The Sun.

SUNDAY, AUGUST 26, 1883.

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The regular circulation of THE SUN *for the week ending Aug. 25, 1883, was:*

Sunday	154,695	Thursday	148,560
Monday	147,058	Friday	148,947
Tuesday	145,188	Saturday	145,784
Wednesday	144,896	Weekly	62,390

Total for the week 1,045,166

Business Healthy.

There is remarkable activity in New York for the dog days. Merchants and brokers are less disposed than usually at this season to leave the city for any prolonged stay. Even if trade is not lively and remunerative, they want to be on hand here because they are anxious.

The consequence is that the summer reports, especially those at a distance, and those where living is costly, whether they are far away or near, are not as prosperous as they often are in August, the month in which they expect the most custom. Money is not spent as freely as it has been for several years back, and that for the very good reason that not so much of it has been made.

Prices are low, labor is uneasy and dissatisfied, manufacturing, especially of cottons and woollens, has been overdone. Wall street is having a bad time of it, and men are feeling the necessity of trimming sail and of navigating with great caution. They therefore feel better content when they are in town, and thousands of them will be greatly relieved when the coming of cooler weather gives them a good excuse for bringing their absent families home.

This cautious and conservative disposition so generally displayed, is one of the best indications that we are not going to have the bad times commercially which the bears and pessimists are prophesying. It means that men have grown shy about speculative ventures, and are husbanding their resources against possible trouble. They are basing their calculations for the future on the theory of a continuance of low prices.

For one thing, business men and the outside public generally are keeping resolutely out of Wall street. Stocks go down, and yet they refuse to buy. They will take no risks.

Under such circumstances, with speculation at a lower ebb than we have known it for years, and with the assurance of great crops, the prospects of commercial disaster are small. Never before were stores so generally rented in the business districts as now. Scarcely a vacant one is to be found.

That means that a fair hand-to-mouth business is being generally done—that the consumptive demand for what are considered the necessaries of life, for instance, has not fallen off, but is continuous and healthy. Speculation is undoubtedly dead, but the average demand for actual consumption is likely to be as large for this year, when the figures are footed up, as it has been during any year since the Glasgow panic of 1878.

Postal Revenue and Reduction.

The statement just made by Third Assistant Postmaster-General HAZEN in regard to the probable surplus of the Post Office Department possesses special interest and importance, from the fact that in a little more than a month the new law for the reduction of letter postage will take effect.

From the returns now at hand Mr. HAZEN estimates the surplus for the last fiscal year at $2,500,000. The surplus for the year preceding was $1,100,000. Thus the gain for the twelvemonth has been $1,400,000; or, in other words, the annual surplus has been almost doubled. These statistics thus amply vindicate the policy of reducing letter postage from three cents to two, even before the change has gone into operation.

The Post Office is not one of the departments of the Government which are designed to raise money for carrying on the rest. When it pays its own way, it does all that should be required of it, and the moment that the legitimate growth of its business puts its steady income above its expenses, the time has already come either for reducing the rate of postage or for supplying to the people some new mail convenience. Besides, the existence of a surplus in a department of this character is a direct temptation to extravagance and stealing. The Star route frauds probably would never have been pushed to such an extent had not the increasing income of the department encouraged them; and, save for wastefulness and thieving, the department might perhaps have been made self-paying years before it actually became so. At all events, the arguments for the reduction of postage which influenced Congress last winter are now strengthened by the existence of a surplus almost twice as great as the one then existing.

As the time has approached for diminishing the rate for letters to two cents, some persons have expressed fears that this measure would be a fatal drag on the operations of the department. But, even should there be a deficit at first, it would be insignificant. The history of former postal reductions teaches us plainly that if any deficit results at all, it will be only for a year or two at most.

The first important step toward cheap postage was taken in 1845. Before that time the letter rate was a sliding scale of six cents, ten, twelve and a half, and eighteen and three-quarters, according to the distance; but thereafter it was made five cents under three hundred miles and ten cents for any greater distance. Six years later came the reduction from five cents to three cents for any prepaid single letter conveyed not more than three thousand miles. A deficiency of about fourteen per cent. followed the first reduction, but it so quickly disappeared that, as we have seen, the ensuing increase of revenue called for another great reduction of postage within half a dozen years. The act of 1851 was immediately followed by a still heavier deficiency, but this also was quickly diminished.

In later times the succession of events which has postponed the further reduction now about to take place has included the civil war, the expense of a general reestablishment of the postal system throughout the South, the extension of the system all through the Territories on long and not remunerative routes, the cheapening of foreign postage under the international agreement, the supplying of new facilities for the distribution and collection of letters in large cities, the conveniences afforded for mailing at a cheap rate other matter besides letters, and the introduction of the one-cent postal card. In spite of all these drafts upon the Post Office resources, and in spite of all drawbacks of want of wisdom, frugality, or honesty in administration, the business of the department has grown prodigiously. Mr. HAZEN'S estimate of the surplus of the last year should now set at rest all doubts of the expediency of two-cent postage.

