

THE DOOR TO THE TREASURY.

The Citizens' movement to place the municipal offices in the hands of business men, to be conducted on business principles and by business methods for the sole benefit of the city, has not been commenced any too soon. For the past two years (nearly) the treasury has been guarded by Mayor GRACE and Comptroller ALLAN CAMPBELL, who have stood resolutely in the way of the plunderers. Our readers have only to recall the outrageous scheme of robbery involved in the bill for remission of the elevated railway taxes to realize of what great value have been the services of these upright and incorruptible city officers, through whose protests and vigorous statement of the interests of the city the scheme was defeated. And the measure of the good which these men have done is in part the measure of the mischief that would be done should a pliant representative of the plunderers be placed in the chair of the Chief Magistrate.

It must have occurred to many a citizen to wonder how and why the remarkable union of the factions of the Democratic party has been brought about. Why is it that the County Democracy, which a short time since denounced the Tammany machine and its chief engineer, JONAS KELLY, as a public nuisance which at any cost and at any party risk must be abated, a scandalous load which the Democratic party could no more carry than Siodlak could bear the Old Man of the Sea—why is it that the County Democracy now joins hands with Tammany, and placidly accepts the candidate for Mayor whom it recommends? On the other hand, why is it that Tammany, which an equally short time since fought the County Democracy so efficiently and so bitterly as to defeat the Democratic candidate for Governor, and—so say the County Democrats—the candidate for President as well, now enters into a close alliance with the organization which it then so recklessly exposed? The answer is very simple. The County Democracy has made terms with Tammany because it was the absolute condition precedent to a victory in the State and in the city, and Tammany has joined forces with its old foe because for the first time it sees a chance of sufficient booty to "go around."

If the combination can succeed, there will be not less than \$25,000,000, with all that that implies, to expend within the next two years, and the share of the various halls and factions would be ample to justify the most vigorous efforts to obtain control. There are on the pay-rolls of the city of New York, in various capacities, not less than 10,000 men. Consider for a moment what an enormous political force this represents for men who would use it "for all it is worth," according to the most approved and highly developed rules of the spoils system. The pay of these 10,000 men, in days' wages and in annual salaries, is \$10,000,000 per annum, or \$20,000,000 for the two years of the Mayor's term. In addition to this amount there is the intention to obtain from the State the authority to construct a new aqueduct at a cost of not less than \$15,000,000. This, with the pay-roll for two years, makes up the \$35,000,000. This is an enormous sum. It exceeds the revenues of each of several States in the Union, and is greater than that of any one of several of the minor kingdoms of Europe. If it can be placed in the hands of the combination into which JONAS KELLY has not entered without ample assurance that he can have his way in the management of affairs, this more than princely revenue will be spent with a degree of irrespon-



BILL SYERS. "As soon as I've got you in, open the front door for me."

sibility to which every considerable European government is entirely a stranger. It will be used not only to enrich the favored plunderers, but to secure them in their opportunity for plunder. It will furnish the camp chest for the organization of a band of political mercenaries such as the country has never before seen, not even in TWISS's time. This unscrupulous army will not only be quartered on the city, but they will seize every point of vantage from which any serious effort can be made to dislodge their leaders. NAROLLOS (the Little), with his cannon trained down the boulevards laid out by the Baron d'Hausmann for the discomfiture of popular uprisings, was not more the master of Paris than would KELLY and his associates be with their creatures controlling the police, the election officers, and the public treasury. And it is no fanciful comparison to suggest that an insurrection as difficult and tremendous as that which overthrew the Second Empire might be demanded to drive from the places of power the men who were thus installed and entrenched. We can not forget that in 1871 Mr. EVANS (of all men) plainly told the citizens in revolt against the Tammany of that day that they must be prepared to use bullets if ballots failed to accomplish their emancipation. Tammany and those who have joined hands with Tammany in this struggle would in the next two years secure the Police Department, with its absolute control of the canvass of votes and of the enforcement or perversion of the law; of the Department of Public Works, with its great patronage, re-enforced by the aqueduct job; to a great extent of the criminal courts and some of the civil courts, with their possibilities in the direction of the abuses of HANNAH, CARDOZO, and MCCOOK. The city would be laid, in PATRICK HENRY'S burning words as to Boston in 1775, "bound hand and foot at the feet of the enemy, with a British [Tammany] guard at every door."

