The Sun.

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A Southern Excursion.

The Hon. THOMAS COLLIER PLATT has started on a journey to the South, and among his travelling companions is the Hon. RUSSELL ALEXANDER ALGER, with whom he once sought Alaska and the fabled shores of Jones River. The inspection of railroads is their ostensible business, and their other business, if they have any beside pleasure in making the journey, is perhaps nobody's business but their own. At the same time, those who know that Mr. PLATT would hesitate before jumping into a river to save the Administration, and that Gen. ALGER loves it as the cat the dog, may think the continued conjunction of the New York and the Michigan statesmen may bode something ominous to BENJAMIN HARRISON and his fortunes. PLATT has the Republican machine of New York and ALGER has the G. A. R. behind him. Yet each of these Republican chiefs is for himself first, and the talk of an alliance between them is moonshine. Eighteen hundred and ninety-two is far away for compacts or combinations about the candidate for President. The lists are open, and any one can come in as he pleases. Even Gen. HARRISON may get a vote or two.

Gen. ALGER has, perhaps, learned from the expensive farce in which he figured in 1888, the danger of previousness. If Brother BLAINE should wake up in 1892, a Western man for Vice-President could be supplied by Michigan, not without protest from the Hon. JOHN SHERMAN; but the cutthroat Republican politics of Ohio may not be regarded as worthy of exerting any influence in the next National Convention.

But whatever happens to Mr. BLAINE and Mr. ALGER and Mr. HARRISON and Mr. SHERMAN, the Hon. THOMAS COLLIER PLATT will continue the WARWICK business at the old stand; and a King-maker less deceived in regard to the quality of his Kings there could not be.

Unfortunate Brazil.

The latest news from Brazil will seem deplorable to those who in the teeth of probabilities have hoped that public opinion might develop sufficient force to constrain the military chiefs to surrender their usurped authority to elected representatives of the people. To be sure, FONSECA and his colleagues have promised that a Constitutional Convention shall be held. But when? On Nov. 15, 1890, or just a year from the day when a lot of military conspirators by a *pronunciamiento* clothed themselves with autocratic powers. Meanwhile all the national and local organs of legislative and administrative authority are to remain suspended. Instead of the law and order which the Brazilians formerly enjoyed, and the larger liberty which they were told to hope for, they are to have nothing for a twelve-month but the arbitrary flat of irresponsible dictators. Nor is this the worst; for even the judicial institutions have not escaped the general wreck. While pretending that their *coup d'état* has been welcomed all over the country, and that the reports of popular discontent have no foundation, the self-appointed rulers at Rio de Janeiro now announce that all persons accused of resistance or disaffection to their methods of government will be tried by a military tribunal. That is to say, having got possession of power by bayonets, they mean to keep it by the same means; and to that end have taken the traditional step toward the inauguration of a reign of terror.

We have seldom seen a more lamentable exhibition of disingenuousness and ignorance than is presented in the official apology for postponing the Constitutional Convention for almost a year. Mr. BARBOZA, who just now is permitted by the leaders of the army to exercise the functions of Minister of Finance, says that the critics of this delay are not well acquainted with the geographical obstructions to an early convocation of a popular assembly. Our own opinion is that well-informed Americans are much better acquainted with the geography and history of Brazil than Mr. BARBOZA, and his military superiors are with the principles and precedents of genuine republics. We know from their own assertions how much time was needed to proclaim this provisional Government in all parts of the country; and no more time would be required to communicate orders for a general election. The pretence that the promised extension of the suffrage compels delay is preposterous. If it be true, as the dictators assert, that their authority is universally recognized, it would simply be necessary to notify the former officers of election that, instead of limiting the franchise by the old property restrictions, they should allow every one to vote, except such as are disqualified by illiteracy. It is not time, but an honest purpose, that is needed for the promulgation and enforcement of an order of that kind. No less absurd is Mr. BARBOZA's attempt to excuse his own reluctance to test the will of the people by pointing out that, whereas a former widening of the Brazilian suffrage was decreed in January, 1881, it was not carried out until December of that year. A man who presents that fact as an analogue and justification for the present state of things must be either a knave or a fool. Between January and December, 1881, Brazil had a Constitution, national and provincial legislatures, Ministers responsible to the law-making power, and a regular judiciary. There was, therefore, no reason for applying the new franchise conditions before the next general election should in due course take place. Now, on the other hand, there is the most imperative and urgent reason for immediately appealing to the people, for at present Brazil has no Constitution, no national or local legislatures, no responsible Ministers, and practically, since the establishment of military tribunals, no regular courts. In other words, what exists at present in Brazil is anarchy tempered by martial law. Curiously enough, on the same day when courts-martial were organized to try all persons accused or suspected of hostility to the dictators, Mr. BARBOZA had the assurance to telegraph to Washington that "public opinion in Brazil is satisfied."

