we paid $142,706 for mail service to five coastwise steamship lines, employing small steamers, whose total mileage was 247,960 miles, a compensation of nearly sixty cents per mile; while in the same year we paid only $31,405 for mail service to five American lines in the foreign trade, employing large steamers of the class needed by the Government in time of war, with a mileage of 1,181,309 miles, a compensation of less than three cents per mile.

"In the last fiscal year we paid coastwise steamers for mail service on a route of 300 miles, between Cedar Keys and Key West, Fla., the sum of $31,000, or over $100 per mile, and at the same time we paid the American Steamship Company for carrying the mails between this country and England, on a route of 3,000 miles, only $3,000, or $1 per mile."

REPORTS FROM CONSUL SHAW.

SOME FACTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF FREE TRADERS IN AMERICA.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The February number of the consular reports contains some facts which it might be well for Chairman Morrison and his free trade colleagues at least to examine. A report by Consul Shaw at Manchester indicates a probability that the movement in favor of "fair trade" may soon gather force enough to change the free trade policy of England. Many things favored the establishment and continuance of that policy, he says, but within the last ten years a change has come over the situation. While "vast volumes of manufactures have been turned out, the profits have been most unsatisfactory, despite the fact that "every expedient has been tried by manufacturers to cheapen the cost of production." Mr. Shaw also writes: "There is, of course, a deep anxiety manifested in this country for the early adoption of a lower tariff in the United States and the solicitude shown in this respect proves how general is the belief here that English manufactures would be able to close many of our mills, if this course was adopted on our part."

Consul Shaw quotes as follows from a trade circular published in Oldham, in which are discussed questions relating to advances and reductions of wages in the cotton manufacturing industry:

The manifesto just issued by the weavers' representatives in East Lancashire against a reduction of wages is to the point, and shows that a 5 per cent reduction would not relieve the manufacturers in their difficulties, and that they ought to turn their attention to the question of inducing the Government to open up new markets in Africa and elsewhere, so as to open out its interior to the millions of people we have not yet been able to trade with. Also bring such power to bear as is necessary in causing the Governors of our colonies to dispense with the unjust tariffs charged upon the importation of cotton yarns and goods.

And yet, according to Mr. Hurd, wages have advanced 60 per cent in England under free trade, and Thomas G. Shearman declares that cotton operatives are paid more in Great Britain than in the United States. If so, why should the English weavers complain of colonial tariffs or pine for new markets in the unexplored wilderness of Africa? Consul Shaw thinks that for Congress to change the tariff, in view of the present state of affairs in Great Britain, "would be about as wise as would be the act of a man who ordered his head chopped off to cure the toothache."

In another report, dated December 6, 1883, Consul Shaw submits interesting tables of wages in various branches of industry in Manchester. These tables were prepared by men thoroughly informed as to the wages paid in each occupation and "are the result of most painstaking inquiries." From one of the tables it appears that the average weekly wages of hod-carriers are $10 08. Just now the hod-carriers of Washington are "on a strike." They have been receiving $1 50 per day or $9 per week, and they demand $2 per day or $12 per week, about 100 per cent more than is paid in Manchester.

COST OF THE JEANNETTE SEARCHES.

OVER $250,000 EXPENDED IN SEARCHES FOR THE LOST SHIP AND IN BRINGING HOME THE DEAD EXPLORERS.

[BY TELEGRAPH TO THE TRIBUNE.]

WASHINGTON, March 16.—The Jeannette expedition in one way or another has cost the Government over a quarter of a million dollars. A number of bills chargeable under this head still remain unpaid, because they have not yet been presented. The estimate, therefore, is only approximately correct. It seems probable, however, that before all the accounts are closed the sum total of the Government's expenses will be found to exceed rather than fall short of the amount mentioned. The heaviest outlay was incurred by the purchase and outfit and subsequent loss of the Rodgers, for which an appropriation of $175,000 was made. This sum has not been entirely exhausted, $19,444 48 still remaining unexpended; but outstanding bills to be met out of this sum will probably consume it. An appropriation of $20,000 was necessary to compensate the officers and crew of the North Star, who rescued the Rodgers party. The sum of $3,000, or at least its equivalent in suitable presents, was given to the friendly natives of St. Lawrence Bay who took care for a long time of the shipwrecked crew.

Another appropriation of $25,000 was necessary to pay the expenses of the search for Lieutenant Chipp and in bringing home the bodies of Lieutenant-Commander DeLong and his companions. The appropriation, it is thought, will scarcely be sufficient to meet the drafts made at different times upon the Russian Government and its representatives by Lieutenant Harber. The travelling expenses of the Melville-Danenhower party on its way homeward through Siberia and the cost of the court of inquiry which investigated the loss of the Jeannette were $12,504 64. An account of the expenses of Lieutenant Berry in travelling over the northeastern part of Siberia in search of the Jeannette has not been received yet, but it will probably be not less than $1,500. To the mother of Master Putnam, who was lost drifting away from the scene of the Rodgers wreck on a field of ice, was given $1,200. The officers of the Rodgers received two months' pay and the men $75 each to compensate them for the loss of their personal effects. This required $5,050.

