

THERE is an indisposition in all political parties to take position on new questions. The object of political parties is primarily to secure the offices. Their policy is to form a line of battle on well-known issues. New questions are, therefore, avoided as much as possible, because to undertake their solution is always more or less of a jump in the dark. New questions do not propagate themselves as a consequence, in party lines. As a rule they effect a lodgment in all parties. If the question be one of great and absorbing interest it divides parties, just as the slavery question split up the old Whigs and after them the Democrats. The resulting minorities in that case coalesced and set up a third party called the Republicans, which, in a few years got possession of the government and thereafter held it uninterruptedly for twenty-four years.

There is, however, a political evolution in regard to new questions which does not produce a disruption of parties. The new question, as in the first instance, gains a foothold in both parties. Maneuvering for position follows, the result of which is that either the one party or the other takes the affirmative upon it. That is what took place in relation to the greenback question. The Republicans headed first toward paper money; then suddenly wheeled around and espoused the cause of hard money, leaving the negative to the Democrats. The silver question is now in a similar stage. It has supporters in the ranks of both parties. The question is universal enough to produce ultimate results. Either the one party or the other will champion the rights of debtors, or a third party will appear, followed by a general political upheaval.

The action of the people on parties in movements of this character, is clearly discernible. The only way in which they can make parties the instruments of their will is by dividing and smashing them up, when they are no longer responsive to their wishes. If left to themselves established parties would contend over the shadows of the past. They are not in any sense the originators of new ideas. There is always an unwillingness to give up machinery which by frequent practice is well understood. The stumpers and political organs which have learned or are set to a particular tune, do not acquire another readily. Any variation in the performance opens the door to new men and new ideas, which is always fatal to the old stagers. The unwillingness of parties to leave the old ruts and grooves was once aptly illustrated by Lord Palmerston, who, on being urged to say something that would have special attractions for his constituents, issued a letter in which he solicited their suffrages, because he had the happiness to belong to a government in power when birth was given to the heir to the monarchy.

New questions, especially with us, have often to contend with all the difficulties which fall to the lot of the young. Sometimes, however meritorious they may be, they are killed off before they succeed in gaining many supporters. They are resisted as innovations and smothered before much is known about them. There are processes by which the propagation of new ideas can be sometimes resisted successfully. But when the fundamental truth which they contain is generally grasped, no tactics are available but those of diversion. John Sherman was laughed at for raising the sectional issue between the north and the south last fall previous to the election in Ohio. There was a disposition to regard him as an antiquated politician who wanted

to revive an old agitation, in which he had become a proficient. But it is quite probable that he had a different purpose altogether in view. If the south and west could be kept apart the formidable coalition on silver, which is showing itself, might, in a sense, be impracticable.

The settlement of public questions is therefore necessarily protracted. But there is not a great deal of uncertainty of what is likely to be the final outcome. When a truth is generally digested by the national mind, parties have to submit or go to pieces. English politics, on the other hand, are in a very rudimentary stage. There does not appear to be the regular and orderly growth observed in the United States. The masses are clothed now with nearly the same powers as our citizens. But they do not know how to use them. Political propositions come to them from the leaders. They have not yet generally learned how to act in conventions, to formulate their notions and select their men to carry them out. Candidates exhibit themselves and vaguely outline what they propose to do if they should be elected. There is little more than one party which professes to have a tendency to legislate in favor of the people, and a second which heads in the opposite direction, though vehemently denying the impeachment. Men come to the front as thinkers and secure followers. But little so far has welled up from below. A man goes out, rallies a class and perhaps in time carries his point. Cobden did missionary work for the repeal of the corn laws and finally succeeded. Parnell is working in the same lines for the Irish. A corresponding work is being done by Joseph Arch in behalf of the agricultural laborers.

But no such political phenomena as those frequently connected with public questions in the United States are noticeable there. Bimetallism has all at once come to the front here. There has been no special preacher of the new gospel. The old machinery for the manufacture of public opinion was mostly ranged on the other side. But since congress has met it is developed that the gold bugs are in the minority and must bow to the will of the people.

The senate committee on public grounds and buildings have reported favorably on the appropriation of \$350,000 for a postoffice at Portland.

NEW TO-DAY.

