The Sun.

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1889.

Some New Light.

Our esteemed contemporary, the Philadelphia *Record*, a free trader by nature and a professed Democrat by accident, happens to state a truth which ought afterwards to do its political understanding a world of good. Concerning the suggestion that the Administration is going to do something new about silver and, as the *Record* fears, worry the free-trade canvass, our contemporary says:

"Silver coinage can never be made an issue between parties."

Silver coinage cannot be an issue between parties as at present constituted, any more than free trade.

Both the Democratic and the Republican parties, for example, have always been protective. The sentiment for free trade has been so intermixed in both organizations that, before dividing on it, both would have to be broken up and reformed.

The same is true of the silver question. Up to this time the strongest sentiment for silver has happened to be with the Democrats rather than with the Republicans, but in neither party has it so preponderated that silver could now rise to the dignity of the overshadowing issue without making substantially an entire rearrangement of politics. Yet in their further relations to politics silver differs from free trade in that, while both of the two great parties, through their entire history, have been opposed to the doctrine of free trade, neither is theoretically forbidden from making its silver policy whatever it may deem best. There is no party principle which prevents the Republican Administration from cultivating a special interest in silver and doing as it likes with it.

But, regarding both of these questions as equally a new departure for Republicans or Democrats, there is also a great practical distinction between the party right of the Republican leaders to take up silver, and that of certain Democratic bosses to attempt free trade. The silver issue is a winner.

A Peculiarity of Some Democrats.

Col. CHARLES HILL JONES of the *St. Louis Republic*, being in New York last week, proceeded to an interview.

When he was written down as saying that he was "against Governor HILL, because of his desire to reflect the sentiment of the Democrats of the West and Southwest," Col. JONES was all right. No one will grudge a well-meaning gentleman any desire whatsoever so long as it is prompted by an essentially patriotic impulse. Col. JONES's manifest failure in this case to truthfully reflect the sentiment of Western and Southwestern Democrats is his own misfortune only. But when he continued with the solemn declaration that "the nomination of HILL would tend to dampen the enthusiasm of the Western Democrats," we regret to see that he set himself up in the old-fashioned style of Western opposition to Democratic success.

The first idea of Col. JONES and politicians of his school always seems to be to make the Democrats in the East, where the fighting has to be done, fight at the greatest possible disadvantage. It may make it more amusing on the prairies, but it is death to the Democratic party.

The Inter-Continental Railroad.

When Mr. HELPER, a few years ago, suggested building a continuous line of railroad to connect this country with the Argentine Republic, the idea was received with general merriment as the impracticable scheme of a visionary. Meanwhile vast regions in South America have been making enormous progress and are rapidly taking an important place in the world of industry and commerce. In interviews which have appeared in THE SUN with the delegates to the International Congress from nine Central and South American countries, seven of them give their opinion of the proposed Intercontinental railroad. They agree that the great project would be of enormous advantage to the commerce of the three Americas, and that it is practicable and certain of realization.

It isn't surprising that some think that the Congress should not waste any time over so chimerical a project.

But is it chimerical? Mr. BACON, our Minister to Uruguay last year, reported that many interviews with distinguished geologists and topographical engineers, some of whom have been over the route more than once, had convinced him that the great international railroad was not only feasible but that it would become a reality in the near future. It should be remembered that the work of track laying, now progressing in South America at a rapid rate, is every year completing links in this proposed railroad and rendering the whole enterprise easier of achievement.

The distance between Bogota, the capital of Colombia, and Buenos Ayres, by the route skirting the Eastern Cordilleras, is about 8,400 miles. Within the past three years 1,350 miles of that great railroad have been constructed and are now in operation, leaving only a little over 2,000 miles to be built. A part of this unbuilt portion is preparing for the rails. And not only is this, the longest and most difficult part of the proposed route, in process of building, but the work of connecting it with the important ports on the Pacific is far advanced. The road from Callao has climbed the Andes, and is ready to descend the eastern slopes. In southern Peru trains from Mollendo are running regularly to Lake Titicaca. In northern Chili the road from the port of Autofagasta is rapidly extending toward Potosi and Sucre in Bolivia, and has already crossed the Bolivian border. In central Chili a branch of the Valparaiso and Santiago line is slowly rising to the Andean divide, which it will cross at an elevation of 8,843 feet above the sea, connecting at Mendoza with the Argentine railroad system, and completing the transcontinental line of South America.

It is thus seen that really the most arduous part of this undertaking has already been carried far toward completion and that the feeders which would give it outlets on the Pacific are considerably advanced. There is no doubt that formidable engineering difficulties would be met, particularly in the tangle of Colombian cordilleras, but they can prove no greater than those now being conquered in the Andes further south. The road from Valparaiso to Mendoza, for instance, is to reach the Argentine side of the mountains by means of a tunnel more than six miles long.

It is well known that every State in South America through which the proposed road would pass is willing to grant the most liberal concessions. Mr. BACON says they are not only willing to grant extensive tracts of land on both sides of the road, but also to guarantee a fair interest on all amounts invested in construction. Some of the concessions of land would be likely to prove invaluable, as the road would pass through the 4,800 square miles of Peru and Bolivia east of the Andes, still almost inaccessible, which are now regarded as forming the richest auriferous region in the world.

All civilized nations are beginning to wake up to the grand possibilities in store for a large part of South America. We see as yet only the beginnings of the splendid empire which is rising on the La Plata. Its youth is full of energy and strength, and Europe, in six months of this year, has added 150,000 souls to its population. Bolivia, Ecuador, and Colombia, which as yet hardly figure in our records of trade, are building railroads, and are particularly anxious to encourage and welcome an inter-continental highway, believing it would be profitable to us and would give a great impetus to their own development. With the present certainty that the temperate zone of South America is to be the home of many millions of enterprising people, it is easy to believe that, some day not very far in the future, both their interests and ours will require that the two most favored regions of the western hemisphere shall be joined by an iron road.