War-Haunted Europe.

The most cursory glance at the fiscal and military statistics published in the new *Almanach de Gotha* will suffice to justify the deep social discontent which is everywhere observed on the Continent of Europe, and to explain the incessant outflow of men eager to purchase relief from intolerable burdens by self-expatriation. The heavy annual charges imposed to meet the interest on public debts are so many grievous legacies from the wars of the past, while the current outlay required for enormous standing armies is a ruinous sacrifice to the spirit of militarism which seems, indeed, to be more rampant than it ever was before. While the load, moreover, under which the taxpayer now staggers is far more huge than it has been at any other epoch in the history of the world, the means of supporting it are seriously curtailed; for under the system of universal and compulsory military service which at present prevails upon the Continent, a large fraction of the adult male population is permanently, while most of the remainder is partially and periodically, withdrawn from productive labor.

We should look somewhat closely at the details relating to this subject if we would measure the full evil wrought by that militarism, which seems to be a curse inseparable from the actual political and social condition of Europe, and which may yet cause the toiling millions to look back with regret on feudal or even Roman times. Let us weigh some of the facts which show the extent of the mischief done in particular countries by the existing military system, not overlooking the burden entailed by the public debt, with which previous wars, as we have said, are almost wholly chargeable. It may be well to begin with Russia and Italy, which are probably the poorest among the countries which have any pretensions to high civilization. The population of European Russia, including Poland and the Caucasus, but excluding Finland, which enjoys special privileges, comprises about 78,000,000 souls. In these countries it is acknowledged that taxation has been carried to the highest possible pitch, and that an attempt to wring more from the impoverished people by higher imposts would only result in lessened receipts. The public revenue of European Russia, according to the latest fiscal statement at our disposal, was, if we estimate the paper rouble to be worth fifty cents, about $330,000,000. Of this sum, a quarter is annually required to pay the interest on the public debt, and about a third, or upward of $100,000,000, to make good the current outgo for the army and navy. Even in times of peace nearly a million able-bodied men are perpetually cut off in Russia from the body of taxpayers, and nearly twice as many more are removed from their productive work by periodical terms of military service. In other words, what is known as the regular army numbers, on a peace footing, 974,000 men, and on a war basis 2,733,000. There is also a so-called irregular army composed chiefly of cavalry, and comprehending 163,000 men.

Let us look now at Italy, which is computed to contain nearly 29,000,000 inhabitants, and where, also, the Government is constrained to extort from the people the last penny obtainable by taxation. We observe that the total income of a recent fiscal year fell only a little short of $290,000,000. More than a third of the receipts, or $100,000,000, were demanded by the public debt, while nearly a fifth, or $52,000,000, went toward defraying the military and naval expenditure. The permanent army of Italy, as organized under the law of three years ago, contains 730,000 men (only about one-half of whom however, serve in peace times), while the so-called Mobile Militia, analogous to the German *Landwehr*, has 281,000 more, and the Territorial Militia, corresponding to the *Landsturm*, 607,000. Thus we see that the whole number of able-bodied citizens who, in one way or another, and for longer or shorter terms, are subject to military duty in the Italian Peninsula, exceeds 1,700,000. This is more than three times the number of soldiers which the Roman empire, at the time of its greatest military efficiency, is computed by GIBBON to have required for the protection of the Mediterranean world.

Significant as are the figures just quoted, they are not more startling than those which disclose the harm directly inflicted on the industrial interests of society by the latent animosity of France and Germany, and the constant state of military readiness which those countries feel themselves obliged to maintain. The average revenue in recent years of the German empire, whose population now falls only a little short of 50,000,000, has been about $150,000,000; more than two-thirds of which, or nearly $110,000,000, are required for military and naval disbursements. The empire has only a very small public debt outstanding, but it must be remembered that each of its constituent States has to pay for a separate State Government, and that many of them have large public debts—Prussia, for instance, owing nearly $500,000,000. The German army, under its present organization, comprehends not far from 450,000 men on a peace footing, and in time of war it can be promptly raised to a million and a half, exclusive of the *Landsturm*, which is only called upon to resist invasion. In connection with these data let us glance at those bearing on the Hapsburg empire, which for some time to come seems likely to be intimately allied with Germany. According to the latest estimates, the population of the dual monarchy approaches very closely 38,000,000, and the total expenditure of all the Hapsburg dominions in a late fiscal year was, if we reckon the Austrian florin at fifty cents, $375,000,000. Not far from a third of this, or upward of $112,000,000, went to pay the interest on the public debt, while $58,000,000 were disbursed for the military and naval establishments. The regular army of Austro-Hungary on a peace footing comprises not more than 270,000 men, but, under the system whereby periodical terms of service with the colors are exacted, it can place in the field upon the outbreak of war nearly 1,100,000 men.

