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Many Democrats in the South who voted for Bryan are declaring that there ought now to be an end to silver agitation.

Consul General Lee, according to a Spanish authority, "is not appreciated in Spanish circles in Havana." This means that he is a good American.

The freak statesman has made his appearance in the Alabama Legislature by presenting a bill to make it a felony for a woman to wear a shirt waist.

There would be more reputation in having one's name as a member of the Legislature associated with a first-class bill for a legislative apportionment than can be attained by any position in its gift.

It will surprise many to know that eleven Southern ports enjoy direct communication with Europe, and that during the past ten months 65,000,000 bushels of corn were exported from them, against 16,000,000 the preceding year.

President Gompers is mistaken. It is not the "heart" which moves those who denounced Mr. Baldwin's address at the Progress Club, but their discontent and wrath, because they are not recognized as great men by the bestowal of office.

The St. Louis Globe-Democrat says that that city will be very creditably represented in to-day's monetary conference by E. O. Stanard, Clark H. Sampson and James Campbell, "gentlemen who are thoroughly conversant with the subject to be considered."

It appears that the Canadian Pacific Railway has an agent whose special duty it is to smuggle Chinese into New York in violation of law. If a foreign railway company, which is favored with connections in the United States, thus breaks the laws its business should be stopped at the border.

The football casualties of Thanksgiving day, as given by the Chicago Tribune, read like those of a railroad accident. The alphabetical list consists of one killed and forty-four injured. Two of the injured will die. A half dozen were carried off the field helpless, three had hips broken, one lost an ear and another both ears. It is not a cause of wonder that legislative interference is quite generally favored.

On the faces of the Republican editors about the Denison last evening there was a supremely satisfied look. And there is every reason that it should be so. Of all who did well in the Indiana campaign, none did better service than the Republican county press. They went into the fight with promptness and courage when silverism seemed to have occupied the land, and staid on the battle line from early June until November.

The best men in the Chicago ward in which Alderman Madden, who is an aspirant for the United States Senate, lives, have passed resolutions declaring that "his malevolent influence has been felt in every branch of the city government," and that "his election to the Senate would be a public calamity and disgrace to the country." A State having such men as Hitt, Hopkins and Cannon ought not to send such a man to the Senate.

It is not impossible that Bismarck, who was so potential in building up the German empire, may become the instrument in changing or modifying its form of government. The conflict which he seems to have started threatens to result in the refusal of the Reichstag to vote the Emperor the money he demands for increasing the navy. The end of such a strife in a monarchy like Germany, with a strong democratic element, may be the establishment of a limited monarchy, like that of Great Britain.

The middle West is made up of the States of Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio and Wisconsin. This year they gave McKinley 2,464,849 and Bryan 1,968,111 votes; McKinley's plurality 496,738. Four years ago the Republican plurality was 26,583 in these States. The vote of 1896 was 866,929 more than that of 1892. The increased vote in these States is about two-thirds of the increased vote of the country. It is, therefore, the portion of the country which is increasing most rapidly in population.

The United States received $5,294,756 for foreign postage during the last fiscal year, while the amount paid for the carriage of foreign mails did not exceed $1,000,000. In 1894 Great Britain paid $3,855,365 for its foreign mail service, all of which went to British steamship lines, not a penny going to any other. The postal receipts for this service were only $1,603,115—$2,252,250 being paid out of the treasury as a dead loss or the bonus which Great Britain gave for fostering the great steamship lines of its merchant marine.

A Washington dispatch says that the representatives from the West and South will return to Congress in earnest for some legislation which will give better results regarding the currency. They have met with such a change that they will vote for the President's policy of retiring the greenbacks and substituting a banking currency which will give the people they represent more money. They want more money because prices are low and they believe that more money would make a larger demand and cause better prices. When will men learn that better demand depends upon larger consumption, and not upon the volume of money in the country?

TO-DAY'S CONFERENCE.

The Journal assumes no prerogative when it extends to the representatives of the Boards of Trade in the cities of the central West a most cordial welcome to Indianapolis. Even if the topic which calls them here were not as important as it is, the presence of business men of other cities to confer with those of Indianapolis would insure them a cordial welcome. The cities of the central West are not rivals in the broader sense. They have the same interests. One cannot long thrive at the expense of others. The evils which affect the business of one affect all of them. When a few are prosperous the others will in time be aided by prosperity of the few. Nothing but good can come from the better acquaintance which frequent conferences like that which will be held to-day will promote. The meeting of business men from an area larger than that of the most powerful empires can but have a broadening and informing influence. Sectionalism and localism have been the curse of the country because they have fostered jealousies and hatreds. If men of influence in their respective localities confer together, there will be little danger of narrow sectionalism.

The question which the representatives of the boards of trade meet to consider is the most important before the country, because there can be no stable wages for labor and no confidence in business without a sound currency. The business men of the whole country will watch the proceedings of the conference with deep interest and with hope that it will arrive at conclusions which will have a potential influence upon currency legislation.

COMPULSORY EDUCATION.