The law-abiding and liberty-desiring people of Brazil are to be profoundly pitied for the shameful deception practised on them in the name of the republic, and for the grievous calamities with which they are threatened at the hands of the usurpers in the dark year to come. Suspicious in its inception and its methods, the *coup d'état* of Nov. 15, 1889, is now seen to be dishonest and dangerous in its intentions. What its authors commend to the approval of real republicans in the United States and Europe is a military dictatorship, conceived in fraud, founded by violence, and only upheld by terror. The promise that a Constitutional Convention shall be held a year hence is worthless. The same irresponsible persons that make it may break it, as they have already broken their promise to pay a stipend to the aged Dom PEDRO II., and their far more important pledge not to interfere with the jurisdiction and procedure of the ordinary courts. If the Brazilian people want a republic, and want it promptly, they will have to take the matter into their own hands in their several provinces. They will get, it is now patent, but little help from the dictators, who by means of soldiers and martial law will maintain themselves in autocratic power as long as possible at Rio de Janeiro.

Sub-surface Naval Warfare.

The last trial of the Spanish torpedo boat El Peral, which took place about ten days ago in the Bay of Cadiz, was still more successful than the three or four preceding. She remained two hours submerged, with only her conning turret, which is a little over two feet high, showing above the water, then sank and showed about half of this tower, and proceeded to navigate the bay for three hours, during half of which time she was wholly out of sight.

These performances of the Peral are hardly more important to Spain than to other countries which are waiting for the first complete success of a submarine craft to abandon their present system of torpedo boats for the new one. Secretary WHITNEY was so convinced of the necessity of submarine boats in torpedo warfare that he only asked Congress for one of the ordinary surface-going boats, the Cushing. He also invited bids for submarine contrivances. The Columbian Iron Works responded with three propositions for a boat of ninety tons displacement—the first, yielding twelve knots speed and nineteen hours endurance on the surface, with nine knots and one hour submerged, at a cost of $150,000; the second, yielding ten knots and fifteen hours on the surface and eight knots submerged, at $115,000; the third yielding nine knots on the surface and seven submerged, at $100,000. The system thus contemplated was the Holland. Under another call for proposals by Secretary WHITNEY, CRAMP & SONS had proposed to build a Nordenfeldt boat. There are many other systems of submarine navigation, the Tuck, the Ramagote, the Waddington, the Campbell, the Goubet, the Bjevalsky, the Ringbom, and so on; and the first which proves in every respect adequate to its task will make a great change in torpedo warfare.

The Peral, named for its inventor, has the cigar shape common to such boats, and is about seventy feet long and nearly nine in breadth. Her motive power is electricity, supplied by storage batteries, as is the case with many submarine boats. Where, as in the Nordenfeldt craft and others, steam is used, the fuel consists of petroleum, or sometimes of chemicals, while of course only stored steam is available with complete submersion. PERAL'S invention was apparently made known to the Spanish Government during the controversy with Germany about the Caroline Islands. The keel of the little craft was laid in the autumn of 1887, and she was launched in September of last year. One of her distinguishing features is the ample accommodation she provides for her crew, which not only insures them from being cramped, but gives them good breathing space.

