The Sun.

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London office of THE SUN, Hotel Victoria, Northumberland avenue. Address ARTHUR BRISBANE, sole representative in London.

## A Very Simple Question.

The "Texas Edition" of the *American Journal of Education*, a St. Louis publication, puts one of the simplest questions ever prompted by the curiosity of ignorance. It is this:

"We do not see why the Senators and most of the Representatives from Texas oppose Federal aid to education."

The reason is that the "Senators and most of the Representatives from Texas" believe in Democratic government. They are Democrats. And all honor to them.

Owing to the absurd and ruinous flurry into which the Democratic party has been brought lately by influences outside and not of it, a good many inquiries have appeared here and there as to what Democracy was.

The attitude of the Texas Congressmen is an exhibition of it in its purest form.

## The Census of the Constitution.

Four of the twenty-two volumes of the Tenth Census reports have not yet been published. It is almost nine years since the census was taken. In about seventeen months there will be another enumeration of the inhabitants. And yet only nine-elevenths of the work of 1880 has been completed, so far as the publication of results is concerned.

It is quite possible that the head of the Eleventh Census may appear before the Tenth has dragged the slow length of its tail out of sight.

The Tenth Census was a perfect carnival of statistics planned for the benefit of specialists with whims to gratify, theorists who wanted material collected at the public expense, and self-styled experts who wanted employment and a Government salary. It was a grand battue of figures and facts, conducted at enormous expense. The scope of the hunt was magnificent, but the result is ridiculous. Facts and figures that reach the public nine years late are a little too gamey.

The House bill proposes to restrict the Eleventh Census reports to seven volumes. Some of the monomaniacs who believe that it is a function of the Government to count, measure, classify, and describe for their benefit all things in human life and in nature are grumbling at what they regard as a narrow census policy.

Seven volumes are too many. Three are enough. Three volumes held all the facts and figures of the Ninth Census. There is no good reason why the census of 1890 should be any more elaborate in its organization or any more comprehensive in its objects than the census of 1870.

The purpose of the decennial census is plainly defined by the Constitution. It is merely an enumeration of the actual inhabitants to afford a basis for the apportionment of Representatives in Congress or of direct taxes. It is nothing else. There is no more warrant in the Constitution for the top-heavy superstructure which has been erected upon this simple provision than for the publication of a decennial Dictionary of Quotations or a decennial Government Cyclopedia of Wit, Humor and Anecdote.

One volume is enough.

## Was Loris Melikoff a Patriot?

We have lately had a striking proof of the rapidity with which remarkable events and persons may sink into oblivion. Among the obituary notices of Gen. LORIS MELIKOFF published in the New York newspapers we have seen but one that drew attention to the culminating period of his career, or to his interesting relation to the national movement for constitutional reform, of which Nihilism is only a revolutionary offshoot. Yet the man who died the other day was for upward of a twelvemonth the virtual dictator of Russia; he would have saved ALEXANDER II. from assassination had his advice been listened to, and he resigned his place in the Council of the present Czar because his long-cherished plan of a representative Assembly was definitely rejected.

Why LORIS MELIKOFF, in spite of his achievements in war and his marked aptitude for civil administration, was distrusted and disliked by the military and bureaucratic class that in the Czar's name really rules Russia, can be easily explained. He was neither a Slav nor a German, but an Armenian; that is to say, the scion of a race which, next to the Jewish, is the most despised among all the nationalities subject to the Russian autocrat. His father had no status in the official hierarchy, but was a merchant, and, therefore, whatever wealth he might acquire, would socially rank lower than the humblest Government employee or the poorest pope. Yet even in Russia money will procure for a merchant's son an excellent education, and even a commission in the army, and these things it procured for MELIKOFF. Thenceforward his successive distinctions and promotions were due to his own abilities. It is reasonable to suppose that the associations of his youth, coupled with the suspicion and jealousy to which his origin exposed him on the part of his relatively aristocratic comrades, withheld him from sharing the prejudices of the military caste, and kept alive in him a sympathy with the masses of his countrymen.

At all events, his method of dealing with revolutionists—when after the last war with Turkey he was sent to quell the Nihilistic disturbances in Kharkoff—was a kind of revelation to the Czar and to the Russian people. Although his treatment of offenders and suspected persons was characterized with moderation and even gentleness, it proved far more effective than the savage measures of repression habitually employed by other Russian administrators. It was this exceptional success at Kharkoff that marked him out to ALEXANDER II. (already haunted with the terror of the fate that was to overtake him) as the man best fitted to protect his person and his family against assassination. He was summoned to St. Petersburg and made the chief of a new and anomalous commission clothed with dictatorial powers. During its term of existence—six months—LORIS MELIKOFF was to all practical purposes the Czar, and, even after the dissolution of this extraordinary Board, he retained in the post of Minister of the Interior almost unlimited influence and authority. It is known that, having received vague but impressive warnings, MELIKOFF implored ALEXANDER II. not to leave his palace on that Sunday in March, 1881, when he met his death.

