RECORD OF FOUR YEARS.

MR. CLEVELAND'S ADMINISTRATION.

A Review of Its Salient Features, of What It Has Accomplished and Sought to Accomplish, and the Difficulties It Has Had to Contend With.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 14.—The *Sun* to-morrow will publish the following special dispatch from Washington, giving a review of President Cleveland's administration based upon conversations with the president:

Less than three weeks of President Cleveland's four years' occupancy of the white house remain and the record of his administration is practically made up. A review of the salient features of the administration; of what it has accomplished and sought to accomplish, and of the difficulties with which it has had to contend, is therefore appropriate at this time and not without value to the country at large.

The key-note of Mr. Cleveland's policy from the beginning has been to give the people a practical, business-like administration, irrespective of personal considerations. No one who has talked with Mr. Cleveland; who has observed the perfect candor and openness of his language on this point and has watched the animated play of his features when discussing it, as the writer has done, can fail to be convinced of the earnestness and sincerity of his purpose, his high sense of public duty and his devotion to the best interests of the people. There is probably no American in public life who has a deeper, more genuine sympathy with the people, and there never has been a president more accessible or one who surrendered so much of his time to gratify the natural curiosity and interest of the bone and sinew of the land in their chief executive as Mr. Cleveland.

In conversation with the writer to-day, he remarked with feeling that his afternoon receptions, or hand-shakes as he calls them, were the pleasantest incidents of his life. He derives a genuine enjoyment from meeting people who come from every section of the country, not in search of office, or with any favor to ask, but merely for the sake of exchanging a pleasant word or two with the president.

The close of Mr. Cleveland's administration finds him as busy and, perhaps, even busier than when he was inducted into office. There is now a mass of work before him which will tax even his robust energies to dispose of before inauguration day. He works as hard as any department clerk, because he is not content to take things for granted, but insists upon informing himself as to every question he is called upon to decide. The pressure of official and social duties throughout the day is so great that he is seldom able to address himself to the documentary work and correspondence which is accumulating upon his desk during almost every hour until 9 o'clock at night, and he is seldom able to retire before 2 or 3 o'clock in the morning. He is in the office again by 9:30 in the morning and from 10 to 11 is busy receiving members of congress and their constituents.

Much of the time is consumed, unnecessarily, by the want of consideration displayed by congressmen in introducing persons who call merely to pay their respects. The afternoon receptions were set apart for this class of visitors, but it often happens that an influential constituent bobs up at the capitol, and the member from way-back or some other district, wishing to impress his importance or influence upon so valuable a supporter, or to tickle the latter's vanity, says: "Oh, come along, I'll take you to see the president," and does so during the hours set apart for official business.

The president has never complained of this inconsiderate treatment, but he was greatly gratified and impressed by the conduct of the late Representative Burnes of Missouri, who always presented his constituents, who merely wished to see the president, at the public receptions.

Notwithstanding his patience under these exactions, and the fact that almost his entire time during the day has been given up to the public, the president has been criticised for being "exclusive," and the complaint has been freely made that he would not give the representative men of his party the opportunity of consulting freely with him. "There has never been a time," said the president on this point, "when I have not been willing and anxious to talk with members of congress and leading men in the party."

It is known to his friends that the president feels acutely the charge that he has held aloof from men whose character and position entitled their opinions to weight, and has been disposed to take the bit between his teeth and act on his own responsibility. He has all along been animated by a high and serious sense of his duty to the people, and this has often prompted him to a course of action in opposition to the wishes or opinions of personal friends. It is the secret, too, of his laborious devotion to matters of routine. He expresses himself very moderately on the latter point and shows no disposition whatever to exploit his industry. "It may be because I am awkward at it," he said to-day, "that I have to work so hard."

It may be stated that the president is thoroughly satisfied with the practical outcome of his administration and its effects on the fortunes of the democratic party. He is very earnest in predicting a great future for democracy and in asserting his unqualified devotion to the party. "It is a grand party," said he, "and was never in better shape than it is at present. When we consider the condition it was in before the tariff issue was formulated, the want of unanimity, the wide divergence of views on many points, and the hearty united support it gave me during the campaign, who can doubt that its status has been improved and that it has a glorious future before it."

The president is as firm now as he ever was in the opinion that tariff reform is the great living issue for the democracy. He regards it as an issue in harmony with the spirit and traditions of the party, and one involving enormous benefits to the people. He believes that sooner or later the toiling masses will be thoroughly aroused to an indignant perception of the burdens unjustly imposed upon them by the tariff laws, and of the fact that the taxing power of the nation is being recklessly used for the benefit of a favored class. He does not tolerate the idea that the democracy was beaten on the tariff issue last fall. "Had certain conditions been eliminated from the campaign," he said, "we would have won a decisive victory."