It Is the Fundamental Doctrine.

Prof. CHARLES C. BRIGGS of the Union Theological Seminary says in the *Christian Union* that the Westminster Confession does not seem to him to "rise to the sublime height of the love of GOD and the matchless treasures of His grace."

It is true that the theologians who constructed that standard of faith were stern logicians. They thought rather of the justice of the Divine Ruler of the Universe than of His tender compassion for the human race. In their serious deliberations at Westminster they did not dare to bring Him down to the level of man and make His supreme law agreeable to merely human conceptions of truth. He was Himself the only source of truth, and there was no justice apart from Him. Man was nothing more than His creation, and the criticism of man upon Him was of no consequence. It was for man to submit in all humility to the decrees of GOD without venturing to question them with the reason which in him was of infinitesimal importance as compared with the all-powerful mind of the Supreme Being. Because man would be saved for the superlative joys of Heaven he could not argue that GOD must of necessity preserve him for so great a blessing. Because the law of GOD seemed harsh to him he could not assail the Divine justice without committing mortal sin.

A personal GOD, existing from all eternity, omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent, must perforce know whatever is to happen from the beginning of time. No soul can be lost and no soul can be saved unless He has so directed in the councils of eternity.

But this doctrine does not suit the New York Presbyterians of this day. Even Prof. BRIGGS, whose function is to train young men for their ministry, rebels against it because it does not accord with his reason. The GOD as described in the Westminster Confession seems to him too cruel to win and deserve the love of His creatures. He would have the Divine grace and mercy made more conspicuous in the creed. He would not "rob the living GOD of his prerogative of forgiveness of sins."

Yet every religious creed, Catholic, Protestant, Mohammedan, or Buddhist, contains a statement of doctrine as to the Divine decrees which is not very different from the Westminster Confession's. You must accept it or you must deny the existence of GOD and the whole scheme of salvation. Either the doctrine of rewards and punishments must go, or you must believe in the doctrine of election, no matter how harsh and cruel it may seem.

Did Christ Speak Greek?

When we consider the intense interest of the subject we cannot be surprised that scholars should go on debating about the language which JESUS habitually used in conversing with His disciples and the people of Judæa and Galilee. Who would not desire, for instance, to know in what tongue the Sermon on the Mount was delivered? Was it pronounced in Hebrew, Latin, Aramaic, or Greek? The question has lately been forced anew into the foreground of discussion in England by Dr. ALEXANDER ROBERTS, who in a stout volume has marshalled a good deal of evidence and argument to show that CHRIST spoke Greek.

The notion that JESUS talked with His disciples in Hebrew may be at once dismissed. In their time Hebrew had been for centuries a dead language, and the original text of the Jewish Scriptures could be read and expounded in the synagogues only by men who had been specially educated for the purpose. It was not Hebrew, but Aramaic, a dialect of the Chaldaic tongue, which was spoken by the Jews who recolonized parts of Palestine after their return from captivity in Babylon. The Semitic words and phrases occasionally quoted in the Gospels, and sometimes put in the mouth of CHRIST, are not Hebrew, but Aramaic. When JESUS cites the Jewish Scriptures, it is not, seemingly, the Hebrew original which he has in mind, but either a popular Aramaic version, or, as Dr. ROBERTS contends, the Greek Septuagint translation.

As for the claims of the Latin to be the speech which fell from the lips of CHRIST, they would not now be seriously pressed by any one, although in times past they have been upheld by learned doctors of theology in the Catholic Church. We know, of course, that some of the coins circulating in Palestine bore a Latin superscription, and officers employed in collecting the revenue, like MATTHEW, had probably a rudimentary acquaintance with the tongue of their employers. But it is inconceivable that humble fishermen like PETER and ANDREW, his brother, or JAMES and JOHN, the sons of ZEBEDEE, should have been conversant with Latin. The case that may be made for the Greek rests on a far stronger foundation. For more than three hundred years before the birth of CHRIST, or ever since the countries fringing the eastern half of the Mediterranean had fallen under the control of ALEXANDER and his successors, Greek had been the language of commerce and of international and intertribal communication. Greek, in other words, performed at that time the office for the East, which was afterward discharged by the lingua franca. The execution of the Septuagint translation is convincing proof that Greek was the language spoken by the large Jewish colony in Alexandria. A like state of things existed throughout Syria under the Seleucid Kings, and for commercial reasons it must have continued in Palestine notwithstanding the reaction under the MACCABEES against Hellenic influence. It is probable that the MACCABEE princes themselves spoke Greek, and it is certain that their supplanter, HEROD the Great, used that tongue.

Coming to the Gospel narratives, we find many indications of the use of Greek by JESUS, as at all events an alternative medium of communication. Two of these may here be mentioned. The colloquy between JESUS and the centurion is explicable only on the theory that it was held in Greek. It is as incredible that a Roman military officer would trouble himself to learn Aramaic as it is that the Saviour could converse in Latin. The same thing may be said with greater emphasis of the scene in PILATE's judgment hall. The high priest accuses, JESUS answers, and PILATE decides. As nothing is said about the intervention of interpreters, we must infer that the prosecutors, the prisoner, and the judge used the same language. That language could only have been Greek, for a great Roman official would not have deigned to conduct judicial proceedings in the local Aramaic, even if he could have acquired a knowledge of it in the brief term of his residence in Palestine.

But what of the Aramaic words and phrases occasionally attributed to JESUS and preserved in the Greek text of the Gospel narratives? Dr. ROBERTS thinks they were preserved for the very reason that they were unusual in the mouth of CHRIST and employed only on exceptional occasions and for special purposes. The prevailing opinion of Biblical scholars is, on the contrary, that these Aramaic terms represent the normal speech of JESUS, and are preserved in the Gospels as quotations from His normal speech, because the writers felt that a Greek translation of them would not adequately convey their peculiar significance or extraordinary effect.