It is also universally believed that just before his assassination the Czar had signed a ukase drawn by MELIKOFF, convoking a consultative assembly, whose functions would have been substantially identical with those of the old States-General in France. Such a body would have had the power, not of legislating, but only of suggesting legislation; yet, like the French States-General in 1789—and this perhaps MELIKOFF foresaw—it might rapidly have drifted into a National Assembly. Unlike KATKOFF and his school of political philosophers, who hold that the institutions of western Europe are unsuited to Russia and that paternal government is best adapted to the Slav, MELIKOFF maintained that the Russia of to-day, however small may be the ratio of educated persons to the whole population, is every whit as ready for parliamentary government as was the France of LOUIS XVI. And such we believe to be the case.

For a time after his father's death ALEXANDER III. allowed, and even requested MELIKOFF to remain Minister of the Interior. But it was soon plain that KATKOFF and the reactionary Slavophils had the new Czar's ear, and when the project of reform adopted by the preceding sovereign was decisively discarded, MELIKOFF withdrew to private life. With his retirement vanished, apparently, the last hope of a liberal constitution for Russia during the reign of the present Czar. But it ought not to be forgotten that MELIKOFF, whatever may have been his faults—and few men can safely be intrusted even for a few months with the whole power of an autocrat—desired to link his name with at least the beginning of a change fraught with the promise of immeasurable blessings to his country.

## The Moustaches of Justice.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Youth's Companion*, publishes for the benefit of the rising generation a picture of the Chief Justice and Associate Justices of the Supreme Court, as they appear in a row on the bench while a case is in progress. In the foreground may be seen a group of distinguished lawyers who practise before the highest tribunal in the land, but we suppose that few children will recognize the portrait of either Co'. ROBERT G. INGERSOLL, studying the brief of the eloquent argument he is about to make, or of the Hon. TIMOTHY J. CAMPBELL, sitting modestly at ·table in the extreme rear, and waiting for his turn to speak. The countenances of the nine Justices themselves ought to be, but probably are not, familiar to the boys who read the *Youth's Companion*. There is one feature of the picture, however, which cannot fail to arouse lively interest in the mind of every intelligent youngster.

We refer to the striking and yet mysterious resemblance between the moustaches of Chief Justice FULLER and the extended wings of the Supreme Court spread eagle. This majestic bird is perched on a bracket just under the clock and directly above the chair occupied by the Chief Justice. It symbolizes the national dignity, the unerring eye and powerful claw of justice, the broad and comprehensive protection which every citizen enjoys under the judicial wings of the United States Government. The Supreme Court spread eagle always was a most impressive object to the eye and to the imagination, and it would still be such if Chief Justice FULLER's deplorable moustaches were out of sight.

The plain truth is that the decorative and symbolic effect of the eagle's extended wings is dwarfed by the sweep and spread of the Chief Justice's moustaches, immediately below. The lines are precisely similar, and the dimensions nearly alike. There is no contrast to relieve the feeling of uneasiness and oppression which every beholder must experience, providing his eyes are at all sensitive to such violations of æsthetic propriety. The spread eagle's wings are repeated, architecturally speaking, in the Chief Justices's moustaches. Mr. FULLER's moustaches repeat the eagle's wings. You might sever the two pinions and attach them to the Chief Justice's cheeks, you might transfer the moustaches to the shoulders of the majestic bird of liberty, and few frequenters of the court room would notice that there had been any change. Indeed, the mystic relationship between the wings and the moustaches presents so fascinating a theme for fancy's wildest flights that we do not see how any lawyer can stand up before the eagle and the Chief Justice to address the court, even in a very important case, without losing the thread of his argument and wandering off in his own mind into a maze of grotesque speculation fatal to the interests of his client.

This is not as it should be. It detracts from the dignity of the tribunal. Other Chief Justices and Associate Justices have either shaved their upper lips or grown full beards in order to avoid bewildering the bar and distracting attention from the business of the court. Mr. FULLER is the only Chief Justice who has ventured to provoke a comparison between his moustaches and the wings of the glorious emblem overhead. The result is unfortunate. The eagle should come down, or the moustaches should come off.

## The Sectional Line and the Color Line.

To-day committees representing the Northern and Southern branches of the Presbyterian Church will meet here to see if it is possible to devise some plan for healing the division which has existed since 1861.

Like all the other great Protestant communions, with the single exception of the Episcopalian, the Presbyterians were broken apart by slavery and the civil war. Even as early as 1837 the slavery question had much to do in provoking and exasperating the long conflict between the old school and the new school factions. But the division brought about by the civil war seems to be still more obstinate, so that it is very doubtful whether it can be healed by the present conference. The color line replaces slavery as a cause of discord, and in some respects it is an even greater obstacle to ecclesiastical union.