In addition to this a bill has been introduced which awards $6,200 to the survivors of the Jeannette and one year's pay to the widows or the legal representatives of those who perished on the expedition. This will require, if passed, an appropriation of $20,480. It was introduced in the Senate by Mr. Edmunds and will probably pass at this session. In addition to this the Corwin, of the Revenue Marine Service, in cruising about Behring Straits in search of the missing whalers, the Mount Wollaston and Vigilant, and the Jeannette, and in bringing the crew of the Rodgers to San Francisco was put to an extra outlay of $8,000. To recapitulate:

Outfit and loss of the Rodgers	$175,000 00
Compensation to the North Star	20,000 00
St. Lawrence Bay natives	3,000 00
Bringing home bodies of DeLong and companions	25,000 00
Melville-Danenhower party and Court of Inquiry	12,504 64
Lieutenant Berry's expenses	1,500 00
Thomas Putnam	1,200 00
Officers and crew of Rodgers	5,050 00
Jeannette survivors and heirs of those lost	20,480 00
Expense of the Corwin	8,000 00
Repairs to the the Alliance	1,120 52
Repairs to the Alliance after her return	1,435 64
	$274,290 80

The Alliance was in commission at the time she was ordered to cruise about Spitzbergen and the coast of Norway in search of the Jeannette. She was simply detailed from the North Atlantic squadron for that purpose. She was assigned to her usual station upon her return and remained in commission for some time after that. Previous to starting on her northern cruise some repairs were made at the Norfolk Navy Yard. After her return she was again repaired.

WILLING TO HELP A PUBLIC-SCHOOL MAN.

Edward H. Moeran is now a New-York lawyer. Fifteen years ago, however, he was an English public school-boy and a member of the Rugby eleven of 1869. The other day William Moeran was passing a second-hand bookseller's in Fourth-ave. when his attention was attracted by a few volumes, bound in the familiar calf and bearing the familiar stamp which his eye recognized as belonging to some one of the English public schools. His curiosity being excited he went in and questioned the bookseller. From him he learned that the books had been sold a few months ago by a young Englishman who seemed in hard luck, and said that he thought of going out West. Mr. Moeran bought the books and issued the following advertisement:

"The young gentleman who, at an English public school in 1877 gained several prizes which he has recently been compelled to sell to a book dealer in Fourth-ave., is informed that they have been bought by the undersigned, who will be most happy to restore them to him on receipt of his name and address.

"E. H. MOERAN, 55 Irving-place."

"I feel sorry for a young fellow who cannot be more than twenty-four," said Mr. Moeran yesterday, "and if I can only find him I may be able to assist him. He must be clever, for the prizes were taken in four or five different branches."

MR. SPEAKER.

HIS RESIGNATION AND HIS OFFICIAL CAREER.

[FROM THE REGULAR CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

LONDON, Feb. 26.

The ceremonies accompanying the retirement of Sir Henry Brand from the Speakership of the House of Commons are much more than ceremonies. The formal resolutions, the formal speeches of the Prime Minister and of the Leader of the Opposition, the formal votes of the House, are penetrated with a sentiment of affectionate sincerity only too rare on such occasions. Sir Henry Brand has been Speaker for twelve years. During all that time he has had the confidence, the respect, and, for the most part, the loyal support of the body over which he has presided.

Members change, but the House of Commons is always the House of Commons. In estimating the closeness of the relations between the House and its chief officer, it is always to be remembered that he is Speaker of the whole House—not of a section. Sir Henry Brand was not the choice of a party, or of a majority, but of the entire and unanimous body of members. The Speakership is not yet, whatever it may become, a party office, nor are its duties discharged in a partisan spirit as, I suppose it may be said without offence, they are in America. In the American sense, or in a sense corresponding to the American practice, there are no Committees of the House of Commons, and the Committees are appointed in a totally different way. The Speaker here, in one word, does not organize the machinery of legislation in the interests of a party. Designated he may be, as Mr. Arthur Peel has now been, by the majority; by the Government, that is, for the time being. But when Mr. Arthur Peel takes the chair he ceases to be a Liberal or Whig. He forgets who named him to the House. He will, it is hardly too much to say, never do an act in the special or selfish interest of his old political associates. He is there to guide the deliberations of the House, and to carry its wishes into effect.

This may help to explain the solemnity of the leave-taking between the House and Mr. Speaker, as he has for centuries been called. Two other causes go to the formation of this peculiar and touching sentiment. The Speaker is, after all, not so much the chief officer of the House as its chief servant. His authority is derived from the House and exercised in its name. He derives nothing from statute, and little, comparatively, from the existing rules and orders of the House itself. His power has slowly broadened down from precedent to precedent. The law by which he acts is largely unwritten; it survives in practice and tradition. He has absolutely none of the arbitrary control possessed by a Continental President. If he tried to do anything against the sense of the House itself, he would simply fail. It is the chief merit of Sir Henry Brand and this is the other cause of the favor he has won—that he has recognized to the full the subordinate and ministerial character of his position. His loyalty has been absolutely beyond reproach.

