

The Sun

SUNDAY, APRIL 4, 1886.

THE SUN to-day consists of twelve pages. Our friends should see that their newspapers furnish them with the entire paper.

The Penalty in 1882.

The River and Harbor job this year is already nearly as big as the famous or infamous one which cost the Republicans the House in spite of President Arthur's veto. It is threatening over old straw to point out what a fraud upon the country these gigantic log-rolling combinations are. Probably three-fourths of the money is spent for unimprovable and useless puddies and tadpole pools. A bonfire of ten millions in greenbacks would be of just about as much use to commerce and navigation.

And yet some of the gentlemen who are anxious to throw good United States money into the mud will doubtless be full of earnestly economical ideas when the subject of coast defenses, the most important subject before Congress, is to be disposed of. Having lavishly appropriated money for what is not needed, they will yet be chary of insuring the towns on the seaboard and on the lakelake against destruction and ruin.

The River and Harbor bill, it is very likely, be nursed into still larger proportions in the Senate. There ought to be sense and courage enough on the Democratic side of the House to keep clear of this miserable concatenation of jobs, and to provide willingly and liberally for national defenses.

The Immigration Question.

The indications seem to be strong that the immigration question is once more going to be an important question in the United States; and it is remarkable that the men who are now pushing it to the front are, in large part, the immigrants or the sons of the immigrants against whom the old Know-Nothing party directed its energies.

It is, indeed, a question regarding which public sentiment has been more or less sharply divided almost from the very foundation of the republic. In 1790 the period of residence required of aliens before they were entitled to naturalization was fixed at two years. In 1795 it was prolonged to five years, and in 1798 the Federalists raised it to fourteen years, and by their Sedition and Anti-Allen laws paved the way for the election of JEFFERSON in 1800, which was followed in 1802 by a reduction of the time to five years. In 1814 the Hartford Convention included among its proposed constitutional amendments a strong anti-alien clause, and as early as 1835 an unsuccessful attempt was made in this city to form a native organization to keep foreigners out of the municipal offices.

A few years later the movement spread to New Jersey and Philadelphia, and made ready for the establishment, in 1852, of the secret Know-Nothing party, which threatened at one time to capture supreme political power in the Union, but in a few years went to pieces as rapidly as it had formed. But the present movement for the restriction of immigration proceeds on radically different grounds from those taken by the Federalists and the Know-Nothings, who were influenced by race and religious prejudices and hatreds, and whose purpose was political. Its object is purely economical and social, American labor declaring that certain kinds of immigration compel it to endure a degrading and hopeless competition with cheaper labor introduced from China and Europe, and the officers of charities crying out that because of defective regulations this country is receiving the refuse of the society of other countries, and that consequently the States are compelled to support great numbers of incapable foreigners.

The Knights of Labor and the labor unions generally are therefore joined with the representatives of the charities in different States to give propulsion to this great movement, and in the case of the Chinese immigration a precedent has been established which may have far-reaching consequences. If it is advisable to make foreign immigration more difficult, and even to stop it altogether in some directions, with a view to the protection of home labor, may not the principle be extended, and all immigration be treated as a proper subject for similar regulation on economic and social grounds wholly?

The labor unions, it seems, are pretty generally agreed in taking the affirmative side of the question, though, as yet, they confine their active resistance to the Chinese more particularly. They do not want here any more workers who will not join with them in the organization of labor.

Shall We Make or Buy Our Bine Guns?

Major RODMAN'S invention of casting hollow cannon and cooling them from the interior, placed the United States in the front rank of the gunmakers of the world. Two twenty-inch smoothbores were constructed on this principle, firing solid shot weighing 1,300 pounds. With the production of these monsters, weighing 93 tons each, we rested on our laurels.

In the mean time, Europe was alive to the advantages of rifled cannon, and smoothbores were rapidly disappearing from foreign armaments. On this ground we took issue with Europe, and the bitter controversy over the relative advantages of the "punching" and "packing" systems arose. As is well known, we were thoroughly worsted, and today our first-class guns are inferior in power to the tenth-rate guns of foreign navies. Wherever we may place the responsibility for our present condition, it is evident that we have failed to profit by the experience of other nations; that, taking the wrong course originally, we obstinately persisted in it long after we were fully aware of our error; and that to-day we do not so well understand the meaning of "knowing your own mind" as we should.