The sentiment of the Southern General Assembly at Baltimore was strongly against the admission of negroes to the Presbytery on an equality with their white brethren, while the Northern Assembly at Philadelphia evidently hesitated about yielding to such a race prejudice, as inconsistent with the principles of Christianity. But it is a point which the Southern men will not give up, even for the sake of the desired organic union. They declare that as they know more about the race question, and that as they must deal with it practically, they will not submit to interference in the matter from Northern Presbyterians. If they are left to settle it for themselves, and as they think best, the union may be secured, but otherwise the division will continue.

The same bar to union exists between Northern and Southern Baptists and Methodists, though the Episcopalians have succeeded in remaining undivided, despite slavery, civil war, and the color line. There were grave fears when the war broke out that it would cause inevitable division in the Episcopal Church also, and in all likelihood, if the South had been successful, ecclesiastical separation would have followed political disunion. During the conflict the Bishops of the Southern dioceses were compelled to act independently, as a matter of course. They organized a council of their own, with a constitution and canons, and took other steps which probably would have led to the establishment of a separate branch of the Church if the Union had been broken up. But when the General Convention met in Philadelphia in 1865, after the close of the war and the restoration of political union, the Church came together again as a whole. Never since has there been any lack of harmony between the Northern and Southern dioceses of Episcopacy, the organization of the Church preventing the color line from becoming the cause of discord which it is in the other communions.

There can be no question that the restoration of union in these denominations, divided only by a sectional line, would be very desirable as a means of more firmly binding together the North and the South. Separation tends to keep alive distrust and prejudice, and religion does not exercise its proper influence as a healing power, bringing peace, harmony, good will, and the spirit of common brotherhood. The question, too, has its practical side, for, as the result of division, two sets of organizations for religious work have been established, with the consequent friction and increase of expense, and although the number of such agencies was already great because of original sectarian differences.

But it is manifest that the Baptists, the Methodists, and the Presbyterians will wipe out the geographical line of separation only by letting their Southern brethren draw the color line as sharply as they wish. The Southern States are very determined about that matter, and they regard it as of far more practical importance to them than such a union as the present conference will discuss.

THE SUN loves the Mugwumps and ex-Presidents Hayes so much that it is constantly chastening them.—*Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

But not with the same rod. Even the Mugwumps know that the lash appropriate for the wretched HAYES should be raised by the hand of every honorable man whenever the Fraudulent President oversteps the chicken-yard fence.

The proposition to run a Republican THOMAS F. GRADY against the Democratic THOMAS F. GRADY in the Sixth Senate district with the idea of claiming the former's election would not have washed. To obtain a trade mark on a name it is not necessary to go to the Legislature. For political purposes upon this occasion THOMAS F. GRADY belongs to a certain Democratic citizen, and to no other man.

When a contemporary bares its delusions to the world like this it must be corrected:

"*To the Editor of the Indianapolis Journal:*

"Which is the head of the table? Is it the end where the host sits or the end where the hostess sits?"

Where the host sits.

Has Editor 'LIZE HALFORD lived for—how many years is it?—under the supposition that when he nightly—or daily—sat down to dinner, the lady to whom he has had the honor of sitting opposite was at the foot of the table?

If that indicates the style of Private Secretary 'LIZE's thoughts, when he reaches Washington, we may expect to hear him say that he is President. 'LIZE must go to the foot in more senses than one.

A marked figure of the trotting track was taken from it by the death of Mr. BONNER's Startle, the fastest son of Hambletonian, and perhaps a horse of speed equal to any. Startle travelled in a style that always prompted one to think whether on the whole he could not be called the best gaited horse of all.

He did not strike the observer with the noticeably inimitable perfection of grace and elasticity of Maud S. He did not have the tremendous resolution of Dexter, nor the wonderful boldness of action of Judge Fullerton, nor the high-pressure rapidity of Jay-Eye-See and of the Electioneers. His gait rather suggested the ghostly shape—

—which shape had none.

It produced upon the mind no distinct impression of its character, so easy, frictionless, balanced, and perfect was it, and so natural and without effort. But he was lightning when cut loose.

Mr. BONNER suffers a great loss to be sure, but the experience of a great horse owner rather tends to make him philosophical about such disasters, and to find recompense in the expectations of the future, when he doubtless hopes to see young Startles getting the grandest horses of their line. And why shouldn't they?

We have received from Prof. GEORGE H. COOK, the State Geologist of New Jersey, the first volume of text to accompany the remarkable series of maps which from time to time have been mentioned in these columns in terms of the highest praise. The text forms the final report of the New Jersey Geological Survey, begun in 1864 and prosecuted for a quarter of a century under Prof. COOK's direction with a vigor, scientific enthusiasm, and practical economy unparalleled in the history of such undertakings. No other State in the Union has ever undertaken and completed, even in the matter of topography alone, a survey comparable with this for thoroughness, accuracy, and beauty of mechanical execution; but every State should have just such a set of maps. The completion of the survey is a notable event. The work is permanent, and the great Atlas of New Jersey will be a monument to the modest gentleman who directed it for twenty-five years, from beginning to end.