It is, as we have said, a deeply interesting question that is raised by Dr. ROBERTS, and he has at least shown it to be much more difficult than has sometimes been supposed. We, ourselves, believe that CHRIST, like the majority of the inhabitants of Palestine in His day, had command of two languages, namely, Aramaic, the native dialect, and Greek, which by age-long usage had become naturalized. All difficulties vanish in presence of this hypothesis. In talking with the Roman centurion and in answering his accusers before PILATE's judgment seat, JESUS spoke Greek. But in the Sermon on the Mount, and in all his discourses to his disciples and the village folk of Galilee, he used the Aramaic mother tongue which was twined about their heartstrings.

Outrageous Treatment of the Dead.

There is one circumstance connected with the murder of Mr. STEPHEN PETTUS by Mrs. HANNAH SOUTHWORTH on Friday, which seems to us to call for pretty severe criticism on the conduct of the Coroner, and that is his action in giving out to the public the contents of a letter found upon the person of the murdered man.

It was undoubtedly the duty of the Coroner to take into his custody any money or other property which he might find upon the body, but his authority in this respect does not justify him either legally or morally in making public the private letters which may happen to be in the pockets of a man who is unfortunate enough to be the victim of an assassination or to fall dead from disease in the street.

If Coroner LEVY had encountered Mr. PETTUS as he stepped from the Fulton Ferry boat, and without his knowledge or against his will had obtained from his person the letter which was published in some of the newspapers yesterday, and had given it to the world, would any one hesitate to denounce the act as an outrageous invasion of private right? Is the Coroner's conduct in disclosing the contents of that letter any less blameworthy because he took it from the body of Mr. PETTUS after he was dead, and powerless to object to the disclosure? We think not. The misfortune of the man in being murdered conferred no power upon any public officer to pry into his affairs further than might be necessary to punish the crime which had been committed; and the ends of justice could not possibly be promoted by the publication of a letter which, according to the *New York Times*, indicated "that if Mrs. SOUTHWORTH felt that she had a grievance against the dead man, there was at least one other of her sex to whom he was very dear."

A revelation of this nature, which could not be made without the assent of the Coroner, can only add to the misery of the murdered man's widow and family, and is productive of no possible good. But, apart from the effect in this particular case, it is a matter of general public interest that such disregard of the rights of the dead should not be tolerated. Any person is liable to die under circumstances which may bring his body under the jurisdiction of the Coroner; and if Coroners are to consider themselves at liberty to make public all the papers they find on dead bodies, it is time that their power in this respect should be limited by law. It will not do to say that a man should never carry any papers that he is not willing to have published; for a letter may be perfectly innocent if accompanied by an explanation or understanding of the circumstances under which it was written, and yet be capable of a most injurious misconstruction if read without such knowledge. Perhaps this may be the fact with reference to the letter to Mr. PETTUS which we have mentioned.

The authority of the Coroner over the effects of a dead man is conferred solely for the benefit of the estate of the deceased, and should not be perverted to any other purpose.

The National Jackson Club.

The National JACKSON Club was organized at Nashville last week. It is composed of persons from the various States and Territories, is to be non-partisan, and has for its purpose "the encouragement and promotion of patriotic principles." The club starts with a good name, and it is certainly desirable, as it says,

"To reawaken that reverential devotion to the Federal Constitution with which he [ANDREW JACKSON] was imbued; to give opportunity again for patriots to pledge their lives, their fortunes, and their sacred honor to the maintenance of the principles enunciated in that sacred instrument; to teach the great thought that to our country we owe our lives, our fortunes, and our sacred honor, if need be, in her defence, without other reward than that vouchsafed by her protecting hand."

But it seems that the members of the club, or at least the authors of its address, think that the country is going to the demnition bow-wows. Here is a part of their lamentations in the true Potterian tone:

"Unhappily, evidences of decay are beginning to be manifest, which, unless speedily arrested, may result disastrously.

"Whereas heretofore men sought to serve their country for love of their country, now they seek first their own gain, and patriotic instinct is lost in the pell-mell scramble for place and emolument. Political parties, all of them, make 'spoils' their first object, and it is gradually being instilled into the public mind that the proper reward of the Government for the service and devotion of its sons is sordid lucre, rather than the blessings of freedom and protection it was created to bestow upon them. When the time comes that it is altogether true that dollars are at all acceptable compensation to the men who do battle for their country, then has our Government issued into a condition that renders it no longer worth perpetuation. Having lost sustaining principles, inevitable disintegration begins. Patriotism is swallowed up in mercenary greed, free government will fall victim to hastening ills that end in anarchy and disruption. The cloud is now no larger than a man's hand, but it heralds a storm and is eloquent of warning. The situation appeals beseechingly to the patriotic sons of Columbia to come to the rescue."

Our esteemed contemporary, Col. ALECK McCLURE of Philadelphia is the first President of the club. The list of Vice-Presidents is rather curious. It contains, among others, the names of ALLEN G. THURMAN, HENRY WATTERSON, T. C. PLATT, R. P. FLOWER, JOHN BOYLE REILLY, GEORGE F. HOAR, ANDREW CARNEGIE, SAMUEL J. RANDALL, CHARLES B. FARWELL, JOHN M. PALMER, HENRY W. BLAIR, FRANK JONES, JOSEPH R. HAWLEY, JAMES G. BLAINE, WILLIAM J. SEWALL, WILLIAM MCADOO, AUGUSTUS H. GARLAND, ROGER Q. MILLS, THOMAS P. OCHILTREE. These names are, we infer, used absolutely without authority. The real object of the club seems to be to attack the spoils system. Yet most of its Vice-Presidents are believers in and defenders of that system. Gen. JACKSON was a hearty spoilsman, and the project of forming an organization under his name to abuse the spoils system is amusing. Genuine Jacksonian Democrats would not be likely to join such an organization, and as for the Republican Vice-Presidents, like Mr. PLATT, Mr. FARWELL, and Mr. BLAINE, they are satisfied with the spoils system, although its workings under the present Administration may oft be fearful and wonderful.