At the same time, he has had most difficult services to perform. It is during his tenure that the character of the House has undergone, by no fault of his, a considerable transformation. The constituencies have been gradually sending up a class of men unlike those formerly returned, and though the old type may still prevail, the infiltration of the new element is yearly more extensive, its influence more insidous. Obstruction has reared its horrid form; has been born and reached a stature as menacing as it is ugly. Mr. Gladstone, who loves to envelop his meaning in a cloud of generalities, declared that the functions, always arduous, always grave, which are intrusted to the hands of Mr. Speaker, had risen during Sir Henry Brand's occupation of the chair to a point both of gravity and difficulty entirely beyond what his predecessors have had to encounter. The Irish, he meant, you have had always with you; and now you have had Randolph Churchill. These functions, moreover, have become much graver. The new rules have put new power into the Speaker's hands, and laid a heavier responsibility upon him. And Mr. Gladstone well added that but for Sir Henry Brand's skill and tact, but for his courage and firmness, but for the admirable understanding which he has applied to the solution of the multitude of questions presented to him, matters would have been much worse than they are.

All that applies most justly and fully to the general conduct of business by Sir Henry Brand, but it applies most directly and completely to his dealings with Irish obstruction. Nobody who saw the Speaker and the House in any of the crises they have lately passed through, will soon forget the spectacle. Mr. Parnell has revived our memories of it, were they ever so rusty. The Irish leader, with entire politeness and full acknowledgement of the Speaker's personal courtesy, felt bound to dissent from the proposed resolution of thanks to Sir Henry Brand, because, in Mr. Parnell's view, the Speaker exceeded his authority in suppressing obstruction. He and his followers consider that certain official actions of the Speaker aided in producing grievous misfortune and wrong to Ireland and inflicting much injustice and hardship upon many individuals in Ireland. In plain terms, Mr. Parnell believes that the Coercion Act and the new rules could not have been passed had not the Speaker intervened to stop the organized resistance of a small minority to the will of the House and the constituencies.

To a certain extent Mr. Parnell is right. He had a scheme, very carefully and elaborately worked out, for blocking all legislation in the interests of order, whether in Ireland or in the House of Commons. It proceeded on the theory that the House would allow a knot of obstructives to use the power of the House permanently and in a particular way for preventing all business they did not like. He believed he could protract debate and repeat dilatory motions till the patience of the majority gave way and the Ministry abandoned a measure which had the support of their own followers and of the Opposition as well. He was rudely undeceived on that memorable morning when, after three day's continuous sitting, Sir Henry Brand rose to declare his opinion that it was the sense of the House that the debate had lasted long enough, and that the question be now put. Mr. Parnell's plans crumbled at that one firm word, and he naturally lays upon the Speaker's shoulders the blame of all that followed. Yet in that, as in his other acts, the Speaker was again only the servant of the House. His course was not resolved on till after full consultation with men capable of expressing the sense of the House. If it had not been done in that way, it would have been done in some other. I know of nothing which more signally indicates the futility of Mr. Parnell's politics than his incapacity to measure the forces he arrays against him. He was right enough in thinking he could do a good deal of mischief by obstruction, and make himself exceedingly disagreeable and offend the House of Commons by scenes of vulgarity and disorder. But when it comes to a question of paralyzing permanently the legislation of Great Britain by one man's obstinacy, the limit of serious politics has been reached.

None the less does Sir Henry Brand deserve the honor all right-thinking men then awarded him. Certainly, he assumed a grave responsibility. There was no precedent, except in a sense I will explain in a moment. There was no rule or order of the House. There was no vote conferring on him a special authority to silence rebellious Irishmen. No motion had been made,—any motion could have been obstructed and would have been useless. Precedent existed only in the sense that made it the general duty of the Speaker to do the will of the House. The responsibility, the peril, consisted in rightly ascertaining and firmly executing the will of the House. If Sir Henry Brand had made a mistake, he would have had to retire from the chair with discredit. He made no mistake, and he reaps to-day something like a full measure of the honorable recognition and gratitude that he earned by an act of wise and patriotic courage.

The final suppression of Irish obstruction on the occasion which Mr. Parnell had in mind I did not witness. It took place at 9 in the morning, and naturally the intention of the Speaker to take the step was not confided to the public, nor was it known in the House when he would interpose or precisely what he would do. Purposes of that sort are not disclosed in advance. But I had been in the House the evening before, and many evenings before that, when obstruction was going on, and had seen how the Speaker bore himself, and how he confronted the difficulties which beset him. Hitherto, I confess, I had thought him wanting, if wanting at all, in peremptoriness. His patience almost passed the limits of human endurance. The Parnellites taxed their ingenuity in devising fresh forms of insult within and beyond Parliamentary license. They were violent, angry, abusive, insubordinate, often defiant of the authority of the Speaker, always contemptuous of the general wish of the House. Neither their language nor their appearance can be described without using words of strong import, or without very elaborate periphrases. The Speaker found himself in the presence of a conspiracy, and of conspirators. What he had to meet was nothing less than a deliberate plot, not only to stop business and to reduce the House to legislative impotence, but to degrade it, to make it an object of public derision.