But with all allowance for the degree of success attained by the Peral, it would be wholly premature to declare the problem of submarine navigation solved. The ultimate object aimed at is to produce a craft which, without trusting to the shelter of night or fog, can sink beneath the surface at a sufficient distance from the enemy not to be seen by him, and then proceed wholly under water to the hostile ship, and there discharge its projectile against the bottom of the hull. The submarine boat can be made to sink and rise with sufficient rapidity and at the will of the Captain; it will even come to the surface by its own buoyancy should an accident to its machinery occur beneath. It can be kept on an even keel by balanced rudders or equivalent devices. There is a sufficient supply of compressed air or adequate breathing space for the crew, and the boat can remain hours together under water. It can be made to move with reasonable speed, as a surface boat, or when only partly submerged. But the final triumph will come when not even the conning tower needs to show above the water, and when three or four miles together can be run absolutely submerged so as to reach an enemy's vessel in the daytime without having given him any clue to the approach.

What with rapid fire and machine guns to riddle the ordinary surface torpedo boat or its observation tower, and with steel nets to keep out its weapon, armor-clads have ceased to greatly fear this form of attack; but when they can be made the victims of an enemy whose existence defies detection, and which, approaching at a depth of 20 or 30 feet, fastens its weapon to the bottom of the doomed vessel, submarine warfare must at once become of the highest importance.

The Genius of Two Men.

The day after Mr. CLEVELAND reöpened his great moral show in Boston, the correspondent of the *Evening Post*, in a state of mental stupefaction worthy of the occasion, wrote as follows:

"To-day Mr. CLEVELAND's name is upon the lips of many who heard him, and of many others who wish that they had been fortunate enough to be within the walls of the Vendôme. This speech will be read all over this country and across the sea. It will stamp Mr. CLEVELAND as more than ever a man of deep convictions upon the most urgent public problems of the day, and a man with positive ideas as to the method of solving those problems."

There can be no question that this speech fully deserved a place in the catalogue of Clevelandiana. It was the most carefully studied effort of the author, the finest possible concentration of his most profound and most fancied discourses upon the idea that has steadily provided the solitary inspiration for about all of his works which have reached the public. This idea is, of course, public morality. The Boston effort produced a symmetrical and unbroken essay upon the esoteric beauty of public morality; upon the value of moral virtue as opposed to moral leprosy in public men Historically it was absurd, but its method for solving the problems, which the correspondent of the *Evening Post* truly describes as urgent, was positive and no mistake. Expressed in the terse phrase identified with another well-known and also popular moralizer, of the opposite sex, it was: "Be good!" According to all of Mr. CLEVELAND's declamations this is the new rule of life which he has discovered.

This reminds us vividly of the story of a gentleman who one day when he entered his accustomed barber's shop, after a short absence from town, noticed that the bottles of hair restorer which had always formed a row along the top of the rack had been reduced in size. When stretched in the chair he found that the artist who polsed the razor above his cheek was a stranger. He was the new proprietor, but he proceeded to entertain his patient with the old-style tonsorial fluency of conversation. He spoke of the new bottles. "You observe," said he, "that in place of the lot of large-sized bottles that used to be there under my predecessor, there are now some smaller ones. I thought that it would be better to have some smaller sizes. It's a little idea of my own." And the customer arose in wonder at the new proprietor's genius.

But could he in truth be called any greater as a barber than GROVER CLEVELAND as a statesman and moralist?

Justice to One of the Lately Defeated.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Evening Transcript*, calls attention to an interesting circumstance, although without touching upon the feature of it most important to the outside public. A correspondent writes from Lynchburg:

"Gen. MAHONE deserves better of his compatriots than the abuse which was so abundantly lavished on him in the canvass."

Gen. MAHONE deserves all the partisan consideration due the one Republican candidate who ran ahead of his ticket at a time of almost unbroken disaster along the whole line. In Virginia, the only State outside of New York where the regular party division was not hopelessly lost in the sporadic complications of prohibition, grangerism, or forgery, the Republican defeat, at once the squarest and most crushing, left the leading candidate the hero of the day. MAHONE was the single member of his party running for Governor in the States of Iowa, Ohio, Virginia, and Massachusetts who did not confuse the result of the election by dropping behind his ticket.

For this he deserves the thanks of Democrats more than the thanks of Republicans. He showed that in a square party fight, all that the Democracy wants for the achievement of victory is the opportunity to get together on the national platform of 1884. They had that in Virginia last November.