A fellow citizen prepared to contradict a vast number of the American public upon a point of intense conviction is Professor SHALER of Harvard University. In his able discourse upon college athletics, published recently in the *Atlantic Monthly*, he had this to say relative to an important factor in professional base ball:

"My observation of hired umpires has shown me that, as a whole, they are singularly just in their judgments."

We imagine that when the base ball judgment of the American people is thoroughly sober, in the winter time for instance, they will agree with Professor SHALER. It is only when they are heated by the contests of summer that they are inclined to jump upon the umpire and level him with the sward. It is then that the umpire, honest man, should ask them to suspend judgment until fall.

We have had occasion before to remark upon the journalistic genius of some of our Canadian contemporaries, and what could be finer than this, a stanza of a poem in response to a recent fancy in the same form in THE SUN:

'Tis not the "Boundary" that holds
Us safe within our zone:
No; 'tis that Flag whose Crimson folds
Us close around the Throne!
*Morne! Morne pour la Patrie,*
In box and bale and tin;
Why, even on our Fisheries,
You
could not
take
us in!

If it is truly our contemporary's sentiment that it would rather send codfish to the old country than die for it, we hasten to promise our assistance in every way possible. Codfish should be one of our chief united exports, and in all questions that concern the soil we should unite in government with a mutual satisfaction which is impossible now, owing to the imaginary but unnatural line of national division drawn between us. With one accord and with one heart we should then all sing:

Dulcis et decora est pro patria mors.

If the report is true that the savage young despot MWANGA has been deposed by one of his brothers, his adherents will regret that the old custom by which Uganda's kings have made themselves solid on the throne was permitted to lapse when MWANGA came into power. Soon after his father MTESA became King, SPEKE saw a lot of young men in chains at the King's palace. They were his royal brothers, and they were destined to be burned alive to keep them from meddling with politics. MWANGA was the first to spare his brothers, and it is now reported that his clemency has been illy rewarded.

Royalty has its great disadvantages in these negro States. In UNYORO, just north of Uganda, there is a tradition that the reigning family will lose its supremacy if the King dies a natural death. If he lives to be old and decrepit, or becomes seriously ill, it is therefore the custom for his wives to kill him, and nobody interferes.

The losing contestant in the grand struggle over the right to use the drop-a-quarter-in-the slot-and-pull-out-an-opera-glass opera glasses can comfort himself with the inalienable possession of this resource: He can provide opera glasses for nothing.

That will make the other fellow lose the faintest regard for his patent.

## CLEVELAND AND HARRISON.

### Many Letters Pass Between the Families of the Incoming and Outgoing Presidents.

*From the Louisville Courier-Journal.*

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—President Cleveland and President-elect Harrison have, since the election, been dignified and friendly. It will be remembered that a short time after the election the beautiful mistress of the White House, Mrs. Cleveland, wrote a letter to Mrs. Harrison, and gave the future mistress of the Executive Mansion a pressing invitation that when she, with her husband, came to Washington, she spend the days preceding the inauguration as her guest. After it was a certainty that Mr. Harrison had been elected, President Cleveland wrote a letter to his successful opponent, extending to him congratulations on the result of the election which would make him the President's successor. This naturally and properly brought forth a pleasant reply from the future President. Since that time a very pleasant correspondence has been carried on between the two distinguished men. Some of Mr. Harrison's letters have been in the nature of inquiries regarding the daily routine of the office, together with many other things which Gen. Harrison would naturally desire to be informed upon.

Mrs. Harrison has also been in weekly correspondence with Mrs. Cleveland with reference to many household affairs, which a woman of Mrs. Harrison's domestic thoughtfulness and care would deem important to know. It is said by those who seem to speak from knowledge of past changes of White House occupants, that more friendly relationship with the outgoing and incoming families never existed.

The two secretaries, though they have never met personally, except for a few minutes at the Hoosier capital a year ago last fall, have exchanged letters, Col. Lamont having written at some length to his successor, Mr. Halford, upon the subject of the minor details of the office. Upon the whole, there has been a great deal of mail matter passed to and fro within the past month from the White House and the unpretentious Delaware street residence of Gen. Harrison at Indianapolis.

## CHINA'S FIRST RAILROAD.

### Opening of the China, Tientsin and Kaiping Railway by Li Hung Chang.

*From the North China Daily News, Oct. 18.*

This railway, the first built by the Chinese Government, and as yet the only one, was opened last week by H. E. Li Hung Chang; this was the official opening, but the line has been worked for a considerable time on its Tang-shan branch, and within the last month or two regular trains have been running upon both the Tientsin and Tang-shan branches.

The whole mileage is 88¼ miles, with 10 miles of siding, or 28 miles from Tientsin to Tong-ku, which lies on the bank of the Peiho opposite Taku, and 58¼ miles from Tong-ku to Tang-shan near the city of Kaiping. The rails are bull-headed flange fastened with claw spikes to sleepers; these last are not creosoted, as is the case at home; it is found that the wood stands as well in its natural state as creosoted timber would, the life of a sleeper here being quite equal to that of those used on home lines.