But there is other and even more convincing evidence that the list of the club's officers was made at random without consulting the persons named. The Republican Vice-President from Ohio is R. B. HAYES. Now, what Jacksonian Democrat would join a reform club if he knew that R. B. HAYES was an officer of it? The National Jacksonian Club ought to consult people before giving them its offices.

An Immediate Blessing.

We regard the simple fact of a voluntary subscription of five million dollars by New York for the World's Fair as about the most useful occurrence, considered from a local point of view, that has recently happened.

The manner in which the subscriptions have come in shows that it was precisely what New York wanted—something which would cause it to shake itself up, and to look beyond the restricting limits of its own majestic importance. It needed a new impulse, a new force of public spirit, a new idea of business; all of which have been supplied and stimulated by the call for a subscription of $5,000,000.

That this was particularly needed by the business element of the community is shown by the hesitation of their responses in comparison with those from the public, who have put up their dollars by fives and tens, although to most of them a dollar occupied the same important relation that sums of thousands or tens of thousands would to the liberal citizens who have contributed on that scale.

The Washington Arch is another enterprise of essentially the same sort. That also appeals to the general sentiment only, and not to any particular section of it. In that respect it is perhaps the first monument of its kind. Hereafter, towards any proposition to beautify their city, New Yorkers will stand in a very different temper from the uninterested and unsympathetic feeling which has always met such projects before. For such a change in spirit, $5,000,000 for the Fair and $150,000 for the Arch seem very paltry sums.

Putting Mr. CHARLES H. TURNER up as a candidate for Congress in the Sixth district of this city, made temporarily vacant by the election of FRANK T. FITZGERALD as Register, was inspired, no doubt, by motives of kindness, but it may prove mistaken. Mr. TURNER is the diligent ice dealer who, in the warm Senatorial contest of a couple of weeks ago, conducted his canvass from the steps of his ice cart, with a scale and a pair of tongs as the emblem of his hopes. In that contest, he entered the lists under conditions at once peculiar and exceptional. His two competitors were men of comparatively large wealth, who displayed apparent indifference to the result, and he took what was considered at the time to be an utterly hopeless nomination, making so gallant a struggle for votes as to gain the support of hundreds apart from all party lines. As the official returns show, he came within 305 votes of an election in the contest thought hopeless. Although such a record would seem to be one upon the laurels of which any inspiring statesman who seeks office for its honors and not for its political advantages might well be proud to rest, the friends of Mr. TURNER, with manifestly friendly but evidently injudicious zeal, now insist on running him for the office of Congressman.

The fame which his (TURNER's) brief Senatorial canvass earned for him is now opening the way to a bright business future, with ice as the selling commodity, whereas, should Mr. TURNER gratify the expectations of his admiring friends by running and their political judgment by winning in this next political race, it is hard to see what he will gain. That he is likely to cut but a small figure in national legislation in Washington is, of course, evident, and that his prospects of business will rather evaporate than congeal in his absence is equally clear. At the end of his two years' term, he would find himself brought face to face with the condition which confronted him three weeks ago, and the splendid race which he made for Senator would by that time have passed entirely into the realm of reminiscence. A plucky young candidate standing up for a popular issue is one thing; a picturesque but disqualified candidate, without an issue, and without any apparent function other than that of neglecting his business to run for office, is quite another.

It will probably be urged, and, in fact, is already urged by some of the friends of Mr. TURNER, that his skill and dexterity as an iceman aptly qualify him, in some occult way, for the devious and roundabout pursuits of politics during a Republican Administration in Washington. That may be true; but, on the other hand, it involves what may be, as to the hopes of TURNER, a fatal peril. His opponents, chagrined at his sudden supremacy, may unite their forces and determine to put up a plumber against him! Whatever figure an iceman might cut, in the sultry days of midsummer, he is, of course, thrown entirely into the shadow by the plumber at a time like this when the possibilities of winter are just opening; and there cannot be much doubt that, were that domestic issue brought definitely home to the voters of the Sixth Congress district, they would, as a mere matter of self-protection, if for no higher patriotic purpose, send the plumber to Washington and keep the iceman at home.

It would seem a great pity if so qualified a candidate for the Speakership as the Hon. THOMAS B. REED should be beaten on account of something he did in the past, when, like all able men, he retains the power to adapt himself to the necessities of the present.

There is nothing surprising in this, the resolution adopted unanimously by the directors of the Maritime Association of the Port of New York:

"*Resolved*, That Congress be respectfully urged to establish a Department of Commerce, with a Cabinet officer as chief, to foster and promote our ocean carrying trade, foreign and domestic, and our internal commerce by water and rail."

We have not got a great deal of commerce at present, but what there is is just as much entitled to a special representative and agent in the Cabinet, and a whole one, as are the agriculturists. The multitudinous pages of THE SUN would be too limited to contain the names of all the industries which are individually just as much entitled to a Cabinet officer as the farmers. In fact, since Uncle JERRY RUSK went in, there is no reason why all of us shouldn't go into the Cabinet.

The *Buffalo Courier* says the World's Fair managers should "muzzle" the author of certain expressions in regard to the Fair emanating from New York; but it is wrong. What this or that gentleman says or doesn't say in connection with the Fair cannot be of very much importance. There is going to be a Fair, and the next great and influential fact in connection therewith is that New York is the place to have it. The location is not to be settled by words.

Every man starting out in business for himself is entitled to public encouragement, and the professional base ball players should have it as much as other men. But don't let any hard names creep in. In a despatch from Cincinnati yesterday WARD was quoted as calling GLASSCOCK a "pimple-headed blankety blank." Why not call him GLASSCOCK?

Our esteemed Michigan contemporary, the *Cedar Springs Clipper*, says in reply to the suggestion to nominate HILL and CAMPBELL, that it will "take ALGER of Michigan and MILLER of New York, and 'do 'em up.'" We do not publish this as an item of political importance, but by way of consolation to the individual members of the proposed ticket. Evidently they still live.

