Amusements.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC—2—8:15—The White Heather.
AMERICAN THEATRE—2—8:15—Mikado.
BIJOU THEATRE—2—8:15—The Old Coat.
BROADWAY THEATRE—2—8:15—The Highwayman.
CASINO—2—8:10—In Gay New-York.
DALY'S THEATRE—2—8:15—The Geisha.
EDEN MUSEE—Wax Works, Grand Concerts and Cinematograph.
EMPIRE THEATRE—2:15—8:15—The Conquerors.
FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE—2—8—Tess of the D'Urbervilles.
GARDEN THEATRE—2—8:15—The Master.
GARRICK THEATRE—2—8:20—The Little Minister.
GRAND OPERA HOUSE—2—8—The New 8 Bells.
HARLEM OPERA HOUSE—2—8:15—The Royal Box.
HERALD SQUARE THEATRE—2—8:15—Monte Carlo.
IRVING PLACE THEATRE—2—8:30—Die Schone Galathe and The Little Lambs.
KEITH'S—Noon to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
KNICKERBOCKER THEATRE—2—8:30—A Virginia Courtship.
KOSTER & BIAL'S—8—Vaudeville.
LYCEUM—2:30—Illustrated Lecture.
MADISON SQUARE GARDEN—2—8:15—Buffalo Bill's Wild West.
NATIONAL ACADEMY OF DESIGN—Day and evening—Exhibition of Oil Paintings.
PASTOR'S—12:30 to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
PROCTOR'S—9:30 a. m. to 11 p. m.—Vaudeville.
SAM T. JACK'S THEATRE—2—8—Burlesque.
WALLACK'S THEATRE—Closed this week.
14TH STREET THEATRE—2—8—The Girl from Paris.

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Roll Top Desks and Office Furniture.
Great Variety of Style and Price.
T. G. SELLEW,
No. 111 Fulton-st

New-York Daily Tribune.

SATURDAY, APRIL 9, 1898.

THE NEWS THIS MORNING.

FOREIGN.—Prime Minister Sagasta of Spain said there would be no further negotiations with the United States; Madrid remained quiet and hopeful; no Cabinet meeting was held, but a reply was sent to Cardinal Rampolla relative to Papal action. —— Havana continued calm; General Lee is expected to leave the island of Cuba, with other American representatives and citizens, to-day. —— The Anglo-Egyptian forces routed the Dervishes with heavy loss on the upper Nile, killing their general, Mahmoud. —— Members of the Esterhazy court-martial will sue M. Zola and ask for his expulsion from the Legion of Honor. —— Queen Victoria presented to President Faure of France an oil portrait of herself. —— Privy Councillor Bansch, engineer of the Emperor William Canal, is dead.

DOMESTIC.—Nothing occurred yesterday to change the belief that war with Spain is inevitable; it is regarded as probable in Washington that open hostilities may begin within a week. —— Congress was not in session, but the members discussed the plan of action to be followed when President McKinley's message is received. —— The Cabinet discussed the crisis, the members expressing the opinion that war is unavoidable. —— Deputy Treasurer Guerra of the Cuban Republic explained to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs the facts concerning Cuban bonds. —— The gunboat Princeton has been finished at the Dialogue yard in Camden, N. J. —— The ram Katahdin joined the Flying Squadron in Hampton Roads. —— Chief Gunner's Mate Johnson, of the gunboat Newport, at Key West, was drowned while examining the ship's bottom. —— An explosion of dynamite with which a car was loaded caused the wreck of a train in Montana, and three persons were killed.

CITY AND SUBURBAN.—Plans for a new trotting track were considered at a meeting of the special committee of the Driving Club of New-York. —— The Naval Auxiliary Board recommended the purchase of two vessels and negatively reported on one. —— At a meeting of the Patria Club at Delmonico's Charles Bulkley Hubbell and Charles R. Skinner spoke of "Education in Patriotism," and commended the course of President McKinley. —— The second floor of a partly demolished building on the site of the proposed Hall of Records collapsed, injuring three workmen. —— Stocks were weak and dull.

THE WEATHER.—Indications for to-day: Fair and warmer. The temperature yesterday: Highest, 60 degrees; lowest, 38; average, 48¾.

CUBA AND ITS JUNTA.

The question of recognition of the insurgents or their right to govern in Cuba, it may be hoped, is not to be decided on the basis of the demand made by Mr. Rubens, or other persons purporting to represent that government. The strict truth is that the world has extremely little knowledge of any civilized organization by these insurgents, or of its demands or functions. What it actually represents, whether or not the people of Cuba who want to be free from Spanish tyranny are all supporting it, there is absolutely no evidence whatever. It would be well for Cubans in this country, who have been going as close to violation of the laws of the United States as they possibly could in safety, to understand that they are under great obligations to this Nation for its hospitality and forbearance. If they can possibly convince this Government that they represent the people of Cuba, it may be well for them to do so. Meanwhile it is the plain truth that they can perhaps talk too much for their own good. If they have done what they profess to have done, they are candidates for imprisonment for breaking the laws of the land that shelters them.

