

OUR NEW YORK LETTER.

The Struggle For Supremacy in Municipal Administration.

The First Practical Move in the Greater New York Campaign—'Division in Both Camps,' Republicans and Democrats—Tracy and Low—Van Wyck and George—Business Men on the Trail—Looking After Fraudulent and Suspicious Features—An Investigation Committee Appointed.

NEW YORK, Oct. 2.—The Democrats of the City of New York held their convention on Thursday last and adopted the following platform, which seems to be at first glance a most formidable one. The nominations for Mayor, Comptroller and President of the Municipal Assembly were made. For the first named office Judge Van Wyck was selected as standard bearer, but not without some little friction, which is now evident will result in bringing out Henry George as the nominee of the new section.

The Platform of Democracy.

- 1. We regard as the supreme issue of the municipal campaign the inauguration of a wise, liberal, honest and Democratic government, in place of the present costly, wasteful, illiberal and inefficient administration.
2. We denounce the prodigality, inefficiency and hypocrisy of the city administration of the past three years. Its pretensions of disinterestedness cloaked its yearnings for office. Its mismanagement produced a corrupt, expensive, factious, discordant, intolerant and incapable government that has impaired the credit, increased the taxes and augmented the death of the city.
3. We believe that home rule is essential to the preservation of liberty. The Democratic party stands for the supremacy of the municipality in matters of local government. We denounce, as a usurpation of the rights of both the individual and the municipality, any attempt of the State Legislature to dictate the customs, habits and pursuits of the citizens. We condemn the repeated flagrant violations of our rights in this regard by the Republican majority in the State Legislature.
4. We believe that under free institutions the only proper function of government is to provide for the convenience, well-being and protection of the people, and that all laws that unduly abridge the personal liberty of the citizen in the practice of innocent customs and in the pursuit of harmless pleasures, until repealed, should be carefully construed and liberally administered. We denounce the system of unlawful arrest and detention, that has grown up in disregard of the correct principles of government, as a development of the arbitrary exercise of official power, and we demand a strict observance of all legal requirements before any citizen shall be deprived of his liberty.
5. We condemn the so-called 'Rainey' Liquor law as iniquitous and intolerant. It was passed at the instigation of the Republican State machine against the protest of the majority of the people of New York, irrespective of party. It has injured owners of real estate. It has closed avenues of legitimate employment. It has deprived thousands of our citizens of rational enjoyment. It has given rise to a system of spying and official intermeddling abhorrent to a free people. It extorts exorbitant revenues from this city to aggrandize other portions of the State. It sought to deprive the citizen of a trial by jury, and, in the collection of penalties, compels the licensee, at the caprice of the State Commissioner of Excise, to defend himself in remote localities. It protects and masks the dive keeper, while it harasses and impoverishes the reputable dealer. It promotes intemperance, furnishes a legalized refuge for vice, imperils the innocence of children, and destroys the sanctity of home. We therefore demand its prompt repeal and the enactment of an Excise law, conservative of the public morals and liberal in its provisions, that shall place its administration and revenue, so far as it applies to this city, within the control of this municipality, thus insuring strict enforcement of law by the consent of the governed.
6. We maintain that combinations of capital, commonly called 'trusts,' are conspiracies to limit production, arbitrarily to increase the price of the necessities of life, to reduce the wages of labor, to crush out the smaller independent dealers and to strangle competition. They are not private affairs; they are matters of governmental concern. They are denounced by both the common and statute law, and are fatal to the prosperity of a free people. We condemn the last Republican Legislature for its refusal of additional legislation proposed by the Attorney-General as necessary for the suppression of these monopolies.
7. All proper municipal functions should be exercised by the municipality itself and not delegated to others. We favor municipal ownership and municipal control of all municipal franchises. We oppose the granting of any public franchise in perpetuity. We oppose the granting or extending of any such franchise, or the bestowal of any new privilege upon a corporation holding such franchise, without adequate compensation.
We therefore approve, as a step in the right direction, the provisions of the new charter, which require adequate compensation to the city for all franchises hereafter to be granted, and which limit the terms of all such franchises, with reversion to the city on their expiration. We denounce the Republican party for its wasteful and reckless grant of valuable public franchises to private individuals by special legislation, with no provision for compensation to the municipality, whereby this city has already lost some of the most valuable franchises on its most important streets.
8. We renew our demand for a reduction in the price of gas used for the purposes of illumination, and we refuse to accept as a settlement of the