Against this gigantic conspiracy, which has reunited the desperate factions of the local Democracy, the Citizens' movement is organized. No more necessary insurrection was ever made against a more menacing despotism or a larer usurpation. It is a perfectly open, honest, honorable, impartial movement of citizens for the city. Its candidate for Mayor is an upright Democrat of tried firmness and integrity, and its other candidates, from either party, are worthy to be associated with him. Its plan is a permanent one. It not only proposes to defend the city government from the assault made upon it, but to demand and obtain from the Legislature a radical reform of the charter, which will make it possible for the citizens of New York to protect their own interests at all times. It deserves success in its immediate and in its remote objects, and it will win, because it is the opening, not of a skirmish, not even of a battle, but of a veritable war of independence.

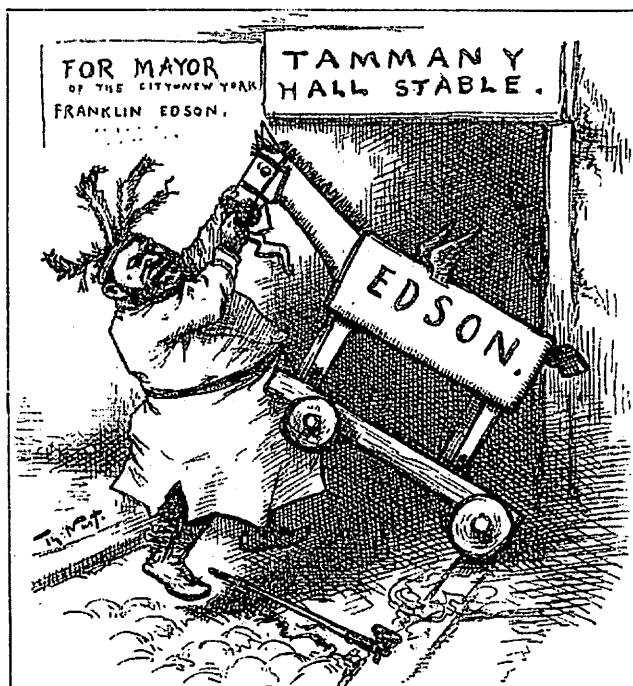
THE RHINOCEROS.

WRITERS of natural history have represented the rhinoceros as all but invulnerable. JERDON says: "The very thick hide of this animal requires a hard ball, and a steel-tipped bullet was frequently used before the introduction of the deadly shell, now in general use against large game." BALDWIN, in his *Large and Small Game of Bengal*, states: "The hide of the rhinoceros is so very thick, being covered with huge plates, that unless struck on the head (behind the ear) is also a very deadly place) bullets from a common gun do him



A BOSS WARNING.

ANGEL KELLY (to head angel). "If you don't do as I dictate, I'll smash you. I've done it to bigger men than you."



MAKING HIS TOY HORSE REAR

CHIEF KELLY. "Whoa, there! What an independent-spirited animal this is! I fear I shall not be able to manage it."

little harm, and even rifle-balls with large charges of powder, unless well placed, are ineffectual." To look at the hide certainly seems impenetrable, but it is not so whilst on the living animal. When removed and dried it will turn a nut-brown ball; but whilst it covers the rhinoceros it is not nearly so difficult to pierce as is the thinner but far tougher skin of the buffalo. The bulk of the beast is immense; the vital spots, excepting that behind the ear, are protected by vast masses of flesh, muscles, and bones, which render the slaying of this mammoth so difficult; but I have seen a man, far from strong, drive the blade of a long hunting-knife into a rhinoceros with one blow up to the hilt, which would have been impossible had the hide been of the impenetrable material generally attributed to it. These pachyderms are very plentiful in Assam. Wherever there are vast swamps and long reeds, there they are to be found. In the swamps, or plains, which skirt the foot of the Bluean range, they are particularly plentiful.

To hunt this brute successfully it is absolutely necessary to have elephants, for he is found in localities so densely covered with rank grass and reeds that no one on foot would have a chance of seeing him; but he has a peculiarity which might lead to his extermination, and I am astonished, considering the very high prices which are paid for his horn, that native hunters do not go after him more than they do. This peculiarity is returning daily to one certain point whilst he inhabits any particular jungle. It is generally in an open spot on the margin of a lake or billet, and all a hunter has to do is to dig a pit and lie in wait to get a certain shot; but, luckily for the poor brute, the natives have imbibed our ideas as to his invulnerability, and leave him alone; but, knowing the value of his horn, they generally followed us about and retrieved our wounded game, for we had not always time to hunt up badly hit animals, which crept up for the time being, but eventually fell into the clutches of the natives. Not only is the horn valuable, being worth nearly \$25 a car (12-pound weight), but the flesh is greatly prized, even the most rigid and bigoted vegetarians partaking of it; the liver is dried and pulverized, and bottled up for use in certain diseases, whilst the hide is either dried to shreds or cut into strips, cooked over a charcoal fire, and eaten.