The Nation knows nothing of them. All its sympathies with the Cubans who seek freedom do not blind it to the fact that men who have sought to violate United States laws are in a very different position from those who have merely revolted from Spanish rule. Neither do American sympathies blind the mind to the fact that the insurgent Cubans have never to this date made a sufficient showing of actual government in any part of the island, or that they represent all the genuine Cubans or the Cubans who desire freedom from Spanish rule. There is not an atom of evidence thus far that they actually do.

In this state of facts it would be sheer absurdity for the President to recognize a government which has not, to the knowledge of the United States, been governing anywhere. Mr. Rubens asserts that it has collected taxes, but there is not the slightest information at command of the United States whether duties have been levied in such form as to be in force against all Cubans, or all persons engaged in any branch of business, or exacted merely because as revolutionists were able to make people pay through their practical control of particular districts. The reports of the United States officials, who have not been able to find a Cuban government anywhere, are entitled to some consideration. If there has been a Cuban court at any point for the adjudication of pending difficulties it would be well to have the United States informed of that fact.

Spain must get out of Cuba, flag and troops, bag and baggage; so much is settled. The Cuban people must be free from that tyranny. But whether they will see fit, when free and able to express their wishes definitely, to demand the government which the insurgents offer, is not a question which Mr. Rubens has the slightest authority to answer. He does not know any more about it than the Cuban forces know about the movement of Spanish troops at Madrid. Whether the people have wanted, as a choice between that and Spanish tyranny, the government of Garcia, Maceo or Masso, or any other possible government that the insurgents may set up, is not just now the question. The United States has a right to know what they would desire if free and in a position to speak and act. This Nation will probably not take it upon itself to impose upon Cubans any government they do not want, and it will probably wait until they can decide with absolute freedom what they do want before declaring what it intends as to the form of government to be established in Cuba. The Cuban Junta has as little business in that matter as the fly on the coachwheel, except that it can be considerably more noisy if it tries.

WAITING FOR THE CORTES.

The Spanish Constitution forbids the sovereign to sell or cede Spanish territory without a special act of the Cortes, wherefore the Spanish Government cannot accede to the demands of the United States. That is the latest plea put forward by Spain, or in behalf of Spain. It is altogether admirable and convincing, not as a plea or a defence, but as an example of what logicians call a non sequitur.

The United States does not ask Spain to sell or to cede Cuba. It did ask her to do so years ago. It asked her twice, each time offering a handsome price for the island. That was before the present Constitution was adopted, and when the sovereign had power to do as he—or she—pleased. But each time Spain became angry and regarded the offer as an affront. So the United States Government decided not to make any more overtures for the purchase of the island, and formally announced that determination. In that, as in other matters, it has kept its word. It has not asked Spain to sell Cuba. It does not ask her to do so.

It does not appear, however, from a somewhat painstaking scrutiny of the document that the Spanish Constitution forbids the sovereign to get beaten in war, or to act in accordance with military exigencies. If it does, Alfonso XIII has already violated it. For his armies are beaten in Cuba. Commanded successively by the most distinguished, the most cruel and the most benevolent of his generals, his armies have been baffled and defeated by half-armed insurgents of only one-half their numbers. He has tried for three years to subdue the island. He has sent over by far the largest army any Power has ever sent across the sea. And he is further from subduing the island to-day than he was at the beginning. Surely the Constitution does not require him to do impossibilities.

Neither does the Constitution forbid his Government to offer apology and to make reparation to this country for the wrongs the latter has suffered at Spanish hands. It does not forbid the Spanish Government to act, in the case of the Maine, in a manner "suggested by "honor and the friendly relations of the two "Governments," as President McKinley generously assumed it would do. It does not forbid it to take prompt and energetic steps to purge itself of suspicion of responsibility for that hideous crime. Of a truth, there are many things the Government might do without waiting for a special act of the Cortes.

Once upon a time there was a king who was physically infirm, and as he sat by the fire one day he fell from his chair into the fire and was burned. The room was crowded with courtiers, but none of them durst pull him out of the fire because, according to the etiquette of the court, not one of them was of sufficiently exalted rank to be entitled to lay hands upon the person of the sovereign. So the poor king had to lie in the fire and burn until some one came along who was worthy to pull him out.

And that, the historian tells us, was a Spanish king. Can it be that Spain has learned nothing since his day?

KANSAS WILL INSURE ITSELF.

A cheering and cheerful spot on the political horizon during all these wars and rumors of wars is the State of Kansas. The votaries of war at any cost may howl themselves red in the face in maintenance of the National honor and the Money Power may make everybody else red in the face with the blush of shame at the way it is sacrificing the National honor in the interest of a mercenary and disgraceful peace, but Kansas, with Leedy as Governor and Webb McNall as Insurance Commissioner, moves right along on its high mission, unfluttered and serene. The mission of Kansas is to make everybody rich and happy at cut rates. That is to say, not everybody everywhere, but everybody in Kansas. The first thing it proposes to do in this direction is, of course, as everybody knows, to make fifty cents worth a dollar, which will furnish a cut rate on mortgages that will rejoice the heart of the agriculturist and double his assets. The second is Governor Leedy's proposition to build a railroad straight from the heart of Kansas to the Gulf of Mexico without stock or bonds by volunteer day's work on the part of the honest yeomanry. This will enable the yeomanry—or so many of them as are not diverted from agricultural pursuits to operating the railroad—to haul their crops to market for practically nothing, whereby the cost of transportation will be saved and the value of the crops—should there be any—will be greatly enhanced.