TANKS INSTEAD OF TURRETS.

Protecting Big Guns from Small Bullets—Guns for the Lake Fleet.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 23.—It was a well-known Texas fighting man of small stature who once spoke of the then newly invented revolver as "the great leveller." With the production of a convenient revolving pistol the small man was quite on a level with the large one in a fight. It is with a good deal of the feeling of the Texas man that naval officers are now talking about the new rapid-fire cannon that are to be used in arming the latest additions to the American navy.

A good deal has been written about the new guns, but they have two or three advantages not yet fully appreciated by the public. One of these advantages is that they can be readily mounted on ordinary merchant ships, and there shoot just as well as they would do on a man-of-war.

This advantage is of importance all along the coast, but nowhere is it more pronounced than along the great lakes. THE SUN has on more than one occasion shown how great an advantage Great Britain has had there in the possession of her great canal between Lake Ontario and Lake Erie. That canal is now large enough (it will soon be larger) to let a fleet of small but well-armed war ships up from the St. Lawrence River into the upper lakes. Moreover, the right sort of a fleet is always kept handy by. Once there, with no possibility of America's getting any sort of war ships o meet them, they would have the great lake cities at their mercy.

The Americans have had all along a magnificent fleet of cargo-carrying steamers on the lakes, not to mention a few revenue and lighthouse boats; but, even though a sufficient number of cannon of the ordinary sort were provided on shore, it would take time to mount them on the merchant ships, and that time would be very precious. Besides, the ordinary lake steamer has such light frames that she could not stand the concussion of even a common six-inch rifle.

The development of the four-inch rapid-fire gun has, in the minds of naval officers here, practically solved the problem of the defence of the lake coast in time of war. These guns can be quickly and cheaply built. With their efficiency the public is pretty familiar. They can be readily mounted on any steamer with little or no strengthening of the deck beams to be made. By the terms of the treaty with Great Britain but one war ship can be maintained on the lakes. There is nothing to prevent the Americans from obtaining plans of every merchant ship afloat there, however, and these being had, there is no reason why armaments suitable for them should not be made and stored in convenient arsenals. With these merchant ships suitably armed and manned by the able and patriotic seamen that are to be found on the lake craft, there would be no reason to fear any ships that could pass through the Welland Canal.

Another point about the rapid-fire gun is its striking power. The four-inch projectile will pierce four inches of steel at a thousand yards range. While this fact is pretty well known, the consequences likely to follow in time of battle are not fully appreciated. If a projectile will pierce four inches of steel armor plate, it will pierce four inches of annealed steel gun muzzle.

The shape of a modern large-sized rifle is familiar to the public. The jackets of which it is composed appear like steps rising from the muzzle tube. What is to prevent a skilled rifleman from hitting the exposed guns of the modern war ship with the projectiles of a rapid-fire gun? It is certain that these big guns would be hit, and it is also certain that not one of them could stand the gash which a fair blow from a rapid-fire gun would give it. If the little steel bolt hit the muzzle of the big gun, it would pass through and into the bore, lodging there. At the first discharge of the big gun it would blow its own muzzle off. If the little steel bolt struck the big gun on a jacket, that jacket would be gashed, so that at the first discharge it would burst open. It is by no means certain that an ordinary battle ship would be able to fire one effective shot after an enemy's ship armed with the new rifles was able to get within fighting range.

Naval constructors are beginning to consider the advisability of devising some new form of armor to take the place of the modern turret. No turret protects its gun, and the big guns must be protected.

The enormous size of modern rifles, a 12-inch gun being not far from 30 feet long and a 16-inch gun over 40, makes the problem of concealing them from the view of an enemy a difficult one. The revolving turret partly solves the problem, for while the gun is pointed away from the enemy it is not in sight, but as it is swung around it may show twenty feet of its length broadside to the enemy's fire, and since the tube of a big one is about two feet in diameter at the smallest place, the target is one not difficult for a skilled rifleman to hit. As already stated, a single well-aimed shot would destroy the gun. It is not uninteresting to note that the big gun costing $100,000 may be ruined by the projectile of one costing $1,000.

The only scheme so far proposed for saving the big gun from the enemy's fire is by placing it wholly inside of a sunken steel structure built in the ship's deck, and mounting it on a carriage by which it can be raised above the parapet when it is to be fired and then lowered again. There are two sorts of carriages that elevate a gun in this way, and it is possible to get a gun up, shoot it, and get it back again inside of six seconds. That sort of firing would baffle the quickest of small rifle men. It is not improbable that circular steel tanks will take the place of turrets and redoubts on shipboard, and that a revolution in naval architecture is impending.

A New Name for Mugwumps—The Half and Halts.

From the Indianapolis Sun.

The Mugwump organs are still worried at Gov. Hill's prominence. The Governor has annoyed the half and halfs a great deal in his time, but, in the language of the modern song, he gets there just the same.

Chicago Pleads Guilty.

From the Chicago Daily News.

There are some footmen in this city, but they are generally looked upon by the hoi polloi as secret vices.

