The Sun.

MONDAY, APRIL 30, 1888.

The Indiana Democrats Make a Mistake.

The Indiana Democrats have taken on the pension question a position which it will be difficult for judicious persons to approve. Their platform of this year declares in favor of "the enactment by Congress of a just and equitable service pension law." The Indiana platform is understood to be the work of the Hon. WILLIAM H. ENGLISH, a fact which may be thought to account for its liberal intentions. But how can there be a just and equitable service pension law? How can it be just to bestow upon good, bad, and indifferent a pension not based upon disability, or need, or merit, but merely on the fact of service? The Republicans have gone to unjustifiable and even dangerous lengths in their anxiety to get the so-called soldier vote, and it is not pleasant to see Democrats tagging after on the road of humbug.

Singularly enough, this same Indiana Democratic platform declares that Mr. CLEVELAND'S Administration "has shown that pensions should be given to merit." That is not the whole truth, for Mr. CLEVELAND'S failure to veto the Mexican Pension bill has made a precedent for the service pension. But a service pension is clearly a pension for merit, and so the Indiana platform is not consistent in its treatment of the subject of pensions.

Mr. CLEVELAND'S attitude as to pensions has been, on the whole, creditable to him and useful to the country. The Indiana Democrats either talk buncombe or they have become victims of the craze which in the last few years has made Congress rain down pensions upon the just and the unjust. Mr. CLEVELAND'S reminder that the Government is not to support the people, though the people support the Government, seems to be forgotten in Indiana.

A Short Talk to New York Workingmen.

The perpetuity of republican institutions in America depends on the independence and intelligence of the men and women who live on the wages of labor. The distinctively American feeling of equality, which is the root of democracy, cannot be maintained except inside of good clothing, in the ownership of a comfortable home, a supply of wholesome food, education for the children, the best of newspapers (THE SUN), and a deposit in a savings bank. High wages are indispensable to the possession of these advantages. Our working men and women now generally enjoy them, and, as a consequence, the political life of the nation daily rises higher and higher. If foreign competition shall cut down these wages to the rates paid to factory workers in Europe, our republic will surely decline to the condition in which money is king and man a chattel.

The iron and steel workers of Pittsburgh will this week set an example which should be followed. One hundred of them will go to Washington to get from members of the House personally the hearing that was denied to them by the Ways and Means Committee when framing the bill to reduce the tariff. Their published purpose is "to convince Representatives that a vote for the MILLS bill means a vote against American workmen."

If you go to Washington, be advised by us not to return until you have made Congress feel that you are in blood earnest in your determination to be protected, not only against cheap labor, but also against the importation of cheap goods.

The Indian's Next Friend.

The bill now before Congress for securing to Indians the protection of the law merits careful consideration. It has been drawn up by the Indian Rights Association, and its main purpose is to establish courts on the various reservations, in which Indians may sue and be sued, while additional objects are to give them power to make contracts and engage in trade. Naturally its provisions are not applicable to the Cherokees, Creeks, Chickasaws, Choctaws, and Seminoles, commonly called the five civilized tribes, or to the Senecas of New York, since these already have judicial systems and facilities for transacting business. Nor are the tribes to which it does apply relieved from those restraints which are necessary for the maintenance of the reservation systems, the abolition of which at the present time would be premature and perilous.

The pending measure extends over every Indian reservation the civil and criminal laws of the State or Territory in which it is situated; while the Kansas laws are extended to the Indian Territory proper, excepting, of course, the five tribes there already referred to. In order to secure the due execution of these various laws, Court Commissioners are to be appointed by the United States Circuit Courts for districts geographically set forth and numbered in the bill. The United States District Courts of the districts thus specified are to sit at least once a year in places mentioned, for the purpose of hearing appeals, as well as of exercising functions of original jurisdiction in the graver Indian criminal cases, and in civil cases where the sum involved exceeds $500.

Turning to the Court Commissioners, on whom the main part of the duty contemplated, at least in the first instance, will devolve, we find that each of these is authorized to hear and decide, within his own geographical limits, all except capital cases in which Indians are interested, either on one side or the other or on both:

"He shall also have the general powers of a Surrogate or Judge of Probate, or other like officer within the State or Territory, so far as relates to the proving of wills of Indians and the appointment and accounts of Indian administrators, trustees, and guardians. He shall also have, within any reservation, the power of a Justice of the Peace or notary public under the laws of the State or Territory within which such reservation is situated. Cases shall be tried by such Commissioner without juries, unless a jury shall be demanded by either party, but either party may claim a jury of six; and in all cases the jury shall be composed half of each race where this is practicable, in the judgment of the Commissioner, and where a sufficient number of Indians may be found who speak and understand English."

If the matter in controversy exceeds $20, or the accused in a criminal case is "liable to an infamous punishment," an appeal may be taken to the United States District Court:

"If an appeal is taken in any case between an Indian and a white person, or in which a white person is accused of an infamous crime against an Indian, or vice versa, the jury, if any, shall be composed in equal proportions of Indians and white persons, or as nearly as may be practicable, if Indians speaking and understanding English can be found, and an appeal may be taken from the District to the United States Circuit Court, and thence to the United States Supreme Court."