These brutes are harmless enough until wounded and closely followed up; they will then turn to bay and charge savagely, inflicting fearful wounds, not with their horns, which are merely used as grubbers, but with their sharp tusks, with which they can cut the leg of an elephant to the bone. They fight a great deal among themselves, and inflict fearful wounds. I have killed them scored all over. Elephants dread them; very few will go near one when it is making its peculiar squeaking noise, nor stand a charge. They are not, therefore, easy beasts to kill. I was exceptionally lucky, for in six years, to my own gun, I killed forty-four. I helped to kill some thirty others, and saw some twenty others killed by comrades who were out with me, and I lost, and saw lost, fully fifty others. I probably came across some three hundred and more during my wanderings in Assam. These brutes live far from the haunts of man, but if any grain be grown within many miles of them they find it out and visit it nightly until they are either shot or they have destroyed the whole of it.

SHIPS OF WAR.

On page 700 are presented illustrations of a fleet of five war vessels which were recently lying in the North River off the foot of West Thirty-fourth Street. Above two of them, the *Mineur* and the *Chasseur*, floated the tricolor of France; while the others, the *Trompette*, the *Kouranger*, and the *Nautique*, displayed the Stars and Stripes of the United States.

The *Mineur* is the flag-ship of the French West India Squadron, and flies the flag of Rear-Admiral Zoué. She is an old-fashioned wooden frigate, built about forty years ago, of 3560 tons burden, has a complement of 420 men, and is commanded by Captain PÉRIE. She is armed with fourteen 6-inch rifled guns, all breech-loaders of the French system.

The *Chasseur* is also a wooden vessel of 1000 tons burden, provided with a powerful steel ram, and most effectively armed with four 7-inch breech-loading rifled guns. She is a comparatively modern ship, being only eight years old, and is commanded by Commander COMTE-JOULES.

Of the American ships the *Trompette* ranks first, she being the largest frigate in our service. She is of 4840 tons burden, is provided with a complement of 350 men, and an armament of twenty-four guns. Of these two are 8-inch muzzle-loading rifled guns; four are 80-pounder rifled breech-loaders; two are 20-pounder breech-loaders, and sixteen are 9-inch smooth-bore muzzle-loading Dahlgrens. She is commanded by Captain ROBERT F. BRADFORD.

The *Kouranger*, built in 1862, and made forever famous by her gallant action, under Commander WINTERS, off Cherbourg, France, with the pirate *Alabama*, is a wooden vessel of 1550 tons burden, and is armed with one 8-inch rifled muzzle-loader and six 9-inch Dahlgrens. Her present commander is W. H. BIRDSEY.

The Monitor *Nautique* has but a single turret, from which protrude the muzzles of two 15-inch smooth-bore Dahlgrens, which is the heaviest style of gun afloat in the United States navy, though several 20-inch guns have been constructed, and now lie in various ordnance yards.

A comparison between the French and American navies, based upon the above-named specimens of both, would be very unfair, because the two representatives of the French navy now with us are inferior ships as compared with the magnificent monster iron-clads like the *Devastation*, of

which that navy can boast a number. Outside of our Monitor, we have no iron-clads, and consequently no comparison between vessels can be instituted. In armaments the French are superior to us, because all their heavy rifled guns are breech-loaders, while ours are muzzle-loaders, our 8-inch rifled guns having been converted from smooth-bore to Dahlgrens. Although the weight of metal thrown by the latter is heavier, and their penetrating power is as great as that of the French 7-inch rifled guns, they cannot be worked with the same rapidity or precision, and are much less effective weapons. Our great 15-inch smooth-bore belong to a past era, the present being one of penetrating rather than crushing projectiles. At the present it is almost universally conceded that swift, unarmored vessels armed with breech-loading rifled guns are best adapted for cruising purposes.

The questions of relative strength of vessel and armament being set aside, the one comparison that remains to be instituted is between the crews of the several ships; and here a slight superiority would seem to rest with the Americans. The *Mineur*, though much smaller than the *Trompette*, carries nearly one hundred more men than the latter, and while on board the former the daily routine is conducted with a nicety and attention to detail unequalled in any other service in the world, a sudden emergency produces a nervous excitement that interferes with a proper performance of duty. At such a time the decks of a French ship present scenes of confusion unknown on board an American. It is said that, given an equal number of French and American sailors in a moment of sudden peril, the latter will, in the same time, perform a double amount of work, and do it better than the former. It is merely a triumph of Saxon pluck over Gallic nervousness; but at such times the former is invaluable.

Thus although American ships of war are inferior in construction and armament to those of nearly every other nation owning a navy, they are manned and officered by as fine a body of seamen as ever trod decks, and with such material, supported by a country of unlimited resources, there need be no fear but that, if the necessity arose, the United States could set afloat the finest navy in the world.

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