France, on the other hand, although it has only 37,000,000 inhabitants, expended in 1882 $660,000,000, of which about $250,000,000 were required for the interest on a colossal public debt, almost the whole of which is due to the wars of the present century. In the same year about $150,000,000 was laid out for military and naval objects. Nowhere, indeed, is militarism making such formidable inroads upon the productive capacity of a nation as in France. It is true that the regular army comprehends on a peace footing not more than half a million of men; but when a few more years have passed, and the present system has been thoroughly carried out, France will be able to dispose of almost as many disciplined soldiers as Germany and Austro-Hungary united, if we exclude the German *Landsturm* from our calculations. The French army in time of war will soon number two and a half millions of trained troops, besides 1,850,000 men who have not received military instruction, but may be called upon for auxiliary services.

What is here shown to be true of the tremendous burdens laid upon the great powers of Europe by the military spirit, through which the structure and workings of Continental society are being profoundly modified, is true also, though less noticeably, of the minor States. Thus, Spain, which raises some $160,000,000 by taxation, has to allot nearly $60,000,000 to the public debt, and more than $30,000,000 to its military and naval forces. An analogous outlay, out of all proportion to the sums devoted to industrial improvement and useful public works, has to be made by Turkey, by Roumania, by Holland, by Sweden and Norway, by Denmark and Portugal, and even by Belgium and Switzerland, though the neutrality of the two countries last named has been solemnly guaranteed. Wherever, indeed, we turn our eyes upon the Continent of Europe, we behold Governments and peoples harassed and exhausted with the endless sacrifices needed to quiet sinister apprehensions, perpetually haunted with the spectre of a world-wide war.

What is the Market Price For Novels?

We are asked this interesting question by a correspondent who writes from Rochester:

"Can you inform me what compensation the leading American novel writers receive for their works? I refer to such as Mrs. HOLMES, AUGUSTA EVANS, and others like them. Do they sell their manuscripts outright, or are their works published on royalties? I would like to purchase a novel by a first-class, and rather by a popular writer, and desire to learn something in regard to the prices usually obtained by them. "JAS. P. MCKINNEY."

The price paid for a novel is a matter to be arranged between the author and the publisher, there being no standard rate. Ordinarily the author is paid by a copyright on the book, so much on each copy sold. The amount paid as copyright varies according to the popularity of the writer and the chances of sale for the book. A frequent royalty is ten per cent. on the retail price of the work, which is a larger proportion of the receipts than it seems to be, since books are sold at wholesale at from twenty-five to forty per cent. discount on the retail price.

But unless the author has a reputation which affords a fair guarantee of a sale sufficient to cover the outlay of the publisher in getting out the first edition, the publisher usually refuses to allow any copyright at all until such a sale has actually been had. He demands to be reimbursed for his outlay first. After that the copyright begins to run. Frequently, indeed, the author is required to advance the first cost of the stereotype plates, or even of the whole edition.

Authors say that the capital of the publisher risked is offset by their time and labor spent in writing the book. But publishers do not see it in that way. And if the author does not like the terms, he has only to take away his manuscript. They have ten times as many offered them as they can print, and are not anxious to risk their capital in getting out the works of untried authors.

If, however, an author has a reputation which makes his books in wide demand, he can exact a copyright from the first. His reputation is such that the publisher feels secure in advancing money to manufacture the book. Novelists who are as successful as those named by our correspondent can get terms like that, and the copyright paid them is ten per cent. or more.

Of course, authors sometimes sell their manuscripts outright. But usually publishers prefer to pay a copyright, and authors, especially novelists, who are a sanguine class so far as concerns their own productions, demand the copyright, unless the lump sum offered them is large.

Finally, let Mr. MCKINNEY advertise that he wants to buy a novel, and he will find that his mail is the largest received at the Rochester Post Office.

The Study of the Weather.

There have recently been published in France some observations of the late Prof. EDOUARD ROCHE of Montpellier on periodical variations of temperature which not only throw light upon the question of changes of climate, but which are particularly interesting just now, in view of the extraordinary weather of the present summer. Prof. ROCHE has compared two sets of weather records, carefully kept at Montpellier, one for eleven years and the other for thirty years, with a record kept at the same place during thirty-six years in the last half of the eighteenth century and a record kept at Brussels for forty years ending in 1872. By means of curves showing the variations of temperature in the course of each year, he has been able to graphically represent the mean range of the temperature for each series of years covered by the observations. The result of this work shows that a great number of the oscillations of temperature which occur in the course of every year are really periodic, recurring year after year at nearly the same dates. The striking coincidence of the curves representing the range of temperature at Montpellier and at Brussels also furnishes evidence that these periodic variations are not local, but extend generally over western Europe, if not over the whole earth. The French astronomer FLAMMARION points out that Prof. ROCHE'S temperature curves reveal the existence of twenty-six oscillations in the course of the year, or one about every fourteen days, each thus corresponding to a semi-rotation of the sun with respect to the earth; and he suggests that the solar rotation may be the cause of the periodic changes of temperature, owing to some variability in the radiating power of different parts of the sun.