Each Commissioner is to hold a court at each of his agencies once every three months, or oftener, and is to have a clerk, exercising the general powers of a committing magistrate, in regard to whom these noticeable provisions are made:

"Such clerk may be an Indian; and if there be an Indian competent within the Commissioner's district, the Commissioner shall give him the preference. The Commissioner may authorize such clerk to take testimony, or act as auditor or master in chancery, and he shall have the general powers of a notary public or Justice of the Peace in the State or Territory in which the reservation is situated; and he shall act as recorder of deeds and register of births, marriages, and deaths."

The Circuit Court is also to appoint, upon the recommendation of the Commissioners, one or more additional committing magistrates for each reservation, "at least one of whom shall be an Indian, if there be one competent." They are to hold office during four years, and to have the powers of Justices of the Peace or notaries public for administering oaths and taking acknowledgments, receiving fees for their services.

The provisions for procuring witnesses and evidence and for giving to the agent the powers of a Sheriff need not here be recounted; but an important new office is created, that of the Next Friend, who is to be appointed by the Circuit Court for each reservation agency:

"He shall receive a salary of not less than $600 nor more than $2,500, to be fixed by the United States Circuit Court. His duties shall be as follows, viz.: He may institute suits and prosecutions on behalf of Indians, or defend the same at the request of any Indian, and without such request, by leave of the Commissioner or Judge of the court in which the action or prosecution is brought. He shall act as District Attorney or prosecuting officer in the agency for which he is appointed."

This Next Friend is to be learned in the law, to hold office for four years, unless removed by the Circuit Court on the hearing of complaints against him, and to give the bond required of an Indian agent. And a very important duty of the Next Friend is to give a written approval to contracts and leases of lands allotted in severalty under the act of Feb. 8, 1887, since such contracts and leases are made lawful under the present act, provided they do not run for more than a year. These proposed short land contracts are further guarded as follows:

"But no Indian shall convey or encumber the title thereof, except as herein provided, within the period of twenty-five years, fixed by section five of said act; provided that any two or more Indians may exchange said lands held by one or more of such Indians for lands held by other such Indians, and when such exchange is approved in writing by such Court Commissioner it shall take effect, and the title to the lands so exchanged shall pass accordingly."

It will be seen that this bill provides a comprehensive court system for the Indians. The subject is not an easy one to legislate on satisfactorily, yet it is of high importance; and the basis now presented by the Indian Rights Association may be found to save much preliminary labor for Congress.

Business, War, Law, and the Presidency.

Mr. CHAUNCEY M. DEPEW'S speech at the GRANT birthday dinner on Friday night contained some sounder ideas and more solid facts than it is often thought worth while to bring forward on ceremonial and complimentary occasions. For instance, this remark of his in regard to the undoubted and curious fact that from the time of WASHINGTON to the time of CLEVELAND the Presidents of the United States have been selected and elected from soldiers or lawyers:

"It is a notable fact that, though we are the only purely industrial nation in the world, we have never selected our rulers from among the great business men of the country. And the conditions and prejudices of success present insuperable obstacles to such a choice."

That successful soldiers, some of them, like WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON and WINFIELD SCOTT and ZACHARY TAYLOR, not soldiers of the highest rank, should be popular and selected for political distinction is entirely natural. It is natural and it is right that the people should wish to show their gratitude to men who have served them well. As far as the lawyers are concerned their profession has long been recognized as the direct, just as distinguished service in the army has been the indirect, road to the great posts of the Commonwealth. It cannot be said that the lawyers have fulfilled the expectations or surmises of DE TOCQUEVILLE as to their conservative influence in the United States; but their share of the honors of politics has been perhaps in excess even of their merits. That those merits have been great cannot, however, be successfully denied, and most of the brilliant, though by no means all of the salient and era-making politicians of America, have come from the lawyers.

JEFFERSON was rather a student of legal, social, and political philosophy than a lawyer pure and simple. In saying this we do not of course forget that he was at an early time in his career a successful practitioner at the bar; but he was a man of principles rather than of precedents; and if he had been merely a Virginia planter his influence and political achievements might have been perhaps as large and beneficent as they have been. His legal training helped him, but it was impossible, from the nature of his mind and of his heart, that the strict path of legal distinction could be followed by him. Even if he had been born fifty years later, it is probable that no prospects of eminence or opulence at the bar could have taken him from the two seemingly divergent careers in both of which he came to the highest honor—practical politics and political and legal speculation. It is true that the broad and sweeping reforms which he introduced into the statute books of Virginia—which he found a feudal aristocracy and changed into a modern democracy—might not have been made by a layman. But JEFFERSON as a lawyer would never have been, even if he had cared to be, a PINCKNEY or a HAMILTON. A BENTHAM or an AUSTIN, upon different lines and with a freer play of mind, he might have been. But it was not as a lawyer, but as a true demagogue, or people's leader, that he was elected President.