It was very fitting that arguments in favor of compulsory education should have been advanced at the meeting of the Charity Organization, for the society is not less concerned with the prevention of crime and pauperism than with the temporary alleviation of these evils. And because he is in a position to see the swift and direct consequences that come from a lack of education and school discipline no one is better qualified to speak on the subject than Superintendent Charlton, of the Boys' Reform School. With the very significant fact before him that, as a rule, the boys who come to his institution have not attended school and cannot read or write, the need of a law compelling children to attend school for a certain part of each year naturally impresses itself upon him, and the earnestness of his advocacy of such a measure may readily be understood. The figures he presents, too, are startling. There are in the State, he says, 798,917 children of school age, and yet but 529,345 were enrolled last year, with an average daily attendance of but 392,015. It must be remembered that this enrollment includes all "children" between the ages of six and twenty-one, and that comparatively few even among the high school pupils remain in school after the age of eighteen, while the majority leave before that time, having had the benefits, however, of several years' training. The 269,000 of school age not enrolled last year are not all without education, therefore, but, after making due allowance for those between sixteen and twenty-one, who have ended their schooling in due course, the number yet remaining outside the schoolhouses with no attempt to enter, is appallingly large, while those who are enrolled and fail to attend add to the alarming prospect of coming illiteracy. Indiana cannot afford to have this stigma upon it. No State in the Union has better educational facilities; its public schools have the highest reputation among educators, its colleges, preparatory and parochial schools are of the best, and there is a spirit of earnestness and a disposition to co-operate among its teachers greatly to be prized. All children in the State should share these advantages; should be made to share them if their parents or guardians do not see the necessity; should be put under special surveillance if parents cannot prevent their truancy. Parents have no superior rights where these rights of the children and of the State are at stake. The welfare of the children is enhanced by education, and in a government by the people the smallest possible percentage of illiteracy is desirable. Mr. Charlton's arguments are not new, but they are timely. Indiana should keep pace with the other progressive States and prevent so many of its children from growing up in ignorance. It is the duty of the State to protect these future citizens, and the coming Legislature can do no greater service to the community than to put Indiana in line with the twenty-seven other States by passing a law that will compel the attendance of every child at some school, public or private, for a certain number of weeks each year.

THE STATE FINANCES.

The main portion of the forthcoming report of State Auditor Daily will be read with satisfaction by those who have a real interest in the affairs of Indiana. In the first place, the report carries with it the conviction that the important branch of the financial affairs of the State which Mr. Daily has in charge is in the hands of a conservative and intelligent man who is thoroughly familiar with the duties of his office. The statement regarding the state debt is encouraging. Two years ago the real debt of the State was $7,436,615.12, with an annual interest charge of $233,525. Oct. 31, 1896, the debt was $6,436,515.12, with an annual interest charge of $200,005. During the year 1896 $890,000 of debt has been wiped out. It is scarcely necessary to say that the expunging of the state debt is a matter of the highest importance to the growth and prosperity of Indiana, for the reason that those investing capital in industries consider, among the elements upon which a decision to locate is made, the public debt and the annual interest. Whether the rate of taxation is 4 or 5 per cent. a year determines whether an enterprise does or does not pay a dividend. It was not so at one time, but this is the era of sharp competition and small profits. A State which adds to its debt while most others are reducing theirs or have none to reduce is not one which will attract capital. A State whose legislatures do not show a high regard for careful expenditure of public money will not hold a high rank in the sisterhood of States. There are legislature-cursed States, and there is no blight comparable with it. A bad harvest and an unprofitable year in factories are temporary evils, but demagogic legislatures leave their evil impress upon a State's reputation. The policy which Mr. Daily has pursued with reference to appropriations will be approved by practical men. The Legislature appropriates an amount of money for a public institution for a year beginning Nov. 1, 1895, and ending Oct. 31, 1896—what right has an auditor to permit this money to be drawn to pay liabilities incurred during a preceding year? For years the deficits of the prisons have been concealed by the mischievous practice of permitting the officers to draw their deficits of one year from the appropriation of the next. The brief suggestion which the auditor makes regarding the compulsory examination of building and loan associations, to the effect that there can be no effective supervision without examinations, should commend itself to the Legislature.

LOCAL TAXATION.

During the campaign speakers who were showing that the prices of all merchandise are no lower than in 1870, when wheat was alleged to have been sought by purchasers at $1 a bushel, were frequently interrupted with the declaration that "taxes are no lower." This, so far as local affairs are concerned, may be true. It probably is true concerning the past ten years in Indiana. If taxes are not higher, even in rural counties, they are now little, if any, lower than ten years ago. There are reasons why there should not be a decline in many localities. Courthouses have been built, gravel and toll roads have been paid for and other permanent improvements have been made. But when increased taxation to pay for these improvements is taken into account is it not true that the expenses of counties and townships in which there has been no material increase of population continued to increase? If so, can any good reason be given therefor? Would this be the case if the affairs of counties, townships and cities were administered upon those business principles which insure success in private affairs? In the larger cities taxes are higher because extensive and necessary permanent improvements have been made, but, outside of the cities, why should there be any increase of taxation?

These are questions which those who reside in the larger part of the counties of Indiana can answer for themselves. Local taxation is in the hands of the people themselves. If taxes are as high or higher than ever it is within the province of taxpayers to ask those to whom they have intrusted their county or township affairs why it is so. There is not an efficient and straightforward county officer who will not gladly explain to a committee of taxpayers the condition of county affairs and give reasons why certain expenditures have been made. In rural townships and those embracing the smaller cities there can be no reason why the trustee could not, before a public meeting of voters, set forth and explain every expenditure.

