

THE AUSTRALIAN BALLOT.

THOUGH it is only four years since the last presidential election, yet a reform in the method of voting has been introduced in that time, amounting almost to a revolution. In 1888 the Australian ballot did not exist in a single State or Territory of the Union. In 1889 Massachusetts adopted it at her State election, thus putting herself on record as the first pioneer of the secret official ballot system in this country. At present some form of this system prevails in thirty-three States out of the whole 44. Hence the vast majority of votes this year for President will be cast under a form different to the old system.

Observations made on the practical working of this method in Massachusetts go to show that it has been satisfactory. Bribery and intimidation, the two curses of the old system, if not entirely removed are reduced to a minimum under the new. It has been found that in some cases voters are now bribed to remain away from the voting places. That is, in cases where it is morally certain that persons would vote a particular party ticket. As to intimidation it is now practically unknown even in Massachusetts, where the overseers of factories were formerly in the habit of standing at the polls to see that the operatives of mills voted the ticket prepared for them.

A CONTRACTED CALL.

In this issue will be found a call for a meeting to be held this evening in Wasatch Hall (formerly known as the Federal court room). The object is stated to be to strengthen the hands of the Mayor and Chief of Police in their laudable efforts to enforce the laws against illegal liquor traffic and gambling.

There are some striking features embraced in this announcement to which the names of several well-known residents of the city are attached. One of these is the exclusiveness exhibited in the invitation, which is confined to one class—"legal voters." Yet while thus strictly confining the call to people who are qualified to vote at elections, those invited are requested to join in a "citizens' meeting," when the invitation only embraces one class of the population.

A person reading the notice might infer that the meeting was called for election purposes and was to be a purely political affair, without special reference to morality. Yet the object is simply to induce the municipal government to enforce the laws, that good order and morality may be increased and maintained. Consequently the sympathy with the subject is not confined to "fellow citizens who are legal voters." It is a matter in which all the good people of this city are interested. They are ready to support every endeavor to rigorously enforce the laws, and those who make an effort to create "a corner" in this direction are not conspicuous for consistency and certainly not for liberality.

The ladies, ever since there was a temperance question in the world, have taken an active part in promoting the cause of sobriety, and the same

may be said with regard to the suppression of the vice of gambling. The great majority of them in this city are "fellow citizens," but under the law they are not "legal voters." Do those gentlemen who issued the call not deem it ungallant as well as inconsistent, to entirely exclude them from the invitation to participate in furthering the good cause? The ladies are deeply concerned in the question at issue. They do not wish the existence of illegal allurements liable to induce their husbands, sons and brothers to take the road that leads to ruin. There are also other people who are not "legal voters," say for instance, young men who have not yet reached the age of twenty-one, who are opposed to the lawless conducting of drinking saloons and the operating of gambling dens.

Perhaps some of the gentlemen who signed the call affixed their names to it without critically examining it. Had they closely observed it so as to discover its character, perhaps they would have requested that it be amended before they attached their signatures. The person who formulated the call, however, is doubtless an individual of small caliber, naturally estranged from any sentiment of liberality.

We do not think that law, order and morality movements can be successfully conducted on the basis of monopoly. The invitation embodied in the call is about as novel an exhibition of narrowness as has ever come under our observation.

PAUPES AND CRIMINALS.

AN International Congress of Charities, Correction and Philanthropy will be held in Chicago during the first week of June, 1893, when the World's Fair will be in the zenith of its glory. Rutherford B. Hayes, ex-President of the United States, will preside. It appears that in addition to his vast industry in the poultry and farming lines, Mr. Hayes is devoting considerable time to the study of sociology. He thinks that paupers and criminals are not getting the attention they deserve from society. He denounces the prevailing system of operating penal institutions, reformatories and refuges on the lines of partisan politics. He contends that the increase of crime is attributable to the apathy or indifference of society. He makes a special appeal to capitalists and to wealthy citizens to concern themselves in matters of this kind. "It should be regarded as a stain on the character of any rich man who does not do all he can do for the welfare of those whose labor has made his wealth."

CHICAGO AS A SEAT OF LEARNING

In the past Chicago has not been famed for its public libraries. In this matter it has been behind many cities of the country with populations less than 100,000. This will not be said of it in the near future. Ground was broken last Wednesday for a public library structure which, in completeness and convenience, will outrival the famous one of Boston. The

Chicago building will be of the Roman Classic style of architecture. It will be 335 feet long, 147 feet wide and 90 feet high. The estimated cost is placed at \$1,250,000, but it will probably run into two millions.

There is another public library now in course of construction in that city. One of Chicago's millionaires who died a few years ago bequeathed over two million for this work, which will be devoted mainly to books of reference pertaining to America, ancient, mediaeval, and modern. The book markets of Europe and of the world are now being explored for books of this class, under the superintendence of Mr. Poole, one of the best known librarians in the United States.

The new Baptist University now being built by the money donated by Mr. Rockefeller, the Standard Oil magnate, will also have a magnificent library, which, however, will make theology its main feature, and it will not be confined to any sect. It will embrace the theological literature of the world at large.

There is also the nucleus of a splendid law library laid by the Bar Association. The Carleton Club poses as the patron of the dramatic literature. It goes further than collecting books. It has just offered a prize of \$500 cash for the best comedy of three or four acts submitted before December next. The competition is open to the whole world, but the play must be in the English language, and American in tone.

Indication go to show that the Queen City of the lakes will in time become famous for something else than pork, lumber and anarchism. They are even talking now of putting electric fans in the public streets during heated spells. And provisions will be made for future political convolutions to be kept cool in this way. Sun, rain, dynamite or anarchy do not frighten these Chicago people.

A NEW SYSTEM OF DUELLING.

AN incident transpired a short time ago which is now tickling the risibles of fun-loving people on two continents. The Marquis de Mores, who killed Captain Mayer in a duel recently, felt aggrieved over some criticism of his conduct which appeared in the editorial columns of the Chicago Tribune. The Marquis wrote to Mr. Joseph Medill, editor of that paper, asking if he was responsible for everything published in it. Mr. Medill replied in the affirmative, and stated that he scented war in the distance. He was prepared for combat, but being the challenged party, martial etiquette accorded him choice of weapons. He chose gloves, a twenty-four foot ring, and Marquis of Queensbury rules. Mr. Medill is nearly seventy years of age. He is a native of Nova Scotia, but comes of the same stock which furnished John L. Sullivan, Mr. Slavin, Mr. Corbett, Joe Lannan and several others. He is one of the best known characters in Chicago, and his paper bullet duels with Carter Harrison are matters of historic record.

De Mores has not yet been heard from. His forte lies in the pistol and sword. With one he has made a record in America, and with the other