So far as he is individually concerned, he has no regrets at laying down his trust. He thinks the defeat of the democracy is to be deplored because of the injury resulting to the public interests, but personally he experiences a profound sense of relief at the prospect of speedy release from the ordeal to which he has been exposed during the past four years. The strain has been so great that no man of less robust health and rugged virility could have withstood it. One of the most trying features of his position has been that, in the discharge of his official duties, he has been called upon so frequently to offend persons whose friendship and good opinion he valued. Mr. Cleveland's sympathies are warm and easily roused. The insensibility with which he has so often been accused is a supposed trait of character which has no existence. He has often hesitated between his personal inclinations and his sense of what was exacted of him by the dignity of his position, the interests of the public and his oath of office. He has had to fight for the right at almost every step of his official progress, and he is naturally tired of the continuous wear and tear of the contest. It is an open secret that he accepted the democratic nomination last summer with genuine reluctance, and after earnest efforts to escape it. His supposed political aspirations for the future do not exist. There is no rivalry on his part between himself and anybody else. "I am in no one's way," he says. "I shall be delighted to be relieved of the cares of the presidency. On the 4th of March next, on purely personal grounds, there will be no happier man in the United States."

With reference to the civil service system he is as firm and decided as in his views on the tariff question. He believes that civil service reform has come to stay. He has treated it solely as a practical question and has been much hampered and embarrassed by the vagaries of sentimental reformers and theorists who have been continually urging him to do this or that for mere sensational effect which he did not regard as judicious. He has endeavored to give the civil service scheme a fair trial and expresses himself as fully satisfied with the results.

There may be differences of opinion as to details, but he thinks the examinations are on the whole, about the best test of merit that can be devised. It is certainly far preferable to the spoils system, and he has no fear that it will degenerate into a mere bureaucracy. The worst type of bureaucracy was developed under the spoils system of former administrations. When Mr. Cleveland came into office he found the departments filled with incompetents, who had found permanent lodgment there through favoritism. His doubt is whether sufficient cleaning out has been done to subserve the best interests of the government and to give wider scope for civil service reform through its methods in filling the places of inefficient with capable men.

The president recognizes fully the feeling of the great mass of democratic office-seekers who expected place and recognition, and the disappointment and irritation which resulted from his inability to satisfy them. It is a matter of deep regret to him that he could not do so, but he had a higher public duty to perform, the purification and elevation of the public service and elimination from party politics, as far as possible, of the degrading use of "patronage," an evil that has grown to gigantic proportions and was steadily increasing. He is very earnest in advocacy of civil service as being a thoroughly practical reform, and in no sense undemocratic. He thinks the work of his administration has fixed this reform as a permanent feature of our system of government, and that no party can afford to antagonize it openly. So far as his own status in the party, as affected by his attitude on the civil service question is concerned, it may be said that he regards himself as a better democrat than many of his critics.

The president is especially gratified at the effect of his administration on the prosperity and happiness of the southern people, both black and white. He believes in making no distinctions between any of the sections, and he deprecates strongly the revival of animosities which were supposed to be dead and buried. He is satisfied that the race problem can be worked out by the people of that section without outside interference.

He spoke in terms of grateful appreciation of the hearty and united support accorded him by the members of his cabinet. The administration, it must be conceded, will go down in history as unique, in the fact that all its members have pulled together, from beginning to end, and no personal jealousies or resentments have marred the harmony of its deliberations. Every member of it has been hard-working, energetic, and wholly devoted to the public interests, and every department presents an enviable record of important reforms and economies accomplished, and of substantial results in the effort to promote the public good. No breath of scandal or taint of corruption has attached to any branch of the public service.

In view of the jobbery and scheming that permeated every department under former regimes, and which seemed to have become a permanent feature in official life in Washington, no more honorable epitaph could be applied to the administration now drawing to a close than the emphatic declaration of the president to the writer: "We have nothing to hide."

A TRUE AMERICAN POLICY.

Secy. Bayard Thinks a Martial Spirit Out of Place In a Republic.

BALTIMORE, Feb. 17.—A Washington special to the *Sun*, based on conversation with Mr. Bayard, gives an outline of the policy which has controlled the department of state during the past four years, and says:

"It has been frequently asserted that Mr. Bayard has had no policy, whereas he has all along had a very definite and a peculiarly American policy. He believes that the American people have a higher and a nobler destiny than that of swaggering about among the nations of the earth 'daring' somebody, to use a homely expression, 'to knock a chip off their shoulder.' He thinks it is their mission to take the lead among nations in substituting pacific methods for force in settling international disputes. Mr. Bayard's theory of statesmanship is that nothing should be done to disturb or imperil our peaceful conditions, but that on the contrary the highest duty of the patriot is to go as far as he can to their development. His idea is that the military spirit is to be discouraged in a republic, except so far as it is necessary for purposes of defense. 'Encourage the military spirit in this country,' says Mr. Bayard, 'and you would soon have a war. War necessarily means an army and if once the military spirit got thorough possession of the people this army would become a permanent establishment."

