

his action in reference to the saloons and gambling dens.

And now we have a further illustration of the interference of the "Liberal" faction with official affairs. The account of the rescue of an inebriated "Liberal" by the chairman of the "Liberal" committee after he had been arrested and taken to the City Hall, will be found in another part of this paper. It shows how the ordinary policeman regards the authority of the "Liberal" boss. What need is there of a Chief or a Captain of Police, if the Boss can regulate police affairs in the fashion of last night?

"Here, I'll attend to this," from the supreme Dictator of the faction, is sufficient to paralyze the common policeman and cause him to drop his official authority in abject subservience to the command of the party chief. What the City Marshal or the Captain would have done under such circumstances, we have no means of determining. They were not present during this display of arrogant assumption on the one hand and shameful abnegation on the other. But that the patrolmen recognize their party ruler is evident, and the fact raises the presumption that their inactivity in other directions is attributable to the same cause.

Of course an attempt will be made to belittle the whole affair, and to patch it up so as to give it some appearance of legality. But that it was no less than a peremptory exercise of unlawful authority and an illegal surrender of a prisoner into unofficial hands, is clear and positive from the statement of eye witnesses.

If the "Liberal" boss is to have control of the city and its police, it ought to be known without delay. We can do without a Mayor, a Captain of Police, and some other expensive figure-heads if the manipulator of city elections for the "Liberal" faction can run things according to his own sweet will. It is for the voting citizens, however, to say whether this is the kind of municipal government that they wish to maintain. And the time is at hand when they will have to decide.

CRIMINAL EPIDEMICS.

WHEN the office of the New York capitalist Russell Sage, was blown up with dynamite, we expressed the opinion that the act of the conspirator or crank, or whatever class of criminal deformity the dynamiter belonged to, would be imitated by others of his ilk. This is partly realized by the act of the visitor to Mr. Sage's residence, as related in our dispatches, and is the third occurrence of the kind since the

fatal explosion. The prompt action of persons possessed of presence of mind has perhaps prevented further violence in these instances.

Mrs. Sage is deserving of all the praise which will undoubtedly be showered upon her for her courage, her devotion to her husband, and her nervous energy and decision. It shows what may be done even by a weak woman when pluck and promptitude are needed.

There is a sort of contagion in criminal occurrences. In addition to the imitative tendency of the human mind, there seems to be an atmospheric and epidemic influence around great crimes and catastrophes which cause their repetition. There is a common impressibility in similar organizations, and persons abnormally constituted are affected in the same way by an extraordinary event. Peculiar suicides, remarkable robberies, singular assaults and assassinations and, indeed, wonderful accidents, are kept to be repeated for a period more or less brief immediately succeeding the original startling sensation.

People are affected by their spiritual and physical surroundings, and there are unseen influences around us all which are affected by human actions. The effects are reciprocal. When we come to understand those forces that are beyond ordinary vision, we will be able to account for many things that are at present shrouded in mystery.

However, while we may not be able to explain the causes which produce certain events, we can take measures to counteract many of them. And the police powers of all governments should be exerted in the restraint of the cranky and the punishment of the wilfully criminal, that individuals and society may be protected and peace and order may be maintained. Immediate and determined official action means not only the checking of the imitators of crimes, but the prevention of the spread of those influences by which the evils complained of are promoted. Human law when founded on justice, and the eternal laws of the universe, are more intimately associated than some people have ever imagined.

THE RUSSELL SAGE SENSATION.

RUSSELL SAGE appears to be still the object of attack by bomb-throwers, and his house has to be guarded by night and day. The terrible tragedy in which Mr. Sage so recently figured, though partially explained, yet retains some mysterious features. It is now reasonably ascertained that the unfortunate

bomb thrower was Henry L. Norcross, a Boston note-broker, and a native of Lowell, Mass., where he was born in 1863. It is true the head had been identified eleven times before the Boston identification as positively that of other individuals.

It was owing to the exertions of a newspaper reporter that the Boston clue was first arrived at. Henry L. Norcross disappeared from Boston on the 3rd inst, just the day before the New York episode. His parents took leave of him on that day. Mrs. Norcross, his mother, identified the head of the dynamiter as that of her son Henry. She stated at full length all the particulars relating to her son. She said he was well educated, apparently sane, and well balanced in every respect. He talked frequently of making a large fortune some day. On the day of his departure from Boston he left a letter written to his mother, telling her that he was going to New York in quest of \$1,200,000, and that if successful he would return; if not he would kill himself.

The brain of the dead bomb-thrower was examined by medical experts. There was nothing abnormally wrong about it. The entire brain weighed three ounces less than the average. The cerebellum, however, weighed slightly above the average. Norcross, it is said, was not an anarchist nor socialist, nor was he ever known to indulge in speculative politics of any kind. He entertained hopes of making a fortune, but it was always understood in a legitimate way. It seems strange that a man such as he is described to have been would present himself in the manner reported at Russell Sage's office and demand \$1,200,000.

Norcross was of an inventive turn of mind, and had several projects in hand. It is possible that Mr. Sage had not communicated all that he knows to the public. The letter left by Norcross his mother destroyed, so that his parents alone knew the full particulars. The act was certainly that of a madman, unless there is some information connected with it not yet revealed.

If insane, it was a dangerous form of insanity. The case is well worthy the investigation of medical and metaphysical experts. The interests of society demand that some light be thrown on it. It is possible that it was the act of a man sane in all particulars except in the inordinate desire to get rich.

Buenos Ayres, Dec. 27.—Roca and Pellegrini declare that Mitre is the only possible candidate for the Presidency.