The difficulty is that the people who pay taxes and who complain of high taxation from January to December take no effective measures to see that they have economical and efficient local government. Few take any real interest in the details of local government. They do little else than complain of high taxes. They do not even ask their officers to explain matters. For the most part, they really are more ignorant concerning the details of county and township management than they are of the general action of Congress. When those who are always complaining will take the trouble to inform themselves regarding county and township affairs—to approve the good and condemn the bad—more satisfactory results may be obtained in local government — the government which expends nine-tenths of the taxes imposed upon the people.

The startling report comes from Kansas that Senator Peffer will probably be succeeded in the Senate by a Populist without whiskers! A Populist leader without long whiskers? Can it be "the money power" is playing the part of Delilah with the Populist Samson?

The Cincinnati Commercial Tribune has just found out that Mr. G. W. Steevens, a traveling English correspondent, has been writing some good things to the London Mail about America and Americans, and serves a few of them up to its readers in the shape of "special correspondence" from London. An Indianapolis paper copies these faked dispatches with the air of offering something new and fresh to the public. If these papers had examined the files of the Journal for the past two months they would have found these same quotations from Mr. Steevens and many better ones, taken direct from his letters in the London Mail, which is one of this paper's most valued exchanges. The Journal has found much to approve in this brilliant series of letters, but has not thought it necessary to pass them off as "special correspondence."

W. C. W., Knightstown: A kilo, which is an abbreviation of the word "kilogram," is a standard in the French system of weights and measures, and is equivalent to two pounds and a fraction slightly exceeding two-tenths in avoirdupois measurement. The 138,000,000 kilos of wheat ordered by Portugal, therefore, is equal to something near 4,600,000 bushels.

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Herbert L. Mathews, of Kansas City, who died the other day, was regarded as one of the greatest authorities on old books in the West.

The famous singing teacher, Mme. Marchesi, regards the attitude assumed in cycling as injurious to the chest and lungs, and the rapid progression through the air as detrimental to the vocal chords. Mme. Marchesi forbids her pupils to cycle. Nevertheless, Mme. Melba, Mme. Nordica and M. Jean de Reszke are devotees of the wheel.

Samuel Smiles, the author of "Self-Help" and other well-known books for boys and young men, is now over eighty years old. He is living quietly at his suburban home near London, writing a little now and then, and looking after his literary interests. Mr. Smiles has led a stirring and successful life, being successively merchant, railroad manager and author.

The two Queens Emma and Wilhelmina recently exercised their privilege of entering the cloister of the Grande Chartreuse, where the feet of women not of royal blood never tread. The Trappists showed their hospitality by serving the visitors a vegetarian lunch, with coffee and a glass of liquor. Queen Victoria was at one time a visitor to this celebrated monastery.

Montclair, N. J., has a merchant who is a very practical and wideawake man. He was cited to appear in court to answer a charge of obstructing the sidewalk in front of his place of business. He was very, very busy—too busy, in fact, to go to court, so, it is alleged, he rang up the recorder on the telephone and pleaded guilty. "Fined $10," said the recorder. "All right," was the merchant's reply. "I'll send up the money right away. Good-bye."

Out in the Minnesota town of Sleepy Eye lives Grand Brambel, a man who has kept his eyes open long enough in the past twelve years to invent and build a rotary steam engine so simple and so powerful that an English syndicate has just paid him £320,000, or nearly $1,600,000, for the right to make and sell it. Brambel is described as a quiet, unassuming person, but it is rumored that he has invented a dynamo even more remarkable than his engine.

The charge that the tomato produces cancer is no longer credited, but now Dr. W. T. English says that it acts as a heart poison, and in aggravated cases it sets up an active fermentation in the entire alimentary tract. The heart action is rendered irregular, the sufferer gasps for breath, and a steady use of the vegetable as a food is likely to produce organic as well as functional trouble. He admits that the symptoms of poisoning are not marked except in rare cases.

The Boston Transcript says: "Miss Victorine Thomas Artz, the Chicago woman who gave $10,000 to the Boston Public Library for the purpose of forming a Longfellow memorial collection, never made her home in this city, nor even visited here. Chicago knows scarcely more of Miss Artz, although she has dwelt there all her life. She is a hermit of her own wish, seemingly has no intimate friends, and scarcely a dozen persons, including servants, have ever seen her face in the Metropolitan Hotel, where she has lived for three years."

The American Water-color Society have sent out the circulars for the thirtieth annual exhibition, which will open in the Venetian palace at the corner of Fourth avenue and Twenty-third street, New York, Feb. 1, and close Feb. 27. Water colors will be received Jan. 7-9 inclusive. No work valued at less than $75 will be accepted, and "no work will be sold for a less price than that quoted for publication in catalogue,"—which makes the water color society exhibition very exceptional. The Evans prize of $300 is to be awarded "for the most meritorious water color in the exhibition painted in this country by an American artist, without limit as to age."

"This Nation," Henry George asserts,
"Is nothing but a sham."
If he this country now deserts
No one will care at all.
—Chicago Times-Herald.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

Not Worth Mentioning.

"I understand your football eleven has lost several members."

"Oh, none to speak of; only a half dozen ears or so."

Idle Speculation.

Hungry Higgins — Hydrophoby—that's a fear of water, ain't it?

Weary Watkins—Yep.

"I wonder if it ever gits chronic?"

The Treacherous Sea of Matrimony.

"It isn't a bit of trouble to get married," said the airy young person.

"No," spake the sedate one; "it is in being married that the trouble is."

A Cold Day.

"Brrrr!" said the man from Potato creek, crowding up to the stove. "Purty cold."