The points are worked with the simple old-fashioned hand switch, a complicated system of interlocking being quite unnecessary, and, indeed, quite unsuited for use by Chinese employees; the signalling is equally primitive, a red and a white hand flag completing the equipment of the signal man. All the carriages and trucks are connected by American spring buffers and claw couplers, and the whole makes a long and more or less imposing train.

The whole journey of about 100 miles is completed in five and a half hours. The fares are very reasonable, $1.30 covering the expense of first-class accommodation; the line is evidently very popular, and large numbers of Chinese travel by it daily.

## A DANGER OF THE STAGE.

### Too Much Kissing Recognized by a Leading Expert as Inadmissible.

*From the Atlanta Constitution.*

"What do you think of the 'Quick or the Dead' as a story?" was asked of lovely Estelle Clayton as she sat in the Kimball House parlors.

"I think the story strong in moral tone and purpose. I think for the soul of such a mundane woman as Barbara Fomfret to gain such a conquest of her emotional nature is simply grand. Of course, the story has its faults and the love making is too pronounced and effusive. On the stage it won't do. All actresses know that much stage kissing and embracing is the most dangerous thing in the world. An audience will not stand it. They begin to guy. There was a little too much kissing in the play when it commenced, and I changed it.

"Which actor do I like to kiss best? I never had any choice. Men are mere blocks on the stage to an actress, so far as personal feelings are concerned. I think solely of my acting."

### A Fiddle Drove the Chief Justice Into Another Church.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

Singular as the statement may seem, the notes of piano and violin drove the present Chief Justice of the United States from the Congregational into the Episcopalian fold. In 1840, Nathan Weston was Chief Justice of the State, and Mrs. Fuller, mother of Chief Justice Fuller, was Weston's daughter. After a meeting of the Young Ladies' Sewing Circle at the Weston home, Mrs. Fuller played the piano for a dance, her brother accompanying her on his fiddle. The conservative members of the congregation, taking offence, instituted an inquiry that dragged along for months and resulted in the withdrawal of the Weston and Fuller families and many others, who joined the Episcopal Church. It is a curious coincidence that the Episcopal Church which was erected two or more years ago stands on the spot where the dance took place, and the house itself, moved to the rear, is now the rectory.

### Our Mary Fears Stage Fright.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

BOSTON, Dec. 25.—The marriage of Joseph Anderson, the brother of Mary Anderson, and the daughter of Lawrence Barrett has been set for the morning of Jan. 3, and Archbishop Williams selected as the officiating clergyman. Mary Anderson was to be one of the bridesmaids, but at the last moment she has decided not to assume that rôle. The reason she gives is rather amusing in the light of her public position, it being nothing else than "stage fright." She says she fears that she will do something that will embarrass her and mar the ceremony. Her brother being one of the principals in the proceedings she will naturally feel a little "nervous," and she thinks it better to run no risks.

### Why Grant Wanted San Domingo!

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

President Grant once told the writer of this article that his leading desire in obtaining San Domingo was to provide a home for the colored man where he might find a refuge when his condition in the South should become intolerable.

### The Ups and Downs of John Koch.

*From the Philadelphia Record.*

SCRANTON, Dec. 26.—A few years ago John Koch was the millionaire owner of Terrace Garden in New York, and was instrumental in bringing Theodore Thomas to this country. Koch is now making a bare living as proprietor of a road house near this city. To-day he was sent to jail for twenty days for selling liquor on Sundays.

### Which?

*From the Chicago Herald.*

Will Mr. Harrison put Mr. Blaine into the Cabinet or "into the soup?"

### A High-necked Administration.

*From the Evansville Courier.*

It is given out that Mrs. Harrison will banish from the White House decollete gowns.

### Social Obligations.

*From Life.*

Indulgent Papa—Why, my dear, you had a party last month. How often do you wish to entertain your friends?

She—This one is not to entertain my friends, papa, but to snub my enemies.

### What's in a Name?

*From the London Times.*

An Englishman whose name was Wemyss
Went crazy at last, so it semyss,
Because the people would not
Understand that they ought
To call him not Weemis, but Weems.

Another whose last name was Knollys
Tried vainly to vote at the pollys;
But no ballot he cast
Because till the last
The clerk couldn't call Knollises Noles.

And then a young butcher named Belvoir
Went and murdered a man with a clevoir
Because the man couldn't,
Or possibly wouldn't,
Pronounce his name properly Beaver.

There was an athlete named Strachan
Who had plenty of sinew and brachan,
And he'd knock a man down
With an indignant frown,
If he failed to pronounce his name Strawn.