Notice.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT Carl Adler has sold and transferred his business and stock of merchandise known as "Adler's Crystal Palace" to Mr. S. J. H. Adler.

CARL ADLER.

Ross' Opera House.

Engagement Extraordinary!

One Night Only!
Thursday, Feb. 4, 1888.

The Leading Star Comedienne and Calioformian Favorite

ALICE HARRISON!

Supported by Her Own Great Company, in the New Musical Farical Comedy

HOT WATER!

Beautiful Scenery, Gorgeous Costumes, Marvelous Mechanical Effects, Etc. Wonderful Revolving Carrousel Running at Full Speed. The Flying Balloon, and Other Startling Features.

The Present Crowning Success of San Francisco, at the Bush Street Theater Playing to Thronged Houses.

The Same Great Company, Identical Scenery, Costumes and Effects will be Presented in this City.

Secure Seats at the usual place, the New York Novelty Store.

Resolved:

THAT THE KNIGHTS OF LABOR OF Astoria hereby ask the cooperation of all parties concerned in the welfare of white labor, against Chinese, and particularly do we ask the cannerymen of the Columbia river to discharge any and all Chinamen they may have employed in making nets, where white labor can be so well and superiorly substituted.

Cannerymen:—We ask you to carefully consider the proposition and seek white labor where it can be obtained reasonable.

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THE HOUSE NOW KNOWN AS THE Germania Hotel is for rent. House is 43x75, three stories, 43 rooms; near the O. R. & N. Co.'s dock. Possession will be given immediately.

H. B. PARKER.

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Ross' Opera House,

The Great Comedian

C. B. Bishop!

And His Celebrated Troupe.

In His Great Play of

Strictly Business!

—ON—

Saturday Evening, January 30th.

THIS GREAT PLAY!

Was Presented to Overflowing Houses in San Francisco for

Six Consecutive Weeks!

Last Summer, Electrifying the City.

EVERYBODY WANTS TO SEE IT

All the Scenic Effects and the Full Strength of Mr. Bishop's Unrivalled Company.

Reserved Seats at Carl Adler's Crystal Palace. Box Sheet open at Ten o'clock this Morning.

Competent Critics declare this the Best Play Presented for Years.

Grand Annual

CONCERT!

The Astoria Musical Society!

Will Give a Grand Concert at

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Tuesday Evening, February 2,

On which occasion a most Attractive Programme will be Presented.

FIRST PART.

Songs, Duets, Vocal and Instrumental Music.

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The Cantata of "SPRING."

Admission Fifty Cents; Reserved Seats without extra charge at Griffin & Reed's, where the box sheet is now open.

The Concert will be under the direction of Prof. A. L. Bettinger.

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For the Next 30 Days

We will sell our Stock of Merchandise, Novelties, Etc., at San Francisco cost, with freight added. We propose to inaugurate a general, sweeping and bona fide Clearance Sale, our intention being to dispose of any and everything at present on hand, to make room for our NEW STOCK which will arrive about February 1st, 1888. Remember that this is no sham "Closing Out Sale," but a

GENUINE CLEARANCE SALE!

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A FULL STOCK

Awaits Your Inspection.

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Toys,

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At Prices that will Astonish you.

You will find it to your advantage

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For \$2.50!

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Great Reduction

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Hamilton Scotch Splint, per ton.....\$ 8.00

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Bahama Pine Apple
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Mill and Office on the Old Site.

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DIAMOND PALACE!

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CHRISTMAS GOODS

Consisting of

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SPECTACLES, ETC.,

Which he offers at Bedrock Prices.

All Goods Warranted.

His is a Jewelry Store and Known as Such.

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Fine and Plain Furniture, Bedding, Carpets, Oil Cloth,

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At Portland Prices, and Invite a Call of Everybody in Want of Goods in My

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Samples Furnished on Application. Shipments Guaranteed Equal to Samples.

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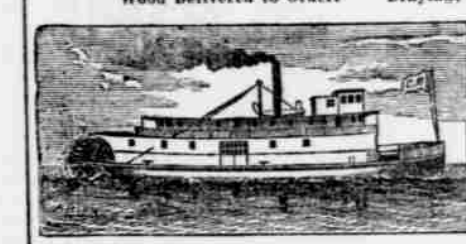
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