"Yas," said the grocer, "it is purty frosty fer the time of year. I see it went twenty-five below in Helena, which I think it a good thing that the town has them last two syllables in its name, or it would be about as hard to believe as some of them yarns of old Ananias over there."

The man with the ginger beard looked up and said: "Who you callin' ole Ananias? Any one of ye ever ketch me in a lie?"

"No," said the grocer, "I guess you never was ketched in a lie yit. Any one that kin lie as fast ez you kin ain't liable to git ketched."

"But, speakin' of the cold weather," said the man with the ginger beard, "I guess it was about as cold in Winnipeg in the fall of '65 as I ever see it, er anybody else."

"How cold was it?" asked the man from Potato creek.

"Wal, ez fur ez degrees below zero goes, I can't tell you nothin' about that," said the man with the ginger beard, "fer they wuzn't no thermometers long enough fer to measure it, but I do know that when we wanted to git water to drink the ice was froze so hard that we had to heat it red-hot 'fore it would begin to melt."

Another Open Letter.

Dear Saraite—Your rather confusing letter has been read. At a time when men are arguing for signed editorials and criticisms in order that their authors might be held responsible for the sentiments therein expressed, you insist upon anonymity because when you shoot back you do not like to know that you are hitting anyone in particular. Considering the harmlessness of your shot we think you are over-tender. Your suggestion on this subject must be rejected. As a general rule the articles in The Ishmaelite will be signed. The "Caviar or Fruit" department will, as in the first number, be made up of unsigned paragraphs.

When we read your criticism of the "Emerson Wit" paragraph, your statement that you were never fond of sharpshooting seemed unnecessary. Men are usually fond of doing that which they do well, and in all friendliness we would say that you seem to be more familiar with the blunderbuss than with the rifle.

The writer of the paragraph to which you object did not say that he found Dickens a bore. He said that there were intelligent and educated people who were bored by him. That is a question, not of opinion, but of fact. Is the statement true? Emerson is one man who did not care for Dickens. He is not the only one. We may regret the change in the popular taste, or the supposedly cultivated. But is there any harm in speaking of it? So of Cervantes. There is no hard and fast standard of humor. It is not at all to a man's discredit that he cannot appreciate Don Quixote.

We do not see how poor Thomas Hardy or Mr. John Kendrick Bangs got mixed up in this business. One does not have to choose between Dickens and Hardy or Cervantes and Bangs. You must have heard that there are others.

What we object to in your letter is its attempt to make a love for Dickens and Cervantes the test of a man's intelligence and culture. This is one of the things criticised in the paragraph which has pained you so deeply. We are not the setters-up of new gods or the pullers-down of old ones, but if men are to become idolaters they must be allowed the right to choose their own idols. We firmly believe that there are many men who pretend to admire the great Spaniard who have never read a line of him and many others who do not care for him, and yet who are too cowardly to admit the fact. It is against this literary hypocrisy, which is the direct product of the literary terrorism you would establish, that the Ishmaelite will wage war. You would do well to remember that even masters of literary style are not always to be judged by the authors they love. Abraham Lincoln's favorite poem was "O Why Should the Spirit of Mortal Be Proud?" We might also remind you that there are scenes in some of the novels of Dickens which are not much more ennobling than the one to which you object in Mr. Hardy's latest story, and that even the great Don Quixote is not, in all its parts, radiant with purity. But time has a wonderfully softening effect on filth.

THE ISHMAELITE.

The Death of the Democratic Party.

To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:

Henry Watterson has returned. It is welcome news. He is a unique and interesting personage. He has the courage to say what he thinks, and he thinks much and often. He was interviewed, of course, on his arrival, for we all want to know what he thinks, and he is ever ready to oblige his countrymen. In this interview he says, among other things: "I think those Democrats who supported Bryan will go over to the Populists." When Mr. Watterson is here a little longer and knows more of the situation he will find that they went over on the 3d of November and are there to stay. As the Palmer and Buckner party could poll, out of the millions of voters, not over 132,000, it would seem that the Democratic party has ceased to exist. In other words, it is dead.

As the present century goes out it will only carry into the new century the memory of the defunct organization. It will be one of the traditionary contributions that the old century will leave with the new. The Democratic party in 1900 will be a thing of the past. Practically its career is now closed. Some few feeble efforts may be made to reorganize, some spasmodic struggles to try to live, and then it will sink out of sight. Populism is the ripe and legitimate fruit of the deceased party. It is but Democracy gone to seed. It is the old story over again of Actaeon being devoured by his own dogs.

The atrocities of the "robber tariff"—a fiction of the Democratic brain, pictured out and held up to the view of the ignorant Democrat—prepared his mind and gave a keener relish to his depraved and heated imagination for that more hideous monster of the Populist, the merciless "money power." The transition of the "bloated bondholder" that has done service so long in Democratic campaigns to the "plutocrat" of Populism is both natural and easy.

The resistance of the Democratic party to the government during the civil war in the suppression of the rebellion planted the seed from which came the Populist idea of preventing the government from suppressing mobs and from denying the Supreme Court the right to issue injunctions against rioters. The Democratic party was the kindergarten, Populism the intermediate and anarchy the high school, the graduating point of this sort of political teaching. The kindergarten is abolished, and the courage and good sense of the American people will see to it that no harm comes to the country from the remaining departments of this organized illiteracy. What is left can never have the strength and cohesion of the late Democratic party. Its usefulness will consist in furnishing a resort for disappointed politicians and a home for deserters from the only party that has a proper conception of the functions of government and the rights of man. WILL CUMBACK.