question in any sense the deal of the Republican Legislature and Governor with the corporations interested, under and by reason of which the value of gas stocks so favored with enormous and exorbitant dividends has increased one hundred millions of dollars since the adjournment of the State Legislature. We know from expert and reliable investigation that the commodity can be produced with a liberal profit at the price of one dollar per thousand feet, and we insist upon such immediate amendment of the law as will require that it be supplied to consumers at that, or, if practicable, at a less price.
9. We welcome the investment of capital in business enterprises that will build up our large territory and furnish more remunerative employment to a greater number of its people. Private property should never have occasion to fear loss of the respect and protection to which it is entitled under the Constitution and which are essential to a permanent social order.
We insist with equal force that capital shall bear its fair share of the burdens of government, and that it shall deal justly with the labor engaged in and necessary to its profitable employment. We denounce all attempted evasions of just and equal taxation as unpatriotic and treasonable.
We rejoice in the progress made by organized labor in the direction of permanent and substantial recognition, and the ultimate triumph of its intelligent and reasonable demands.
We demand in all municipal work the enforcement of the Eight-Hour law, and payment of the prevailing rate of wages. Neither the contractor nor the middle-man should be permitted to deprive labor of any part of its just remuneration, either by adding to the hours of toil or by decreasing wages below the highest market rate. We insist that, in so far as it is feasible, the system of direct employment of resident labor by the city should be extended to all municipal departments.
We protest against the extension of the law of injunction in suppression of the struggles of the laboring masses to alleviate their hardships, against the perversion of legal process contrary to time-honored precedent and against the subversion of the rights of citizens, by public assembly and freedom of speech, to agitate for the redress of grievances.
We protest against the punishment of alleged violations of such injunctions upon the sentence of a tribunal that is at once accuser, party and judge, and which proceeds upon evidence unknown to the law as proof of guilt; and we demand that charges of contempt, not committed in the immediate view and presence of the Court, shall be prosecuted by indictment, tried by jury, and safeguarded by all the securities provided for the protection of innocence against unjust conviction.
10. We demand adequate school accommodations for our population, so that no child may be denied the opportunity of education or restricted to half-day attendance at school, and this we believe to be second to no other municipal want.
11. We recognize that the future development and prosperity of Greater New York largely depend upon the establishment of quick, safe, comfortable and cheap transportation between the different parts of our city. We therefore favor the speedy construction of bridges over the East River that will connect Manhattan Island with the Boroughs of Brooklyn and of Queens, the improvement in all possible ways of the ferry communications between the borough of Richmond and the rest of the city, and the building and completion, without further delay, of rapid transit railroad lines between the Battery and the northern boundaries of the Borough of the Bronx.
We condemn the dilatory policy of the present city administration in matters relating to rapid transit, and we especially condemn the recent action of the Park Board in refusing its necessary approval to the plans of the Rapid Transit Commission.
12. We advocate public improvements of every character, fairly distributed between the various boroughs, which will serve to make the metropolis more attractive and healthful, provided that the public funds shall be carefully husbanded against extravagance and waste.
Subject to the limitations of reasonable, but not parsimonious expenditure, the municipality should provide all needed facilities for the open air recreations of the people. Good roads, bicycle paths, improved pavements, open air playgrounds, small parks and pier gardens are improvements in this direction, and the Democratic party pledges itself to the prosecution of such work wherever demanded by the well-being of the residents of the greater city. We also favor the construction of public baths and lavatories throughout the city.
We declare that to maintain and to advance the commercial interests of the Port of New York should be one of the foremost concerns of the incoming administration, and we favor all measures wisely designed for the prompt and substantial improvement of our entire waterfront.
In support of these principles and to accomplish these ends we invite the earnest co-operation of the liberty-loving people of the Greater New York, asking them to stand shoulder to shoulder to secure, as the fruit of the important political contest upon which we enter, the advancement of all public improvements, the sufficiency and efficiency of our schools, improved conditions for all our citizens, enlarged opportunities for the remunerative employment of labor, freedom from the oppression of trusts and monopolies, municipal ownership and jealous protection of the public funds, a just and liberal excise regulation, the re-establishment of home rule, the extension of personal liberty, a return to popular government and all the blessings of Democratic administration, making this great metropolis of America the home of a prosperous, enlightened and free people.