## THE NEW FLEET.

### The Additions Made to Our Navy Under the Supervision of Secretary Whitney.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—Although the management of the navy by Mr. Whitney has been one of the most successful portions of Mr. Cleveland's Administration, it singularly happens that not even one vessel of any sort, designed under this Administration, has yet been definitely made a part of the new fleet. Many are at various stages of construction, and two, the Vesuvius and the Yorktown, are so nearly completed that their final trials are likely to occur before the 4th of March. Possibly the Charleston and the Petrol will have had their trial trips also by that time; but the actual fact is that while only a little more than two months now remains of Mr. Cleveland's term of four years, not a ship built by it is yet accepted, and there is a strong probability that not one will be in actual service when the new Secretary comes to the helm.

All this shows that it takes much time to build and arm fleets, and that Congress need not stay its hand through fear of accumulating guns and war vessels too fast. Secretary Whitney's experience is turning out more closely than had been supposed possible like Secretary Chandler's in one point, that he has sown for a successor to reap. Perhaps it will also prove that, as the four vessels of his predecessor—the Dolphin, the Boston, the Atlanta, and the Chicago—were subjected, after March 4, 1885, to severe criticism, so under Major Goff or Mr. Frye or whoever else may be Gen. Harrison's Secretary of the Navy, any weak points in the additional vessels now under contract will be sharply spoken of.

Indeed, there are indications that some of the critics are already buckling on their armor for this attack, as if with intent that the bitter denunciations of the Roach cruisers indulged in during the summer of 1885 shall be avenged during the coming year. This is one of the incidents of rotation in office. Already the Vesuvius, which, as the nearest of the new vessels to completion, will be the first criticised, is spoken of by some naval officers as being of very restricted practical value. Even her speed, which is admitted to be very great, has been achieved, they say, by a form of construction which would cause her machinery to be knocked to pieces by an ordinary gunboat, armed with nothing more than six-inch breech-loading rifles, before she could get within the short range at which her dynamite weapons could be effective. These guns, also, say the skeptics, point into the air in a way not promising for protection against hostile shot. Being incapable of horizontal firing, but only of a mortar-like discharge, and that, too, with the comparatively low velocity given by the compressed air, they cannot rely very often on dropping their projectiles upon a hostile vessel that changes its position as customary in naval combats.

As to all this the sufficient reply is, wait and see. The Vesuvius will certainly have a very high speed, which will enable her to be conveyed rapidly to any point where her battery will be of service, and no doubt she can find means of shelter which will sufficiently protect her machinery and guns while playing her part in action. As the next Congress will be likely to make appropriations for more vessels with batteries on the pneumatic dynamite principle, provided the Vesuvius is a success, no doubt her capabilities will be exhaustively tested. This, however, is a special craft, admitted to be experimental. As for the ordinary cruisers and gunboats contracted for by Secretary Whitney, it is already positively certain that they will thoroughly commend themselves, particularly in the matter of speed. By the use of triple expansion engines it is possible to obtain a great increase in speed over what could be had a few years ago with the same weight and cost of machinery. Secretary Whitney's additions to the new fleet will undoubtedly show a vast advance upon those of his predecessor, and the next Secretary will be fortunate if he can make equal gains in his turn.

## FOREIGN NOTES OF REAL INTEREST.

Queen Natalie expressed the desire to hear Sarah Bernhardt in one of the principal scenes of her repertoire. The obliging actress complied with the royal request and chose a scene from "Dame aux Camelias." But when she came to the passage, "*La grandeur ton bie ne se retirera donc jamais?*" the unhappy Queen, thinking, doubtless, of her own case, burst into tears. All the ladies present followed suit. This was too much for Sarah. She began to cry, too, and the scene was completely swamped.

In a long article on the reorganization of the German artillery the *Deutsche Heeres Zeitung* makes an interesting comparison. "The French artillery," it says, "has ten thousand more horses than the German artillery in time of peace. Its officers are numerically superior. A longer time of active service enables the French artillerymen to acquire a more complete instruction. The French possess a shrapnel similar to that of the Germans, and they have a powder that explodes almost without noise and without smoke. The secret of this powder is difficult to get at because it rests in the method of its manufacture and not in the composition of the substance. Finally, the ballistic qualities of the French cannon render it superior to the German cannon. The French material is heavier than the German, and, although the horses are more numerous, the German horses are more vigorous."

The British Government is giving more heed to the will of its Australian colonies at this time than it gave to the will of its American colonies in the closing quarter of last century. The people of Queensland objected to the appointment of Henry F. Blake as their Governor. He was an obnoxious personage to them. The Home Government maintained its ground, and refused to revoke the appointment. The Queenslanders remonstrated with increasing vehemence. The Home Government seeing the storm thus raised, began to apprehend that, if it persisted in its course, there would be trouble in the powerful colony. The remonstrances from Queensland were continued in full vigor. The Home Government at last took alarm, and now it is announced that Blake's appointment has been revoked, and that he has been sent to Jamaica as Governor of that colony. The colonists of Queensland have won the day.