Both these propositions, it will be observed, are double-enders. They will not only enrich that much-deserving class, the farmers of Kansas, but will also get very close to the solar plexus of the detestable Money Power, which, after extorting mortgages for money loaned to the patriotic and enterprising persons who have added to the wealth of the Nation by developing Kansas, have the uncommon assurance to expect to be paid in full at the rate of one hundred cents on the dollar, and which also expects, after building railroads for developing the resources of the country, to be paid for the use of them. These two propositions embody some of the best thought of Kansas statesmen. They have been worked out laboriously nights and between speeches by men who reluctantly abandoned the delights of manual labor and the joys of following the plough in person in order to throw their whole intellectual and moral heft upon efforts to promote the happiness, increase the resources, widen the horizon and enlarge the scope of their fellow-men. As measures of reform and elevating influences these propositions are generally admitted to be what might be called "corkers."

And now comes a third measure having the same general purpose—to wit, to promote the prosperity of Kansas and strike a blow at the Money Power. It comes from that able-bodied investigator and aggressive innovator, the Hon. Webb McNall, Insurance Commissioner. It is briefly that the State of Kansas shall stop sending money away from home to insure the property of its citizens against fire, accident and windstorms and insure itself. He has discovered that the companies make in some instances as much as 99 per cent a year, and this, he thinks, can be saved if the State conducts the insurance business itself. Webb comes near being a wizard. If he can get his plan carried out, and the State does go into the insurance business, it is obvious that the saving to citizens will be simply enormous. So long as there are no fires and no accidents and no destructive windstorms it is easy to calculate without so much as a slate pencil that all the money paid in premiums will be clear profit. That will mean increased wealth for the citizen and another blow at the Money Power, which has been rifling the State through its insurance companies. If, however, there should be fires and accidents and windstorms, then—but why discuss any such contingency? Are not insurance companies organized and do they not carry on a profitable business upon the theory that there are no fires nor accidents nor windstorms? Of course. And why shouldn't Kansas proceed upon the same theory and save money by it? Kansas is a great State. Governor Leedy is a statesman and Webb McNall a hard thinker.

THE STREET RAILROAD GRAB BILL.

One of the thirty-day bills now in Governor Black's hands is the so-called Eldridge bill, which was framed in the interest of the street railroads of this city and introduced "by request." The Governor gave a hearing on it last Wednesday, and its opponents have until Monday to submit their brief. It is evident from the Governor's conduct that he means to consider the bill with unusual care, and it is therefore desirable to try to assist him in reaching a decision. Here are some of the things which the bill does:

It greatly diminishes the liability of a railroad company to a forfeiture of its charter by default.

It settles in favor of the railroads the claim that a change of motive power creates a new franchise for which the city can exact payment.

It provides that the construction and operation of a railroad, or the use of a new motive power, shall be presumptive evidence that the law has been complied with in all respects. That is to say, temporarily successful lawlessness is so strongly fortified as to make its permanent success highly probable—in a word, street-grabbing is fostered.

In general it validates numerous lapsed and doubtful consents.

In particular it confirms the disputed and unsavory charter of the "Huckleberry" road.

It abolishes restrictions, hitherto held to be salutary, on increase of capital.

It voids, to a great extent, one of the wisest and most generally approved provisions of the new city charter—namely, the one forbidding the grant of a franchise for more than twenty-five years.

So much for the more important of those provisions of the bill which are capable of being understood by persons who did not draft it. How was the bill passed? In a furtive and shabby manner, through a violation of the rules, having been printed without the required marks distinguishing new from old matter. This was not an accident. Such accidents do not occur. The intention was to hinder an easy and accurate comprehension of the contents of the bill. Enough is known as to its meaning and expected operation to demand a veto. Enough remains unknown to demand a veto, even if the plain parts were unobjectionable.

In substance it is not exactly one of the deal bills to which Governor Black has signified his unyielding hostility, but nevertheless it savors of a deal because put through in combination with the Page-Divver atrocity. It provides one of the opportunities still left to the Governor to improve a record which throughout the session was admirable.

THE SPANISH FLEET.

Daily reports give the impression that Spain has one of the largest and most powerful navies in the world. One day it is announced that a number of battle-ships have sailed from Cartagena for Cuba. The next, that a dozen or perhaps twenty warships have left Cadiz for the Cape Verd Islands. And so it goes, until one is reminded of the Ten Years' War, in which, according to official Spanish reports, the number of Cubans killed and wounded and captured considerably exceeded the entire population of the island, infants in arms included.