Mr. Bayard, commenting upon the clamor in certain quarters over the Samoan episode, said: "What is it they want me to do—to provoke a war? I don't believe the people want me to plunge them into war. If they want war they must get another secretary of state."

Another favorite idea of Mr. Bayard is the neutralization of certain territories which are useful to all the powers and incapable of defense, without disproportionate cost, by any one of them. He instances the naturalization of the Suez canal by the common consent of the European powers as an example of the benefits to be secured by the application of this principle. Some similar arrangement would have to be entered into to protect the interests of this country if a ship canal across the isthmus of Panama be built. It would not be sufficient protection for the United States to have control of such a canal. The only adequate protection is to be secured by neutralization of the canal by consent of all the powers.

Mr. Bayard sought to apply this principle of neutralization by international agreement to the Samoan islands. A proposition that the United States should guarantee the independence of these islands seems to him to be unwise, for the reason that to guarantee the neutrality of an independent sovereignty, especially one as weak as Samoa, would be to expose this country to the constant risk of embroilment of relations of Samoa with other powers. We would become responsible for whatever Samoa might choose to do without the power to regulate her conduct. It would be the cheap way to annex the island at once, for in assuming the responsibility of guaranteeing their independence would be to assume that of governing their actions toward other nations. To do this would require great forts in Pago-Pago and a large fleet, in the Pacific ocean, of American men-of-war, and then Samoa would not be as safe as by the neutralization policy."

The secretary looks upon the rejection of the fisheries, Chinese, and other treaties as unfortunate to the country. He does not regard the action of the senate in these matters as involving any discredit upon his action.

A SENSATION IN COURT.

White Cap Defendants Charged With Tampering With the Jury.

BLOOMINGTON, Ind., Feb. 15.—[Special.]—The argument in the White Cap case was opened by John R. East for the prosecution, followed by William Rogers for the defense, and Moses F. Dunn closed for the defense. Judge R. W. Miers closed for the prosecution. The arguments occupied the entire day and Judge Pearson charged the jury to-night. The charge is regarded as rather favorable to the prosecution. A sensation was created during the argument of Judge Miers when he openly charged that one of the jurors had been tampered with, having been seen with one of the defendants last night, and two had entered a saloon and the juror had been treated by the defendant. He used no names, but when the jury entered the box to receive the charge of the judge to-night, Juryman Perry O. Butcher arose to his feet and said, "I want to explain," when Judge Pearson stopped him and said: "This is not the proper time to explain. Your duty now is to do your share of this case, and the matter will be investigated hereafter." The juryman took his seat and the judge proceeded with the charge. It is said by the attorneys for the prosecution that the defendant referred to by Judge Miers is Johnnie Carson, the "block-of-five" boss in Polk township, who has been indicted by the U. S. grand jury for Dudley tactics at the last election, and that another juryman was seen with him at 12 o'clock one night since the trial commenced. Johnnie Carson is an innocent kind of a young man and his attendance upon the juryman was no doubt a neighborly demonstration, but he will have to explain it to Judge Pearson as soon as the jury is through with the case. Mr. Butcher will then have an opportunity to finish his explanation.

Referred to Librarian Spangler.

TO THE EDITOR—*Sir:* Why is it that THE SENTINEL is so frequently missing from the library in the State university? This was the case very often during the campaign and the grievance still exists. Many of us do not like to miss a single issue of THE SENTINEL. The *Journal* is always on the library table. STUDENT.

Bloomington, Feb. 16.

THE ROBBING "PLUCK-ME."

ANOTHER CHAPTER ON ITS INIQUITIES

Mine-Owner Lawrence Makes a Poor Defense of the Scheme by Which Miners Are Pillaged—Big Lobbies Working to Defeat Proposed Reforms.

Before the election the coal operators of Indiana were begging the miners to save themselves from pauperism by voting for Gen. Harrison and protection to American labor. To-day these same coal monopolists fill the lobby of the legislative halls, begging democratic members to protect their "pluck-me" stores and robbing coal screens. The miners sent here practical miners to point out to the committees the abuses practiced by the operators. There is no law now on the statute books fixing a uniform coal screen, and the operators construct screens to suit themselves. Under the present system of coal mining in this state the miners are paid 80 and 90 cents per ton for digging coal. Before it is weighed, it is dumped over a long inclined screen made of long diamond-shaped iron bars. One or two stays are placed across the bars to arrest the coal which causes about 30 per cent. to fall through, between the bars, and into the operator's car. The coal digger receives nothing for this. He receives the scale price for the big chunks which cannot fall between the bars. In reality the miners only get 60 cents for the coal they dig.