But It Couldn't Be Done By 1892!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have been much interested in reading the different schemes offered in regard to the World's Fair. I wish to make a suggestion in regard to a monument which I think would redound to the pleasure of our foreign visitors, and be of lasting benefit to ourselves. It is this: Let every parent, teacher, and guide strive to imbue our nation with the spirit of unselfishness and true politeness. Let us learn that it takes less time to answer a question politely than rudely; let us learn that in a public conveyance one has as much right as another, and that politeness will aid in securing one's rights more effectively than boorishness; let our boys learn to protect the weak, and not to rob them; let them learn to respect the aged and show deference to women; let our clerks learn to attend to customers with patience and politeness, and let the buyers learn to know what they want, what they can afford to spend, and show the clerks that they desire to give no unnecessary trouble; let our employees be industrious and conscientious, and think it as great a crime to wantonly waste their employer's substance as they would to steal his money; let employers pay fair wages, furnish comfortable lodgings, give good food, and speak kindly to those in their employ; let our public officials remember that they are to govern for the good of the people, and not for their own aggrandizement; let the people show due deference to our officials, remembering that respect belongs to the office, and that the official was placed there by "we, the people;" let it be considered essential to be cleanly; let our garments be whole, no matter how many patches it takes to secure wholeness; let our priests and preachers practise what they preach; let us all obey the Ten Commandments; in short, let us be a polite, law-abiding, God-fearing nation, and we shall shed a benignant ray far exceeding the most powerful electric light placed on top of a tower ten times as high as the Eiffel tower, for the light of our example would then shine resplendent for all time.

A. B.

Enough, if Not Too Much.

"Do you know that young woman who sings next door?"

"Only by ear."

A Fling at Noah.

"The Ark contained two of every kind of beast," said Mr. Haidrinker.

"No," returned his unhappy spouse; "there was only one hard drinker in the Ark."

Wilful Waste.

"Did you stop at Shears the tailor's?"

"Yes, and I gave him fits."

"What did you do that for? You'll never get 'em back."

THE SITUATION OF TURKEY.

A Mohammedan View.

From the London Daily News.

An influential Turkish gentleman at Constantinople sends us the following letter, dated Nov. 7:

We are indebted to the imperial visit for the partial restoration of our fleet, the equipment of the soldiers, and the cleanness of the town, which has been for the last ten years in a most deplorably filthy state; but it would be ridiculous even to think that political consequences for the benefit of the "Triple Alliance" will be derived from this visit.

It is an open secret in Yildiz, a secret known by the Ambassadors, that the Sultan cannot keep anything to himself. He will disclose to his entourage, who are generally of an ignorant class, matters of the highest importance on vital subjects. He will endeavor to ask the opinion of every one, and take the opinion of every one and finally follow the advice of no one. Our Padishah seems to be lying on a bed of roses, when he sees the whole world at Stamboul at loggerheads, and he certainly feels much happier when he sees the foreign high representatives here, especially those of the signatory powers of the Treaty of Berlin, like the Ministers of the Sublime Porte in discord. Never did the motto "Divide et Impera" please a Turkish monarch better than it pleases Abd-ul-Hamid; it is his last hope of retaining for a few years longer his failing crown.

The Sultan, according to our Mohammedan law (Shéri-Shérif), is only acting as "ad interim" to Sultan Mourad, who is still living. Mourad was dethroned on a Fetwa of the Sheik-ul-Islam, our highest religious authority, as having lost his intellectual powers, and after consultation with the highest medical authorities, as well as the Council of Ministers, Abd-ul-Hamid was proclaimed Sultan, but these last two years Sultan Mourad's health has so much improved that Abd-ul-Hamid has become de facto only a Vekil (ad interim) to his brother Mourad. It is now affirmed that Mourad's health is entirely restored, and as the Mohammedan law does not permit a Vekil when the original sovereign is well, Mourad is legally entitled to be restored to the throne. Abd-ul-Hamid, as we all are aware here, is showing serious symptoms of illness. They are apparent in his conduct to his Ministers, his nearest relatives, in the harem, and to his entourage; in the exile from the capital of thousands of people, the execution of many personages, and, in a word, in the general interference of the Sultan with everything which the Porte does. He desires to do everything by himself, to meddle in the smallest details, even in the marriages of his suite. Abd-ul-Hamid is suffering from the very same illness which caused the dethronement of his brother Mourad, and the Ulemas, together with the functionaries, are already asking each other why the Sultan should not retire and either Mourad Effendi or Rechad Effendi be proclaimed in his stead. All these are signs of future internal disorder. The first war will create serious local disturbances, although it is believed here that there will be no shedding of blood, for the whole people are united as to what should be done to save the empire from utter ruin.

The Sultan could not enter into alliance with any power whatsoever on account also of the disorganization of his army. As for the navy, every one here knows it is in a state of decomposition. The army, like the officials of the Porte, is discontented. It is no secret that the pay of the officers and soldiers in the provinces is in arrear from twenty to thirty months; those of the garrison of Stamboul, who are the most privileged, and have now and then a uniform, have only six months due.

Do not our hearts ache when we see the Bulgarians, who yesterday were our subjects, formed into a constitutional principality capable of defying her powerful creator Russia on account of the liberty she has granted to the people, a liberty which we Turks envy so much—while our Government is the only despotic one in Europe, and our nation the only one governed by a system of corruption, despotism, and bribery worse than that of the days of the Janissaries, and under a despotic ruler who has excluded himself from the world and constituted himself a prisoner at Yildiz, shut up in his palace, surrounded by numerous parasites, who are making a nation of seven centuries tremble under their yoke? We are surrounded not only by kingdoms which once were our vassals, but by new and strong foes, who are waiting for an opportunity of again aggrandizing themselves at our expense. There is Russia longing for our capital, Austria for Salonica, Italy for Tripoli, Persia for Bagdad, Greece for Thessaly and even Crete, Bulgaria for Adrianople; and Turkey, or at least our Padishah, is sleeping on a bed of roses in a harem of more than 500 slaves. Such is the Turkey of 1889. In such a corrupt condition we would not only be defenceless against Russia, but we could not even fight Bulgaria or Greece.