Let us see what some of these reports really amount to. A few days ago it was announced that a formidable Armada was to proceed forthwith to the Cape Verd Islands to escort the torpedo fleet across the ocean. One of the four ships named is the Emperador Carlos V. It is a fine armed and armored cruiser, the best in the Spanish Navy, and the only one protected with Harveyized steel. It is a vessel that would do credit to any navy as a cruiser, though, of course, it is not equal to one of our battle-ships. But that ship has only just left a French shipyard, where it was being repaired, and it cannot possibly be made ready for service inside of several weeks. Another is the Cristobal Colon, a fine armored cruiser purchased from Italy some time ago. The Spanish engineers in charge of it do not understand its machinery and cannot get it up to anything like full speed. A third is the fine armored cruiser Infanta Maria Theresa, which the Spaniards seem able to manage. The fourth is the cruiser Alfonso XIII, which has no armor but a protective deck and no heavy guns at all. Evidently these four do not make an invincible Armada.

Now we are told that a squadron of fifteen men-of-war is to set out at once. Let us see how it can be made up. It probably comprises the three ships named above which are ready for service. Then there are the Cardenal Cisneros and the Princesa de Asturias, ships similar to the Infanta Maria Theresa. If to these we add the Numancia and Vitoria, antiquated craft of eight or ten knots an hour and armed with old muzzle-loading guns, we have exhausted the list of armored ships in the Spanish Navy, excepting the solitary battle-ship Pelayo and the cruisers Cataluna and Pedro d'Aragona, which are not yet ready for service. Such cruisers as Spain has been able to purchase abroad are not yet completed and will not be for a month or two. The other eight or ten ships in this fleet must therefore be taken from the list of unarmored cruisers and gunboats, of which Spain has a number. Two or three of them have protective decks and one carries four 7.8-inch guns. The batteries of most of them are composed of 5 and 6 inch and machine guns.

Such ships could do much damage to commerce. In a conflict with real battle-ships they would cut no figure at all. Nor could they enter any harbor which has modern fortifications about it. As for the torpedo fleet of Spain, it is undoubtedly superior to ours. But it is at the other side of the ocean, and the task of getting it over here, in the face of such a flying squadron as could be sent to intercept it, would not be an enviable one. There is no occasion to sit up o' nights worrying over the latter-day Spanish Armada.

ARMY REORGANIZATION.

The Army Reorganization bill has encountered strong opposition in Congress which appears to be based on sentimental rather than practical considerations. The plan to make any necessary increase in the land forces of the United States by spreading out the existing Regular Army and filling in the companies with new men, instead of forming new organizations, is objected to as slighting the National Guard and as giving no chance to volunteer regiments such as played so prominent a part in the Civil War.

It is perfectly natural that the volunteers should be held in loyal memory, but it should not be forgotten that conditions of possible war have greatly changed since 1861. Then volunteers formed the bulk of the soldiers on both sides. They were all green together, and they all seasoned together. Any external contests are likely to bring us in contact with regular troops, and discipline counts more than ever. Moreover, the work of the soldier is in some respects much more technical than it was thirty-five years ago, and more training is required to make an efficient fighter. Machine guns, electrical apparatus, long-range fighting put a premium on facility and experience. Even in the Civil War, according to some experts, the volunteers would often have come off badly if regiments of seasoned veterans had not been scattered among them when hard fights were going, to give them steadiness. With the great destructive force of modern armaments, such support is even more necessary, and it can best be given by having at the side of each green recruit a regular, who will do for him individually what veteran bodies in less degree do for armies. A company of volunteers might drill for weeks before learning how to do effective fighting, but those same men put in the ranks with veterans would be useful in a few days. The association would give them courage, and in emergency, even if they did not know how to handle all sorts of ordnance, they could help companions who were experts, and from the close association quickly become seasoned for duty.

War hereafter will offer little field for civilians to raise companies and drill them. Such a plan appeals to the ambition of every politician who desires military glory, but it will not meet the requirement of modern warfare. The veteran officer's leadership and discipline are needed. The National Guard cannot be expected from its nature to be more than an emergency force. In many States it is not well organized, and a call for the militia would bring out badly trained and badly equipped bodies. Even where they are well disciplined the guardsmen are not in condition to go with regulars into a long campaign. They may be relied upon to do their legitimate work faithfully and well. But in a war what is needed are masses of regular troops, and they can best be had in an emergency suddenly requiring an expansion of forces by filling out the skeleton of our already well-organized army. It is therefore unfortunate that in the present crisis other considerations than those of efficiency should seem to control the organization of our land forces.

It is not true that the old problem of the impact of an irresistible force upon an immovable body is to be solved by practical experiment. Spain is not immovable.

That was rather rough on the admirer of the Persian poet who, after quoting a passage from Omar Khayyam to a little club circle, was taken up by a Western newspaper man, who said: "That's all very well, but I know something "about Western newspapers, and I'll just bet "you the drinks there's no such paper as 'The "Omaha Khayyam.'"