Greensburg, Ind., Nov. 30.

SUGAR-BEET CULTURE.

Difficulties in the Way of Making It Profitable Here.

Philadelphia Record.

The Grocery World recently printed an article advocating the manufacture of sugar from beets as a means of providing a paying crop for farmers, and at the same time keeping at home $120,000,000 that we annually send to foreign nations to pay for the sugar which they furnish us. The article suggested the establishment of a thousand factories, each capable of working up the beets from 2,000 acres of land. This is proposed as an ideal arrangement whereby each factory shall be located in the midst of small farms, of which a few acres only should be given to beet culture. The writer says: "There is no reason why small beet sugar factories should not be erected by farming neighborhoods on a co-operative basis, like the cheese and butter factories."

Any one who shall take the trouble to give a little serious thought to the difficulties, aside from the enormous cost of the plant, attending the establishment of a sugar factory will readily discover how impractical would be such a scheme. The matter of cost would in itself be an almost insurmountable obstacle. The initial expense of the plant runs into the hundreds of thousands of dollars. It would be impossible to raise so much money for such a purpose in the average "small farming community."

The location of a factory is also an important desideration. The soil may be eminently suitable, and yet it might be impossible to find a proper location for the necessary building, that it may be convenient to adequate supplies of water, limestone and coal, which are all used in large quantities, and must all be of good quality and obtainable at low prices. Water is an essential in the production of beet sugar. The amount required for a 200-ton sugarie is 2,000,000 gallons daily when it is used but once and then allowed to run to waste. This amount might be reduced by the use of settling ponds and devices for cooling; but here again must be considered the matter of cost. Such contrivances are nearly as expensive as the factory itself. They are consequently very rarely employed even in Europe, and would be quite impossible for the small farmers' co-operative factory. The greater part of the water is used in the condensation vacuum pans and multiple effects, both of which devices have heretofore been described in the Record. That which is used for diffusion is about 130 per cent. of the weight of the beets, and is the next largest item of the water consumption. The water must be pure in order to make good sugar, an entire absence of magnesium salts being essential for use in the boilers and for diffusion.

Another consideration is the provision that must be made for carrying off the waste water. It cannot be returned to the stream, as it contains a large percentage of potassium salts, together with nitrogenous organic matter; and hence is offensive to the nostrils and detrimental to animal life. This waste is unsurpassed as a fertilizer; but the odor is so vile as to render it objectionable even for that purpose. In course of time methods may be devised for deodorizing the water; but doubtless they will be more or less costly, and, therefore, hold out little hope to the small co-operative factory.

The consumption of coal is a costly factor in the sugar refinery, fifty tons being used every day in a two hundred-ton factory. On a 10 per cent. extraction of sugar this would amount to one-half a cent per pound, assuming the cost of the coal to be $4 a ton. It has been suggested that petroleum might be made to take the place of coal in some localities with the result of a saving in expense. The limestone used in clarifying the juice of the beet must also be pure. The presence of magnesia is prejudicial, as many of its salts are soluble, and, therefore, detrimental to the production of pure sugar. Transportation is another item that must be taken into account. Factories located on large waterways have a decided advantage in this regard. Those situated inland, where the cost of hauling must be added to that of transportation by rail to a market, will encounter a serious drawback.

As to the question of labor C. W. Chancellor, our consul at Havre, places the cost of producing an acre of beets, exclusive of fertilizers, at $10; but it must be remembered that in France a farm laborer is not paid more than 25 to 30 cents a day. But this is a riddle which must be left to solve itself, as it doubtless will do in time.

Still other considerations are the climate and the proper provision to be made for storing the beets after having been harvested, so that they shall neither sprout, mildew, sweat nor freeze. A great danger lies in warm weather following the harvesting of the roots, which usually takes place in September, as they have then attained maturity, and to leave them in the ground is to subject them to danger from frost. If the weather following the harvest be warm the beets are liable to sprout, when a rapid deterioration of the sugar contents takes place. Warm weather, in any event, converts the sugar into glucose. Hence the necessity of a cold place where they may be stored. Cold storage is used in some parts of California. In Europe the beets are kept in pits. Freezing utterly spoils them, rendering them unfit for sugar.

A combination of sand and clay is admirably suited to the growth of the beet, but even with a perfect soil a great deal depends upon climatic conditions. If too damp, the root gains in quantity, but loses in quality; if the climate lacks in bright sunshine the beet will be found lacking in sugar, as it attains its sweetness from the air and sunlight, and not from the soil upon which it is grown. The application of fertilizers must vary according to the natural fertility of the soil, and vegetable fertilizers are to be preferred to animal. Highly manured land produces more beets, but the percentage of sugar will be in inverse ratio to the excess of manure. The French use ashes, lime and marl.

These are a few of the conditions, briefly stated, which the advocate of co-operative sugar-making in small farming localities will have to encounter. Possibly sugar might be made with cheaper machinery, but whether in paying quantities or not is an open question. Even so, the cost of water and the disposition of that which has been used — the coal, the limestone and other materials used in the refinery—still remain to be considered. Experience in Pennsylvania in the culture of the sugar beet has never led to very satisfactory results.

PULPIT EXAGGERATION.

Parkhurst's Reckless Statements an Example in Point.