In 1876 Congress began to grant appropriations for the armament of our coast fortifications. Up to the present time about two million dollars have been made available for this purpose. Many Gatling and Hotchkiss guns, flank defense howitzers, revolving cannon, and other machine guns have been purchased, and 210 ten-inch Rodmans have been converted into eight-inch rifles, but we do not yet possess a single modern rifle of any calibre.

In the mean time European powers have been steadily pursuing correct methods, and by definite experiments determining the true path of progress. All authorities have united on steel as the proper material for the manufacture of heavy ordnance, and the methods of casting and fabrication are so well understood that 119-ton guns have been actually constructed and 156-ton guns are projected. Why, then, do we keep on experimenting with cast iron?

We are gradually waking up to the fact that our armament is in a defensive condition, and that even if we build fortifications, we have no guns of any value to put in them. Urged by the popular demand, Congress, in March, 1885, authorized the President to appoint a Board of army and navy officers to examine and report upon this subject. In this way the Gun Foundry Board was

formed. As a result of careful investigation, both in this country and in Europe, the Board reached the following conclusions:

"1. That it is not advisable for the Government to establish a gun foundry, properly so called.

"2. That it is not advisable to purchase our guns exclusively from one manufacturer.

"3. That it is not advisable for the Government to form any partnership with private firms in such structures.

"4. That the proper course for the Government to pursue the material—steel ingots—from private firms, and then manufacture the guns, establishing for this purpose two gun factories, one for the army at West Troy, and one for the navy at Washington.

Germany purchases her guns from a private manufacturer, KRUFP. Russia works in partnership with the Aboukhoff Steel Works. England has tried both methods, and, in addition, has the Woolwich royal gun factory completely under Government control. France has Government factories for machining and assembling the parts—all foundry work being done by private shops.

The experience of England with the Elswick and Russia with the Aboukhoff works is not favorable to any partnership enterprise on the part of the Government; and the lamentable break down of the close Government corporation in France during the Franco-Prussian war led to the inauguration of their present effective system. Germany is well supplied by KRUFP'S works, but pays dearly for her convenience. England can buy equally good guns from ARMSTRONG, and the Government officials are now considering the purchase of 63-ton guns which has no rival of equal weight in the world. Experience shows that the safety of a nation requires the development of private enterprise in the manufacture of all kinds of armaments of war. There is no reason to doubt the wisdom of the conclusion reached by this Board of able and competent officers.

The Fortification Board, whose report is now before Congress, approve of the recommendations of the Gun Foundry Board, and advise as follows:

"1. An appropriation for gun steel sufficient to induce contracting steel works to prepare for and begin the manufacture of steel forgings for guns of all calibres, \$5,000,000.

"2. An appropriation for a gun factory with plant sufficient to machine, assemble, and finish, \$10,000,000.

Mr. TRIDEN, in the patriotic and statesmanlike letter he addressed to Mr. CARLISLE, presents the case very forcibly:

"The present time is peculiarly favorable for providing for this great national necessity long neglected. It is a time when the steel and iron industries offer a great vista to our service. We should have the satisfaction of knowing that, while we were engaged in the struggle with the world, we were not only maintaining our position, but were also increasing our power. We were setting in motion industries and giving employment to labor in a period of depression. With encouragement by the guarantee of work, or perhaps by the Government itself furnishing the inventive genius of our people would be applied to the creation of new means and improved machinery, and establishments would spring into existence capable of supplying all of the national wants and rendering our country more independent of other countries in respect to the means of national defense.

If Congress is anxious to encourage American ingenuity and American industry, let it heed Mr. TRIDEN'S wise advice. Employment will thus be given to thousands of workmen, the steel industries in every department and branch will be encouraged, healthy competition will be stimulated, and we shall be gradually supplied with defensive weapons not inferior in power to those of England, France, Germany, or Russia.

The alternative is to go to KRUFP or ARMSTRONG and buy our guns; for it is absolutely necessary that we should have them in some way, and that soon.

The Prophecy of the Nadigrandhams.

We have received the first number of the Path, a monthly magazine "devoted to the brotherhood of humanity, theosophy in America, and the study of occult science, philosophy, and Aryan literature." In plainer and simpler words, it is a new exponent of the clap-trap religion concocted by Mme. H. S. OLCOTT, now of India, but formerly of New York, and more commonly known as Hierophant OLCOTT.

