality dispensed in Syracuse, will make a special effort to be present at the opening of the convention; those who are not may possibly stay away from the opening exercises and regret it forever afterward.

Editors are naturally sociable fellows. They are also by force of necessity very active business men. These two somewhat contrary traits of character probably account for the origin of the New York State Editorial Association, now in its thirty-ninth year of its existence, which unites in its membership as much shrewd business talent and capacity for social enjoyment as exists in any other corporate body in the civilized world.

After the preliminary exercises and banquet at Syracuse, the editors will proceed to Albany on a special train over the New York Central road, where an informal reception by Gov. Morton will be tendered them, followed by luncheon. They will not linger long in Albany, however. This is possible because even Albatians recognize that Saratoga is the social and political capital of the State during the hot season. The journey of the 25th instant will therefore be continued to Saratoga, on a special train over the Delaware and Hudson Railroad, and



A Glimpse of Lake George.

headquarters will be established at the Grand Union Hotel, where a ball will be given in the evening in honor of the wives and daughters of the assembled editors, to which the elite of Saratoga society is invited.

On Wednesday morning, June 26, the party will proceed to Lake George, where a three-days' convention will be held in the Court House. While at Lake George the association will be the guests of the Horicon Improvement Company, at the Lake House.

The public, interested in all kinds of news, will be interested in knowing just what an editorial convention is like. So far we have had only the preliminaries—the "entree" to the feast, as it were. An editorial convention of the genuine New York type is a mingled round of sane practical business and social festivity. The editors meet to exchange ideas, to brush up on the latest points affecting their business, and to enjoy themselves in the company of their wives, daughters and friends.

The convention always opens with an address by the President, and this year that duty will be performed by Mr. John A. Slescher, a gentleman well-known to the profession both in the State and country at large. Mr. Slescher was recently editor of the New York Mail and Express, and is at present conducting that somewhat anomalous publication known as the New York Record, which it is presumed he does upon a thoroughly reform basis. Either because of regardlessness of his politics (or perhaps both) Mr. Slescher is very popular with



Lake House Landing.

newspaper men, and his address will be a feature of the convention. There will follow business communications and three minute papers on practical topics by the brightest men of the State press. Three minute papers! Editors are consistent fellows, and know how to blue-pencil their own lucubrations. The three minute

papers are a great feature of the convention, as are also the short discussions that follow.

Then the committees report, and a tyro would be astonished to learn how many and how profound a lot of committees an editorial convention can make use of. Addresses on various subjects by editors whose ideas become uncontrollable are permissible at almost any stage of the proceedings, and oftentimes some of the best things of the convention come out in a spontaneous way. The election of officers for the next year follows.

Then follow resolutions and prize papers, and general leave takings. But, hold—somewhere in the proceedings comes in the report of the secretary and treasurer, Mr. A. O. Bunnell, a man so peculiarly modest and retiring that he has been kept in his present position from time immemorial as an example of what an editor may become under a system of special culture. Mr. Bunnell is the patriarch if not the father of the New York Press Association, and he is at present also President of the National Press Association. Whether he invented press associations or was invented by the first association of the kind, is a question analogous to that other famous inquiry, "Which—the Lady or the Tiger?" He has now reached the summit of his ambition and no editor can expect to gain more honor among his brethren, but as Secretary of the New York Press Association and a missionary in the cause of editorial relaxation his career has still a bright and promising future before it.

One might be excused for thinking that the programme here briefly outlined



A. O. Bunnell.

ed would readily occupy all the spare time that the sojourn at Lake George could afford. Not so—quite the contrary. There will be royal entertainment and royal good fellowship. The Horicon Company has a programme of excursions, concerts, dancing, banquets, etc., that opens to the assembled guests the possibilities of excessive pleasure enjoyment, but there is no danger of over-indulgence. Editors always behave themselves—especially as each one carries a quill behind his ear and a bottle of ink in his pistol pocket, and always has a weather eye on the doings of his "esteemed contemporaries." The most dangerous place in the world for any "cutting up" is an editorial convention.

There is every reason to believe that the thirty-ninth annual convention of the New York State Press Association will be the most notable in its history. G. H. B.

Uncleanliness is Dangerous.