ANDREW JACKSON, the second great leader of the Democracy, was a lawyer and a Judge, as lawyers and Judges went in the new-settled communities of the West. It was not as a lawyer, but as a soldier and a representative of the growing Democratic idea that he came to almost unparalleled popularity.

SAMUEL J. TILDEN, the third great leader of the Democracy, was a great lawyer, but he was nominated and elected rather as a statesman in politics, as the man who had run New York State on business principles, brought dishonest subordinates of his own party or the other to punishment, and could be trusted to apply to the affairs of the nation the same ideas and principles he had so successfully put in effect here. Mr. TILDEN was a profound and luminous thinker and student in the field of politics, but it was as a political reformer, that is a good business man, meaning business in politics, that he was elected President.

We have spoken of these three distinguished Democratic Presidents. Of most of the Presidents it is sufficient to say that such of them as were lawyers were not great lawyers. Mr. TILDEN is the only man elected President who ranks among the great lawyers; and it is interesting to recall that his distinction as a corporation lawyer was one of the main objections urged against him. Of the Republican Presidents, LINCOLN, GARFIELD, and ARTHUR were lawyers of only moderate distinction, and GRANT was a soldier. Mr. BLAINE, the most prominent and popular candidate the Republicans have had for the Presidency in the last twelve years, is neither a lawyer nor a soldier. He is a very good business man, however, as Mr. DEPEW might have remembered.

The fact most naturally recalled by Mr. DEPEW'S speech is that the "business men," so-called, at least the Republican bushess men, were among the most blatant and persistent supporters of the dangerous third term proposal in 1880. But it is true that the business men have not yet had a fair chance for the Presidency; and the lawyers and soldiers are still much ahead of them. Mr. DEPEW may yet satisfy and avenge them. It is true he is a lawyer, but he is also one of the greatest business men in the world.

Who Governs New York?

President FORSTER of the Board of Aldermen gave the fashionable Nineteenth Century Club some valuable information the other night, during a discussion of the question whether our legislative bodies represent the people.

Speaking as a practical politician of Tammany Hall, he answered the question by explaining that New York is governed by "the people below Fourteenth street, east of Third avenue and west of Sixth avenue." The political sentiment of these people and their preferences as to legislators must, therefore, determine the decision of the question, so far as New York is concerned.

In the districts of which President FORSTER spoke, about one-half of the vote of the town is cast, and the interest in politics is far stronger and more general there than in the district lying above Fourteenth street and between Third and Sixth avenues, where neglect of political duty is of common occurrence. A large part of the vote in the upper wards is also in sympathy with this downtown sentiment, and is swayed by it, the population outside of a narrow strip being of the same general character and living under similar circumstances.

That is, New York is governed by people whose notions of life are very different from those of the members of the rich and elegant Nineteenth Century Club. Their standard as to what constitutes fitness for public office, and their demands in the way of representation, may also be equally dissimilar. They want legislators who will be in accord with their sentiment, and who will make laws to suit them.

They may be deceived sometimes, but as President FORSTER said, the men they send to the Legislature or elect as Aldermen generally represent them and the prevailing tone among them. Of course they do not always elect men who satisfy the fastidious up-town minority, for if they did, they would not secure the representation they want; but they are pretty sagacious in picking out legislators who express their own sentiments. On the whole, too, those representatives are honest, as also all except a very small part of the people who elect them are honest.

And don't they govern New York well? The city Government has increased in efficiency under their domination, and the town is more orderly from year to year.

Where the Tiger Lurks.

The New York *World* printed on Saturday morning a prospectus announcing the principal contents of its edition of the next day, that is to say, of Sunday. The prospectus was headed: "To-morrow's Edition will be an Unusually Entertaining One—Here are Some of the Promised Features."

From the list of promised features, as announced on Saturday, we make this interesting extract:

"Prof. DAVIDSON'S Review of DONNELLY'S Baconian Cryptogram.

"Where the Tiger Lurks in New York City—Information for the Police.

"Some of New York's Crack Pistol Shots and their Records."

Policemen and other people who purchased copies of the later or main edition of the *World* on Sunday morning found therein Prof. DAVIDSON'S review of DONNELLY'S Baconian cryptogram. They also found, according to programme, the article on New York's crack pistol shots. But they hunted the columns of the paper in vain for the promised information about the lurking places of the Tiger in New York city. That had been hastily suppressed.

For the benefit of the police and of the District Attorney we repeat here the information contained in THE SUN which reached the *World* office early yesterday morning, and occasioned a hurried revision of that newspaper's plans for the day's literature.