The miners have made a fair proposition to the operators in regard to a standard screen, but the operators object to any legal screen and are keeping a big lobby here to prevent any legislation upon the matter. In the lobby the miners are at great disadvantage. They cannot send lobbyists to hang around the principal hotels and the state-house, as the coal operators are now doing.

The "pluck me" stores are also in great danger, and the coal lobby has a very difficult task in defending them. THE SENTINEL has already exposed the "pluck-me" system of the coal operators of Clay county. The Brazil block coal company, controlled by a few of Chicago's bloated monopolists, as will be seen by the following communication from E. F. Lawrence, the "life-long democrat," who tried to deliver the miners' vote of Clay county in one block to Gen. Harrison, makes a weak defense in favor of the "pluck-mes."

Here Mr. Lawrence admits that a "pluck-me" list was sent out to the bank bosses. But "it was the only letter of the kind ever sent to *all* of the bosses." Mr. Lawrence's company owns thirteen mines and thirteen bosses. It may be that "pluck-me" lists have not been sent to "all of them:"

TO THE EDITOR—*Sir:* In an article in THE INDIANAPOLIS SENTINEL of the 6th inst., headed, "The Robbing 'Pluck Me,'" the Brazil block coal company is made a target for abuse and mis-statements. Among other things it said that "twice a month a list is made out of the miners who do not deal with the Mercantile company (meaning the Indiana mercantile company), and sent to the mine bosses, whose duty it is to notify those men (meaning the miners) that they must deal with the company stores, or suffer the consequences." Then follows a copy of a letter issued by H. W. Perry, the superintendent of all the mines, bearing date March 24, 1888, containing the names of seventy-six miners who are reported as not patronizing the Indiana Mercantile company stores. *As this is the only letter of the kind ever sent to all of the bosses*, the statement that a list is made "twice a month" is an error. The inference drawn that the names were taken for the purpose of compelling the miners to purchase goods of the Mercantile company is also wrong, the fact being that the Mercantile company was desirous of knowing the names of those who were purchasing elsewhere, and took this method of finding out, in order that their trade might be solicited.

The article referred to in THE SENTINEL carries the idea that this company tyrannizes over its men by discriminating against those who do not patronize the Mercantile's company's stores. This company denies the statement, and defies any one to prove that any of its miners have been discharged or assigned for work in rooms containing deficient coal, by reason of giving their patronage to other stores, as never has coercion been practiced by this company. Of the seventy-six names published, more than one-half are working for the company to-day, and most of them patronize other stores; and we believe they will corroborate the statement that none of them have been discharged or assigned to rooms containing deficient coal. Among them are many of our best miners, who draw more money each and every two weeks than the average, some of whom have been working steadily for the company during the past six or eight years.

The truth is that before this company started its stores many of the merchants of Brazil "plucked" the miners working for it, and paid 5 per cent. commission to this company for the privilege of doing so. The miners employed by this company, who are patrons of the Indiana Mercantile company's stores, recognize the benefits derived by them therefrom, and in several instances the company has been requested by them to establish stores in certain localities convenient to their places of employment. These being the facts, it is fair to assume that the opposition and complaint come more from the merchants of Brazil than from the miners who purchase from the stores. Respectfully,

BRAZIL BLOCK COAL CO.
E. F. LAWRENCE, President.

Chicago, Feb. 11, 1889.

The lists may be sent twice a month to ten of or twelve of, the bank-bosses. Will Mr. Lawrence, or his superintendent, make affidavit that no other list was sent but the one referred to, bearing date March 24, 1888? That was the only one sent to "all of the bosses," says Mr. Lawrence. Why is it, then, that the Mercantile company ordered 1,200 blank forms of these "pluck-me" lists? As late as last October "pluck-me" orders were issued to the bosses. "The Mercantile company was desirous of knowing the names of those who were purchasing elsewhere, and took this method of finding out, in order that their trade might be solicited." What business had Mr. Lawrence finding out where the miners traded? Has a coal operator a better right to find out where his employes buy their groceries than a mill operator or a railroad company? This was done that the "miners' trade might be solicited." This is just what miners object to. They do not want to be reminded every month by the bank boss that it is to their interest to trade in the "pluck-me" stores, and when they still refuse, they object to being put to work on a "horse-back." The "horse-back" is the solicitor employed by Mr. Lawrence's company—a fact which can be substantiated by hundreds of miners if the committees on mines will hold a session in the mining district, where the miners can tell their stories of woe without being intimidated by the coal operators.

Mr. Lawrence would have people believe that the "pluck-mes" are kept for the accommodation of the miners. A representative of THE SENTINEL spent a week among the miners of Clay county, and found a universal condemnation of the "pluck-me" stores. The unanimous verdict of these poor men is that the "pluck-me" stores are the curse of the miners.