According to Lady Henry Somerset, "the growing discontent that manifests itself against denominational education" may be explained by an extraordinary catechism published by the Vicar of Great Barling "for the use of families and parochial schools," the latter being sustained at public expense. After stating that Dissenters are to be treated as heretics, the catechism contains these questions: "Is then their worship a laudable service?" Answer—"No; because they worship God according to their own evil and corrupt imaginations, and not according to His revealed will, and therefore their worship is idolatrous." Again, "Is Dissent a great sin?" "Yes, it is in direct opposition to our duty toward God." That Dissenters have not been excommunicated is explained by saying that "the law of the land does not allow the wholesome law of the Church to be acted upon." Those who imitate the Church services most nearly are pronounced the most dangerous because the minuteness of the differences between them and the true fold shows that their falling away is due to their being "not in a state of salvation." It is pronounced "sinful and presumptuous for persons who are called Dissenting teachers" to usurp the "priestly office" by reading prayers originally designed for the "priest to offer up in behalf of the people." And it is "most assuredly" wicked to enter a meeting house at all.

## POLITICAL NOTES.

The expense to the city of Friday's special election in the Sixth Senatorial district will be as follows: 388 inspectors, three days, at $7.50 per day, $8,730; 194 poll clerks, one day, at $7.50 per day, $1,455; 97 polling places, rent $25 each, $2,425; advertising, $1,319.20; stationery, $500; total, $14,329.20.

Tammany's primaries are called for Saturday night. The whole membership of the General Committee has been increased to include three delegates for each 200 votes cast for David B. Hill on Nov. 6. The County Democracy primaries will take place on Friday evening, Jan. 11.

At the last election there were 163 election districts in which the total registry exceeded 400. If next year's Legislature pass an act enabling the Board of Police to increase the number of election districts in the city, the total number of polling places in town will be 1,019. A few years ago 300 was thought to be a too high figure. The additional cost of these new polling places would be $36,000.

Both Tammany Hall and the County Democracy will send delegations to Albany to participate in the festive ceremonies on the occasion of Gov. Hill's inauguration. The occasion is to be a notable one, and the representatives of the Democracy of New York city will occupy the foremost place. New York county gave Mr. Hill 62,102 majority.

The Chief of the Bureau of Elections is to have an assistant at $2,000 a year.

The headquarters at 10 West Twenty-ninth street, used by the National Democratic Committee, are still to let, having remained untenanted since Col. Brice moved out on Nov. 7.

Of the six County Democracy Assemblymen chosen last month, two, Sullivan from the Second and Strasburger from the Twenty-third, have since seceded to join Tammany. The *World*, with customary inaccuracy, puts John Kerrigan, who is an out-and-out County man, in with Tammany, while it leaves Sullivan to the organization which he left several weeks ago.

### To Do as the Rest Do.

*From the Jewellers' Weekly.*

Young Man—Do you make any reduction for goods purchased in quantities?

Jeweller (smiling)—Certainly.

Young Man—Then give me a dozen of your cheapest engagement rings. I am going to live in Salt Lake City, and feel that it is necessary to economize.

## INTERESTING GOSSIP OF THE DAY.

The craze for putting ladies' watches in odd places is developing to such an extent that one may expect to see the fair ones with watches on the toes of their shoes or on the backs of their gloves or wherever they can easily see the timepieces at a glance. In a Broadway car yesterday three ladies met and took seats beside one another. One had a watch in the handle of her umbrella, one had a watch in the catch or clasp of her pocketbook, and the third carried a tiny watch in a bracelet on her left arm. The last example of the craze, that of the bracelet, is a Viennese idea just imported. The bracelet was of leather, and was unquestionably the ugliest ornament any lady wore on Broadway yesterday.

It is said that a new beauty will shortly be produced at the Casino. It is supposed she will be the rage of dudedom for the coming year. Her name is Grace Filkins, and she has red hair and soft brown eyes. She has had some experience in burlesque, and is not a débutante by any means. Her husband was formerly a well known theatrical manager. Since the disappearance of Miss Pauline Hall from the New York stage and the precipitate flight of Fay Templeton and Louise Montague to Europe, there has been a void on the throne of popular idolatry among the hairless contingent of the front rows. This is the void which Miss Filkins is expected to fill.

"It's no wonder that Jack Havlin was whipped by Tommy Warren," said a sporting man in the Hoffman House yesterday, "when you consider that they kept Havlin in the heated room of a Russian bath for four hours before the mill. They bundled him up in coats, and took him to the ring direct from the bath. He had been pummelled almost to death in the bath so as to get his weight down below 118 pounds. It is said, in fact, that they reduced him four pounds that day alone in the bath. If this is the case, it will give a pretty clear idea of how not to train a pugilist. The lad was so weak when he got in the ring that he could scarcely hold up his hands."

The English system of giving long credits is gradually getting a foothold in New York. There are a good many sons of rich parents in this city who are perfectly responsible and who will be abundantly able to pay their bills when they fall into their heirlooms, but with whom ready money is a scarcity. It is an actual fact, according to the caterers, who generally know the facts about prominent young New Yorkers, that there are many men who literally live like millionaires without spending $5 cash a week. They take their meals at the club, where their cabs are also charged to their father's account. Their theatre tickets are put on the monthly account of the family at one of the big speculating stands, and all of their tailor's, bootmaker's, and other bills stand over until the time comes when the younger son gets the money which everybody knows is to be his in time.