The Tiger lurks in the rookery at 11 Park row and 5, 7, 9, and 11 Ann street. Part of this building is used and has long been used as a gambling den of the worst description. The owner of the property is JOSEPH PULITZER, also the proprietor of the *World*. He has owned it for about a year. That there may be no doubt on the point, we quote a passage from the leading editorial article in the *World* of April 11, describing some of this PULITZER'S operations in real estate:

"We purchased, at a heavy expense, the property No. 11 Park row and Nos. 5, 7, 9, and 11 Ann street, opposite the *Herald*, with the intention of erecting there our new *World* building. The location is for many reasons a desirable one, and we still own the property."

That is where the Tiger lurks, and this information is for the police.

News by Way of Milwaukee.

In a letter from Milwaukee to the *Chicago Tribune*, reporting the great strength of the GRESHAM movement among the Republicans of Wisconsin, we find this information:

"The independent German Republicans of Wisconsin have heard from the Independents of the East, and the understanding here is that the Republican party will not be troubled with Mugwumpism in New York, New Jersey, Connecticut, Massachusetts, or any other State if GRESHAM be made the candidate. A Milwaukee man who enjoys the confidence of GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS, CARL SCHURZ, THEODORE ROOSEVELT, and Editor JONES of the *Times* says all of these men are ready to support GRESHAM, and that they are much dissatisfied with CLEVELAND. Presidential possibilities were being discussed the other day in the presence of JOHN P. McGREGOR, a noted Mugwump of Milwaukee. 'O,' exclaimed Mr. McGREGOR, 'if the Republicans would only nominate a man like GRESHAM!'"

There is no doubt that Judge GRESHAM has developed a great deal of strength as a candidate in Illinois, Wisconsin, and other States of the Northwest; but this is the first intimation that he has captured the hearts of the Eastern Mugwumps.

There is one fact which inclines us to doubt the authority of the Milwaukee man to speak for the Eastern Mugwumps.

It will be observed that while the name of Mr. THEODORE ROOSEVELT is included in the small but select list of men who make political history, the name of "LARRY" GODKIN is omitted.

Perhaps the Western Mugwumps believe that this curious individual has gone out of politics. That is not the case. It was only last Friday that he summed up the history of the last canvass, and recorded his prophecies concerning the next one, in these remarkable, if gloomy words: "In 1884 the question was whether unchastity was as serious an offence in a statesman as falsehood, fraud, and corruption. Apparently we shall have to go over the ground again."

The assignment of Gen. CROOK to command the Division of the Missouri, with headquarters at Chicago, was not wholly unexpected, although it was generally believed that he was quite willing to take Gen. HOWARD'S present place in command of the Division of the Pacific, while the latter officer was more than willing to exchange San Francisco for Chicago. But apparently one object sought at Washington was to specially discountenance the idea that personal preferences of senior officers are to be paramount in assignments to either division or department commands. Such considerations were at one time supposed to exist, especially in the case of division commanders. Were they permitted to department commanders, it is probable that Gen. MILES, now the senior Brigadier, would not have remained so long in charge of the Department of Arizona, but would have chosen instead the Department of the Missouri or the Department of the Platte, which would have afforded the more desirable headquarters respectively at Fort Leavenworth and at Omaha. But in all of the last few promotions of Colonels to the grade of Brigadier-General, notably in the cases of Gen. WILLCOX, Gen. MERRITT, and Gen. BROOKE, the incoming officer, though the lowest in rank, has taken the command of the department vacated, and in all these cases it happened that the lowest officer in the grade obtained a specially desirable department.

The letter of the Hon. JOSEPH E. McDONALD of Indiana concerning the Hon. ISAAC P. GRAY of Indiana is probably the most straightforward political epistle written yet this year.

We observe that the Democratic majority for NICHOLLS in Louisiana, about which there has been so much discussion and so much mystery, has now gone down from 120,000 or thereabouts to 65,000. The latter figures are those of the *Courier-Journal*, which still claims that this majority is the expression of a great popular desire in Louisiana for the passage of the MILLS bill.

We do not believe that the New Orleans *Times-Democrat* will confirm the *Courier-Journal* in this view of the situation, and we dare say the *Times-Democrat* is a better authority in Louisiana politics than even the Star-Eyed Goddess's stepson.

Just a year from to-day the celebration of the hundredth anniversary of the inauguration of WASHINGTON as President, and therewith the setting in motion of all the wheels of the machinery of our present Federal Government, will be held in New York. Were the commemoration to be of the sort undertaken at Philadelphia in 1876, or now in preparation for the French centenary of 1889, the interval of twelve months would be too short for the purpose. But the committee which has charged itself with this celebration has taken steps that will lessen and simplify its labors, and afford abundant time for arranging the modest ceremonies they propose. These ceremonies, to begin with, are to be confined to a single day, instead of extending through three or five, as is often the case in such enterprises. There is to be no world's fair; no erection of temporary buildings or permanent memorials; no elaborate provision for the procuring of delegations from foreign countries as participants in the show; in fact, no such departure from the routine parades, oratory, and other familiar demonstrations of such occasions as to excite anxiety over the result. Hence plenty of leisure will be found for the not too ambitious exercises thus far proposed for the centenary of the memorable events of April 30, 1789.