The Duke of Veragua presents one of his bulls to the Spanish patriotic fund, and the first bullfighter in the kingdom offers to turn in his fee for killing it to the same account. Against the financial resources of the United States the joint contribution may not go far, but it shows that the hearts of Duke and matador beat high for their native land, the sentiments of the bull meanwhile not entering into the consideration.

The accident in the old building on the new Hall of Records site may be accounted for by the explanation given of it, but it is not excused thereby.

A Spanish paper says the President's forthcoming message does not imply a declaration of war, but Spain will decide that for herself. That is quite true. The onus of making war will rest immovably upon Spain.

Señor Pi y Margall, the Spanish Republican statesman, in a recent interview has declared that Cuba is practically lost to Spain. "Spain," he says, "is exhausted. She must withdraw her "troops and recognize Cuban independence be-"fore it is too late. By an immediate recognition "she would obtain payment of the war debt and "commercial advantages." It is unfortunate for Spain in this serious crisis of her affairs that one of her wisest statesmen is out of power and reduced to the exercise of crying his wisdom in the streets where no man regardeth him. If the ideas of Señor Margall had been acted on in time, Spain might have derived much advantage from them.

An old song might be converted to present uses by a few slight changes, after which the first line would read:

"Rubens, Rubens, we've been thinking."

The first Spaniard who landed in Cuba declared it to be the fairest land the eye of man had ever seen. The last Spaniard who leaves it, after four hundred years, will leave it the most distressful country on the globe.

While preparations for war are loud in the land, gold continues to pour in upon us from abroad in increasing volume. It is true that it is in settlement of commercial balances and not the proceeds of borrowing, but the fact is a gratifying evidence of our sound financial condition. Spain, meanwhile, having squandered the gold of four hundred years' spoliation of the Americas, is reduced to her last peseta. She has neither cash nor credit, and if war comes will presently have no islands.

PERSONAL.

Sir M. E. Grant Duff tells a new story of Browning. The poet had been introduced to the Chinese Ambassador—the introducer, who acted also as interpreter, observing that they were both poets. In the course of conversation Browning asked how much poetry His Excellency had written. "Four volumes," he answered. "And what style of poetry does Your Excellency cultivate?" "Chiefly the enigmatical," replied the other. "We felt doubly brothers after that," was Browning's subsequent comment.

For the eighth year in succession the Rev. Dr. Reuen Thomas, of Brookline, Mass., has been invited to occupy the pulpit of Dr. Parker's City Temple in London during the summer months.

Virchand R. Gandhi, of India, is delivering a course of lectures on Theosophy in Boston.

Miss Sophronisba Breckinridge, the eldest daughter of Colonel W. C. P. Breckinridge, of Kentucky, has just been made a Fellow in the department of physical science in the University of Chicago.

Edmund Fish, of Hillsboro, Ill., the oldest living graduate of the University of Michigan, was graduated from that institution in 1845.

Dr. George W. Massamore, of Baltimore, who has just died, was one of the best-known numismatists in the country, and owned a costly collection of coins and medals. In 1881 he was elected a member of the Numismatic and Archæological Society of New-York, and continued a member until his death. He was also an enthusiastic stamp and autograph collector. His autograph collection contained the signatures of Washington, Jefferson, Jackson and other men famous in American history. In 1882 Dr. Massamore married the widow of William Henry Harding. Mrs. Massamore, three sons and one daughter survive him.

"The Boston Transcript" announces that only about $7,000 of the necessary $35,000 for the Lowell Memorial Park remains to be contributed. In T. B. Aldrich's poem, "Elmwood. In Memory of James Russell Lowell," are these lines concerning the pines which are in the part of the estate to be preserved:

"O autumn wind among the sombre pines,
Breathe you his dirge, but be it sweet and low,
With deep refrains and murmurs of the sea,
Like to his verse—the art is yours alone.
His once—you taught him. Now no voice but yours!
Tender and low, O wind among the pines!"

Miss Jessie E. Parker, who has just been elected Mayor of Kendrick, Idaho, is said to be both young and pretty.

The Lord Chief Justice of Abyssinia is described by a correspondent of "The St. James's Gazette" as a cheery old gentleman, dressed in a huge black hat, with a green silk handkerchief tied around his head underneath the hat, black silk cloak embroidered with gold, smart purple silk skirt underneath, and continuations of the fairest linen. He was also armed with a long sword in a red scabbard, and his squires, running alongside, carried his rifle and gold-mounted shield. According to this description of him he is a much more imposing figure than the Lord Chancellor or Chief Justice Fuller, and of known Judges only Divver, tricked out in his chowder-party regalia, could hold a candle to him.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

Howling Jingo—I tell you, an overwhelming majority of the Representatives in the lower house of Congress are uncompromisingly in favor of going to war with Spain at once.

Calm Citizen—Then why in thunder don't they pass a resolution to that effect?

Howling Jingo—Tom Reed won't let them.

THE PRESIDENT.