ticket. I wish I were as sure of salvation as I am that Benjamin F. Tracy will be the first Mayor of Greater New York."
The Low wing are not idle judging by the ramors in circulation.
NEW YORK CREDIT MEN'S ASSOCIATION.
The prosecuting and investigating committee of the association held its first meeting yesterday at the association rooms. The committee is composed of Hugo Kanzer, chairman; Aaron Naumling, secretary; A. C. Trumbull, J. F. Magovern, and Charles F. Wiebusch. The committee will investigate fraudulent and suspicious failures that are brought to its attention by members of the association, and has been actively engaged in adopting a method of procedure for the thorough investigation of such failures. The local association will be in communication with the Secretary of the National Association of Credit Men to secure their support in obtaining evidence in cases in which the failure affects any member of the latter.
Slanders in the Catholic Church.
It has become fashionable with certain politicians who profess the Catholic religion to criticize priests, brothers and religious, and deplore their want of prudence. These people should remember that slanders have occurred and will occur in the Catholic Church. In the light of the wondrous, mysterious life of the Catholic Church, which has now lasted for nearly 1,900 years, it would be incredible that a Church subsisting in so many countries, in the midst of so many civilized, semi-civilized and barbarous people should be free from scandals. Indeed, were it so she would not be the Catholic Church as all, for Jesus compared His Church unto a net cast into the sea, into which was gathered fishes of every kind; and to a field of wheat, in which both the wheat and the tares grew together till the harvest. In the time of Our Lord Himself one of the Apostles, trained by Him in His own school, was a thief and a traitor; and the Apostles had again and again to denounce and expose heretics, false character and wicked and prodigal life, and in all subsequent days their successors have had the same sad task to perform, and they have never shrunk from the painful duty.—Sunday Democrat.
A Priest as Arbitrator.
A dispatch to an American exchange from Spring Valley gives the information that the employers of a silk mill, which furnishes the means of livelihood to the majority of the working class of the village of Spring Valley, N. Y., recently went on a strike. The results were very serious. The men would not work nor permit others to take the idle looms. Excitement and disorder prevailed. A meeting between the firm and the strikers was arranged, and a member of the firm suggested settlement by arbitration, naming the Rev. Fr. McCormick, pastor of the Catholic church, as a man whose judgment would be acceptable to the firm. The men acquiesced, and the priest consented to listen to the grievances of both parties.
Fr. McCormick settled the strike to the satisfaction of all. He secured the men their former wages, but convinced them of the unreasonableness of some of their demands. It was a Protestant firm and most of the strikers were of the Protestant persuasion.
Total Abstinence and Longevity.
The secretary of the United Kingdom Alliance (London) is seeking to prove that a total abstainer lives longer than a person who uses alcoholic liquor. In one of his statements he says: "Nearly a quarter of a century ago Dr. William Farr, who at that time was the medical assistant to the Registrar-General, wrote as follows: 'The great pending experiment of total abstinence by thousands of all classes seems to show already that men can live in health without alcoholic liquors; but whether their lives are better or worse, as age creeps on, than the lives of their fellow mortals, the insurance offices will find out. Abstainers deserve to be watched attentively by the physiological student.' I have been watching them very attentively, and have found that, ever since Dr. Farr wrote this passage, evidence has been rapidly accumulating that total abstinence produces a highly beneficial effect on health and life.
The following statistics, the substantial accuracy of which is beyond all rational controversy, are specimens of this evidence: The Independent Order of Rechabites is a teetotal working-men's benefit society. It has an adult membership of 142,000 and a juvenile membership of 79,000. It has been in existence over sixty years, and financially is highly prosperous. Its mortality experience, as calculated by Mr. Nelson, the actuary, shows that at 18 years of age the Rechabites have an 'expectancy' of life of 50.2 years, while, according to the Registrar-General, the expectancy of all males of the community is 41.90, and according to the Institute of Actuaries' life tables, that of 'healthy males' belonging to the well-to-do classes, whose lives are insured, and are at the age named, is 43.00 years. If the Rechabite figures are accepted as true, a very formidable conclusion will necessarily be drawn from them. They will be held, and rightly held, to show that all males in the country over 18 years of age, who use alcohol, shorten their lives to the extent, on the average, of something more than seven years each.
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Mr. Van Rensby—That man is becoming a fearful bore. He comes in here every day and makes a nuisance of himself. If he doesn't let up, I will be forced to move.
Caller—Who is he?
Mr. Van Rensby—My landlord.