Sir Henry Brand treated the men engaged in this odious scheme with a considerate courtesy that never faltered. Mr. Parnell himself is a witness to it. I have seen the Speaker rise a hundred times to repress disorder in the Irish camp. I never once saw him show the least sign of impatience or temper. His suavity of manner, the smooth inflection of his voice, the sweet deliberateness of speech, were just as marked in the midst of an Irish tempest as when the barometer stood at fair all over the House. Nobody could be more perfect as a model of the demeanor which a presiding officer should cultivate. In him it seemed to require no cultivation. It was natural, easy, spontaneous and altogether charming. His knowledge of the rules and his perception of the temper of the House at a given moment were alike sure, nor did all his softness of deportment detract from the dignity proper to his office and to the general splendor and stateliness which attend the position of Speaker.

Mr. Parnell withdrew from the House after making his brief and decorous protest. Most of the Irish members followed. When the vote on the resolution of thanks was taken, Mr. Biggar and Mr. Harrington cried out No, but, under the stringent orders of their chief, made no attempt to force a division. When the Speaker rose to acknowledge the resolution, which he did with grace and deep feeling and simple words, the House uncovered. Mr. O'Brien alone, the member for Mallow and Editor of *United Ireland*, sat sourly with his hat on. These exceptions served to mark the unanimity of the House. It is understood that Sir Henry Brand will be called to the Upper House and will receive a pension of $20,000 a year. The dignity of the Peerage would in any case accrue to him on the death of his brother, Lord Dacre. The pension he has well earned by faithful and useful service, prolonged after it was known to be dangerous to his health.

G. W. S.

THE TRIAL OF THE GREENINGS.

ALL THE EVIDENCE CIRCUMSTANTIAL.

THE MURDER OF ANNIE C. CHEEVER RECALLED—WHO THE GREENINGS ARE.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

MILFORD, Penn., March 16.—The trial of the noted Greening family, which will begin here on Monday, will be watched with close interest. Not since the days of the James brothers have more desperate men been arraigned in court than these Greenings. There are few crimes on the calendar of which they have not been accused, and within the last decade they have repeatedly appeared in court as defendants in various actions, chiefly for disturbing the peace and molesting their neighbors. The crime with which they are now charged is the murder of Annie C. Cheever, on October 27, 1883. The evidence will be purely circumstantial, but so strong a chain has been wrought that the probabilities of conviction seem great. The lawyers having the prosecution in charge have labored night and day for two months, collecting the evidence, which they claim is overpowering. The name of Greening has, for years, been synonymous with trickery, cunning and subtlety in Pike County, and in almost every case where they have been indicted they have succeeded in escaping the meshes of the law.

On October 27 last Richard Hoffman was passing the house of Annie Cheever, in Dingman Township, when he discovered something lying on the woodpile in the front yard. The object was the corpse of Cheever, who had been shot dead while stooping to pick up some wood by some person concealed behind the woodpile. For a few days an investigation was conducted quietly by the Coroner and evidence against the Greenings was collected. Then the prosecutions were suddenly made public and the accused men were arrested. It was shown, before the coroner's jury, that Greening was Cheever's nearest neighbor; that they had not been on speaking terms for months; that Cheever had forbidden the Greenings ever to set foot on his premises; that on the morning of the murder one of the Greenings had gone out with his gun, saying he was going to shoot Cheever's dog, that had annoyed at the children; that the gun in question had one barrel for bullets and one for buckshot; that in Cheever's back there were found one bullet hole and seven buckshot; that Greening had frequently threatened to put the Cheever family out of the way, and that the Greenings were generally regarded as desperate men. The coroner's jury returned a verdict in accordance with the testimony and bad warrants issued for the arrest of the suspected men.

The case was marked for trial in December, but the Commonwealth gained an extension of time until the present term of Court. State Senator John D. Bilbis, ex-Congressman Daniel M. VanAuken and Henry J. Baker, of Philadelphia, will assist District-Attorney Newman with the prosecution. C. W. Ball, of Milford, and George Wilber, a lawyer of Wayne County, will conduct the defence. They will introduce testimony to show that the coroner's inquest was a farce and that both the coroner and jury were intoxicated during the entire investigation. This will add interest to the case and may lead to trouble.