In behalf of the Hon. BENJAMIN F. TRACY, who, when he stepped into public office, abandoned his private business, we should like to ask Mr. C. J. HAMLIN, of Buffalo, how stands the latter's theory upon the breeding of trotters from highly developed sires. Secretary TRACY and Mr. HAMLIN had a very interesting discussion upon this question when both were horse breeders; and later events point rather in the direction of the Secretary's side of it.

Miss GIBBS, a teacher in a Southern college, wrote to JEFFERSON DAVIS, asking him to write a sentiment which might serve as a motto for Southern women. The reply she received, says the *St. Louis Republic*, might serve for the guidance of all mankind:

"FOR MY FELLOW COUNTRYWOMEN: Be slow to anger, swift to forgive, and hold fast the charity that raises the lowly, with the self-respect that stoops not to the haughty. "JEFFERSON DAVIS."

This suggests a celebrated passage in ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S inaugural address of 1864:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as GOD gives us to see the right, let us finish the work we are in, to bind up the nation's wounds, to care for him who shall have borne the battle, and for his widow and his orphans, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and a lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

Thus at the end, the two chiefs of the opposing parties in the mightiest and bloodiest of civil wars, express a similar philosophy and a kindred spirit.

We fear there is but one way to redeem the present style of prosecution against Dock Commissioners POST and MATTHEWS from the imputation of political partisanship. It is for Commissioner CRAM to put on his bathing clothes and plunge boldly into the whirlpool that has been set revolving before his colleagues.

The Mugwumps are rushing back to the bosom of the Republican party on the pretext of what they call ballot reform. And Dr. DEPEW, the great alarmist of the age, stands ready to welcome them home again

"With quips and cranks and wanton wiles,
Nods and becks and wreathed smiles."

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Globe Democrat*, thinks that the sailors of the Emma Fisher met with a horrible fate in the remote Pacific because they were "eaten by cannibals."

Ordinary philosophers would think that the horrible fate consisted in being killed by cannibals. After that had happened to them, the subsequent proceedings interested them no more.

The Hon. JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL has written the following character of the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND:

"Let who has felt compute the strain
Of struggle with abuses strong;
The doubtful course, the helpless pain
Of seeing best intents go wrong;
We, who look on with critic eyes,
Exempt from action's crucial test,
Human ourselves, at least are wise
In honoring one who did his best."

Another version has "wistful eyes" for "critic eyes." The variant is unimportant, and so, with the highest respect to the distinguished author, are the verses themselves. Here is a version just as good and more concise:

"The experiment, it failed to go;
He meant well, but he didn't know."

We, who look on with critic or with wistful eyes, simply insist that it is unnecessary to repeat the experiment. It is all right for a man to do his level best, but the level best of some people is not equal to the level best of others. Doubtful courses and helpless pain must not happen to the Mugglemupwumpies again.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *Boston Post*, is trying to persuade us that the front of the name of IBSEN, the culture-talk and anti-marriage dramatist, is HENRIK, and that he lives in Dresden and Rome. Whereas the truth is that his prænomen is DENNIS, and his residence Weissnichtwo.

So Cheap JOHN WANAMAKER keeps a scrapbook wherein are recorded the remarks of the newspapers about him. If he will give twenty cents for every complimentary notice he gets, how many years will it take to accumulate cash enough to buy a brass wanamaker? Here is a question for the C. S. R. examiners.

A man died in Chicago the other day at the age of 110. What a fierce hold upon life he must have had. A man who could live to be 110 in Chicago could without difficulty live to be 1,010 in any place where life is agreeable.

For a party that regards its claim under its old contracts as valid, the National Base Ball League seems to be paring pretty high for players.

His Eye Put Out by a Quail.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

DENISON, Tex., Dec. 24.—A very singular accident took place this morning on Chestnut street. While James Willis was proceeding to his home a quail, which was in rapid flight, struck Willis in the left eye, and will cause the loss of the eye. The attending physician states the pupil is entirely destroyed.

The Beet Will Beat.

From the Omaha Republican.

Newspapers which are sneering at the *Republican's* efforts in aid of the beet sugar industry will see the day when the manufacture of sugar from beets will be looked upon as one of Nebraska's leading industries.

