

who is shown to have been implicated in the business poisons himself and dies, presumably through shame but perhaps also because of fear of the enraged populace; and the discussion of this event and concomitant circumstances in the national legislature bring about the overthrow of the governmental ministry. We repeat, they are the most sensitive people on earth; and when the cause of their present agitation is considered, why shall we not also say that they are among the most honest and honorable?

The originator of the Panama canal scheme—M. De Lesseps—has attained the very advanced age of eighty-eight years, and, up to the development of the existing trouble no scandal ever attached to his public or private life. He is the father of a large family, to all of whom, and his wife, he is most devotedly attached. His inspirational conception and masterly execution of the great Suez canal project was a source of fame and profit sufficient to have satisfied most men, but he could not rest with that. The American continents must be cleft in twain and the route to the Orient be shortened even more than that to India through his masterful work. He now finds himself confronted by criminal proceedings. Let us hope for humanity's sake alone that these will not be pushed. He has done enough for his country and mankind to entitle him to some lenity even if he should have been compromised by the guilty work of others; and certainly no one who knows the man will believe for a moment that one whose aims in life were so grand and whose walk was so upright would or could stoop to personal dishonesty. There may be some more suicides and there is no doubt that some men in high places are in a sad state of trepidation, but it would be too bad to find this grand Frenchman figuring in either category.

DESCERATING SOLDIERS' GRAVES.

A good deal of indignation is being felt and expressed at the accounts which have been sent out of desecration of Union soldiers' graves in two counties of Indiana. It seems that immediately after the Presidential election the headstones of some of those graves were smeared with red paint, the motive ascribed being to celebrate Cleveland's election in a manner satisfying to that branch of the Democratic party that still holds to the rightfulness of the doctrine of secession; the act itself is attributed to the Knights of the Golden Circle, a secret society opposed to the war, which was organized during the struggle, but is not presumed to have continued long after.

We cannot believe that Democrats as such would commit an outrage of that kind any more than we could believe as such they would commit murder, arson or burglary. It would be a sad commentary upon our free institutions if it could be shown that they were productive of an organization powerful enough to control the government through an enormous preponderance of the people's votes and criminal enough to debauch or deface the sleeping places of the honored dead. Such acts may have been committed by Democrats, as many

other crimes have been. A Democrat assassinated a President of the United States, and a few years later a Republican did the same thing; but it does not follow that one was a Democratic and the other a Republican assassination by any means. They were simply murders, of which neither party was aware beforehand, and at whose consummation both were filled with horror and dismay.

The man or men who would commit so degraded and brutal an act as mutilating the grave of any human being, except for some lawful purpose, is not fit to rank as either Democrat or Republican—designations which have been proudly and honorably worn by the best and bravest in the land. No matter what such persons may call themselves politically or otherwise, they are simply human hyenas, devoid of human sensibilities or moral restraints. In such cases detection should be certain and punishment swift and unerring; the longest term of imprisonment which the law will permit should be their portion.

NOT ALL SUNSHINE.

A fair idea of the extent to which a newly elected President is persecuted by patriots willing to serve their country in an official way, may be gained from the recent action of Mr. Cleveland in fleeing to Virginia. On a quiet island in a modest lake, with gun in hand and equipped *cap-a-pie* in hunting armor, he warily waits the advent of the canvas-back, the spoonbill and the other varieties of duck indigenous to the Old Dominion, and forgets for the nonce that he is the chosen of sixty-five millions of people and that there is an office-seeker in the land. As Mrs. Cleveland and baby Ruth have joined him in his exile, it is fair to presume that he is going to give the gentry spoken of a good, long wait.

It is all very well for him while the exclusion from mankind is kept up; but we greatly fear it is like shutting the door upon one wolf only to be surrounded by the ravenous animals after awhile. He is not "pestered" at all now, but the mails are in active operation all the while and those who would have office necessarily know how to write; he must find it a laborious task to dispose of his correspondence when he does so as it comes along, but what will he do with the mountainous heap that will have accrued during his sojourn amid the marshes? It won't do to neglect any part of it; business men always read every letter and Mr. Cleveland is strictly a business man; and it looks as though his vacation will have been taken at the expense of a herculean task when he returns. He is capable of a great deal of work and is not afraid of it; furthermore, he is quite familiar with the onerous requirements of his lofty station, so that he will not be so completely overwhelmed as a beginner might when contemplating a few thousand letters to be read and many of them answered.

If it should by any manner of means happen to come Mrs. Lease's way, would she be called Senatrix or Senatrix?

THE "SUN" SHINES ASKANT.

Posting the books and finding out where the balances are and in whose favor, is the regular pastime of most political newspapers for a long time after an important and exciting contest. "Why It Was" is a stereotyped heading on such occasions; and the inventive ingenuity which that subject develops is really wonderful at times. The recent earthquake was a little too stupendous a performance to be disposed of with mere words and fanciful figuring, but it is receiving the customary attention nevertheless. The New York Sun shows how the Empire state is, as she has been since the war, the pivotal one, never going in favor of either party in two successive elections, all of them in leap years as follows:

1864.	Republican.
1868.	Democratic.
1872.	Republican.
1876.	Democratic.
1880.	Republican.
1884.	Democratic.
1888.	Republican.
1892.	Democratic.

New York has oscillated impartially between the two political parties for twenty-eight years, says the Sun. "The victors of one presidential election have been overthrown in the succeeding one; the defeated of one contest have triumphed four years later. The result of this year's battle strengthens and clinches the sanguine expectations of the Republicans that they will win in New York in 1896. Perhaps they will, and certainly no one will begrudge them, in the heyday of a glorious Democratic victory, such harmless consolation as they can extract from this reassuring circumstance."

Without meaning to be captious, it is necessary to point out that the New York luminary is not sufficiently exact in its language. The victors of one presidential election have not always been overthrown in the succeeding one, notwithstanding New York's oscillation in favor of the rule. That the great state went Democratic in 1868 did not prevent General Grant, as a Republican, from being elected as successor to Lincoln and Johnson, who were also elected by the Republican party; and that its electoral vote in 1876 was given to Tilden, the Democratic nominee, did not prevent Hayes from being inaugurated (whether fairly elected or not) as the Republican successor of General Grant. The only part of the Sun's rule which appears to be good for anything is that in presidential years the Empire state alternates between the parties. The inference which that paper would draw—that as New York goes so goes the Union—is seen to have been unquestionable wrong once within the time named and in effect twice; and it is likely to be still more frequently wrong in the future. If recent events are of value as a basis for future calculation, New York will soon cease to be in any degree pivotal.

Harry McKay, the man who confessed himself guilty of repeating at the recent election in Boise City has been sentenced to two years' imprisonment in the state penitentiary.