Superintendent WILLIAM MURRAY has had the reputation of being a rather level-headed Chief of Police, but if he were the stupidest police official in the world it is doubtful if he could have committed a bigger blunder than the issuing of his recent order that all information relative to missing persons be withheld from the newspaper reporters stationed at Police Headquarters. The provocation for this remarkable order was the flagrant abuse of privileges by a reporter of the unscrupulous *World*. But, though the provocation was unquestionably great, it was extremely bad judgment for the Superintendent, because of the misdeeds of a single individual, to turn upon his very best friends and seek to hamper the work of a company of intelligent and industrious newspaper men, who for years have been of very valuable assistance to Chief MURRAY and his associates, and who have rendered the greatest service of all in this very task of finding lost people whom the police couldn't get track of.

Anybody who knows how general alarms for lost persons are given to patrolmen at the station houses, knows that it is a perfunctory performance, and that it is impossible for the policemen to remember the personal description thus hurriedly read off to them. It is only when the descriptions of missing persons get into the newspapers, and New Yorkers read them, that the descriptions are of service in putting civilians and policemen on the lookout for the missing.

Better recall that hasty order, Superintendent MURRAY.

Transcontinental railroads in the New World are not hereafter to be monopolized by North America. Chili and the Argentine Republic have just entered into a compact for an international railway to join the Atlantic and the Pacific. The passes of the Andes are mostly of so great altitude and so difficult of access on the common frontier of these two countries as to form the chief obstacle to such an enterprise, but within a few years the problem in this respect has been greatly simplified by the discovery of one or two much more practicable routes through the great Cordillera. Instead of listening to the objections to an international road founded on the possibility that at some time a dispute between the two countries might enable either to gain a great advantage by seizing more than its share of the route, the two republics have wisely determined to reap the vast advantages which must accrue from establishing such a highway of commerce. Chili and the La Plata republic have already placed themselves in the front rank of progressive South American countries, and the present move will give them a still greater prominence, since on both coasts the nations to the north will seek to take some advantage of the new route from ocean to ocean. The Argentine Republic has about three times the present railway mileage of Chili. In each country a large proportion of it is owned and operated by the Government or with Government aid.

King JOHN of Abyssinia has resumed negotiations for peace with the Italians. The reason why he ignominiously faced about and got away from the enemy as fast as his legs could carry him, after massing on his northern highlands at least four times as many men as the Italian forces numbered, is now explained. King JOHN and his multitude were very hungry, and the pangs that their neglected stomachs inflicted triumphed over their desire to annihilate the white men. He had no facilities for transporting food supplies, and a few weeks sufficed to strip the surrounding country of its resources as thoroughly as though there had been a grasshopper invasion. The Ethiopian ruler was also discouraged by the new-fangled devices of the Italians, such as the portable iron forts that rose like mushrooms whenever the white men advanced, and also the captive balloons, from which the stealthiest movements of his forces could be readily discerned. The Italians seem to have an opportunity to dictate favorable terms of peace.

The President Thinking of His Vacation.

From the Baltimore American.

Congressman Gibson called on President Cleveland to-day with ex-Gov. Philip Francis Thomas of Maryland. Mr. Cleveland was very cordial, and inquired earnestly of Mr. Gibson whether terrapin were biting lively this spring. Mr. Gibson assured him they were, though lovers of terrapin on the eastern shore didn't generally catch their terrapins that way.

From the Philadelphia Record.

The President of the Sea Serpent Club of Marblehead was at the White House the other day telling the President fish stories. Not such fish stories as the hardy Nova Scotians who are being bred in that nursery of the Canadian navy which clusters around Gloucester—I don't believe he mentioned the Fisheries treaty once—but pleasant tales about the marvellous doings of the Sea Serpents on their annual picnic upon the briny deep. I would not be surprised if the President should join them if he shall get up along shore about that time. They give one the finest clam chowder, the biggest watermelons, and the strongest punch ever seen on their little jaunts.

A Statesman's Picture.

From the Philadelphia Record.

Senator Hearst has varied the monotony of Senatorial photograph that one sees displayed in the photograph shops by having his taken with a cigar in his mouth. It is very striking.

VESUVIUS AND YORKTOWN.

Another Addition to Naval Nomenclature—The Service Expected of the New Craft.

WASHINGTON, April 29.—Yesterday's double launch at Cramp's yard not only gave to the water the first two vessels of Secretary Whitney's contribution to the new navy, but added a distinctive name to the register in place of the awkward and not wholly accurate phrase, "dynamite cruiser." As Secretary Chandler began the alphabet of our modern steel fleet with Atlanta, Boston, Chicago, and Dolphin, so his successor starts pretty near the other end with Yorktown and Vesuvius.