Mr. Lawrence thinks that the opposition and complaint comes more from the merchants of Brazil than from the miners who purchase from the stores. It is true that in this fight for "free trade" the miners have the support of the merchants. The latter have reason to complain. Not only are the merchants and miners complaining, but the farmers and in fact every tax-payer of the county. It would be better for Clay county if the rich mineral wealth had never been discovered. The profit from the coal and the "pluck me" all goes to Chicago. In a quarter of a century Clay county will be like a deserted mining camp—the block coal will be exhausted, the farms caved in and nearly every dollar made out of the business will be in Chicago. The bona fide merchants, the men who pay the taxes, who keep up the improvements of Brazil, have a right to complain. More than $700,000 of paid-up capital has been invested in Clay county, yet not a cent of taxes does the state of Indiana or Clay county receive from this enormous capital. The Brazil block coal company pays taxes on office furniture and a few mules. The farmer from whom the coal company leases the lands pays taxes on his farm and the capital stock escapes taxation, because the owners are non-residents.

The Block coal company, which transfers a million of wealth from Clay county to Chicago, annually, pays less than $50 of taxes.

The operatives have been telling the legislators that the anti-store check law was complied with. The following copies of store checks now in use may help them out on this point. These checks are in possession of THE SENTINEL and can be seen by any one calling:

Due the Bearer
50 cts.
In Merchandise at the Store of
Indiana Mercantile Co.,
Knightsville, Ind.

Due the Bearer
25 cts.
In Merchandise at the Store of
Indiana Mercantile Co.,
Knightsville, Ind.

These store checks are issued by the Brazil block coal company, whose "pluck me" stores do business under the incorporated name of "The Indiana Mercantile Company.

The headquarters of the "pluck-me" system of the Brazil block coal company is located at Knightsville but these checks are good in any branch company store.

The Block coal company is not alone in the pluck-me business. There is only one mine in Clay county not connected with a store. The Brazil block coal company's checks resemble beer checks but the Island coal company issue more elaborate ones which are lithographed like bank notes. Here is a copy of one of these "pluck-me" orders:

5 Storekeeper of 5
ISLAND COAL COMPANY,
Pay to Bearer
FIVE CENTS
In Merchandise.
FIVE FIVE
No. 1022. Island City, Ind., Sept. 15, 1888.
A. M. OGLE,
Secretary.
5 5

These checks run from five cents to $5.

The good customer who does not work on a "horse-back" receives at the end of every two weeks his wages in a pay-envelope, of which the following is a copy of one received by a miner two weeks ago:

Mr. .....

Room No. 69,
IN ACCOUNT WITH
.....Coal Co.
For two weeks ending Jan. 26, 1889.

CREDIT.		Dollar.	Cents
$ 15-20 *tons coal at* $0.90		3	48
.....*Days labor at* $		.....	.....
Two yards entry at $1.80		3	60
		$7	08
DEDUCT.	Dollars	Cents	
Orders	$ 6	72	
Store	.....	.....	
Smithing	.....	11	
Powder	.....	.....	
Coal	.....	.....	
Donations	.....	.....	
Rent	.....	.....	
Car fare	.....	25	
Cash			$ 7 08
Balance inclosed			$0.00
Additional deductions			

There was still due the 36 cents after the "pluck-me" man had taken his share of the miner's earnings, so the company put 11 cents for sharpening the latter's tools and 25 cents for the privilege of riding on a coal-car to his work.

The miner who drew the pay envelope, of which the following is a copy, is undoubtedly working on a "horse-back" now, as he only took one-half of his pay in store goods and received $8.14 to pay his house rent:

No. 34.

ALEXANDER GRIMES,
IN ACCOUNT WITH
Knightsville Block Coal Co.,
For two weeks ending Feb. 2, 1889.

CREDIT.		Dollars	Cents
12.12 *tons coal at* $0.90		$ 11	38
Six yards at $0.90		5	40
.....*Yards at*		.....	.....
.....*Yards at*		.....	.....
.....*Days at*		.....	.....
.....*Days at*		.....	.....
		$16	78
DEDUCT.	Dollars	Cents	
Smithing	.....	19	
Powder	.....	.....	
Store	$ 6	85	
Coal	1	60	
Subscription	.....	.....	
.....	.....	.....	
.....	.....	.....	
Total deduction		$ 8	64
Balance			$8 14

It will be seen that he was charged $1.60 for coal. Here it may be well to remark that the operators sell coal to their miners at Chicago retail rates. The majority of the miners use the screenings which the operators sell to them, notwithstanding that it does not cost them a cent to mine and ought, by right, to belong to the miners.

Store checks are given to the farmers for their butter, eggs, etc.

This great curse of truck business has driven many legitimate business men of Clay county to the wall. It is not strange that the miners, business men and farmers should raise a hand against the system that Mr. Lawrence defends. If the relief measures now before the legislature were submitted to the people of Clay county they would be carried by 99 per cent. of the entire vote.