Aloft, alone, upon the great ship's starlit bridge,
The captain stands on wordless watch, in chilly gloom.
Great God, thy silent skies are there above his head,
Though black waves wildly hurl their spectre foam, and boom
Where'er he turns. He feels the strong ship's tremor, feels
Her lunge and breast the ceaseless shock of surge and blast;
He knows that rocks are there beneath those roaring waves,
In sullen lurking near her gliding bulk; yet past
Each danger swings he still the ship's obedient length.
Her treasures of a nation's joys of peace, her mass
Of human love and welfare still undrenched in brine!
Hath he not heard, and will he all unheeding pass
The night-long wail of voices in the offing? Nay,
They pierce his stanch heart hour by hour, and through the night
He orders lifeboats off toward Cuba's wreck-strewn shore,
The while he keeps his tireless watch aloft and broods:
"My ship must not drive headlong on the rocks!" When light
Breaks on the sea, and carping passengers discern
The jutting rocks and nearby surf, and tireless, still
Aloft, the patient captain, with his massive ship
Deep-riding unfeared waves, and o'er the ocean's hill
The foreign pirates flying from their Cuban prey—
Then all will praise him. Hail, even now all hail to thee,
Aloft, alone, upon the great ship's lonely bridge,
Amid the dark and surge of thy night-watch at sea!
Hail now, calm captain, in thy poise of steadfast gaze!
Thy soul can wait till morning for all men to praise.
—(William Knight in Fall River News.

A railroad man in Portland, Ore., was recently present at an impromptu meeting of twenty-five tramps in a boxcar there, where, after considerable animated discussion, the whole bunch of hoboes to a man decided that in case of war with Spain they would offer their services to the President of the United States, and, further, that in the mean time they would urge their patriotic sentiments upon all of their fraternity wherever any of them were met on the road.

He—You talk about men playing poker. It is no worse a vice than the shopping habit of the women.

She—Perhaps not, morally speaking; but then it takes money to play poker, whereas a woman can shop all day without it costing her a cent, except what she pays for carfare.—(Boston Transcript.

The Rev. B. C. Thibault, pastor of St. Joseph's Roman Catholic Church, Syracuse, N. Y., writes to "The Courier" of that city, saying that the infant Jesus recently appeared to a number of persons in his church. After disposing of the objection that it might have been an optical illusion, he says: "Why not say 'providential'? Indeed, it was providential, to say the least; nay, more, everything considered, no Catholic believer should be ashamed to acknowledge that it was preternatural, miraculous! Thank God, I believe. God be praised."

The Fault of a Woman's Watch.—Miss Hiborn—It seems to run very well for about a day and a half, and then it will not go at all.

Watchmaker—Yes; it should be wound occasionally.—(The Jewelers' Weekly.

William Connor, the seventy-year-old father of a Maryland baby, wanted to name the little one after the wife of the President, but he did not know Mrs. McKinley's name. So he wrote to the President for the desired information. Here is the answer he got: "Mrs. McKinley has instructed me to acknowledge the receipt of your communication of recent date, and convey to you her appreciation of the compliment paid her in the selection of a name for your daughter. She trusts that the future may have in store for the little girl much happiness and prosperity. Mrs. McKinley's full name is Ida Saxton McKinley."

Partially Returned.—Algy—You say she only partially returned your affection?

Clarence—Yes; and that's what I'm kicking about. She returned all the loveletters, but retained all the jewelry.—(Judge.

A Scotchman living in London recently ran across two of his countrymen, and took them with him to a big public dinner. In his hospitality he sent to their table champagne, and yet more champagne, and after a time went to see personally how they were faring. He found them depressed. "How are you getting on?" he asked. The reply came, "Oh, we're gettin' on fine, but we're verra fateeggit with thae mineral watters."

A Drummer.—Haggard Hubert—Can yer assist an' old drummer, mem?

Mrs. Chink—Yes; it pains me to see a veteran needy. Here's a quarter. By the bye, were you ever at Chancellorsville?

Haggard Hubert—Never, lady. De bakin'-powder concern I wuz drummin' fer kep' me allers in Northern territory. Thanky, mem."—(Judge.

This is how a Chinese visitor in this country describes Americans in a Chinese paper: "They live months without eating a mouthful of rice; they eat bullocks and sheep in enormous quantities; they have to bathe frequently; they eat meat with knives and prongs; they never enjoy themselves by sitting quietly on their ancestors' graves, but jump around and kick balls as if paid to do it, and they have no dignity, for they may be found walking with women."

Distressingly Innocent.—May—Oh, Harry, they've the most beautiful little lockets at Stiffany's, with shamrocks set in them.

Harry—Yes, May; but wouldn't you rather wait a little while and get one with a real stone?—(The Jewelers' Weekly.

A comely widow of Eau Claire, Wis., has sued a man for $1,200, claiming that he "did wickedly, feloniously and with malice aforethought, take, steal and carry away one kiss, the same being the personal property of the plaintiff."

JAPANESE NAVAL COMMISSIONER HERE.

