

The Dispatch.

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PITTSBURG, TUESDAY, APR. 16, 1889.

THE WAY TO DO IT.

The Chamber of Commerce, yesterday, adopted a resolution, urging the Governor of the State to exert some influence with the Legislature, to secure anti-discrimination legislation. The declaration of the necessity for such legislation is timely; but the hope of receiving relief from that quarter is not good.

In the first place, supposing the sympathies of the Governor to be wholly on the side of the people, that is not the quarter from which the Legislature receives its orders. In the second place, the Governor, like all other persons at Harrisburg, is subject to political influences. So long as those political influences are enlisted on the side of the corporations, the appeal to the Governor will yield no better results than the appeal to the Legislature direct.

The Chamber of Commerce and all others enlisted in this fight should understand that the way to make themselves heard is to create a political force, that Governors, Legislators and Senators are afraid of. When that is done the legislation will come in short order.

THE SAMOAN INSTRUCTIONS.

The instructions to the Commission that is going to Berlin with the hope, at least, of settling the Samoan question, are published two days after the Commissioners have sailed from New York. Hardly any sharper example of the contrast between the diplomacy of the United States and that of Europe could be afforded, than the publication of instructions to representatives charged with diplomatic negotiations, which in Europe are regarded with the utmost secrecy. But little harm can be done in this case, because the United States has nothing to conceal and no ulterior designs to forward. The instructions take the only ground that the United States can take, namely: Autonomy for Samoa; foreign influence to be kept strictly within the limit of advice; equal rights and powers to all three of the civilised nations interested; no exclusive or preponderating control of Samoan affairs in the hands of any one government; and an utter denial of American responsibility for the troubles which have arisen from German intercession. It can do no harm for Bismarck to know in advance that this is the ground on which the United States Commissioners will stand. That knowledge may prepare him for accepting it sooner or later.

A FRENCH PARCE.

In Paris the farce of "Boulangier on Trial" is the reigning success. It is funnier than anything the theaters can offer. The most amusing part of the performance so far is the differences in costume which divides the Senate. The gentlemen of the Left, who want to scalp Boulangier, even if they have to dispense with the General's head in the operation, persist that "Boulangier on Trial" is not a farce, but a tragedy. With admirable ideas of the fitness of things they therefore come to the Senate in full evening dress. A branch at Lawrenceville, one in the East End, and one on the South-side, operated in connection with the central library down town, would enable twenty persons to get the benefits of such an institution where one would with a single location.

This idea has been in practice in Boston for some years. Though not so large a city as New York, Boston has the feature of suburban division of the population much as Pittsburgh has; and the plan has proved eminently successful. Its adoption here was discussed some time ago by the directors of the old Pittsburgh Library; but the strained means of that institution and the impolicy of attempting to enlarge its work with so grand a scheme pending as it is now, have been carefully studious adduced, so that Miss Ada Gray stands now in the front rank of an exciting but enchanting profession.

look to p. 100 as the only possible remedy for intemperance. It is a fact that in Germany, where great quantities of beer are consumed, drunkenness is comparatively rare. The same is true of France, where wine is the invariable accompaniment of the meal, from the tables of the wealthiest to those of the poorest citizens. When, in rare cases, drunkenness is seen there, it can usually be traced to the use of absinthe or other such concoctions. So in Italy, where the wines of the neighborhood are as freely consumed by the people, evidences of excessive indulgence are seldom visible to the traveler.

Judge White attributes the different results of beer in Germany and in the United States to the stringent laws compelling a pure article in the former country. Such laws exist in France and in Italy also, and are enforced with a rigor which covers not merely periodical inspection of the beverages from the manufacturers' cellar to the counter of the retailer, but visits such places as the public closing of the shutters on a house in which unfits beers or wines are sold, and the affixing theron of a printed notice to the public.

Colonel Dick Parsons, who has had his candidacy for Controller of the Currency slightly interfered with by reference to his lobby record while Marshal of the Supreme Court, declares that he consulted with the Chief Justice, who agreed with him that there was no "indelicacy in my preparing cases for Congressional action."