JUDGE CLAYOOL SPEAKS.

Dudley Probably Would Have Been Indicted Had Not Woods Interfered.

After the adjournment of the grand jury, Judge Claypool was asked his views of the jury's work. Replying to an interrogatory he said:

My connection with the grand jury is at an end and my semi-official connection with the court will very soon be over, and therefore I am now not unwilling to talk about election cases. The grand jury has returned very numerous indictments for offenses against the election laws. What will be the outcome of these cases I cannot say. In such cases there is always much of political bias, and in the present cases there is likely to be much more than usual, as they result from a very heated political contest. My impression is that in every contested case, however strong the evidence, it will be difficult to get a jury to agree on a verdict, unless political bias can somewhat be eliminated from the trial. This can be done only by the incoming administration giving the same co-operation to the prosecution of these election cases that Atty. Gen. Garland and President Cleveland's administration gave to the prosecution of Coy and others. Nothing that I did or could have done or anybody could have done would have brought a conviction in those cases, but for the fact that Mr. Cleveland's administration by its conduct said to the country and to the jury, "if these men are guilty do not let them escape because they are democrats." If a republican district attorney assisted by a republican, appointed as I was in the cases against Coy and others, for its moral effect, could stand before a jury with the same moral support, the end would be better for the people and worse for the offenders. The prosecution of the tally-sheet cases against Coy and others had the support of the better class of democrats, in the city and elsewhere.

Is there any doubt that numerous serious crimes have been recently committed against the election laws? And is it true that the better class of republicans and others have been giving their co-operation and sympathy to the prosecution of such cases. Where is the committee of one hundred? Against which I would say nothing. Of it I was one. Is it dead or asleep, or saving and gathering thunder for some other Coy and Bernhamer? Dead indignation or accumulating thunder? Which?

I have daily and some days received two or three letters calling attention to election cases. Many have not been submitted to the jury at all. The jury might have gone on for weeks yet as it has been, but I have felt and yet feel that there are enough of indictments against the victims of chief criminals. Two or three of the latter are more than all others. The judge instructed the jury that to attempt to vote illegally and to attempt to bribe voters were not offenses against the United States. But for this instruction it can be reasonably concluded that very many more indictments would have been returned. Persons who were offered bribes and who did not accept them are always willing to tell.

On the other hand, rarely and with great difficulty can the truth be gotten from those who have accepted bribes. To illustrate, it might be mentioned that there was one case where four witnesses each denied all knowledge of bribery, in the most earnest and sincere manner, but a key to the truth was found, and in the end, being again called, each confessed the truth and testified to bribery. Enough has been said to give a general view of the situation in relation to crimes against the election laws.

Look at the picture. It is a picture of shame against the state. If others have been indulging in the same crimes and to the same extent, it is to be hoped that the next district-attorney will bring their crimes to light, and that a sentiment in favor of the exchange of prisoners, as it is sometimes called, will not take possession of the public mind.

On the subject of the judge's instruction that it was not an offense to attempt to vote illegally or to bribe voters, I submit that if either is criminal both are, for the question of the criminality of both depends upon the same provisions of the statute. That to attempt to vote illegally is a crime is clear, beyond every doubt, as will appear by reference to secs. 2,022, 2,023 and 5,514 of the U. S. revised statutes, it being borne in mind that these sections and secs. 5,511 and 5,512 are parts of the same acts—an act of May 30, 1870, and of Feb. 28, 1871, and that all these sections must be construed together. The latter act amended a section of the former act and added supplemental sections. That advising bribery is not a crime is no less untenable.

Kaolin.

TO THE EDITOR—*Sir:* I see in THE SENTINEL a statement that the only kaolin to be found in this country is in Lawrence county, this state. The writer is in error, as several extensive kaolin mines are to be found in southern Illinois, one near Cobden, Union county, and another near Equality.

Shelbyville, Ind., Feb. 16. R.

Children Cry for Pitcher's Castoria.

A SKY SCRAPER TUMBLES.

NARROW ESCAPE OF MANY WORKMEN.

The Floors of a Fourteen-Story Building, Without a Moment's Warning, Drop Into the Basement—Speculation As To the Cause of the Accident.