But, whatever the cause of these periodic variations of temperature may be, the observations, as far as they go, prove that the climate of western Europe, at all events, has not undergone any appreciable change during the last hundred and fifty years. Of course the variations observed during any particular year are apt to show many divergences from the curve representing the mean variations of a long series of years. Accidental and local causes intervene and modify the influence of the periodic variations, and sometimes completely mask them; but when the records of many years are collated, the oscillations due to accident gradually nullify one another and disappear, leaving only the true periodic irregularities visible in the curve.

A great deal of astonishment has been expressed at the low temperature which has prevailed during most of July and up to the last few days in August. People are apt to magnify any such anomalous condition of the weather, and imagine it to be more extraordinary than it really is. In fact, the temperature in July usually undergoes marked oscillations, and Prof. ROCHE'S curves show a general depression, extending from early in July to the middle of August, interrupted by brief elevations after the middle of July and about the first of August, and followed by a marked elevation a little after the middle of August corresponding with the hot weather of the early part of this week.

These changes of temperature, which occasionally alter the character of a whole season, and set at defiance the influence of the sun's declination, have always puzzled the weatherwise. But the existence of periodic oscillations whose relations to the general range of temperature in the course of the year can be readily established, ought to furnish a clue to the mystery. If observations like those used by Prof. ROCHE in constructing his curves were made during a long period of years in every quarter of the globe, it could be definitely ascertained whether the periodic changes observed in France and the Netherlands extend over the whole earth, and with that fact once established a great step would be made toward an understanding of the causes of such changes, whether they exist upon the earth or in the sun. In this way, too, the exact causes of the temporary, accidental, or local variations which are often conspicuous in the record of a single year, but which can be sifted out by sufficiently extending the observations, might be ascertained.

A Clerical Bribe-Giver.

At the town of Stanford, in the State of Kentucky, is published twice every week a bright, fresh, and interesting newspaper named the *Interior Journal*. From time to time this enterprising journal prints letters from Europe written by Mr. GEORGE O. BARNES, the so-called Mountain Evangelist. The words "Praise the Lord" are scattered through these epistles without much reference to the context, and in many places they are printed in large capitals, while each letter ends with the phrase "Ever in JESUS," or some expression of like character.

It might be supposed that a religious teacher in whose mouth such exclamations were so common, would be a man of strict if not austere morality. To judge from his own writings, however, this supposition would be quite a mistake in the case of Mr. GEORGE O. BARNES. The Mountain Evangelist is not above leading his fellow men into temptation by offering them bribes. We will let him tell his own story.

Writing from London, under date of Aug. 4, 1883, he says:

"Tuesday night WILL and I went to Westminster to attend a sitting of the House of Commons, having that evening unoccupied by any preaching service. We applied first to the office of our Minister for permits, without which none may enter the august precincts. Here we were baffled by red tape and delay, with no hope of getting what we wanted until a permit would have been useless, seeing it was this night or not at all. So we took the short cut, as I remembered to have done twenty-two years before, bribed a policeman and passed in without the least difficulty. I was seated by the usher in charge in almost the identical spot from which in '61 I had looked upon a scene the same and yet not the same."

Thus a man whose vocation it is to save others from sin, coolly bribes a public officer to break faith with his employers and violate his duty, and after having thus sinned himself and induced another to commit sin, the bribe-giver is actually so ignorant of the immoral nature of his own act as to parade it before the world in a public newspaper, over his own signature!

What a mockery it is for such a person to sign himself "Ever in JESUS!"

A Decoration for Our Ministers.

News comes from Farther India that the King of Cambodia proposes to decorate the American Minister to Siam with an order of nobility or knighthood which is known as the Royal Order of NORODOM I.

This honor is to be bestowed partly in recognition of Gen. HALDERMAN'S efforts to connect Cambodia and Siam by telegraph, and is said also to be intended as a special compliment to the United States.

It cannot be accepted without the consent of Congress. We hope Congress will not consent. Too many of our diplomatic representatives have already been allowed to take toys of this sort from foreign potentates.

Congress should institute a distinctively American decoration for our Ministers abroad. It should be known as the Order of Common Sense, and every Minister should be required to belong to the order.

This requirement would result in the early return home of a large number of our diplomatic representatives in foreign lands. They are not eligible for membership.

A new journal has just made its appearance, bearing the title of *Father Columbia's Paper*, and the initial number is further described as the "BUTLER Boom Double Sheet," while a flattered portrait of Governor BUTLER ornaments the first page.