The Greening family consists of old "Jerry" Greening, veteran trapper and hunter, and his three sons, "Cass," "Jerry" and "Lot," as they are familiarly called. They are rough, ferocious-looking people, and are universally feared. Madame Ponisi, of Wallack's Theatre, who owns a country seat near the Greening farm, is the only landholder in the township who has succeeded in keeping on good terms with this family. During the Rebellion old Jerry was drafted into the service and refused to go. He was "not goin' to fight in no war," he said, and if the Nation wanted him they would have to come and take him. A squad of soldiers was sent to bring him to town, but the old man barricaded his log hut and defied the soldiers. They surrounded the place and finally starved him out. He was taken to Philadelphia, and, but for the interference of certain Quakers there, would have been severely dealt with. Having acted as guides to metropolitan sportsmen for the past ten or twelve years, the Greenings are well known in New-York and Philadelphia, where the progress of the trial will be followed with close interests by the sporting fraternity.

THE BUCKINGHAM STATUE FINISHED.

PREPARATIONS FOR THE UNVEILING—ENTHUSIASM OVER CONNECTICUT'S WAR GOVERNOR.

NORWICH, Conn., March 15.—The statue of the late William A. Buckingham of this city, war Governor of Connecticut, and United States Senator, ordered by the Legislature two years ago, has been completed. Olin L. Warner was given the contract, and his work now stands in the foundry of Bureau Brothers, Philadelphia, and will probably be shipped to the State Capital next week. The statue is of bronze, of heroic size. It represents Governor Buckingham sitting. In his right hand he holds a roll of manuscript. He appears to be listening to some important discussion and to be on the point of rising to speak. His countenance expresses concentrated thought and attention. His dress is that of a civilian. The statue is pronounced a strong delineation.

This memorial bronze will be erected in the State House at Hartford upon its arrival; but the unveiling will not occur until more propitious weather, probably three months hence. The commissioners having been authorized to expend $16,200, and the contract having been taken by the artist to place the statue in the Capitol for $10,000, the residue may be expended on the approaching ceremony, elaborate preparations for which are being made. The date will probably be between June 10 and 14. Augustus Brandegee, of New-London, or U. S. Senator Orville H. Platt, of Meriden, will probably be the orator. It is expected that 7,000 or 8,000 men, composed chiefly of veterans and active soldiers and sailors, will take part in the observances. It is intended to make a demonstration like the famous Battle Flag Day celebration, a few years ago, when 7,500 old Union soldiers marched after their begrimed and tattered emblems to the Capitol, and deposited those precious relics in the magnificent case which now encloses them.

Talk of the coming celebration has excited great enthusiasm among the veterans, who thrill at the recollection of Governor Buckingham. Though occupying the highest honor in the gift of the State, he did not hesitate to pack with his own hands boxes for hospital use or to fill cartridges in an emergency. The approaching event brings freshly to the popular mind the sterling qualities which endeared this man to Connecticut hearts.

TRANSATLANTIC TRAVELLERS.

Among the passengers who arrived on the White Star steamer Republic from Liverpool yesterday were William Astor, D. F. Ackermann, S. P. Ackermann, Hugh Bellas, A. M. Carlisle, H. E. Corbett, Henry V. Clements, G. A. Capen, G. F. Dean, T. Greaves, E. Gipps, Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Low, James S. Leeds, Mrs S. Millward, Axel Morgan, R. G. Norris, J. W. Orde, G. W. Peck, T. G. Pansley, H. Power, E. W. Plunkett, G. O. Radtke, A. D. Remington, J. H. Lowell, C. J. Hurdon, H. Ludwig, J. N. Blackerstone, Baron de Sarter, Mr. and Mrs. R. S. Streatfield, Captain and Mrs. W. H. Thompson, Miss Thompson, Miss M. Tracy, A. C. Wylie, D. T. Warren, H. R. Warren, Howard Wyndham and W. W. Yard.

THE WALTERS COLLECTIONS.

IV.

THE JAPANESE DEPARTMENT.

NOTES OF SWORDS AND SWORD-GUARDS—RARE GOLD LACQUERS—CURIOUS IVORY CARVINGS AND ANTIQUE BRONZES.

[FROM AN OCCASIONAL CORRESPONDENT OF THE TRIBUNE.]

BALTIMORE, March 14.—Some Japanese commissioners came to this city not long since to visit Mr. Walters's collections. They walked through the galleries chattering and laughing, in the best of spirits, until there were opened before them drawers filled with rows of Japanese swords. At once they were hushed into a gloomy silence, broken at last by a faltering voice which said, "There lie the souls of the Samurai"—the knights of Japan. For the sword in Japan has been held in higher honor than in any other land. "It is at once a divine symbol, a knightly weapon, and a certificate of noble birth." Honored with this regard from the birth to the downfall of Japanese feudalism, it is not strange that the sword and its belongings became, as Brinkley has it, "the jewelry of Japan," upon which were lavished all the skill of famous workers in steel and all the resources of artists in the precious metals and in lacquer.