Easily Explained.

"Tommy, it seems to me that your trousers are rather slick for a new pair. Is it some of your pa's work?"

"Yes."

"Did he do it with his slipper?"

"Not he did it when he used to wear them."

A Wise Clergyman.

Rev. Mrs. Poorlypaid—If you want me to fix your trousers, darling, you'll have to go down town and buy some buttons.

Rev. Mr. Poorlypaid—Oh, that's a needless expense, my dear. I am going to take up a collection for foreign missions to-morrow.

Mentioned by the Immortal William.

"Young Goslin seems to be very anxious for his rich uncle to die."

"Yes: I think he must be the eager and nipping heir that Shakespeare speaks of."

BUOYS AND BEACONS.

Recommendations of the Committee of the International Marine Conference.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 27.—The Committee of the International Marine Conference on General Division 13—a uniform system of buoys and beacons—submitted a report to-day. The report says that the first object to be attained from an international point of view is uniformity, and for this purpose color is the best means as applying to all systems of whatever kind, while the shape admits of numerous exceptions. The color, too, it says, is also applicable to all countries, whereas the adoption of shape would involve changes of several existing systems. For these reasons the committee holds that the opinion prevails that at night and in thick weather difference in form is a better means of distinction than difference of color, and for this reason advises that uniformity in color be adopted as a general rule, and that the use of shape remain optional.

While, in the opinion of some members, the single colors of black and red are not so distinctive in contrast as a single color used in connection with a parti-color, experience gained in many buoyage districts, and particularly where used in conjunction with form, has proved that these dark colors are sufficiently distinctive for the safe navigation of districts where a more complicated system is not necessary. Single-colored buoys, the report says, are also and more readily and cheaply repainted than parti-colored buoys, and for this reason recommends that the largely used red and black colors should be adopted generally for marking rearectively the starboard and port sides of single channels.

In speaking of the system of buoyage in the Thames and the shoals off the coast of the North Sea the report says that many of these districts require a more complicated system to identify the several neighboring channels from one another. "In some of such districts a parti-colored buoy is used with much advantage as a port-hand buoy. In a few—notably in England—a single black color is used as a starboard-hand buoy. Inasmuch as a single black color is in general use as a port hand-buoy in neighboring districts visited by the same shipping, the Committee suggests that the authorities of such countries should be invited to consider the great advantage that would result from the adoption of uniformity in color by discontinuing this dangerous custom of using black to denote a starboard-hand as well as a port-hand buoy.

In some countries white is used as a distinctive color, and with advantage when contrasted with a dark background. As this practice cannot lead vessels into danger, the committee hesitates to advise that it should be compulsorily interfered with.

"We are of opinion," the report says, "that where form is adopted, the two shapes, 'conical' and 'can' are appropriate for marking the starboard and port sides of a channel, a spar-buoy taking the place of the can in certain cases. These forms are practically used in the United States, Germany, Canada, and Great Britain. But the various countries are not all in agreement as to which side of the channel is to be marked by a conical buoy and which by a can or spar buoy. It follows that one or more of the countries would necessarily have to rearrange their system, but if the work were done gradually the committee believe that this could be performed at a minimum of expense in no way comparable with the great advantage that would result to navigation.

"As regards topmarks, we recommend that those countries whose buoyage is based on color alone should, whenever topmarks are used to denote sides of a channel, use conical or can-shaped marks on the existing buoys or beacons.

"We are of opinion that the mode of distinguishing buoys from each other by names, numbers, or letters, should be left to the decision of the various countries, but that all numbers and letters should be in consecutive order, commencing at the seaward end of the district. The committee is also of opinion that districts where the buoyage is too complicated as to have led the authorities to adopt a compass system of marking, such as in the Baltic Sea, cannot be coupled with a similar system found sufficient elsewhere, and for this reason hesitates to recommend a fundamental change in such districts."

The report of the Committee upon General Divisions 9, 10, 11, and 12 was also submitted to the Conference to-day. General Division 9—Warnings of approaching storms (a) the transmission of warnings, and (b) the uniformity of signals employed, are the subjects. In the opinion of the committee it is desirable that storm signals displayed at coast stations should give to passing vessels some further information as to whether storms are approaching or have passed the station; and, in reference to this, the committee desires to call attention to the fact that this want has been supplied by the system now in use in the United States.