But we do not think the Governor will be the Democratic candidate for President in 1884, or in any other year of this century. He is a clever politician, no doubt, and has performed valuable public service since he broke with the Republicans; but the man who will be nominated by the Democracy in 1884, will more probably be a citizen of Indiana, New York, Illinois, or Pennsylvania. The Democrats are not likely to nominate a Massachusetts man.

Defeat does not seem to dampen Mr. PIERRE LORILLARD'S sporting spirit. When Drake Carter defeated Pizarro in the Omnibus Stakes he handed a check for $17,500 to Mr. MORRIS and became owner of the victor. Yesterday, after Iroquois's defeat by George Kinney, Mr. LORILLARD offered a bet of $5,000 to the DWYERS that Iroquois would beat any horse in their stable. The public has to thank Mr. LORILLARD for the opportunity to see another great race next Tuesday.

That venerable divine and poet, the Rev. Dr. S. F. SMITH, author of the patriotic verses, "My Country, 'tis of Thee," has just had an unpleasant domestic experience of Young America's business enterprise. Finding, to his astonishment, that he was reported to be peddling autograph copies of his famous hymn, he investigated the matter, and found that his grandson, 11 years old, having obtained a printing press, had worked off and was selling copies of the verses, to which the grandfather remembered having put his name simply to gratify the lad. "He has probably sent out a notice," says the indignant old gentleman, "which has unhappily involved my name with his affair. I am ashamed of the boy." The young scapegrace had not scrupled to borrow his grandsire's Pegasus in order to work him in the shafts of his own first business venture.

The *Manhattan Journal* is anxious to know the opinion of THE SUN about what is called amateur journalism, or, as it is expressed, the "alma, projects, and products of embryo journalism." We don't think very much of it. It may do very well to amuse children, and now and then a clever journalist may arise from such a beginning, just as they arise out of other spheres of life; but amateurs in general are not worthy of much esteem. The real artists, on the other hand, are a different sort of people.

From Montana here is a long way, and one would expect the news to be twisted slightly in its passage if it were not for the telegraph, which brings it very quickly, without giving it much chance for metamorphosis. The news which comes of the adventure of a number of persons on a temporary line of the Northern Pacific Railroad there is sufficiently startling. Several ladies and gentlemen were in a caboose nearly at the top of a precipitous grade. They were enjoying the view. Suddenly their enjoyment was stopped by the appearance of a heavy runaway train, 100 yards distant, bearing down on them. The brakes of the caboose were let go, and the caboose dashed down the grade, making awful curves in the most startling manner, but always successfully. The heavy train after a minute overtook and ran into the caboose without any perceptible result, both bodies being by that time very briskly in motion, and train and caboose reached the valley finally in safety. After they reached the valley it is not said what became of the train and the caboose. On some railroads there are enormous posts for runaway trains and cabooses to fetch up against, but it is reasonable to suppose that this train and this caboose ran along a pleasant level until their motion was expended.

BRET HARTE has a story of a stage coach that thundered down the Geiger grade on one wheel. Nobody ever believed the story, but it has never, so far as we know, been successfully refuted.

Perhaps the fundamental expectation of people in regard to a balloon is that it will rise. A balloon may give a measure of humorous satisfaction by going sideways like a crab, by performing a circular motion, or by digging in the ground like the machinery used in boring an artesian well; but its essential function is to go up, and lacking a display of this it is disappointing to its owners and advertisers, and to those who have reposed hopes in it. We can conceive of nothing more backhanded to the feelings of the owner of a balloon than to have it, after he has taken his seat in the car and ordered it to be let loose, remain in a stationary and stolid attitude like a barn. The trouble with the big balloon that failed in its first essentials in Brooklyn on Friday seems to have been a lack of gas. This is curious. Nobody ever would expect, it seems to us, an empty and folded balloon to rise on high in defiance of the laws of gravitation, which never yet permitted an unassisted roll of dry goods to wing its way aloft. Let the farmers of Long Island, whose tomatoes have been scratched up by the big balloon, see to it that it is filled with gas, when it may float far away, to their own relief and to the relief of all those who like to see balloons do what is expected of them.

We receive a good many curious inquiries, and here is one of them:

"May I ask you through your columns if a lady can raise a sum of money by means of life insurance, and if so, what are the steps to be taken?"

No money can be raised by means of life insurance. If you already have a policy which has been running for some time, and on which money has been paid in the form of premiums, it may be possible to borrow upon it a very small proportion of its face value.

In order to insure your life you have to pay money. Nobody will pay you for insuring it. Our correspondent has got hold of the wrong end of the business.

