hopes of the victor. Two errors the change of parties will undoubtedly expose, the one that the Republican party is alone qualified to govern; the other that the South cannot be trusted. The incidents of administration may be left to take care of themselves. The Union is itself again."

The subject of the "Federation of Great Britain and her Colonies" is treated in the *Nineteenth Century* for December by John Douglas, lately prime minister of Queensland, and in the *Contemporary* by H. U. Baker. Prof. Rudolf Gueist, the learned author of a very elaborate work on the British government, has a paper in the *Contemporary* on the "Government of Berlin," which may be of interest to readers who are concerned about the improvement of the government of Boston. There is no more pressing political question to-day than the best form of self-government for large municipalities.

In the *North American Review* there is an interesting paper by Frederic Harrison on "Froude's Carlyle," and another on "Socrates, Buddha and Christ," by W. L. Courtney. Students of economic questions will be interested in a paper on "American Labor Organizations," by Richard J. Hinton, and another on the "Increase of Wealth," by the statistician Mulhall.

It is just a hundred years ago, the 12th of this month, since sturdy Dr. Johnson died, and, thanks to the immortal Boswell, the interest in his personality, if not in his writings, appears to be as great as ever. It seems almost impossible to say anything new about "Old Poz," but Mr. Gosse, who has just concluded a course of lectures before the Lowell Institute, has half a dozen very pleasant pages about him in the *Fortnightly.*

In the *Contemporary* that very able writer, Miss Frances Power Cobbe, endeavors to forecast the consequences of the world being given over to Agnosticism, though she has no fears of any such event ever happening. Miss Cobbe is an anti-supernaturalist, but a devout believer in religion. In the same magazine is a paper on "France and China" by Sir Rutherford Alcock, formerly British Minister to Japan.

The *Sanitary Engineer* in its issue of Dec. 4 begins a series of articles on Driven Wells, by Mr. J. C. Hoadley. Mr. Hoadley presented this paper at the Philadelphia meeting of the American Association this summer, and it is commended to the Civil Engineers for careful reading, either now or at some future time. The same subject is treated by the same author, but somewhat more popularly, in the Supplement to the Fifth Annual Report of the State Board of Health, Lunacy, and Charity.


A Happy New Year.

Now is the time to subscribe.

The next term begins Tuesday, Feb. 3.

The chemical laboratories close on Jan. 13.

The *Tech's* New-Year's wish. May you all pass the semi-annuals successfully.

A number of '87 men indulged in a supper at the Quiney House on the 23d inst.

The Junior Architects are wrestling with their first problem.

Charles D. Sawin, '78, has been appointed by the governor to be the physician and surgeon at the State Prison.

Even with the additional two days, the Institute probably has a shorter Christmas vacation than any other institution in the country.

There are to be about fifty regular examinations at the semis. The new plan of giving every student a printed list of the examinations will be appreciated by all, as was the plan of printing the schedules on small cards.

The at first incomprehensible action of the Faculty in granting us two days' extra vacation at Christmas was easily understood when it was afterward found that an equal amount had been taken from our semi-annual vacation.

It is a difficult matter to suit seven hundred students; this year, after the petition for the two days after Christmas had been handed to the Faculty, another was received, begging that the laboratories might be opened on those days.

A large party of the third and fourth year miners visited the South Boston Iron Foundry on Tuesday, Dec. 30, upon invitation from Capt. Lyle, to witness the casting of another of the large guns for the United States government.