Philadelphia Press.

Dr. Charles H. Parkhurst, of New York, has done great public service in the past, which demands and deserves regard for the man as well as respect for his calling, but in his Thanksgiving day sermon he displayed the worse vice of the pulpit in loose and inaccurate condemnation of the community in which he lives and preaches. "I do not know how many unfaithful husbands or wives there are in this community," said Dr. Parkhurst, "but I should calculate that there might be well on toward a quarter of a million."

If the subject were not so serious there would be something ludicrous in the exaggeration. New York city had in 1890 271,253 married men and 289,700 married women. The number is now less than 300,000 on each side. With a recklessness which in any other calling would be ruinous, Dr. Parkhurst asserts that these 300,000 couples would furnish 250,000 unfaithful men or women. Neither Dr. Parkhurst nor anybody else believes this in his sober senses. Wickedness is to be found everywhere, in big cities or small, and its distribution between cities and the country is far more even than people imagine, but that such a percentage of the people in any city are careless of the most solemn obligation known to society or religion is an absurd slander.

In few countries of the world, as a matter of fact, is the level of marital life so high as in the United States. Any man with an international acquaintance or international experience will testify to the comparative absence in this country of many objectionable phases of life apparent elsewhere. Evil enough there is. The man who makes it his business to look for it will be appalled by its extent and frequency. Neither men nor women are what they should be, but in spite of the frequency of divorce on the average an American community is sounder at this point than any other.

The very frequency of divorce is in part due to the fact that American wives will not endure either offenses or slights which their European sisters accept without hesitation. The standard of public behavior for men is more rigorous here than elsewhere, and a conspicuous American would be ruined if he were the subject of the scandals which do nothing to injure the position of a man in England or Europe. Neither the public nor the family will accept here what passes without protest abroad.

Zealous but careless men like Dr. Parkhurst, by their loose assertions, which it is not always possible, as in this case, to prove to be reckless misstatements, breed the impression that American society in this important respect is growing worse. It may, but the evidence is the other way. There are no cities in the world in which vice is less flagrant, and in all our Eastern cities the visible aspect of the streets has shown a great change for the better. Whatever statistics exist tend in the same direction. The increasing self-support of women has removed one ancient temptation to vice. Their increasing education and independence have led women to exert a salutary influence in slowly reducing, though by no means redressing, the license permitted men and the injustice done women. Our books are noticeably clean. Our newspapers, while they have their blots and blemishes, are superior in this respect to those of the continent, though below those of England. Life here is cleaner, sweeter and more wholesome. Last, and most important of all, the freedom with which American marriages are made and the complete confidence displayed in the mutual relations of men and women in American society in all the walks of life has bred a restraint and self-control absent elsewhere.

Dr. Parkhurst is altogether wrong, and it is a misfortune that a man whose life is devoted to increasing the good in the world should so overestimate the evil in it.

THE UNITED STATES AND SPAIN.

English View of What Would Happen in Case of War.

London Daily Mail.

The telegrams published to the effect that Mr. Taylor, the United States minister at Madrid, had forwarded to his government evidence that Spain thought of forcing trouble upon the United States, in order to escape the Cuban dilemma, is a curious commentary upon the statement made in the same dispatch that the present naval preparations in America are due to the expectation of a war with Spain. There is a strong and influential party in America in favor of a war with any power over whom a cheap and moderately easy victory is likely to be obtained. Spain appears to these persons to be this power, and if they have their way, so soon as their naval preparations are complete America will doubtless take up a strong and aggressive attitude toward Spain. The Cuban insurrection and the difficulty which the Spanish forces find in coping with it, affords the United States at once a pretense for a quarrel and a material assistance in carrying it on.

The Spanish army (not counting possible deserters) is a very small one, numbering 120,000 in time of peace and under 500,000 on a war footing. A very large proportion of the reserve force has already been called to the colors and sent to Cuba, where some accounts state there are 250,000 Spanish troops, while it is stated that the number of the troops engaged in putting down the revolt in the Philippines is no less than 140,000. These figures probably include the Spanish colonial militia, supposed to number upwards of 200,000 men of all arms. The Spanish navy contains only seven or eight ironclads, and its one hundred and twenty odd ships include the craft of all sorts and shapes, many being at the present moment engaged as troop ships.

An attempt to "whip the Dons" is certain to appeal with singular force to the average American, who is accustomed to refer to Europe in the mass as effete and rotten.

There is a force in Spain, however, which America knows nothing of, but with which she will have to reckon, and that force is Carlism. Carlism includes all that is chivalrous and courageous in the Spanish nation. Among the Alphonsists corruption and venality are rife. To the Republicans these qualities are, of course, as with Republicans of any other country—America included—at once the life-blood and the "raison d'etre" of their pet form of government. The effect of a declaration of war by America would be the sudden and total collapse of the present government in the peninsula, with, as its corollary, the probable recall of Don Carlos, its legitimate sovereign, from exile. It is the knowledge that Cuban independence or a quarrel with the States means the return of Don Carlos that makes the Spanish Ministry continue the hopeless struggle in Cuba, and accounts for the feeble indecision of its conduct towards the United States government. But even this policy may be pushed too far. The present government is on the horns of a dilemma. To fight America would be to be defeated; to knuckle under would be to be unseated. For no truer truism exists than that which attributes to the Spanish character the vice (or virtue) of pride. And it is outraged pride that will turn the bulk of the Spanish nation to seek salvation in the exiled monarch, who already possesses the allegiance of more than 50,000 of the grandees of Spain. As for Spain "forcing trouble" upon the United States, the idea is absurd; first, because it is not within her power to trouble anybody; secondly, because it is the one ambition of her ministers to keep the States quiet.