K. Uchida, Naval Commissioner under the Government of Japan, is staying at the Hotel Imperial in this city. Japan has a number of vessels under construction in this country, and it is understood that Mr. Uchida's visit is in connection with this fact.

Y. M. C. A. EVENING CLASSES CLOSE.

The closing exercises of the evening educational branch of the West Side Branch of the Young Men's Christian Association took place in the hall of the building, No. 318 West Fifty-seventh-st., last night. About two hundred and fifty graduates of the various classes were present. The instructors of the evening educational branch addressed the graduates, giving a brief account of the work in the last winter, with a word of advice to the young men who are about to take up their work in life.

CHARLES E. STRONG'S WILL FILED.

The will of Charles E. Strong was filed for probate yesterday in the office of the Surrogate, by Strong & Cadwalader. The testator, who died on October 1, 1897, left personal property valued, according to the papers, at $160,000, but no real estate in this State. He leaves a widow, Eleanor Fearing Strong, and a daughter, Kate Fearing Welman. The household furniture is bequeathed to his daughter, and to Richard Cooper, for long and faithful services, is left $1,000. The testator leaves the greater part of the residue of the estate to his widow in trust for her life. On her death it is to go to her daughter. It is provided that Mrs. Welman may dispose of the property by will, but upon failure by her so to dispose of the estate, or failure of issue, the property is to go to St. Mary's Hospital for Children.

MRS. AMOS J. CUMMINGS A CONTESTANT.

The testimony in the contest for the estate of Ezekiah C. Ball, of Irvington, ended in the Newark (N. J.) courts yesterday, and argument will begin next Tuesday. The estate is worth over $30,000, and was left by will to George Woolley, a young man who lived with the testator. A caveat to the will was filed by a niece, Mrs. Amos J. Cummings, wife of the Congressman, on the ground of mental incapacity and undue influence. Mr. Cummings and his wife were witnesses yesterday and testified to Mr. Ball's eccentricities.

A NEW SOUND FERRY.

Captain William Riley, of Whitestone, Borough of Queens, is going to establish a ferry this summer for the benefit of cyclists between Whitestone and West Chester. It is proposed to use big rowboats first, and if sufficient encouragement is given to the captain he will put on tugs. Captain Riley says he will start his new venture in a few weeks.

RICHARD T. CARMAN THE WHIP.

The public coach Good Times made the trip yesterday from this city to West Chester and back under the guidance of Richard T. Carman, who drove both ways. W. R. H. Martin, William Koch and Howard Brown were the passengers.

TWO HOSTILE FORCES.

A CLOSE RACE IN WARLIKE IMPULSES BETWEEN SENSATIONAL NEWSPAPERS AND ORCHESTRAS.

What this country needs to do is to organize a brigade of men from the staffs of the sensational newspapers and place it under the command of orchestra leaders. The former are a fighting breed, as has been proved in these columns before now, and the latter, while they fear nothing but dishonor, are born leaders, or else they would not—well, in short, they would not be leaders. How a newspaper man took the box office of a theatre, the very repository of the sinews of war, and held it till he was overpowered by numbers, is already a matter of history. It has been written also how two orchestra leaders are resolved to skewer each other, and are waiting only for a ship to sail for somewhere, so that they can do it gently and decently.

And now one of these very orchestra leaders has passed the limits of diplomacy with another writer of a sensational newspaper. Violence has been resorted to, it appears, but it is now likely that this case will be settled by a certain sort of arbitration. That is to say, the intervention of a city magistrate has been asked. The conductor in question is Nahan Franko. The newspaper in question said something about him which impressed him unfavorably. The writer in question chanced to meet the conductor at Chickering Hall on Tuesday. There were some words spoken which were not of a nature to promote peace, and then the conductor, according to the charge, struck the newspaper man.

The newspaper man got a warrant for the conductor's arrest. The conductor heard of it and thought that it would be better not to wait for it to be executed. One of the admirable things about these conductors is the quickness with which they recognize the full meaning of little things, like nudges in the ribs and warrants. That is another of their qualifications for generalship. Mr. Franko went to the Jefferson Market Court yesterday, drew his sword, figuratively speaking, held it by the blade, about ten inches from the point, still figuratively, rested the other end of the blade on his left arm, just as figuratively as ever, and stood so that Detective Moloney could conveniently take it by the hilt. This last statement is as figurative as anything that has been testified. In short, not to put too fine a point upon it—the story, not the sword—he gave himself up. The complainant was not in court, and so Magistrate Pool let Mr. Franko go on his own recognizance till 10 o'clock this morning.

HOME FOR MAINE SUFFERERS.

JOHN S CROSSY WILL GIVE HIS HANDSOME ESTATE, TWO JOHNS, TO THEM.

Baltimore, April 8 (Special).—John Stewart Crossy, retired comedian and playwright, has offered his handsome estate, Two Johns, named after his most popular play, for the establishment of a home for the widows and a school for the orphans of the Maine's victims. The property consists of four hundred acres of land beautifully situated on the Choptank River, on the eastern shore of the Chesapeake. It contains several large buildings, including Mr. Crossy's mansion, which cost over $70,000. There is a steamboat landing, at which steamers from Baltimore stop daily, and there are also a sawmill, a laboratory and other industrial establishments on the place.