Whether MITCHELL and the Maori will ever come together in a ring combat without gloves begins to look doubtful. Indian Commissioner PRICE has directed Agent TUFTS, who is at Muscogee, to prevent the fight from taking place at Vinita; but the ability of an Indian agent to prevent a battle may be doubted. Now comes Gov. CRITTENDEN asking Marshal MURPHY of Kansas City to break up STADE'S training at Independence, under the laws of Missouri. The combatants may have to move to Arizona for an undisturbed spot big enough for pitching a ring.

Among coming expositions, the Inter-State, which opens in Chicago in September, must not be forgotten. Secretary TELLER'S contribution to the show will be a party of Navajos, in charge of an agent. The Inter-State illustration to be furnished by this exhibit is presumably one between the savage and the fully civilized state; and not less interesting to many than those modern live specimens will be a display of Navajo archæology. Wherever Chicago is concerned, one naturally turns to see what St. Louis is doing in the same direction; and we find, in fact, the latter city taking steps for a great exposition, by beginning a building which is to cost a little less than half a million, and which will be so arranged as to contain a music hall in the centre, with places for the exhibits all around.

Any foreigner who wishes to see what the so-called navy of the United States looks like may have his curiosity gratified by attending the Newburgh centennial celebration in October, for Rear Admiral COOPER, who commands the North Atlantic squadron, has reported that in compliance with the instructions of the Navy Department he will proceed to Newburgh on that occasion "with all of the available vessels of the squadron." Admiral COOPER, it will be observed, wisely does not promise to take the whole squadron, for all the vessels may not be equal to the task of navigating the broad and gusty Tappan and Haverstraw bays, which were much dreaded by some of the old Dutch navigators of the Hudson.

Tornadoes and Cyclones.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I see that THE SUN calls the great Minnesota storm a tornado, while in the other papers it is called a cyclone. Are both terms correct? METEOR.
NEW YORK, Aug. 24.

The Minnesota storm was not a cyclone, and it was a tornado. A cyclone is a rotary storm two or three hundred miles and sometimes as much as a thousand miles in diameter, which originates in the tropics and moves diagonally over the surface of the earth northward or southward. The centre of a cyclone is a region of calm.

A tornado is a whirling wind storm, generally only a few hundred yards in diameter, the centre of which is occupied by the characteristic cone-shaped or funnel-shaped cloud, whose destructive power is terrific. All of the storms which have wrought so much destruction of property and loss of life in the West this year were tornadoes, though the name cyclone has often been improperly applied to them.

Trouble Between Secretary Walker and Capt. Chandler.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—Some time ago Capt. Wm. E. Chandler expressed a desire to have Commodore De Kraft appointed Chief of the Inspecting Board, but Secretary John Walker interposed so many objections that the appointment was not made. When Walker visited Chandler, while in the Senatorial fight in New Hampshire, it was supposed that they would settle on an appointment, but they separated without coming to an understanding. Walker sought rest and recreation in the wilds of the West, and Chandler, after his failure in the Senatorial fight, went cruising along shore with the Tallapoosa. Before setting sail, however, he telegraphed De Kraft's appointment to the department. The proceeding is considered an impertinence on the part of Chandler in the absence of Walker, and it is understood that the appointment is only temporary. As soon as Secretary Walker returns, Capt. Chandler's action will probably receive proper attention. The appointment of Commodore De Kraft has caused quite a stir for a dull spell.

Holman Among the People.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—An official of long standing and high repute has lately returned from a tour over the country. He says that Holman's name is nearly everywhere received with great favor. This feeling exists especially among the intelligent masses. He was surprised to find how extensively Holman's name was known, and how his services as "the Great Objector" were appreciated. He speaks confidently of Holman's sweeping the country as the Democratic candidate. Many Republicans would support him in preference to any one yet spoken of in their party. He says that Holman could never obtain the support of the lobbyists, speculators in claims, and raiders on the Treasury through appropriation bills. They are his worst enemies. In opposing their schemes and practices he has earned their enmity. This would be all the stronger with the country. It is this, says the official, that gives Holman his strength with numerous Republicans who have become disgusted with the practices of their own party, and who realize that it is a patriotic duty to join in any movement that promises a reform.

These general views regarding Holman as a candidate are corroborated by a number of persons who have lately returned to Washington from visits to different parts of the country.

Senator Cameron's Health.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 24.—When last heard from, Senator Don Cameron was in Scotland. He was not improving in health as rapidly as was expected under the treatment of Sir Henry Thompson. When the Senator left this country he intended to be governed by the degree of improvement. If after a sufficient test it was not promising, he would not protract his stay. If his improvement was positive, he would remain abroad till his health was fully restored. His future movements will depend on the effect which his visit to Scotland has on his complaint. Pennsylvanians expect that he will be in his seat when Congress meets.

Twenty-six Millions for Pensions.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 25.—The Treasury Department to-day issued warrants for $[illegible] on account of pensions, making a total of about $26,000,000 paid out on that account during the present month.

VOLCANIC SURPRISES.