The names of famous sword-makers engraved upon their work have been handed down like the names of the great ceramic artists of China. One man wrought a blade so keen that when held upright in a stream it would cut a sheet of paper floated against it by the current. Another made two swords which were tried upon criminals. One cut through the neck and deep into the knee of the victim at a single stroke, and the other cut off the head and beard at a blow. The blades of these swords have a backing of iron with an edge of steel three-quarters of an inch wide and keen as a razor. Most of the 150 swords in this collection are arranged in pairs, for the Samurai wore two swords each, one long and two-handled for an enemy, the other a short blade intended for the last resort of the wearer—suicide by hara-kari.

The sword-guard, of which there are 300 separate specimens in this collection, was in the earliest days a piece of elaborate metal work, and in later years was invariably decorated profusely with gold, silver or alloys wrought into figures or even landscapes. The iron hilt is usually covered with shark-skin and wrapped with twisted silk, and ferule, washers, cleets and rivets are inlaid or chased with precious metals, often with figures of pure gold.

The lacquer scabbards are ornamented with like luxury. At the end of a scabbard of yellow lacquer in this collection appears a gold lobster. The meaning is: "May you live until your back is as crooked as a lobster's," for the sword was intended as a birthday gift. Another scabbard is of lacquer which imitates the grain and knots of wood. Here are two swords presented to a temple in Kioto by members of the Tokugama family in 1872, when the military caste of the Samurai and Daimios was practically abolished and the general wearing of swords forbidden. One has a blade of 14-carat gold, the other one of nearly pure silver. Attached to the scabbards are the ko-katanas, "little swords," small narrow knives bearing the name of the owner. Their use was peculiar. The Japanese warrior nursed his vengeance until the hour of his enemy's greatest triumph or happiness arrived. This was the time chosen for revenge, and when the murder was accomplished the avenger left his ko-katana thrust through the ear of his victim, that all might know the author of the deed. There have been no fiercer and more persistent vendettas in Sicily, than in by-gone years in Japan.

LACQUER-WORK.

From the exquisite metal work and lavish luxury of swords and guards it is an easy transition to the even more profuse magnificence and consummate treatment of the lacquer work—the branch of art most thoroughly identified with Japan. It is mentioned in a Japanese work dated 180 years before the Christian era. Of the hundreds of different methods of treating this curious sap, of the coloring matter mixed with it, the metallic powders applied, the process of carving, and of engraving through successive layers of colored lacquer, it is needless to speak here. The more important of the 500 lacquers in this collection are arranged in glass cases in the picture gallery. There are square writing-boxes, their surfaces powdered with sparkling dots of gold, in a dozen different shades, "the cosmic dust of embryonic planets," while the cone of Fuji-yama, landscapes with rivers and trees, and figures, appear worked out in plain gold upon this glowing background. There are boxes, and cabinets studded with chrysanthemums in varying hues of gold, and one box shows a Japanese woman seated at a loom, each fine line worked out in gold as delicate as a hair. Both within and without, these boxes with their curious arrangement in pockets, are things of beauty. To describe them or to analyze the lacquer cabinets is well-nigh impossible, for the delicacy of the workmanship, the rich harmony of the colors and the splendor of the materials are not readily to be put into words.

Some of the designs are inlaid with mother-of-pearl. In the porcelain gallery is the oldest specimen in the collection, a cabinet by Ritsio, the most renowned artist in lacquer, which shows narrow bands of mother-of-pearl along the front. This is perhaps the rarest piece, although by no means the most beautiful. There are vases of gold and red carved lacquer, and drawers filled with lacquer, little boxes with separate compartments used for carrying perfumes or confections. The magnificence of the results attained by the old artists in lacquer is illustrated here in a fitting manner. And yet it is almost startling to find thousands of dollars represented by a box little larger than an octavo volume. But, in the words of the collector, "the same causes which produced the magnificent architecture and painting in Europe during the times of feudalism conspired to produce these magnificent specimens of lacquer in Japan."

IVORY CARVINGS.

Nothing shows the wonderful art of the Japanese in expressing humorous ideas, and in truthfully representing phases of life or action especially grotesque better than the netsukes—little ivory carvings attached to the silken cords by which the inros, or the tobacco pouches, depended from the girdle. There are 500 ivory carvings in the Oriental departments of this collection, and in the picture gallery is drawer after drawer filled with netsukes which are shown on tiny beds of Chinese crape. You find in one the essence of a tale as quaintly humorous as any of "Uncle Remus's" stories; in another a touch of grotesque caricature or satire such as was shown in the details of Gothic architecture; and in a third a fragment of Japanese mythology, a piece of folk-lore, or a historical allusion.

Here is a monkey, which has crawled upon a huge nut or fruit only to be sorely frightened at the sight of the curling stem which bears a strong resemblance to a snake. Again, two monkeys, each ignorant of the other's movements, climb up opposite sides of a fruit, meeting to their great amazement on the top. Here is a Japanese Arion, perhaps the god Yebis, perched upon the back of a dolphin, and near by incised in a disk of ivory is a child riding upon a bull and playing upon the flute. Demons in disguise maliciously gleeful at gaining access to temple gongs, dragons without end, monkeys mischievously tormenting turtles, stealing fruit, or struggling in the embrace of cuttlefish, are familiar subjects. Here are studies of quail, tigers, serpents and elephants marvellous for their fidelity to nature and exact truth of expression.