BELFAST CATHOLICS.
Their Efforts to Secure Representation in Municipal Affairs.
Bishop McHenry's Great Speech—The Old Spirit of Enthusiasm Rekindled—A Most Successful Meeting.
At a recent meeting held in Belfast, Ireland, an unusually large attendance was the result.
The meeting was fixed to take place at St. Mary's Hall, but long before the hour appointed it was seen that larger premises were needed to accommodate the immense gathering. A change was therefore made.
His Lordship Bishop McHenry presided, and the greatest enthusiasm was displayed.
The following clergymen were present: Very Rev. R. Crickard, P.P., Ballynafeigh; Rev. D. McDonnell, P.P., Ligonvel; Rev. H. Lavery, Adm. St. Patrick's; Rev. Joseph J. Donnelly, Adm. Sacred Heart; Rev. H. O'Boyle, Adm. St. Paul's; Rev. J. Nolan, O.C., St. Peter's; and Rev. B. J. Murphy, etc.
The following laity, including the eight candidates for the two wards, were on the platform: Mr. Wm. McCormick, J.P.; Dr. O'Connell, J.P.; Messrs. J. J. McDonnell, J.P.; Chas. McEneaney, J.P.; James Dempsey, P. J. McGowan, solicitor; Jas. Corr, Jas. McKelvie, M. McWalter, John Lavery, P. Lavery, L.B. solicitor; Wm. O'Hare, Joseph McCauley, J.P., etc.
His Lordship, in opening the proceedings, was greeted with loud applause. He said—Gentlemen, in rising to address you I wish first of all to say that I am very grateful to you, the municipal electors of Smithfield Ward, for your presence here this evening in such large numbers—so large that we have had to change from the minor to the major hall of St. Mary's (applause). I am pleased to think that the old Catholic spirit lives still with undiminished fervor in this locality of St. Mary's (applause), and that your love of religion is not inferior to your love of country (applause). I have no fear that the Catholics of Belfast, and especially the Catholics of this quarter of the city, will ever give countenance to the mischievous policy of denying the bishops and priests the right of interfering in municipal affairs (loud applause). Had the bishops and priests not interfered in municipal affairs in opposition to the Belfast Corporation Bill I need hardly tell you that there would be no two wars for Catholics to quarrel about (hear, hear). There is no reason why the Catholics of Belfast should quarrel. There is every reason WHY THEY SHOULD UNITE, and especially unite in the selection of candidates for municipal honors (applause). The Catholics fight the Town Council on Catholic and not political lines. We fought, and we won on non-political lines (hear, hear). Because we fought on non-political lines we were able to secure the cooperation and assistance and support of the Irish Parliamentary representatives of every caste and shade, and it is a strong argument in favor of the wisdom of our policy that we secured, by going on non-political lines, the ablest advocacy of some of the brightest members of Parliament on the benches of the British House of Commons (applause). As Catholics we obtained for the Catholics of Belfast exceptional legislation owing to the exceptional treatment as Catholics we had received from an exclusive Town Council (hear, hear). Now I ask the Catholics of Belfast, numbering nearly 80,000, to rest satisfied with the limitation of two wards? Is that the goal of the ambition of the Catholics of Belfast? ("No.") Are there not other boards in the city—the Harbor Board, the Water Board, and the Poor Law Board, where the Catholic representation is either nil or miserably inadequate? (Hear, hear.) In our struggle for adequate Catholic representation on those Boards are we to discard the policy of union, which has been so far successful in obtaining our municipal rights? (No, no.) I will take the opportunity of saying that the gentlemen listening to me this evening from Smithfield Ward will be no party to the wreck and ruin of the Catholic cause. (Applause.) I am satisfied they will NEVER GIVE COUNTEenance TO A WRONG HEADED POLICY of dissension and disunion among the Catholics of Belfast. (Applause.) Need I ask you to pay no attention to the false and reckless charges which are spread broadcast against me, and the gentlemen who, notwithstanding these charges, are standing by me to endeavor to obtain representation and employment for the Catholics of Belfast on the public Boards of the City. (Applause.) I have from time to time repelled some of these charges, but there are some of them so mean and despicable that I would not waste your time in asking you to listen to a refutation of them. At the meeting in St. Paul's and St. Peter's districts I myself and the other gentlemen succeeded, I think, in clearing the air and putting before the electors the real issue in this contest which is being thrust upon our Catholic people for the edification of our non-Catholic neighbours. The real issue is this—Are you going to put aside the advice and the guidance of the gentlemen, including your Bishop, who got for you the chance of representation in the Town Council (no), and are you going to put in their place a coterie of self-constituted guides who, I may tell you, did all they possibly could to spoil and prevent you getting representation at all. ("No.")
THE CATHOLICS OF BELFAST will not follow as guides men who thwarted the Catholic Committee as far as they possibly could to try and poison their Parliamentary friends against the Catholic Committee, but public opinion was too strong for the poison to take effect. (Applause.) The Catholic people of St. Paul's will not follow such guides. (Applause.) The Catholic people of St.