THICKLY POPULATED SAXONY.

Belgium's Distinction for Density of Population Is Ended.

New York Sun.

Every schoolboy who has studied and remembers anything of geography knows that the little monarchy of Belgium has enjoyed the distinction of being the most densely populated country of the world. The year 1890 was one of a census in almost every country, and by that census it appeared that the average population of Belgium to the square mile was 530, England following with 505, France with 420, Holland with 350, Italy with 260, Germany with 233, Ireland with 148, Spain with 86, Sweden with 28 and the United States with 20.

The population of Belgium at that time was twenty-five times greater to the square mile than the population of the United States. The land area of Belgium is 11,000 square miles. It is larger than New Jersey, New Hampshire, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Vermont or Maryland, but not half the size of Maine. With the multiplication of its manufactures and mining interests and through its remarkable commercial and railroad facilities Belgium has been increasing very rapidly in population of late years, though even as early as 1820 Belgium, then a part of the kingdom of Holland, was the most thickly populated portion of Europe. At the time of the establishing of Belgian independence in 1830 the population was 3,700,000; it was 5,000,000 in 1870, and it is now in excess of 6,000,000. But Belgium's distinction has been eclipsed during the present year by Saxony, which is now the most thickly populated country of Europe.

The area of Saxony has varied according to political conditions, having been more than twice as large at the beginning of the present century as it was at the outbreak of the Prussian-Austrian war of 1866. Since then it has been increased, so that it now includes 6,777 square miles, a little more than the island of Jamaica in the West Indies. The population of Saxony has been increasing more rapidly than that of other parts of Germany, and it is now in excess of 3,000,000. Saxony has always been the most thickly populated portion of Germany, but not until this year the most thickly populated country of Europe. The development of the manufacturing interests of Saxony accounts chiefly for its great growth. At the close of the Franco-German war Dresden, long a favorite city among Americans abroad, had a population of 177,000. It has now 285,000. Leipsig had 106,000; it has now nearly 300,000. Chemnitz had 68,000; it has now 100,000. The development of the woolen industry in Saxony accounts very largely for the increased population in its manufacturing centers, the disposition of the Germans of Saxony being quite evidently to move into the large cities, whereas the residents of Hanover and Bavaria, two of the largest political divisions of Germany, have preferred to pursue the business of agriculture. Bavaria is five times larger than Saxony, but the population is less than twice as large. The cities of Bavaria, too, have not grown very rapidly of late years, and the city of Hanover, in Hanover, has increased very little during the last ten years. Density of population, sometimes considered as the test of civilization in a country, is not to be thus regarded if the Tenth ward of New York city can be accepted as a fair criterion.

Dictating to the President.

Kansas City Journal.

"Tell Mr. McKinley that he will take the lid off hell if he appoints Whitlaw Reid to a place in the Cabinet," remarked Hon. Thomas C. Platt, of New York, to Hon. Mark Hanna, of Ohio, the other day, if we may believe a report which is telegraphed from Washington.

This vigorous though lurid admonition to the President-elect indicates that the Hon. Thomas C. Platt, with exceedingly swift stride, is approaching the same attitude toward this administration which the late Roscoe Conkling occupied toward the Garfield administration, and which may, for the sake of brevity, be denominated as the rule or ruin attitude. It has not yet occurred to the American people that Mr. Platt or any other statesman has secured exclusive license to say who shall or who shall not be called to the Cabinet by President McKinley. Indeed, it is becoming a source of unqualified regret to the great non-office seeking class of the Republican party that so many of the politicians appear to be attempting to dictate to the next President of the United States. There is a faint but growing impression that the chairman of the national committee, though undoubtedly well-meaning, is becoming a trifle officious, and assumes to talk too much in a proprietor-like way about what the incoming administration proposes doing.

President McKinley will meet with the country's applause if he takes the reins into his own hands and fearlessly uses the power which has been delegated to him to call to his service advisers of his own liking. The people are expecting a high-toned, independent administration from President McKinley, and it is therefore with some alarm that they view the evident disposition of the politicians to parcel out the spoils amongst themselves.

THE INCREASE OF DIVORCE.

Severing the Marriage Tie No Longer Shocks Any One.

Marion Crawford, in the Century.

Twenty-five or thirty years ago divorces were so rare as to be regarded in the light of very uncommon exceptions to the general rule. The divorce law itself is not yet forty years old in England, nor twenty years old in France. In Italy there is no civil divorce whatever at the present day, and the Catholic Church only grants what are not properly divorces, but annullations of marriage, in very rare cases, and with the greatest reluctance.

Even in America every one can remember how divorce was spoken of and thought of until very recently. Within a few years it was deemed to be something very like a disgrace, and certainly a profoundly cynical and immoral proceeding. To-day we can most of us count in our own acquaintance half a dozen persons who have been divorced and been married again. Whatever we may think of it in our hearts, or whatever our religious convictions may be on the subject, it has become so common that when we hear of a flagrant case of cruelty or unfaithfulness, by which a man or woman suffers, the question at once rises to our lips, "Why does she not divorce her husband?" or, "Why does he not divorce his wife?" We have grown used to the idea, and if it does not displease us, it certainly does not shock us. It shocked our fathers, but we are perfectly indifferent.