Bad as the Porte is, if its Ministers were left alone, and if the Sultan did not interfere with their acts there can be no doubt it could ameliorate, to a certain point, the present situation, for among them there are men of certain ability, and not without some capacity; but the Ministers have before their eyes the example of those who dared to oppose the high authority of the Sultan. The present situation of Armenia, the atrocities committed by the savage Kurd, Moussa Bey, the farce of his pretended trial, the indifference of the Sultan to the remonstrances of the press in Europe, the sufferings of the people of that province, or (let us employ the phrase that pleases Europe) the sufferings of the Christians, all these must, sooner or later, call for interference and force the Sultan to take serious measures to better the situation of his empire by granting his people the Constitution he has buried in the grave of Midhat. Europe is bound to see that a part of the Turkish empire is not allowed to cause the peace of Europe to be broken. Russia may not choose to point out to the Sultan the actual state of Armenia. On the contrary, this question is for her a godsend, and if it did not exist it would have been to her interest to create it; but England, on account of the enormous number of her Mohammedan subjects in India, is more interested than any other power in the maintenance of order in the Ottoman empire. This gives her a greater right of direct intervention, more especially since the treaty of Cyprus.

The trial of Moussa Bey must therefore be the prelude to a radical overhauling of the rotten administration of justice in Turkey. This could only be done by the powers authorizing the legal attachés of their embassies to be present in the court which judges the Kurdish brigand. Such an act would be highly appreciated, not only by the Christian element, but even by the Turkish inhabitants also; for Turks and Armenians are all anxious for justice, and unless the European element is represented in the court of Stamboul Europe could not expect any sort of justice to be administered by a Turkish functionary, dependent on the caprice of Yildiz—his rotten centre, which is directing in the nineteenth century the destiny of an empire more than six centuries old, and which as an institution reminds us of the worst days of the Vandals.

The Washington Pedigree.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Shaw's second communication to THE SUN touching Washington's pedigree contains, unfortunately, as many errors as his former letter upon that most interesting subject.

The researches of Mr. Henry F. Waters, far from having been unsatisfactory and "not conclusive," have been very conclusive, indeed, as everybody who has read the October number of the *New England Historical and Genealogical Register* must admit. Mr. Waters found what he describes as "the most valuable and important bit of genealogical evidence that I ever saw, or ever expect to see, in the course of my gleanings," and "the long search after the true line of ancestry of our Washington, begun in 1791, was practically brought to a successful close when that little paper was discovered on Monday, the 3d of June, 1889."

There were some missing links in the pedigree given a century ago by Sir Isaac Heard, but Mr. Waters never declared his statements to be "entirely wrong," as Mr. Shaw asserts. While differing as to details, both writers agree that not alone was the Washington family English in its origin, but that our George Washington was a direct descendant of the Washingtons of Sulgrave. That was also the opinion of Washington Irving who, to quote his own words, has traced the family "step by step through the pages of historical documents for upward of six centuries." The author of "The Sketch Book" observes moreover, that all the various branches of the Washington tree (including, no doubt, the Roscommon one), have sprung from the Wessyngtons, a name of Saxon origin which "existed in England prior to the Conquest." There is certainly nothing Celtic in its etymology.

Mr. Waters states that he found Washingtons in no less than nineteen English counties. The Christian name of the early Sulgrave Washingtons was not Lawrence, as your correspondent supposes, but Laurence, as may be seen by referring to the pages of Irving's "Life of Washington," or to a fac-simile of one of the Sulgrave brasses, forming the frontispiece of a little handbook issued by the London and Northwestern Railway Company, entitled "Shakespeare's Country and the Ancestral Home of the Washingtons," which I believe may be obtained at their office in Broadway. Some of these brasses were unfortunately stolen about three months ago by a couple of (supposed) American tourists, who had obtained admittance to the parish church. The circumstance gave rise to considerable discussion in the English press, and among other interesting facts elicited at the time it was ascertained that there are several families of the name of Washington still living in parts of Lancashire, the county from which the Northamptonshire Washingtons originally came.

The analogy of the Sulgrave coat of arms, with its stars and stripes, to the design of the American flag is in itself most remarkable and significant.

The Roscommon Washingtons (like the cognate names of Pilkington and Barrington) are simply an example of a family originally English who have been resident in Ireland for several generations.

NEW YORK CITY, Nov. 15, 1889. G.

Why We Smile.

"Rather good joke, that, on Wanamaker."

"What's that?"

"Signed his name 'John Wanamaker, *Adv.*,' instead of 'P. M.,' the other day."

Can't Be.

"Do you believe Foraker is a sincere man?"

"Not a bit of it. Why, hasn't he just issued a Thanksgiving proclamation?"

Revised Geography.

"Where is Illinois?"

"In the city of Chicago."

"Correct."

We have received a very handsomely printed catalogue of Senator Stanford's trotting stock at Palo Alto, and, if we are to understand that the animals therein are for sale we will take them all, beginning with Electioneer, the sire of Sunol.

An aggravating sore throat is soon relieved by Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, an old-time remedy for bronchial and pulmonary affections.—*Adv.*

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

Among the society events that will mark next week as the first of the winter season, far and away the most interesting and important will be the opening night of German opera at the Metropolitan. To German citizens and to musical enthusiasts, male and female, who sit in the parquet and frantically hiss the chattering and giggling that go on in the boxes, it means Wagner interpreted by Herr Reichman, the new baritone; Fräulein Sophie Weisner, the new soprano, and old favorites like Fischer and Kalisch, with all the intoxicating pleasure that comes to educated ears from orchestra and singers. To the crowd of fashionables in the boxes it is the great society rendezvous of the winter, the arena for the display of beauty, wealth, dress, and jewels, the camping ground for vanity, rivalry, coquetry, and perhaps incipient courtship, the domain of fashion, and an assured meeting place for the young, the gay, and the attractive of both sexes.