Peter's, notwithstanding the organized obstruction and the disgraceful tactics resorted to by a few individuals who gave proof of the intellectual capacity of which they are the representatives in trying to make an effort, a little effort (applause) to hound down our speakers at last Monday's meeting. Are the electors of St. Mary's district in favour of undignified obstruction or are they not rather in favour of argument and free speech. (Applause.) It was man or number of me to wish to show their superiority let them come forward and give their arguments. (Hear, hear.) If they wish to quarrel at they are right, they are taking the wrong plan by resorting to violent measures instead of arguments. It is the sign of a losing cause for anyone to try and close the mouths of his opponents by giving reasons to personal abuse. (Hear, hear.) Now I ask you, am I right or am I wrong? (Cries of you are right.) Am I right in endeavoring to...

the eastern side of the peninsula, and two years after the Franciscan missionaries began their work, to be assisted, shortly after, in their labors of evangelizing the people, by the Dominicans. They were both so successful that in 1534 Goa, the capital of the Portuguese possessions, was erected into a bishopric. The great apostle Xavier, who came in 1542 is said to have drawn to the faith somewhere between one and two millions, and he frequently made the most difficult and permanent work on the native population. This zealous laborer for God and the Church died twelve years after his arrival, but the work of conversion was carried on triumphantly by his followers, not only among the native pagans, but also among the Nestorian Christians, in whose behalf the Archbishop of Goa, Alexius de Menezes, invoked a council in 1583 at Damper, and received the submission of the Nestorian faithful to the number of 250,000 souls. Unfortunately, half a century later the descendants of these people had relapsed into their original errors, but the majority of these were reclaimed by Carmelite missionaries sent out by Pope Alexander VII. The trouble attendant on the loss of power by the Portuguese, resulting from the predominance of British rule, brings us to 1791, when the East India Company prohibited the Archbishop of Goa from exercising jurisdiction over the Catholics of Bombay, and when other sects within the British possessions became vacant. The disputes which this state of things gave rise to are fully described by Father Gleeson down to the time when Leo XIII., by a Brief dated May 20, 1887, separated the Churches of the Syrian Rite, on the Malabar coast, from those of the Latin Rite, and thus caused the disappearance of schism in those parts, and the restoration of peace and harmony. Father Gleeson believes that in all human probability the country would have been Catholic if the Church's labor had not been hampered by the opposition of the British, and by the influence arising from the banishment of her missionaries. In this opinion he is sustained by an able and reflecting non-Catholic, who is said to have asserted that had not the Society of Jesus been suppressed, the members would have converted both India and China. The recent condition of Catholicism in India is shown by the following summary from the Malabar Directory of 1885: Total Catholic population 185,720; number of dioceses, 31; churches and chapels, 3,433; elementary schools, 1,887; seminaries, 22; students, 607; European missionaries, 715; native priests, 655; members of religious communities of men, 591; members of religious communities of women, 1,806.
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FROM MAGOG.
Death of Mr. Austin O'Malley.
(From our own Correspondent.)
MAGOG, P.Q., September 29.—Austin O'Malley, of Worcester, formerly of Magog, fourth son of Mr. Michael O'Malley, was accidentally killed while at work at the Union depot, on September 6, 1897. The remains were brought home by his brothers to be buried in the family burial ground.
He was a young man of exemplary conduct, honest and upright in all his dealings, and a strong advocate of temperance. He was in the very flower of manhood, being scarcely twenty-five years of age, and with prospects for a happy and useful life. A great deal of sympathy has been shown for the aged father, the lonely and desolate sisters and brothers, who mourn an irreparable loss. The funeral service was held in the Roman Catholic Church and was largely attended. Rev. Father Millette officiated. May his soul rest in peace.
THE INDIAN CHURCH during the first three centuries appears to have been closely associated with Persia, for one of the subscribers to the decrees, in 325, at the first Council of Nice, signed himself bishop of Persia and India, which would seem to indicate that the last-mentioned country was governed from Persia. India, however, had a bishop of its own, when it was visited by the Egyptian monk, Cosmas Indicoplestes, in the seventh century, but the patriarch at Babylon consecrated this bishop, and hence the evils that subsequently befell the Church, for the Nestorian heresy having been propagated through Central Asia, the poison of religious error thus found a ready entrance into India two centuries later, when some Nestorian priests from Armenia and Persia arrived on the Coast. For six centuries after this the Indian Church was Nestorian. In 1498, the Portuguese, under Vasco da Gama, took possession of the Soothing Syrup the most agreeable to the taste, and recommended in all cases of children's sickness, is Menthol Cough Syrup, for sale everywhere; 25c per bottle.

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