Of course, there are many, perhaps a majority, who, though not Roman Catholics, would put up with almost anything rather than go to the divorce court for peace. Some actually suffer much, and ask for no redress. But there are very many who have not suffered anything at all, excepting the favorite "incompatibility of temper," and who have taken advantage of loose laws in certain States to try a second matrimonial experiment. In what calls itself society there seems still to be a prejudice against a third marriage for divorced persons, but at the present rate of advance in civilization this cannot last long, and the old significance of the word "marriage" will be quite lost before our youngest grandchildren are dead; in other words, by the end of the next century, at the furthest.

There are various forms of honorable political dreaming and of dishonorable political mischief-making nowadays, which we are accustomed to call collectively "socialism." Most of these rely for their hope of popular success upon their avowed intention of dividing property and preventing its subsequent accumulation. Marriage is an incentive of such accumulation, because it perpetuates families, and therefore keeps property together by inheritance. Therefore all forms of socialism are at present in favor of divorce, as a means of ultimately destroying marriage altogther. A proverb says that whosoever desires the end, desires also the means. There is more truth in the saying than morality in the point of view it expresses. But there are those who desire neither the means nor the end to which they lead, and a struggle is coming the like of which has not been seen since the beginning of the world, and of which we who are now alive shall not see the termination.

TIME TO ACT.

Southern States Should Have Congressional Representation Restricted.

Philadelphia Telegraph.

It will be the bounden duty of the next Congress to take note of what has happened in a number of Southern States recently, in the restriction of the right of suffrage, the open and flagrant violation of the letter and spirit of the national Constitution. The time has come when this grave matter should receive effective attention. In a number of commonwealths the republican government guaranteed by the organic law, founded upon the free will of the people and the untrammeled exercise thereof, is entirely unknown. Instead, there is a selfish, tyrannical and utterly illegal autocracy, representing the power of the despotic few over the helpless many.

It is not needful for the national lawmaking body to take such action as will impose negro domination, so-called, upon any Southern State, in relation to its domestic affairs, but it is the essence of injustice to longer permit representation in the House of Representatives and in the Electoral College in disregard of the plain mandate of the law. Even the most superficial investigation will reveal the fact that the number of representatives and electors from several States should be materially reduced. Further, it has been abundantly shown that elsewhere all sorts of devices are resorted to in order to maintain unjust political ascendancy. In the recent contest the Republican party, after a desperate conflict, wrested Kentucky, by a few votes, from the grip of Bourbonism, and returned West Virginia to the Republican column only through a hard struggle. It lost everything south of the Potomac and the Ohio; yet with a fair election it would have undoubtedly have carried Virginia, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, South Carolina, and probably Florida.

It is to be hoped President McKinley will promptly and courageously face this issue, and that Congress will take it up, calmly, yet with firmness and a determination to enforce the principles of American justice. It is not a sectional question, but one which affects the rights of men. Those Southern States which are determined to disfranchise a large part of their population should be compelled to suffer the legitimate consequences of their own action. If they prefer Tillmanism to true Americanism, let them be required to submit to the same laws of representation in national affairs which govern other commonwealths, and to which they give ready obedience. The McKinley administration may do much to promote national reconciliation and prosperity, but it should not forget all the while what is due to American citizenship. It should vindicate the rights of men and uphold the honor of the Nation and the dignity of its government.

The Sunday School Book Prig.

Agnes Repplier.

We first introduced into the literature of the Sunday school the offensively pious little Christian who makes her father and mother, her uncles and aunts, even her venerable grandparents, the subjects of her spiritual ministrations. We first taught her to conduct, Bible in hand, the harmless adults who had given her birth, and to annihilate their feeble arguments with denunciatory texts. We first surrounded her with the persecutions of the worldly minded, that her virtues might shine more glaringly in the gloom, and disquisitions on duty be never out of place. Daisy, in "Melbourne House," is an example of a perniciously good child who has the conversion of her family on her hands, and is well aware of the dignity of her position. Her trials and triumphs, her tears and prayers, her sufferings and rewards, fill two portly volumes, and have doubtless inspired [illegible] a young reader to set imme- [illegible] the correction of her parents' faults.

Coventry Patmore.

Philadelphia Telegraph.

Coventry Patmore passed away, well past his three-score-and-ten, only a name to the greater part of the world of culture. And yet a generation ago his name was on almost every lip. A large part of the Christian world looked towards him as their representative singer, and thousands found consolation in his perfect faith and refreshment in his placid idyls of married life. Yet when, fifteen years after the publication of the last section of "The Angel in the House," he published a far greater volume, "The Unknown Eros," the world heeded not, though students of literature accorded their meed of praise. His verse was not in accord with the spirit of the age, nor was it in strong enough contrast to that spirit to attract as did the verse of Morris and Rossetti and Mr. Swinburne. Coventry Patmore was, however, a true poet—in patches—and some lines and similes of his will live as long as his mother tongue.

Her French.

Household Words.

"Let me see some of your black kid gloves," said a lady to a clerk. "These are not the latest style, are they?" she asked, when the gloves were produced. "Yes, madam," replied the clerk, "we have had them in stock only two days." "I didn't think they were, because the fashion paper says black kids have tan stitches, and vice versa. I see the tan stitches, but not the vice versa." The clerk explained that vice versa was French for seven buttons, so she bought three pairs.