For a volcano once supposed to be inactive, Vesuvius has prepared some lively surprises for the dwellers in its neighborhood. Its latest surprise has been to shake up a railroad and destroy several houses. The people of Herculaneum and Pompeii thought Vesuvius extinct until one day it proved in a very thorough manner that it could still be roused to activity. Since then no one has been deceived by its quietude.

Other volcanoes besides Vesuvius have from time to time indulged in what seems to be the general volcanic propensity of creating surprises. Thus no one would expect to have a mass of rock of some 3,000 cubic feet suddenly descend upon them from the sky. But people living nine miles from Cotopaxi were on one occasion treated to such a surprise. The Carthaginians, when they set out against Syracuse, were not prepared to cross the fiery river which, to their surprise, intercepted their march at Mount Ætna. They had no boats with which to cross it.

The great eruption of Tomboro surprised people for some 970 miles around, the distance at which the force of the explosion was heard. They wondered what was the matter until they learned of the eruption from one of the twenty-six persons who were saved out of a population of 12,000.

Surprises of another kind, fearful deluges, are the first indications in many South American districts that volcanoes whose peaks are in the region of perpetual snow have suddenly become active, the deluges being caused by the melting of great masses of snow.

It must also be a surprise of a beautiful, though fearful kind, to see a fiery fountain play to a height of seven hundred feet from the side of a mountain. Such a fountain on Mauna Loa in 1852 was a magnificent illustration of volcanic fissure, the pressure of lava at the crater being relieved by this new outlet. The cracks often seen on volcanoes, which form dikes radiating from the centre, are created in this manner. Small extra craters, volcanoes on volcanoes, which gradually become cone shaped, are found along these fissures.

Another surprise. There is no flame in volcanic eruptions, as is generally represented most graphically in chromos. The supposititious flames are simply a reflection of the lava on the cloud of ashes and cinders. How great a volume of the latter is ejected can be well understood when it is stated that enough ashes and cinders were ejected during the Tomboro eruption to cover the whole of Germany two feet deep.

The islands which have occasionally surprised the inhabitants along the coast of the Mediterranean by appearing suddenly under their very eyes are the results of volcanic action. But probably the greatest surprise connected with this subject is the formation of volcanoes. A volcano is originally nothing but a hole in the ground, formed often at no elevation by the swelling and breaking of an earth bubble. The mountain which springs up around this opening is formed by accumulations of successive eruptions. The great age of volcanoes which, like Mauna Loa and Mount Ætna, are 14,000 and 11,000 feet high, can be readily appreciated from this fact, and from the further fact that Ætna had attained almost its present height when it was observed by Greek writers 2,500 years ago.

A volcano is a furnace on a magnificent scale, the lava which it ejects being molten rock. This rock is so thoroughly fused by some volcanoes that the lava is as thin as honey, and flows with a velocity of fifteen miles an hour. Sometimes it is spun out in long, glassy threads by the action of bursting gas bubbles.

While there are two kinds of eruptions, the quiet and the explosive, there are many theories regarding the heat which fuses the rocks into lava. Many think that the interior of the earth is in a liquid condition, but the better opinion seems to be that the lava occurs in subterranean lakes. But the theorists agree that the proximate cause of volcanic eruption is the contact of water with molten rock.

THE WESTERN UNION AND THE NEWSPAPERS.

Mr. Henry George Declines to Make Any Specific Charges.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: In the editorial column of THE SUN of this morning you call on me to state specifically "to what newspapers in New York and other cities did the Western Union furnish articles during the strike." Inasmuch as I did not pretend to give the Senate committee any information of this kind, but merely cited the fact that such charges had been specifically and publicly made, it is hardly incumbent on me to furnish such a list. If the statements to which I called the attention of the committee have escaped your eye, the gentleman who reads the domestic exchanges of THE SUN can doubtless refer you to them more fully and more easily than I could.

As to the further question you ask me, "What newspapers have published as their own articles that proceeded from the Western Union officers, and that were written in its interest by agents of that corporation?" I must refer you to such Western Union officers and agents as the only persons likely to know. I certainly did not presume to furnish such information to the committee. I testified as to certain facts of which I was personally cognizant relative to the crushing out of a newspaper by the Western Union at the instance of a combination of rival newspapers; and in response to inquiries of Senators as to how the press could be of use to the Western Union, referred them, among other things, to such contingencies as the late strike and to certain well known facts and published statements. As to the case of which I testified, and which well illustrates the necessity of taking the telegraph business out of the hands of such corporations as the Western Union, I will give you a full statement if you desire to publish it. Very respectfully, HENRY GEORGE.
BROOKLYN, Aug. 24.