The partly opened halves of a mussel-shell inclose a house with broad verandas, on which appear the figures of the family engaged in their customary vocations. The opening between the shells is hardly half an inch in height, but the little domestic *genre* within is perfectly rendered in the smallest details. A skeleton dancing and fanning itself, a hideous toad squatting beside a bleached skull, cuttlefish and lobsters feasting upon a pile of fish, boys struggling to escape from the sword or rod, figures with arms and legs pulled out like molasses candy, these are the subjects of a few of the netsukes, ranging from a dead worm devoured by ants to the most impish pranks of demons or the wildest flights of dragons hurtling through the clouds in pursuit of the pearl—the human soul.

Of modern carvings no more favorable example could be found than a section of a huge tusk exhibited intact in the Egyptian department of the Centennial exhibition, and purchased by the Japanese who were commissioned to intrust the carving to the most skillful artist in Japan, who labored for three years in carving upon this tusk the departure of the immortal Yoshitsune from his native land after his brother Yoritomo, whom his valor had made the "Barbarian-subjugating Great General" of first military vassal of the Empire, had been led by jealousy to seek his death. The generous warrior, the Bayard of Japan, is shown pausing on the sea shore ready to embark, with a storm rendered in the conventional manner breaking above his head. The background and foliage is cut deep into the tusk. The delicacy of the carving is proof that under favorable conditions fine ivory carving is not yet a lost art in Japan, despite the mechanical character and crudeness of most of the modern work.

BRONZES.

The same artistic feeling within the limitations imposed by Japanese life reappears in the bronzes, of which Mr. Walters possesses some 200, the larger and more important examples grouped in the bridge between the two galleries. These bronzes with their varied ornamentation are sufficiently representative to prove the claim that in bronze casting and moulding, in engraving, inlaying, damascening and *repousse* work, the Japanese have had little or nothing to learn from Europeans. Here are incense burners, groups of turtles, storks, tigers crawling through jungle with stealthy serpentine motion, vases and basins illustrating the different methods and perfection of the art. There is not only inlaid and relief ornamentation, the latter produced by cutting the surrounding metal away, and sometimes showing designs cut by the burin, or damascened with gold and silver. Some of the bronzes show diaper and other patterns filled in with silver wire, and others are decorated with patterns filled in with bright colored vitrifiable materials like cloisonné enamel.

Here are examples of the famous alloys—the green Sudo, copper and lead; the Sentoku-do, copper, lead and spelter, said to have been accidentally produced in a fire in China about 1425; the black alloy, Udo, copper, lead and tin; a purple alloy, copper and lead; the Gin-shibuichi, six parts copper and four silver, and the Shakudo, copper with from two to five per cent gold, which shows a rich purple color that has been imitated.

These alloys are seen here in many specimens of *repousse* metallic ornaments for swords, tobacco pouches and pipes. And a still more remarkable example of metal-work is found in the "Moku-me,"—"veins in the wood,"—work showing a homogeneous union of different colored metals, silver, copper and blue alloy, produced by overlaying and hammering plates of the various metals together until after an long and complicated process a thin sheet is produced showing veins of the metals employed. This process has been imitated by Mr. Moore, of Tiffany's.

In the centre of the porcelain gallery is a huge incense burner over eight feet high with its stand, which was dedicated in 1770 in a temple at Tokio, where it remained until the overthrow of the Tokugawa Shogun, the general who was the first subject of the Mikado, in 1868. The figure crowning this splendid bronze is, I believe of modern make. It is needless to say to those versed in Japanese bronze that the works of Gorosa, whose descendants in the ninth generation are still metal workers, are represented here. There are bronzes wrought by Saymin who founded a school early in the eighteenth century, and whose designs and castings are considered by many unequalled, and there are nearly fifty examples of his school. Many of these were cast so perfectly as to require no finishing with a chisel, while in other cases the chisel has produced all the decoration upon a smooth surface. One tall vase is encrusted with a substance looking like half-melted malachite. How this was done, and how the vase escaped melting in the evidently great heat, remains a mystery. It is not only the perfection of the technical processes of casting, chiseling, inlaying and combining metals that compels admiration in these incense burners, ornamental groups, candlesticks and household articles. Much more than this is the keen sense of the beauty in flowing lines, the subtle expressions of action and character in figures, whether human or animal, and the evident impress of rare artistic intelligence. One reason for this is pointed out by Griffis: "The delicacy of touch, freedom of movement and perfection of finish visible on Japanese work are the result of long hereditary application and concentrated skill. Hidden away in sequestered villages or occupying the same workshop in cities for centuries, generations of craftsmen wrought upon one class of objects, until from the workman's hand is born the offspring of a long pedigree of thought and dexterity."