CHICAGO, Feb. 17.—One of the tallest office buildings in America collapsed this morning. A number of workmen rushed out just in time to escape being crushed under the mountain of wreckage. The Owings block is the ruin. It was a beautiful gothic structure, fourteen stories high, situated at the corner of Dearborn and Adams-sts., just opposite the postoffice, in the center of the business district. The ten lower stories fell in, leaving the walls and four upper floors and roof standing in a decidedly shaky condition. In the tenth story the tile flooring was defective or was damaged by the natural settling of the building. Without the slightest warning, the great mass of tiles and girding forming the injured floors crashed to the story below, carrying that with it, and the two together, acting like a huge pile-driver, pounded away for themselves to the bottom. About one hundred and twenty-five workmen have been steadily engaged in the building, but to-day being Sunday less than a dozen were on hand. All were in the basement, at 8:30 an ominous cracking, and a tremendous crash was heard. No one stopped to inquire the cause, but all rushed pell-mell into the street. They were not a moment too soon. A succession of thunderous reports, then one prolonged mighty din and each scurrying, trembling workman was enveloped in a great uprising cloud of dust and broken plaster. Gradually the air cleared, and a few of the hardier spirits ventured back inside. Where before story rose above story east of the central skylight in mathematical precision and with every appearance of colossal strength and durability, was mounted a fantastic heap of debris, while the space a hundred and thirty feet above was empty save for bent and distorted iron beams that here and there projected from the walls.

The superintendent and contractors were summoned and took a survey of the wreck. Neither seemed to have any idea of the cause of the accident, or if he had he certainly kept his opinions to himself and joined in the self-congratulations of the workmen that the accident did not happen the preceding day, when scores of men were at work. Chief Sweeney of the fire department visited the scene, and after looking over the structure decided that it would not be necessary to pull down the walls at once as, though they seemed to be out of plumb, there was no immediate danger of their falling in.

The building, which was rapidly approaching completion, was considered one of the finest in the city from the standpoints of convenience, strength and agricultural magnificence. Its upper stories were of pressed brick, the three lower of stone. The roof was completed about three weeks ago. The interior was entirely of tile, supported in place by massive iron girders. Work has been pushed as rapidly as possible and the contractors have at times literally filled the structure with workmen. Yesterday three iron tanks, intended to hold water for the elevator power, arrived at the building. One of these, weighing 2,200 pounds, was hoisted to the twelfth story, while another, 300 pounds lighter, was placed in position to be elevated to-morrow. To the east of the shaft, extending through the center of the building, the walls and floors of tile had been completed and work had been begun on the iron staircase.

The immediate cause of the collapse was undoubtedly the giving way of the tile flooring in the tenth story. This, the ruins show, fell to the floor below, knocking out more tiling which fell through, the mass thus gaining in weight until the fifth story was reached, when the whole tore away the iron beams on this and the floors below, beaded out of shape and shaking the walls of the foundation. It is presumed that the settling of the building caused the first break. The tiles of which the floors are made fit together like keystones and depend on each other for support. Any extension of the space confining them would tend to allow the entire mass to drop out. Its displacement from plumb is not particularly noticeable to the inexperienced eye, but great cracks run off from the center like strands in a gigantic spider web.

There was much comment among the business men and others who congregated after the wreck. The very fact that the accident was entirely unforeseen seemed to be generally considered the most serious phase of it. "Suppose," said one spectator, "that it had not happened for a month or two, when the building was fully occupied." Notwithstanding the great hight of the building, the land on which it stands is not more than fifty feet square. The design was to utilize every inch. Seven stories has, until lately, been about the average in that neighborhood, and the tapering, sky-piercing gable and graceful towers of the Owings building were a most impressive and picturesque sight, towering over the surrounding roofs. The exterior still looks as beautiful and commanding as ever, the shell showing absolutely nothing to indicate that within is a jagged hole twenty-five feet square, reaching up through story after story. F. R. Owings, a Boston capitalist, is the owner.

SLEW HIS WHOLE FAMILY.

A Michigan Horse-Breeder Shoots His Family and Himself.

TECUMSEH, Mich., Feb. 17.—A shocking tragedy occurred in this village last night, by which a whole family has been wiped out of existence Frank L. Silvers, a well-known horse-breeder shot his wife and two daughters, Edith and Ada, aged eleven and nine respectively, and then ended his awful act by shooting himself. Silvers bought the revolver with which the crime was committed yesterday. The bodies were found this morning by neighbors, who, noticing that the curtains were down and failing to arouse any one, forced open a door. In the parlor lay the body of Mrs. Silvers, fully dressed. The bodies of the children were found in bed up-stairs, and in the same room, on the floor, lay Silvers weltering in blood and still breathing. Every one of the victims had been shot through the temple, and with the exception of Silvers himself, death probably was instantaneous. He is still alive, but unconscious and cannot recover. There is no known cause for the deed. Silvers was apparently in prosperous circumstances, and his relations with his family were pleasant.

THE ELECTRIC SUGAR REFINERS.

Mrs. Friend and the Whole Party Arrested—A Sensation Promised.

