

times with more than that in each pocket, all to be placed where it would do the most good. Why, one member of Congress, Joel Shoomaker by name, representing a New York City district, was found by investigation to have received \$175,000 at one time, which the evidence went to show was his retaining fee as an attorney! The committee wanted to ask him a few questions, but his physician had just previously discovered that the statesman's health was impaired and had advised a trip to Europe, which advice had been heeded! As there were several high-priced attorneys engaged for the honorable and high-minded purpose of conveying special privileges in the shape of monstrous subsidies and otherwise from the government they were paid to make laws for and whose interests they were supposed to protect, our Gallic friends can congratulate themselves upon having escaped so easily. A million dollars is about what the average corporation would start out to buy a state legislature with; it couldn't get within gunshot of Congress with such a paltry sum.

It is gratifying to know that on this side of the Atlantic the kind of business referred to has not been so observable of late; in fact it is questionable if there has been any such going on. Undoubtedly every gathering has its purchasable commodities, but these are bought singly and secretly, and the transactions of the kind do not assume the proportions of former years when things were more unsettled. France is welcome to all such developments; though the consternation and indignation which the unearthing of the Panama business has provoked would seem to indicate that they have no more use for that class of work there than we have here, and that somebody will have to answer for what has been done.

THE SCHOOL ELECTION.

The News would have its readers recall and retain prominently in mind the election of school trustees for the several municipal wards of Salt Lake City, which is to take place on the 7th of next month—two weeks from today. There is still ample time to remind the voters of the importance of their duty on the occasion, but it is none too soon to begin the consideration of names to adorn the ticket which will be placed in the voters' hands.

With the details as to the manner of conducting the election we need not now concern ourselves; suffice it to say, each ward will be permitted to name one member of the next school board, and it devolves upon the leading spirits in the different precincts to see to it that the very best available man be nominated. If this be done, regardless of political distinctions, we have confidence enough in the sense and honor of the community to predict that such selections will be approved by the suffrages of the people. For once, partisanship and bigotry should be submerged by all classes; in a cause so sacred as that of the education of the young, nobler motives and aims should have the place. The duties of school trustees require ability of a high and peculiar character; the responsibilities of the

position are numerous and weighty; and every citizen ought to be interested in securing for the office men in whom all have confidence and whose name and record are a guarantee of fitness and integrity.

Believing in giving honor to whom it is due, the News takes this opportunity to commend the labors of the present board. They have expended large sums of money, larger in fact than some have approved of, but none of it has clung to their fingers or been unworthily diverted to favorites. As a body they have been earnest and zealous, and the works they leave behind them will constitute their enduring monument. They deserve this much praise at the hands of the community, and we trust to be able to say as much, and if possible more, for the new board which shall be chosen as their successors.

A MODERN AFFAIR OF HONOR.

Duelling in all its aspects receives and deserves the unequivocal condemnation of all the law-abiding elements of every civilized community; hence anything that comes to public notice as an alteration or revision of any of the points of the code, is usually dignified with no higher commendation than attends the timid clipping of a huge evil that should be cut out bodily. Still, we note with some pleasure an innovation brought to view in Chicago lately, and meriting a considerable degree of approval. It appears from one of the journals of the enterprising World's Fair city that a gentleman, bent upon getting satisfaction for a real or fancied insult, challenged another gentleman to an encounter with deadly weapons. The gentleman challenged, following a well-authorized precedent, accepted and chose the weapons. He chose a warrant of arrest and a policeman. Then he arranged for an immediate meeting, not in the cold, faint gray of dawn, but in a magistrate's office. The result was most pleasing. The challenger was severely lectured by the justice and the challenged chivalrously fired in the air—that is to say, refused to prosecute.

This precedent, with the exception of the lenity of the magistrate, can be heartily commended to all devotees of the code duello in this and every other country. The principals ought to derive quite as much satisfaction from it as from popping at each other with pistols, thus endangering the lives of the bystanders, and it goes without saying that the public will be vastly better pleased. The suggestion may not be inopportune, therefore, that the course for a challenged party to pursue hereafter is clearly marked out; instead of making his will, bidding his loved ones a tearful goodbye, and selecting the revolver or rapier as the weapon, let him accept the cartel with joyful alacrity and plug up the patrol wagon.

The city and county have brought seven actions for an aggregate of \$2093 against Wong Woo Ching Sing, the sureties of Ah Him, who was arraigned for gambling but jumped his bail in San Francisco recently.

PEARY TO TRY IT AGAIN.

The government refusing to assist Lieutenant Peary in another effort to reach the Polar regions, he now proposes to go as a private citizen. To this end he will resign his commission, and obtain supplies and equipment from other than government sources. While he is about it, why not prepare a relief expedition to be in readiness for sailing a month or so after he sets sail? This has become an inevitable adjunct to all these Polar expeditions, and it might as well be provided for as last, it would seem. It is also to be hoped that he will amply stock the provision department and not trust too much to what he can find in the frozen zone, so that such disagreeable details as have come to us from up there as a man being shot for stealing a little food when he was starving to death, will not have to be recorded of ex-Lieutenant Peary. He already has one "mysteriously disappeared" man to his credit, and should be admonished, if he is not already aware of the fact, that a crime *per se* is no less a crime because committed where there are no laws of man's making to control the wayward.

A FALSE REPORT.

The news reports advised us not long ago that at an interview between President-elect Cleveland and some of the Tammany chieftains, he was asked for a distinct pledge of recognition of that society as soon as he took the reins of authority; to this he replied (as we were informed) in a most emphatic manner, refusing to do anything of the kind and punctuating his speech with profanity. This kind of language is so greatly at variance with what we at this distance recognize as Mr. Cleveland's method of expression that it was received with many grains of allowance if not actual disbelief. It requires no ghost from beyond nor any other medium of information to impart the knowledge that a man in his position is beleaguered with office-seekers and bargain-makers from morning till night and the annoyance at times must be exasperating; but there are very few indeed who know how dignified and genteel the President-elect is that would believe for an instant that any provocation could drive him to the point of "using the big D" or anything of a corresponding nature. So, before discussing the matter, we have waited for further developments.

In addition to the disbelief in Mr. Cleveland's ungentlemanly deportment at the time spoken of, it will not be credited that he ever so committed himself to any man or class of men as to justify them or any one of them in making a demand for pledges upon him. On this point we have the authority of the Brooklyn Eagle, which claims to speak by the card, saying that when he was interviewed, after his nomination, by representatives of Tammany Hall who sought to obtain specific promises of patronage in return for support, he utterly and positively refused, saying he would make no promises or anything of the sort to any of them or to