Manager Frohman is coming back to American dramatists. The piece which will succeed "Sweet Lavender" in a few weeks is by Belasco and De Mille, both of whom are native Americans. It is named "The Charity Ball." Herbert Kelcey plays the *Parson* in the new drama. This, of itself, is enough to fill the theatre with a curious and startled multitude.

The amount of knowledge which Mr. George Law possesses of things of a pugilistic nature is very large. It is very well known that he is the most sincere admirer of the sluggers in New York, but it is not generally known that he is an authority of no mean eminence on sporting matters. He knows every look that Muldoon employs in his wrestling, and has always had aspirations toward a development of his robust frame, but a fondness for the good things of life has kept him from training with any great degree of severity.

"If Theodore Roosevelt had not been so fond of outdoor life," said a well-known politician yesterday in the St. James Hotel, "he might have held a very prominent place in the politics of this country. His first great hit, when he made his investigation of the Police Department of New York in 1884, lifted him in the affections of the people. It was perhaps equalled by De Lancey Nicolls's later hit, but Nicolls was never 'in it' with Roosevelt. Roosevelt has a fashion of running away after every election, whether he is a success or a failure, and so it is said he has lost all the hold which good election work gained. He is often compared with the other two rich New Yorkers, Perry Belmont and William Waldorf Astor, but of the three Roosevelt is above all a man of the people. Mr. Astor made a slight bid for popularity, but the derision of the papers cut severely, and he gave it up. He now contents himself with politics in the abstract. Perry Belmont is aggressive enough. In fact, if anything, he is too much so. It is doubtful if the scoring he gave Blaine will ever be forgotten. The effects of it certainly will not. If any one of these three young millionaires had a little of the caution and brains of the average Third ward politician, they might have achieved almost any degree of success in political life."

New York has turned a cold shoulder on Miss Charlotte Crabtree at last. She is otherwise known as Lotta, and it is announced that she will soon retire from the stage and take up the management of a Boston theatre, which she owns, as a matter of business. She does not appear in New York this season, and will probably not come here again except on special occasions. All of Lotta's recent appearances here in New York have been failures more or less pronounced, and it is now generally recognized by her managers that she is too old to be any longer acceptable to metropolitan audiences in juvenile rôles. As her fortune is nearly a million dollars, she accepts the verdict with equanimity.

Rather a remarkable contract has been entered into by two of the young leading men on the stage who are more or less notable as male beauties. Robert Hilliard and D. J. Mason are to be starred together in a play which is to be written for them next year by Maurice Barrymore. It is another illustration of the profitable results of male beauty in America. Harris and Rich, the managers of the forthcoming company, have announced tersely that Hilliard and Mason will draw enough money at the matinees to pay their salaries for the week. This means that enough impressionable young women will visit the theatre at the morning performances to make the question of night success of no consequence. Mason is not at all known in New York, but he has achieved some reputation as a popular idol of femininity in Boston. He is rather stout and beefy. A recent escapade of his was marrying May Yohe, who arose from obscurity through the medium of the Chicago Burlesque Company.

Charles H. Hoyt, the well-known author, who has written so many farcical comedies, has recently played several rôles in "The Brass Monkey." The illness or dismissal of several members of the cast has caused vacancies at the last moment, and Mr. Hoyt has jumped in and played the part, no matter what it happened to be, at a moment's notice. It is not claimed that he plays particularly well, but he certainly shows remarkable facility in making and playing the parts without rehearsal. De Mille, one of the authors of "The Wife," has a similar aptness for jumping into one of his own dramas and assuming any of the characters in case of an emergency.

Charley Reed, the comedian, will appear in a few nights at the Lambs' Club in the character of *Barbara* in a skit on the "Quick or the Dead?" The little one-act piece is written by Clay Green, and nearly all of the fun falls into Reed's capable hands. There will be a miscellaneous assortment of other characters taken by more or less prominent actors. The most touching scene in the play is where *Barbara* finds the old cigar butt on her table and reverses it because it had been once smoked by her dead husband. Everybody who has read Amelie Rives's book remembers her soliloquy as she ponders over some of the visible evidences of her husband's love for tobacco smoking. Mr. Reed's *Barbara* lights the cigar butt after moralizing upon it, and the act closes with her deathly illness as a consequence.

The great question of the day is, Who will be selected for referee in the coming Kilrain-Sullivan match? With $20,000 in stakes to be fought for, and two of the most notable talkers of the world as contestants, to say nothing of the trickery and nonsense which seems to be necessary to every important prize fight nowadays, the place of referee is no sinecure. It is well understood that the public will not tolerate a draw for a decision. It will have to be a victory on one side or the other, and, on that account, the referee must be a man of decision. There are a good many men of decision who could not be hired to officiate as referee at the