Considering that this does not commit the Chief Justice to the policy of "preparing cases" by distributing bumble among the Congressmen, it can be permitted to pass. But Colonel Dick Parsons will not be a bafoon to leave on the frigid outside, in the interest of the purity of the public service.

The declaration of a Boston minister that "society is being ruined by the intoxication of wealth" has a good deal of truth in it; but we fear that the public will not be brought to realize it until money becomes perceptibly tighter.

In an article setting forth the unquestionable value of turtle-backed rams for harbor defense, published in an Eastern contemporary the following point is brought out: "This ram cost only \$400,000, and the iron-clads against which she would operate cost from five to ten times as much. It would be economy, therefore, to sacrifice two or three rams to secure the destruction of the enemy's ship." The consideration is undoubtedly valid one for the Government; but one can hardly suppress the wonder as to whether the crews of the rams will look at it in that way.

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PRESIDENT REED, of Dickinson, is quoted as saying that "a young man who plays baseball or pulls a stroke car can preach as effectively as the man to whom long hair and a graveyard face give a sacred look." Undoubtedly. But the opinion of the learned President might not go to the length of endorsing the idea that the man who in this age of sensationalism, learns to play baseball or row, and nothing else, is as likely to make a useful citizen as the one who mixes a fair proportion of mental education with his physical culture.

THE MILK SHIPPERS' MISTAKE.

The milk war has got to the point where one side has commenced to cut rates, for the purpose of forcing the other side into combination. The local report of the producers' meeting held yesterday, shows that this step is in strict conformity with rules of the rate wars which are only waged when a combination is forced.

Some parade is made of the intention to show the consumers that the producers mean to give them cheap milk. But a cut in prices for the distinct and avowed purpose of making the business unprofitable contains no promise of cheap milk in the future.

If a monopoly were possible, it would contain exactly the opposite promise—that of higher milk in the future. But as it is impossible, it is necessary to warn the producers that if they are, as they profess, selling milk at a loss, they are only throwing away their money. They can make business unprofitable to themselves and others for a time, but when they restore prices to a profitable basis, competition will spring up. It is one of the beneficial laws of commerce that in a business where combination is forced, a fair proportion of mental education with his physical culture.

THE report that the Amalgamated Association intends to revive its old idea of a three months' shut-down of the iron mills, puts the association in the attitude of advocating organized idleness.

PERHAPS there may be a misapprehension about it, but when the private secretary of the junior Senator from Pennsylvania tells how the Pittsburgh offices are to be distributed, and his brother, the Appraiser of Philadelphia, takes the job of revising the tariff on woolens, the impression is likely to get afloat that the Leach family are determined to make the freshness of spring look pale and withered by comparison with those who adopt it.

Let the producers and their agent undertake the policy of distributing milk on a large scale at the lowest prices at which it will give them a profit. That will be legitimate trade, and it will confer an equal benefit upon producer and consumer.

A LIBRARY PLAN.

The suggestion made by Mr. Carnegie of a public library with branches in various sections of the city, finds critics here. The opinion of one prominent gentleman is quoted to the effect that "Pittsburgh should not be compared with New York," where the plan has been adopted; and that "it is not feasible in this city."

Of course Pittsburgh cannot be compared with New York in point of population; but it is pre-eminently a city in which the division of population among residential suburbs would make it most useful for branches of a central library to be distributed in those suburbs.

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THE DEATHS OF A DAY.

Mrs. Anna M. Lyman.

BALTIMORE, April 15.—Mrs. Anna M. Lyman, wife of Bishop Theodore B. Lyman of North Carolina, died at her home in Baltimore Saturday morning after an illness of several weeks.

She was the eldest daughter of the late Jacob Albert, a well-known merchant of this city. She went to Bishop Lyman, and was married with him about 15 years while he was American chaplain in the British Legation at Berlin.

After her marriage she went to Berlin with her husband, and remained there until 1886, when she returned to this country with her husband in 1886. She leaves four sons and a daughter, all married. The younger son, Caleb, is a lawyer, and one of the members of the editorial staff of the *Times* of New York.

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The decision is based on the act of 1858 relating to the competency of witnesses. The auditors, who would not allow her to give her evidence, were instructed to take and read it to her, and, when she did, it was claimed by counsel for the woman, that was left handed.

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