On Wednesday night there will be a flutter of expectation in regard to changes in the occupancy of boxes, although as a matter of fact very little that is new will appear. Mrs. Whitney will occupy No. 7 regularly for the first time since she has owned it, and will probably be frequently accompanied by Mrs. Cleveland. Two of the winter's débutantes, Miss Wetmore and Miss Sherman, will be seen in Nos. 3 and 6. Mrs. and Miss Leiter will receive a crowd of visitors in No. 29 on Monday nights whether they spend the intermediate days in Washington or in this city. Commodore and Mrs. Gerry have returned just in time for the opening night, and will be seen in their old box, No. 25, with their débutante daughter, Miss Angelica L. Gerry. Mrs. Anson Phelps Stokes has taken Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts's box, and as she also has daughters in their first winter, it will probably be as attractive as it was when Mrs. Roberts and her pretty sisters sat there. Old stockholders such as Astors, Vanderbilts, Coopers, Goelets, and Bradley Martins will have their usual places, and Mrs. W. W. Astor will occupy her father-in-law's box for the first time in two years. The number of young men in attendance will be considerably diminished by the absence of the hunting set, who are going to the complimentary dinner given at Hempstead by the Meadowbrook Club to its Master of Hounds, Thomas Hitchcock, Jr. The arrangements for this entertainment were unfortunately made without due thought of the opera, and the oversight was discovered too late to remedy it.

We do not hear of any new embellishment to corridors or boxes at the Metropolitan, and old New Yorkers who have been interested in reading the diary of the late Philip Hone cannot be otherwise than struck with the superior comfort and luxury in the appointments of New York's first opera house, which was opened on the 18th of November, 1833, just fifty-six years ago. Mr. Hone tells us that the house was fitted up with great magnificence, dome elaborately painted, blue silk hangings, and gilded panels to the boxes, with comfortable armchairs and sofas. And here the social magnates of their day, in high coat collars, lace ruffles, and peg-top trousers, such as Gerard Coster, Dominick Lynch (whose daughter is said to have cherished a pet snake, and kept it reposing in her lap during the performance), John C. Cruger, Philip Hone, and others of their set visited and talked and flirted and made themselves agreeable, even as their great-grandchildren do now, with one only difference, that they openly avowed their dislike of the musical part of the entertainment, pronounced the singers tiresome and the score prosy, and "could see no sense or diversion in the expression of human feelings and emotions with orchestral accompaniment." A large number of operagoers in these days hold precisely the same views, but they express them by an open disrespect to orchestra and singers while professing intense enjoyment of them.

Monday and Tuesday of this week will be occupied almost exclusively with weddings, as two very prominent ones occur to-morrow and another on Tuesday. The formal announcement of marriages that have already taken place as a substitute for wedding invitations is becoming a feature of fashionable life, and calls forth many unfavorable comments from those who are shut out by this new fashion from participation in the wedding festivities. Elderly people, young children, and those who are debarred from the excitements of the gay world by ill health or mourning for departed relatives, have hitherto found some alleviation and diversion in church weddings. Brides are always pleasant to look upon, and although a wedding party may not absolutely be a sight to be desired to make one wise or even prudent, yet, whether as a warning, an example, or a spectacle, there is hardly a man, woman, or child who would not turn out of his way to see it. But invitations to weddings are few and far between this year. Most of them are solemnized in the seclusion of the bride's home, and the doubtful compliment of a "faire part" extended to old, although perhaps not very ornamental, friends.

A dance to be given to-morrow night by Mrs. Pierpont Morgan for the two daughters who make their début this winter will give the first airing to ball gowns, and will probably be a pretty affair, as Mr. Morgan's house in Madison avenue is complete and artistic, and spacious enough to accommodate many guests. Mrs. Morgan is doing a good work in naming from 9 till 12 on her invitations as the limits within which she wishes to receive, entertain, and dismiss her guests, and if she can induce other ladies to do the same it is barely possible that earlier hours may be secured for those who have neither the means nor inclination to justify them in spending all the morning in bed.

Receptions at homes and 4 o'clock teas, for which cards are fluttering in at every hour of the day, reveal a number of débutantes whose names have not yet appeared. Mrs. Harry Hoffman has issued invitations for two receptions on the 4th and 11th of December, to introduce her daughter, Miss Isabel Hoffman. Miss Katharine Gandy, who was much admired at Lenox last summer, will be formally introduced by a reception at Mrs. Sheppard Gandy's on Dec. 4. Mrs. Frederick Betts's "at home" on Saturday next is in honor of her eldest daughter, as is also the tea to be given on Dec. 6 by Mrs. Lawrence Kip for Miss Edith Kip. Miss Daisy Pierson is to have a large reception on Dec. 14 at the new residence of Mr. and Mrs. J. F. Pierson in Thirty-fourth street.

On Thanksgiving Day there will be the usual flitting to hunting grounds and country clubs. House parties, divested of all the prosaic monotony of old-time family gatherings—roast turkey and the festive pumpkin included—will wend their way to Long Island, West Chester, Tuxedo, and the Hudson River, to remain until Monday morning. There will be runs with the hounds at all the clubs. The meet of the Rockaway pack will be at Cedarhurst, with the usual good cheer served at the club house. Mr. and Mrs. Elliott Roosevelt will entertain at luncheon the Meadowbrook Club after a morning run with the hounds. Pigeon shooting at the Pelham Country Club, with cups, prizes, and handicaps, will be almost as exciting as horse racing, and will fill up the greater part of the festive but fatiguing day.

Impromptu dances at Tuxedo and West Chester are so much a matter of course that it is safe to say that they will take place on every Saturday and holiday.

Sir Julian and Lady Goldsmid, who spent last summer at Newport and Lenox, are, it is said, to celebrate their return home with the marriage of their daughter, Miss Violet Goldsmid, to a young diplomat representing the King of Hawaii in London.

The engagement announced in London of the daughter of Count Von Hatzfeldt, German Ambassador at the English court, to a German princeling with large estates, is only another alliance of one of the Hatzfeldt family with a bride of American extraction. The grandmother of the young Countess, Helen Von Hatzfeldt, was the beautiful Mrs. Moulton of Paris, who, previous to her marriage, was well known in this city as Cesarine Metz, and whose father, Julius Metz, was the fashionable singing teacher of the day.

The wedding of the Hon. Alistair Hay and the Hon. Miss Greville is announced by the London *Court Journal* to take place in January.