ANN ARBOR, Mich., Feb. 17.—All the parties interested in the Electric sugar refining company frauds were arrested at Milan last night. The sheriff returned to this city about midnight with Mrs. Olive Friend, William Howard, Emily Howard, Gus Halstead and George Halstead, and placed them in the county jail, where they were confined. They were arrested for obtaining money under false pretenses, three indictments having been found against them by a grand jury of New York last January. One is issued for fraud against the sugar company and two on complaint by Lawson Fuller of New York. The governor of Michigan issued warrants for their arrest Feb. 1. The trouble has been to get all the parties in the state at the same time. Mrs. Friend was in concealment and Howard was in Windsor. Yesterday morning they returned to Milan, feeling sure that no criminal action was to be brought, but they were arrested, as above stated. As it was late, no bail could be obtained and they remained in jail. Howard threatened that when they go to New York there will be a greater sensation than has ever stirred that city before.

Our Magnificent State House.

TO THE EDITOR—*Sir:* I am this day, through the courtesy of a gentleman in the state-house building, in receipt of the final report of the board of state-house commissioners. Desiring to acknowledge the receipt of the same, and forgetting his name, I would in this way congratulate your city upon the completion and possession of such a magnificent structure, and my thanks to him for the report received, treasuring it as a souvenir of my recent visit to your city. REV. G. L. STORY.

Franklin, Vt., Feb. 12.

EXCITEMENT IN FRANCE.

M. FLOQUET'S MINISTRY RESIGN

Because Their Plan For the Revision of the Constitution is Rejected by the Chamber of Deputies—Parnell Commission—Foreign News.

PARIS, Feb. 14.—When the question of the revision of the constitution came up in the chamber of deputies to-day, Count Duval Maillefeu moved that the debate on the subject be adjourned. Notwithstanding the opposition of the government the motion was adopted by a vote of 307 to 218. Premier Floquet thereupon announced that the ministry would immediately resign.

The chamber was crowded. The Prince of Wales and Lord Lytton, the British embassador, occupied seats in the diplomatic gallery.

Baron Macken, president of the right, moved to adjourn the debate on the revision question for one week. He declared that the right desired a complete revision as well as the dissolution of the chamber. A delay of one week would enable the government to decide in regard to dissolution.

Premier Floquet refused to entertain the motion, stating that the government could not consent to dissolve the chamber.

Baron Macken's motion was rejected—375 to 173.

Count De Douville-Maillefeu, in moving the indefinite postponement of the revision debate, said: "The electoral period virtually begins to-day. Let us leave to the people the duty of indicating what kind of revision they desire. Let us not lose time in discussing a question that is in no wise definite. Instead of pursuing a policy of egotism, let us return to a policy of common sense."

Premier Floquet, replying, reminded the house that the government was pledged to make the revision proposal the immediate order of the day after the scrutin D'Arrondissement bill.

At the conclusion of M. Floquet's remarks a division was taken with result stated.

The resignation of the ministry was a complete surprise to the chamber. M. Floquet had said nothing implying an intention to make a motion to adjourn a cabinet question. Both the left and right were unaware how the ministry would regard the vote. The majority included the members of the right and a number of opportunists.

After the adjournment the radical left and the extreme left held a meeting and sent delegates to M. Floquet to express regret at the fall of the cabinet and congratulate the retiring premier upon the firmness of the position that he had assumed.

President Carnot, after the ministers had tendered their resignations, sent for M. Milne, the president of the chamber of deputies, and subsequently had a conference with M. Leroyer, president of the senate. A rumor was current this afternoon that M. Miline had been asked to form a cabinet, but to-night it is stated that President Carnot has as yet intrusted no one one with the task.

THE SCHOOL-BOOK QUESTION.

An Ex-Teacher Speaks Her Mind Freely on the Subject.

TO THE EDITOR—*Sir:* I have no doubt in your personal sincerity in what you so bravely declare on all questions, yet journalists, as a class, are very careful not to say things distasteful to their readers. Your correspondents are independent. As such a one I should like to be heard a little off the beaten track of the now all-absorbing topic. Force is daily being added in newspaper articles to "smash the school-book trust." To the masses a very pleasant sound, and it certainly would be a good thing to do; but how many have looked carefully over the matter and are able to comprehend the difficulties into which we are liable to fall when the state attempts to furnish school-books free or at cost. The question is a very broad one, and it therefore seems quite necessary to make haste slowly in this matter. THE SENTINEL has said there is no middle ground in this matter; but there certainly is, and the thinking man will surely take this middle ground, and insist on placing this subject in a position to be coolly and calmly investigated in order to find out the best way in which to smash this gigantic trust and what we are to receive in return.

We all agree that we pay entirely too much for our school books, but the time is so short and the work of the present assembly so pressing in other important measures that they certainly cannot give this subject the thought it demands. The people are so well pleased with the idea of getting cheaper books that, with little thought on the matter, they cry out out, "Smash the school book trust," and go on hurrahing, little dreaming of the thousand things that must come up before the proper way to do it can be reached. It is a question with very many sides, and all sides must be carefully guarded before a wise measure can be finally adopted.

It is little wonder the educators of the state, county superintendents