British Sportsmen and American Game.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Frank Wilkeson's recent letter to THE SUN in regard to the wanton destruction of American game by Englishmen is not only exceedingly unfair, but manifestly contradictory. After the usual gratuitous insult to Englishmen, he proceeds to say that, "as a rule, they are wretched shots," and then bursts into a diatribe about their bloodthirsty and pot-hunting proclivities, winding up by predicting the rapid extermination of game in the West unless stringent measures against sportsmen are adopted.

As a matter of fact, the average Englishman is quite as good a shot as his American cousin; but if Mr. Wilkeson doesn't believe this, what difference can a few "wretched shots" make in the quantity of Western game? I would also like to ask the reason for the disappearance of the moose and elk from northern Maine. If the sporting papers here are to be credited, the almost utter extinction of these noble animals is due to native pot-hunters and guides killing them out of season, while every one is familiar with deer hunting as practiced in the Adirondacks, where the wretched animal is held by the horns by the guide while the sportsman (?) from the boat has no need for his gun, but simply for his hunting knife to cut its throat!

Is the buffalo still hunted in the chivalrous way practised by Mr. Wilkeson? or are there not rumors of its being slaughtered by the thousand for nothing but the hides, the meat being entirely wasted?

Of course, there are English as well as American pot-hunters, and my only object in writing is that when Mr. Wilkeson asperses a whole nation he may be reminded of the old proverb about people who live in glass houses.
BROOKLYN, Aug. 25. ENGLISHMAN.

What an Agnostic Says.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: A short paragraph in to-day's SUN describes Joseph Cook's seven modern wonders of the world. As I read it I wondered why he did not add an eighth, namely, the influence which is so cruelly destroying innocent babes, helpless women, and hoary-headed men, together with their peaceful homes, the result of patient industry and temperate living, by cyclone, tornado, earthquake, lightning, and flood.

Can he induce thoughtful men to attribute these cruelties to some other God than the one he tells us is fulfilling Biblical prophecy by scientific spiritualism, and so on? I am certain the cruelest human being who ever lived would not destroy peaceful towns and smiling homesteads with their innocent occupants, without a motive or purpose; mock them when they lifted up their hands in supplicating aid, and dash them to pieces like clods of inanimate matter. Also am I convinced that no good intelligence can be in active operation for the perfecting of his favorite theories, as that would compel a belief in the same power being the active agent in the cruelties which distinguish Nature's operation. OLD AMERICAN CITIZEN.
NEW YORK, Aug. 23.

A Chance for Bakers and Clothes-washers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Our town has a population of about 2,000 people, and is only about two years in getting this number. When we get all of our railroad connections, which will be completed by the middle of next year, we will soon run up to 5,000 or 6,000.

What we want most now is a good bakery and a steam laundry. Any enterprising men who understands these branches of industry can make a fortune here in a very short time. J. W. HICKS.
ORLANDO, Fla., Aug. 20.

Presents to Employees.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: I see that the Sea Beach Railroad has given its employees the benefit of the receipts for Sept. 12 and 13. The Fort Lee Park and Steamboat Company has for the past five years tendered the use of one of its steamers to its employees for an excursion, or, if they prefer, the receipts of the line for one day after Sept. 1. The company has this year tendered them the use of one of the steamers for a moonlight excursion on Sept. 10, the company furnishing crew and coal. EXPLORER.
FORT LEE, Aug. 23.

The Forty-second Street Reservoir.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Is it not a shame that the Forty-second street reservoir is kept empty to satisfy an aristocrat and aid his speculations, while my tenants of the Seventeenth Ward can't get water during the day even on the ground floor? The man who says the filling of that reservoir during the night won't add to the pressure and supply of water down town during the day is either a fool or a fraud.
NEW YORK, Aug. 24. W. H.

Generosity to Colored Sunday School Scholars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Last month some generous person contributed 100 excursion tickets to each colored Sunday school in this city and Harlem. They went to Coney Island on Aug. 1. Since that time we have been trying to find out who the charitable parties are. If you can throw any light upon it, you will oblige a great many of your readers. We always like to know our benefactors, and especially those of the white race. EDWIN C. JOHNSON.

Resurveying Long Island Sound.

Surveyors in the employ of the United States Coast Survey have been establishing range points on Lloyd's and Eaton's Necks, Huntington Harbor, and at elevated points about Northport Harbor, preparatory to a new survey of Long Island Sound.

Give ready attention and prompt treatment to all affections of the bowels, diarrhœa, cholera morbus, dysentery, &c. Dr. Jayne's Carminative Balsam affords immediate relief, and speedily cures these complaints.—Adv.

SUNBEAMS.

—The *Christian at Work* tells about a preacher who said in his sermon that it is "as hard for a rich man to squeeze through heaven's gate as for a mathematician to destroy one of the foci of an ellipse while preserving the other, or for a truncated cone to be made whose intersected plane should never describe a parabola."

—The weary struggle for life in which the Church of the Evangelists in Philadelphia has been engaged has at last come to an end. The Sheriff