The selection of the name Vesuvius for the dynamite vessel shows that, as the first-class cruisers are to be named after leading cities of the country, the first-class gunboats after the names of Revolutionary battlefields, and the smaller gunboats and despatch vessels after sea birds or fishes, like the Petrel or the Dolphin, so the volcanoes are now to be pressed into service to furnish names for dynamite craft. Whether this nomenclature will be extended to the smaller torpedo boats, which are soon to be built, the contracts for one or two of them being now pending, does not clearly appear. Possibly these latter, being much smaller than the Vesuvius, which is to be classed rather as a torpedo cruiser, may go into reptilia and entomology, taking up names which, like Firefly, Viper, Scorpion, Wasp, and Hornet, have been favorites in the British navy and our own to denote small and active craft. Or, again, it would be possible to borrow a hint from that new list of appellations drawn from the slender, dangerous, and rapidly darting weapons typified by the Stiletto, the swift vessel whose purchase as a second-class torpedo boat is authorized by Congress. But there is no doubt of the propriety of the name Vesuvius for a warship which can belch forth shells loaded with 600 pounds of dynamite, each of her three guns being able to discharge its projectile probably once every minute, thus firing these tremendous explosives theoretically at intervals of one every twenty seconds.

Should the Vesuvius justify the hopes placed in her, others of her type will, of course, be built, and then there will be a heavy draft for names upon Etna, Hecla, Stromboli, Erebus, Mauna Loa, and the whole array of volcanoes, which, however, are quite adequate to the demand. Italy has a domestic supply of craters with which to name at least a part of her torpedo boats, and, of course, has made use of it.

The usual extravagant anticipations and statements have attended the launching of the Vesuvius. She is an entire novelty, and affords great reason to hope that she will be a valuable adjunct in harbor defence, by furnishing the means of safely using dynamite in large quantities instead of gunpowder, as the bursting charge of shells. But it is preposterous to speak of her as revolutionizing naval warfare or of her making powder guns obsolete. The range of her pneumatic guns, as provided for by contract, is only a mile; and while there is good reason to hope and believe that they really reach a mile and a half, in view of the experiments conducted with similar guns of smaller calibres, yet it is quite obvious that a fleet of modern vessels might easily remain wholly beyond the utmost range of this vessel, and, so far as she was concerned, destroy the town beyond, which she was designed to protect. On the other hand, should the Vesuvius rush out in order to get to quarters close enough for using her weapons of offence, she could be riddled and sunk by a single well-directed shot from a very ordinary powder gun fired from beyond her range. She has no armor at all, nor even thickness of sides sufficient to keep out the projectiles of a Hotchkiss revolving cannon, to say nothing of heavy guns. Again, her guns, or torpedo tubes, as they might perhaps be called, are fixed in the vessel themselves, and placed side by side, so that she can only be fought end on, while in addition the vessel instead of the gun, must be turned in order to take aim, thus affording a striking example of the tail wagging the dog. Horizontal shell firing is out of the question, as the angle at which the tubes are fixed makes the discharges somewhat more resemble those of mortar firing.

But, while these considerations will serve to moderate expectations which would only be disappointed, and to eliminate claims which the designers of the Vesuvius have constantly protested against, it would be a mistake to underrate the real or to acknowledge her real and fundamental merits. The great point that she can throw air torpedoes containing 600 pounds of dynamite more than a mile must make her a fine adjunct in the defence of harbor forts, when the attacking squadron moves up to close quarters. She herself could be shielded by such forts, or by armored vessels, or by natural embankments. She will presumably not be ready for testing in season for Congress to authorize other vessels of her type, but if she does perform what her contract calls for, there is no doubt that successors to the Vesuvius will be authorized next year.

As for the Yorktown, she is likely to prove a good, serviceable vessel, of a minor and less important class, which will cost comparatively little to construct, yet will be adequate for ordinary station purposes, as well as for pursuing the merchant marine of a hostile power in time of war. She and her two sister ships, the Bennington and Concord, will probably average less than $480,000 each in cost, exclusive of armament, even with such allowances as may be made for extras. Their speed, which is expected to be over sixteen knots, will be very good, considering their displacement, while their sail power will allow economy in coal when desired. Altogether Mr. Whitney's addition to the navy starts with good promise.

PLOTTING AGAINST MR. RANDALL.

The Singular Story Attributed to the Hon. Frank Hurd, Member from Newhere.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Frank Hurd has put his foot in it again and given away the secrets of the free trade camp. A few days ago he boastfully told a Philadelphia Democrat that there was a plot on foot between himself, William L. Scott, and other free trade Democrats to defeat Randall when he comes up for renomination in his district next fall.

For some days past predictions have been made by anti-Randall Democrats in this city that if certain people could be drawn into a contest against the ex-Speaker, he would not be returned to the National House of Representatives. This came from Mr. Hurd's untimely boast, and by yesterday the rumor became pretty general.