FEATURES OF THE COLLECTION.

There are 400 Japanese porcelains and potteries, of which the group of Satsuma potteries described in my last letter is most important. The examples of cloisonné enamel, of painting upon silk as shown in the kakemonos, and of silk embroidery and woven patterns, together with the great number of pipes and pipe cases bearing exquisite ornaments of metal-work, cover thoroughly and ingeniously the broad range of Japanese art. Limpid and mock crystal balls, one over six inches in diameter, Chinese carvings in translucent greenish jade, "the hardest and toughest of all the stones," of which Mr. Heber R. Bishop of New-York possesses a fine collection—these are among the varieties assembled in these galleries. I have aimed only to indicate the chief features of Mr. Walters's Oriental departments but it is well to bear two facts in mind—first, that the Oriental art of to-day has sunk into decadence, and China and Japan now yield few examples of their best periods of art. And, secondly, it is worth remembering that no such illustration of the best productions of Oriental art as are contained in Mr. Walters's galleries have been brought together elsewhere in this hemisphere, and only a few private collections in Europe can bear comparison with his.

Mr. Walters has placed within the reach of American artists and artistic handicraftsmen educational influences and stimulating suggestions which have already proved of direct value. For with wise discrimination his constant effort has been "more in the direction of securing characteristic examples of the beautiful, either in form, color or material, than of the merely curious."

THE NEW DYNAMITE GUN.

EXPERIMENTING AT FORT HAMILTON—RIVER AND HARBOR DEFENCE—THE DART.

Among the recent inventions in war apparatus are the dynamite gun and dart. The gun is a seamless brass tube thirty feet or more in length mounted upon a light gun-carriage, and manipulated by the artillerist in the manner of an ordinary cannon. Its noiseless discharge sends the missile with great force, conveying the powerful explosive substance within it, which is ignited at the instant of contact with the deck of a ship or other object upon which it strikes. If the promises made in its behalf prove true a single projectile of this description with its hundred pounds of dynamite would instantly sink the heaviest iron-clad afloat. The dart embodies some new and interesting adaptations of physics to the flight of projectiles by which great accuracy is obtained. The tendency of the wind to cause a divergence of the projectile from a direct line is to a great degree overcome; and the pressure of the wind, whether light or heavy, is made to react in proportion to its force upon the missile and to direct its flight in the line of original projection. This peculiarity consists in the unusual length of the projectile, and the location of its centre of gravity considerably nearer the forward end—thus a wind blowing across its course will act upon the lighter and enlarged rear end as on a vane, causing the projectile to pivot upon its centre of gravity, and head into the wind in proportion to the wind's velocity, the missile maintaining approximately its original direction. It is not dependent for its flight upon the torsional force of a rope nor upon the action of springs, such as were used in the catapult of the Greeks and Romans, but upon the force of air compressed by powerful engines to the pressure of 1,000 pounds or more per square inch. This is stored in large reservoirs, from which a sufficient amount for a single discharge is suddenly liberated into the gun through a connecting pipe, by means of an automatic valve, which may be regulated to open and close in the tenth of a second, admitting of discharges in quick succession, while the air-compressing engines, securely located in the subterranean depths of the fort or the hold of the ship, maintain the required pressure in the air reservoirs.

Guns have been constructed claimed to have capacity to throw projectiles a distance of eight miles or more with gunpowder, but the claim has not been accompanied by the assurance that any great injury to persons or property is likely to occur. It is well understood that at the extreme range attainable with gunpowder the penetrative force of the projectile is spent and little injury results; and that so sensitive an explosive as dynamite cannot be conveyed within the missile by the abrupt action of gunpowder, as the shock would explode the dynamite before the shell containing it could leave the gun. While the new projectile thrown by compressed air is capable of an effective range as great as that of the ordinary gunpowder missile, its destructive power is developed at the instant of contact with the object upon which it strikes, by the explosion of its dynamite cartridge regardless of the distance it may have travelled.

One of the advantages claimed for this invention is its adaptability to harbor and river defences, owing to the small cost and short time requisite to construct the necessary apparatus. No special machinery or tools are required, any shop suitable for constructing steam engines could be used without the cost and time required to build a Woolwich arsenal and shops. To defend rivers and harbors it is said that small steam launches provided with dynamite guns and apparatus could be effectively used against armored ships; and even smaller craft with portable reservoirs, previously prepared, could, under cover of darkness, hurl these destructive charges of dynamite upon the deck of a ship without disclosing to the enemy their location, by flash or sound of gunpowder, or the sparks from a steamer's funnel.

Technical experiments with the gun and dart are being conducted by order of the War Department, at Fort Hamilton, under the supervision of Colonel John Hamilton, commandant of Forts Hamilton, Wadsworth and Lafayette, and under the special direction of Lieutenant E. L. Zalinsky, an expert in artillery. It is believed by many prominent officers that the exper