The reason why the idea of uncleanliness was associated with the idea of dangerousness was, in my opinion, because uncleanliness was thought to be the enemy of the gods, and the gods can not be where any uncleanliness exists. The gods are clean and pure, and those who are not clean and pure cannot but forfeit the protection of the gods. Those who are not protected by the gods can easily be attacked and injured by the evil and unclean spirits, and hence the idea of danger came to be associated with the idea of uncleanliness. This is perhaps made plainer by some concrete case. When I was a boy the custom of eating beef began to spread. As blood was regarded as unclean, and also as Japan had been a strong agricultural country, there was a very deep-rooted disinclination to eat beef. In this, of course, one has also to recognize the influence of the vegetarian principle of Buddhism. But to anybody who had ever tasted beef, it was so delicious that he could hardly control his natural appetite by his religious scruples. My father was one of those who knew its taste, and so now and then we used to treat ourselves to beef. But where did we eat it? We did not eat it inside of the house. We cooked and ate it in the open air, and in cooking and in eating we did not use the ordinary utensils but used the special ones kept for the purpose. Why all these things? Because beef was unclean, and we did not like to spread this uncleanliness into our house wherein the "gods-shelf" is kept, and into our ordinary utensils which might be used in making offerings to the gods. The day when we ate beef my father did not offer lights to the gods nor say evening prayers to them, as he did usually, for he knew he was unclean and could not approach the gods. Then my mother, who did not and could not eat beef till very recently, did these things; and I, who used to partake of the new dainty dish, often went to bed feeling as if I was unclean and subject to dangers.—N. Kishimoto, in the Popular Science Monthly.

Indian Doctoring.

The Indian pharmacopoeia comprised thoroughwort, spurge and Indian hemp, used as emetics; the bark of the horsechestnut and butternut, used as cathartics. They were also acquainted with many poisons, most of which were used on their weapons. For asthma, they employed tobacco and saffron; for coughs, slippery elm; for dropsy the wild gooseberry; for wounds, powdered puff balls. They treated boils with onion poultices.

"Does your baby ever cry?" "Cry? No," said the Anglonian; "he only wales."—Indianapolis Journal.

THE NATIONAL CAPITAL.

THE VACANT PLACE IN THE CABINET.

Joseph H. R. Gresham's Successor—Mr. Olney's Position—An Interesting Possibility—On Relations With Japan and Russia.

Special Washington Letter.

The present probabilities in regard to a successor to Secretary Gresham all point to Attorney-General Olney as the coming man. The rumors connecting ex-Secretary Whitney's name with the office were soon settled. Mr. Whitney will not be Secretary of State simply because under no circumstances could he be induced to accept the position. It needs no great political wit to perceive that neither a busy nor an ambitious man could afford to accept the position at the present time. The foreign policy of the Administration can be better carried out by a member of the present cabinet than by a new-comer. Mr. Olney's ability as a lawyer, and his thorough sympathy with the President point to him as the man most likely to succeed Mr. Gresham.

If Olney succeeds Gresham, the vacancy in the office of Attorney-General creates an interesting possibility. Mr. Olney has been much berated in certain quarters because he has held the anti-trust law to be unconstitutional, and has declined to institute prosecu-



Richard Olney.

tions under it against various corporations accused on popular rumor of having violated its provisions. The decision of the Supreme Court on the income tax feature of the Wilson tariff bill has convinced many shrewd observers that Olney has had a pretty clear idea of the legal possibilities of prosecutions against men whose principal crime seems to be their ability to form money-making combinations. There is no doubt that there will be strong influences brought to bear to secure a change of policy in the Attorney-General's office, but it is believed that President Cleveland fully approves of the conservative policy that has been approved, and will not appoint a man out of harmony with the settled policy of the Administration.

The breaking out of war between Japan and Formosa is attracting no little attention in diplomatic circles. The Japanese Government has shown no hesitation in taking advantage of all its rights under the recent treaty of peace with China. It is believed here that the Russian Government has stirred up the opposition in Formosa to the Japanese occupation. There is a sentiment among well-informed observers that Russia and Japan have now become natural rivals for the control of affairs in Eastern Asia, and that sooner or later they must come in conflict.

The Eastern war has resulted in placing the United States Government in rather a peculiar position. We have always enjoyed exceptionally pleasant relations with the Russian autocracy. We have also cultivated the most amiable relations with Japan, and the attitude of the Mikado's Government towards us is at present one of exceptional friendliness. Russia has always looked upon us as a possible rival and enemy to Great Britain under certain circumstances, while Japan regards us as the foremost of civilized nations and her tutor and mentor in the art of exchanging barbarism for civilization. The Japanese are a singularly diplomatic people. In the little game of diplomacy now going on, the Japanese are well represented at Washington. No representative of a foreign government is quite so thoroughly At-



Minister Shimidzu Kurino.

tributed as the Japanese minister, Mr. Shimidzu Kurino is no ordinary man, and he is a fine representative of the dominant Mongol type. He has given in his views a little evidence of what may prove the weakness of Japan, viz., a purpose to set up oriental power in the East against occidental civilization. Should the vast population of the Mongol nations catch the wonderful spirit and courage of the Japanese, there is no doubt that there would result again that contest for supremacy between Europe and Asia which forms one of the bloodiest and most romantic chapters of the history of the Middle Ages. It is hardly possible, however, that the dominant civilization of the East is likely to be confined to any corner to the Japanese island, unless a conflict should be provoked that would result in the permanent subjugation of Japan as a free and independent nation. Townsend.

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THE MARKETS.

BLOOMSBURG MARKETS.

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