The point of yesterday's report was that the free traders in the Democratic party, without regard to locality, would supply Mr. Randall's opponents in this city with all the money they needed to secure his defeat for renomination. Mr. Scott was to give largely. No names were mentioned so far as the free-trade allies at this end of the line are concerned, and nobody could be found among the anti-Randall people yesterday who would admit they knew anything about any scheme in prospect to defeat the ex-Speaker.

Workingmen Who Are for Depew.

From the Albany Evening Times.

Workingmen who have spent their lives in various capacities on the Central Railroad are already preparing to go to Chicago as the advocates of Mr. Depew's candidacy, and they would overthrow all the labor hostility to his nomination. Should such an event happen, and Mr. Cleveland be renominated at St. Louis, the most popular New Yorker in public life except one would be pitted against the most unpopular in the Presidential race, with New York to decide the whole contest.

Soldiers of the House of Hohenzollern.

From the London Truth.

Soldierly power is dried up in the house of Hohenzollern. The Emperor is all but gone. His eldest son's health is seriously compromised by the fearful chronic disease of the head from which he suffers. Prince Henry—a nice, intelligent, lovable young fellow—is a sailor. The only soldier of the inner circle of the royal family of Prussia who is not a mere lad is Albert, Regent of Brunswick, and he is only a cavalry officer. Princes George and Alexander are far-out cousins. Prince Frederick Charles killed himself with inebriety. His son, Leopold, has a bad constitution. The Duke of Saxe-Meiningen has no ambition, and is a dilettante, wealthy by inheriting the fortune of his mother.

Long John Produces a Sensation.

From the Chicago Mail.

"Long John" Wentworth, who has been an invalid at the Sherman House for many months, and on whom Col. Rice of the Tremont called some weeks ago, is slowly recovering. The other day he managed to get down into the office, walked into the ladies' reception room, and sat down for some time. He called one of the bell boys, and ordered a glass of milk. The boy went to the bar for it and told who it was for. The man in the bar told the boy he was a liar, but the boy insisted and the barkeeper went into the reception room to see for himself. Mr. Wentworth repeated the order. The barkeeper went back to his place of business, pulled off his apron, put on his coat and hat, and said he would never sell another drop of whiskey as long as he lived.

A Question of Privilege.

From the Washington Critic.

"*Aut Blaine, aut Nullus*," remarked Congressman Foran to Congressman O'Neill of Missouri in a little political talk yesterday.

"Well," replied Mr. O'Neill, "I never heard of Nullus before, but I'm d——d if I think Blaine ought, after his letter of declination."

The New South's Hope.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

When the Southern girl can jump a pea vine rope of home manufacture the South will be truly on its legs again.

Progressive Journalism in New Jersey.

From the Elizabeth Herald.

The editor of this paper has become a steady churchgoer.

Nothing Mean About Her.

"Is that all you can give me, ma'am," pleaded the tramp, "a dipperful of water?"

"Why, no, certainly not," replied the woman with the big heart; "you can have as many dipperfuls as you like."

INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

A man walked into an up-town saloon the other day and called for a glass of beer. He fished a new silver dollar from his pocket, spun it on the counter, and offered to bet the bartender the beer that it would turn up heads. The bartender took the bet and won it, for tails were up when the coin settled. A well-dressed countryman by the bar looked interested, and the man on the stool pettishly that he would call the next spin for a dollar.

"Done," said the countryman. The man spun the dollar, called tails, and won.

"Here look," said the countryman, disgustedly, "or else a trick. I'll go you another dollar on it if you let me spin it."

The man assented, and the countryman spun the dollar. The man called tails, and tails appeared. As the countryman, with an exclamation, turned to go, the man said, in a patronizing tone:

"I bet I can call it four times out of five."

"Five dollars on it," said the countryman, hotly.

The man put up the money with the bartender, and, as the countryman spun the dollar, called tails five successive times. The dollar settled tails four times, and the man pocketed the bet. Then he said:

"Look here, greeny, since I've won seven of your dollars and don't expect to work this city again very soon, I'll tell you something you didn't know. When you spin a coin the side that has the heaviest marking will settle at the bottom nine times out of ten, provided the surface you spin on is perfectly level. With a new silver dollar you'll win by spilling tails just nine times in ten on the long run. Other coins don't have such a difference in weight between the mouldings of the two sides, and ain't so certain, and in old silver dollars the difference is lessened by the wearing off of the inscriptions. You stick to new silver dollars, work it gently, and you'll have your seven dollars back before night. Good day."