That its inventors call theosophy is a jumble of mystical nonsense and spiritualism humbug flavored with a dash of superficial knowledge of Oriental philosophy. But, in spite of its absurdity and its exposed trickery, the new-fangled religion has made so much headway in this country that it is now represented here by two periodicals, this Path, published at New York, and the Occult World, published at Rochester by a woman. We also learn that there are nine theosophical societies in the United States, of which, naturally, the one at Boston is the most distinguished for the profundity of its mumbo-jumbo wisdom. The "intellectual circles" of Boston, we are told, find much food for thought and discussion in the literature produced by wholesale under the direction of BLAVATSKY and OLCOTT, and "the current of truth flowing through the society's channels makes itself felt" in the inquisitive Puritan capital.

Yet only about a year ago the jugglery of Mme. BLAVATSKY'S "occultism" was fully exposed in India. It was her misfortune to be "given away" by her two confederates, a Monsieur and a Madame COULOMB. The husband, who was a clever carpenter, devised and constructed the trap doors to let in her ghostly visitants, and the wife obliged the post office through which the messages from these awful beings were distributed. It is only fair to say, however, that Col. OLCOTT appears to have kept quiet in ignorance of this jugglery, for Mme. BLAVATSKY spoke of him to Mme. COULOMB as rather a fool than a knave.

But, of course, that exposure of its humbug did theosophy only temporary harm, and it is since it was made that the intellectual circles of Boston began diving into the mysteries of the "Blavatsky-Olcottic" mysteries. It seems, too, that Col. OLCOTT was assured by the astrologer who has in charge the Nadigrandhams, that theosophy in all right and is bound to prosper. The Nadigrandhams, the Path tells us, are certain books which exist in India, and "resemble the Sibylline books of Rome, which prophesied, it is said, for over 2000 years all the important events in the affairs of the Eternal City."

Col. OLCOTT consulted this lucky astrologer in May, 1885, when the affairs of the theosophical enterprise were in a distressing condition because of the COULOMB exposure, and was told that the Nadigrandhams said that the "dark cycle" through which the society was passing would last only 90 months and 16 days more, and 14 months afterward the theosophists would increase three-fold in power and strength, and some of the founders would attain "granatony," which, the Path intimated, means "higher knowledge" of the kind "which is only obtained by rising to higher spiritual planes, and which transcends the highest of ordinary knowledge of the greatest literati or scientists." The Nadigrandhams did not say so positively, but they hinted that it was OLCOTT himself who was to attain granatony, and we shall, therefore, await with some little curiosity to hear from him when he gets there. Col. OLCOTT also learned that he had yet to live 29 years, 5 months, 6 days, and 14 hours, and that on his death, happily postponed until the next century, the society

would have 156 principal branches and 50,000 enrolled members.

On another occasion, according to the Path, the Nadigrandhams prophesied that the OLCOTT'S exposure would "come to nothing." And it was a safe prophecy. We made it ourselves at the time, so far as to predict that the more of a humbug theosophy was shown to be, the more fools would be attracted to it; nor did the "exalted being" who ventured the opinion that "it is probable that the sons of theosophists will become theosophists" make a rash prophecy, for, unhappily, addled brains are likely to be transmitted to posterity.

A North Carolina Girl.

This is a letter from a very sensible young woman of North Carolina, and we give it prominence the more gladly because it comes from the South, where labor, according to a frequent accusation, is held in less esteem than here at the North:

"I am an unmarried young woman, have finished the course in one of our Southern female colleges, have good health and character, but, unhappily, have been thrown upon my own resources for a livelihood. I am a teacher, and I am at a loss what to do, for I do not wish to be a burden on my family. Teaching school seems to be the only thing the Southern States offer me to do for a living. I would prefer the place of a servant—that of a nurse or lady's maid—in a refined family, to the position of teacher in our public schools, but our wealthy families do not employ school teachers, and I have no other resource. I am at Cooper Institute, and though I have learned something by the knowledge of drawing acquired there, I cannot make that support me. I am quite willing to do anything for a living that a virtuous Christian woman would do, and of course I am not averse to an special calling, I am at a loss what to do, for I do not wish to be a burden on my family. 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