Mr. Crossy proposes to form a company under the name of "The American Humane Society," to have charge of the establishment, which is to be supported by voluntary subscriptions. He has invited a dozen citizens to subscribe $100 each to refurnish the buildings and add necessary improvements so as to convert a part of the mansion into schoolrooms and workshops. It is proposed to provide accommodations for 250 persons. Judge George M. Russum and other prominent Marylanders have indorsed Mr. Crossy's plans, which include interesting the churches throughout the country to hold fairs and entertainments for the raising of a general fund to support this project.

SIXTY-FOUR CADETS EXPELLED.

RESULT OF THE RECENT MUTINY IN THE SOUTH CAROLINA MILITARY ACADEMY.

Charleston, S. C., April 8.—The Board of Visitors of the South Carolina Military Academy to-day expelled the sixty-four cadets who participated in the mutiny which took place at the academy on April 3. The cadets became incensed at the conduct of Cadet Canty, who had reported men for breaking barracks when he was not on duty, and they resolved to force him out of the institution. A letter was first sent to Canty's father asking for his withdrawal, but as this failed of effect the boys decided to resort to violence, if necessary, in expelling him.

They attempted to carry out their design on the night of April 3. When they were met and opposed by the superintendent and commandant, Lieutenant McDonald, U. S. A., they refused to obey orders and rioted around the building all night, the police having to be called in.

A meeting of the Board of Visitors was called and has been in session for several days. The order of expulsion gave the cadets two hours in which to leave the building. The boys belong to many of the most prominent families of the State. The order sent from the academy two-thirds of its students. The institution is under the management of the State.

THE QUESTION OF ARMED INTERVENTION.

RIGHT AND DUTY OF THE UNITED STATES.

From The Charleston News and Courier.

The advocates of intervention only urge that it is the right and duty of the United States to interfere to stop hostilities on the island because of the savage conduct of the war, and to succor the starving people, and because, as stated by Senator Lodge, of the "insults to American citizens, the destruction of American commerce and the Maine disaster."

THREATS NOT LIKELY TO HELP CUBANS.

From The Bangor Whig.

The suggestion that the Cubans are ready to turn their arms against the United States unless intervention carries with it immediate independence, regardless of any consideration affecting the settlement of the question; that under such an arrangement, whether temporary or otherwise, the efforts of the United States would be resisted "with force of arms as bitterly and as tenaciously as we have fought the armies of Spain," is not calculated to stimulate public sympathy.

AUTHORITY FOR INTERVENTION.

From The Boston Herald.

Intervention is not a recognized principle in international law, but a well-known writer on this subject, Dr. Robertson, has said that interference to prevent effusion of blood or to put an end to a state of anarchy, from which the interests of other nations necessarily suffer, is at times justified in practice, as when England, France and Russia interfered between Turkey and its rebellious subjects in 1827.

RECOGNITION WOULD BE BETTER NOW.

From The Cleveland Plain Dealer.

Had the United States done what it ought to have done two years ago—recognized the belligerency of the Cuban insurgents, and thereby insuring a legal market for them—the Cuban situation would be much less complex than it is to-day. To grant to-day to the Cubans belligerent rights, or even to recognize the independence of the republic of Cuba and then let events take their natural course, would seem to be better than armed intervention, which could have no other issue than war.

IN ACCORDANCE WITH PRECEDENT.

From The Chicago Inter-Ocean.

Our citizens have been molested, our consuls have been harassed, and one of our warships has been destroyed and nearly 300 American seamen have been killed. Murder, rapine, plague, pestilence and famine hold carnival in Cuba, and Cuba almost is in sight of our coast. To interfere for a restoration of law and order, based on a free government, will be in accordance with precedent and international law.

MUST BE REASONABLE GROUNDS FOR IT.

From The New-Orleans Picayune.

The interference by the Government of the United States in Cuban affairs, if there is to be any interference, must be put on some reasonable and substantial grounds. Any ill-digested and unreasonable pretext for intervention would be not only Quixotic and unwise, but it would be unjustifiable. Therefore no little embarrassment and difficulty are encountered in the effort to formulate a plan of action and an ultimatum to Spain.

SPAIN WILL BE RESPONSIBLE FOR WAR.

From The Providence Journal.

It is not with us but with the Spaniards that the question of peace or war rests; it is not we but they who can avert war and who will therefore be responsible if peace is not preserved. If certain things are not done there must be war; and it is Spain alone that can say whether they shall be done. Madrid, therefore, and not Washington, is the place for the advice and entreaties of the Powers.

MANIFESTO OF CUBAN JUNTA.

From The Cleveland Leader.

The manifesto issued by the counsel of the Cuban Junta yesterday is calculated to do great harm to the cause for which he stands, because it exposes the purpose of the political representatives of the revolutionists in this country to accept no assistance from the United States unless that assistance comes in the form which they may dictate.