Newspaper readers remember the sensation that was created eight or ten years ago by the remarkable political articles printed in the *Southern States*, a journal then published at Okolona, Miss., by Will H. Kernan. Kernan was an erratic young man, and came of a good family near Bellefontaine, Ohio. His leaders were written in a jerky, fire-eating style, and were peppered all over the editorial page of his paper in paragraphs of a word or two, with anywhere from one to a dozen exclamation points after each. It was about the time when Congress was full of Southern Brigadiers that Kernan's most celebrated editorial appeared. It was headed: "Tea, Thank God! We Have Captured the Capitol!" and was very lurid, indeed. All the Republican journals at the North copied it, with elaborate editorial comments, calling attention to the alarming spread of treasonable sentiments at the South. Kernan was treated seriously for a few months, and acquired national notoriety. But it came to be understood by and by that he was a harmless sort of crank, and he dropped out of the public mind. He soon left Okolona and has never since come into prominence until a week ago, when he issued a new weekly journal in Kansas City. It is called the *Free Lance*, and is a small eight-page, four-column affair, with a purpose, as announced in the first issue, to combat all the "old isms and ideas of sanctuary, society, and hate." Kernan says he is taking a step that will startle the public, for his is "the one paper on the planet that will dare to defy the people when the people are in the wrong." The *Free Lance* has the feature that once distinguished the Okolona *States*—the short, explosive paragraphs—and fire, blood, and tears stand out in frequent and alarming prominence. To complete the startling effect, part of the paper is printed in red ink. Kansas City is an enterprising town—a good deal bigger and livelier than Okolona—and it will not be surprising if the natives make life very interesting for Mr. Kernan.

There is a tobacco shop in Brooklyn which is apparently swept and garnished at all hours of the day and night. Pass it at any time in the day and you will see sweeping and dusting and scrubbing going on, and the same remark will apply to any hour in the evening and far into the night. In several instances the mopping, slopping, dusting, and sweeping have been in full operation at 2 o'clock in the morning. The selling of goods appears to be a secondary consideration.

Mr. John S. Sargent, the artist, will sail for Europe May 19, and will rejoin his family at Florence. Mr. Sargent's winter and spring in New York have been pleasant and profitable.

Now and then one sees a well-dressed ruffian on the elevated roads. One of the choicest samples of these women insulters was noticed at about sundown the other evening. He was elaborately attired, and provided with a double-barrel stare, and a head which Roscoe Conkling would have graphically described to be of the size of an orange. His sat opposite two charmingly interesting young ladies. They were reading. His actions toward one soon attracted her attention, and pretty soon the tears glistened in her eyes. She evidently relied on her companion, who apparently had more nerve, to aid her to escape from the disgraceful conduct of the satin-lined scoundrel. It was soon noticed that she wanted her companion to change seats, so that the tormentor would have to face the determined young woman. This was done just in time to prevent interference from two young men sitting near. The insulter of defenceless women was mighty soon convinced that his new vis-a-vis was not to be trifled with. By this time those close by had noticed the trouble; they glared at the fellow until he began to look sheepish, and then slunk away.

AN IMPORTANT DIFFERENCE.

It was Tomlinson, Not Hill, who Suggested that the Governor Should Head a Cleveland Delegation to St. Louis in May.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A despatch dated Boston, April 25, has been going the rounds of the press stating that Governor Hill had told one "Col. Tomlinson of the *Omaha Democrat* that he (Hill) was not a candidate for the Presidency; and, furthermore, he would willingly head the New York delegation to the St. Louis Convention and do all he could to place Cleveland in nomination."

I suppose this badly mutilated despatch was intended to mean W. F. Tomlinson of the *Topeka Democrat*; in other words, the writer, as my paper for over a year has opposed the nomination of President Cleveland for a second term, and I happened to be in Albany at the time mentioned and called at the Executive office to pay my respects to Governor Hill.

In this case the despatch is grossly misleading, and is calculated to do Governor Hill a great injustice. No conversation took place to warrant such a statement, and none of the above character has been made by me. No reference was made in said conversation to the St. Louis Convention, or whether he (Hill) would run again for Governor. The only foundation for the despatch is that in "interviews" at the time in sundry daily papers I stated that, in obedience to the popular desire in the Democratic party for the renomination of President Cleveland, I had wired the managing editor of the *Democrat* to take down the name of Governor Hill for President, which had been carried at the head of the editorial columns for over a year, and substitute that of Grover Cleveland.

In these same interviews, as an ardent admirer of Governor Hill, and in my interest in the welfare of the Democratic party, I expressed the hope that the olive branch would be held out, and the one course pursued by the New York Democracy demanded by policy, namely, that Governor Hill should lead the New York delegation to St. Louis, and make the speech placing President Cleveland in nomination. WM. F. TOMLINSON.

CHICAGO, April 27.

The Weight and Width of the Nickel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* IN THE SUN of the 27th an item states that a new use has been found for the five-cent nickel. It is said that the nickel measures exactly 2 centimetres in diameter and weighs exactly 5 grains. To correct this statement I send the following:

The old five-cent nickel measures 2 centimetres and 55-1,000, and weighs 3 dwt. and 5 grains.

The latest one measures 2 centimetres and 126-1,000, and weighs 3 dwt. and 8 grains.

There is an association formed for the purpose of introducing the metric system of measurement more extensively into this country, and such a distortion of facts does not tend to promote their interests.

JERSEY CITY, April 28. W. W. HASTINGS.

A Voice from Staten Island.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your editorial to-day on "Discontent on Staten Island," you intimate that there are mos