In recapitulation, the committee recommends to the Conference to invite the maritime countries interested to take into consideration the establishment of a uniform system of indicating storm warnings by day and by night, and that such a system should, as far as possible, include signals indicating whether the storm is approaching or has passed the station.

EL RIO REY IN POLITICS.

The Colt Said to be a Platform on which His Owner May Run for Governor.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Jan. 2, or a few days afterward, a party of prominent sporting men will meet in Chicago and start for a trip across the continent. The party will be comprised of Dick Roche, Phil Dwyer, Dave Gideon, the New York bookmaker, and Billy Donahue, the noted jockey. It is possible on the way to the coast that the party may rest one day at Reno, Nev., and pay a visit to the farm of Theodore Winters.

As a representative of Phil Dwyer Roche asked for a price on El Rio Rey and intimated that he would pay $35,000. The Colonel Winters telegraphed back that the colt was not for sale at any price. August Belmont and John H. Morris, owner of the new Westchester track, each in his own interest made subsequent efforts to get the colt, and made it understood that $50,000 would not be considered too high a price. Even those offers did not tempt Winters.

A prominent turfman is authority for the declaration that Winters is a candidate for Governor of Nevada, and has a good chance to get the office if everything goes well with El Rio Rey. The people of Nevada are proud of the colt, and may elect the owner to be their Chief Executive. To sell the colt would settle Winters's chances. If Winters gets to be Governor of Nevada El Rio Rey will elect him. Thus it appears that the thoroughbred is becoming an element in politics.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

The socialistic press of Germany is exhorting all German workingmen to make a grand demonstration on next May 1 in favor of the eight-hour working day. Dozens of workingmen's organizations throughout the empire have already made preparations in harmony with the sentiments of their organs. They all will make May 1 a holiday, and will talk and act as much socialism then as the police and the severe anti-socialist law permit. A great impetus to the particular eight-hour movement of 1890 in Germany as well as in America and most other civilized countries was given by the Congress of the Marxists at Paris last summer. They are strongest in Germany and Austria. They have a considerable hold also on the workingmen in France where they are generally known as Guesdists.

The *Chinese Recorder* of Shanghai contains a paper on the "Life and Writings of the God of Literature." This being, it appears, lived through seventeen different lives as scholar and official, although the records of only nine lives now exist, the remaining eight never having been preserved. In his own person he completed the perfection of the three religions of China. One of his works contains a chapter on ghosts and men, of which the following is the substance: "A ghost is the corrupt part of man, and man is the pure part of a ghost. A man can be a ghost, and a ghost can be a man. The man and the ghost are mutually related; why separate man and ghost? The ghost becomes a man; then man must become a ghost. If a man does not become a ghost he will surely be able to perfect manhood. It is difficult for a ghost to become a man, because it has fallen to ghosthood, and because it has lost manhood. A man is a ghost; a ghost is a man; but all men are not ghosts, neither is every ghost a man." It appears, also, that it is possible, although difficult, for a man to escape becoming a ghost. This is how it can be done: "Those who can be respectful without feeling ashamed, who can be submissive without deception, who can obey to perfection the rule of life, and are able to preserve their natural force unabated, secretly cherishing growth, will become Buddhas or genii, but not ghosts."

A pathetic story is that of a little French boy who, being inflamed with the national longing to see the great Exposition, made the most strenuous efforts to that end, but failed. Twice he left his home in a provincial town to tramp to Paris, and twice was he sent back by the various authorities before reaching it. Then he resolved on a third attempt. This time he reached Paris. Worn and weary he was found in the streets a few weeks ago, and he was taken to the police court to give an account of himself. In answer to the questions put to him by the Judge, he said that he had started without a sou in his pocket, but had been helped at different houses all along the road. In Paris he begged. That was the reason of his arrest. He slept in the streets. "You went through all that to see the Exhibition!" the Judge exclaimed: "and did anybody give you tickets?" The boy said that no one had been so generous. The Judge asked how he contrived to see the Exhibition, and the lad replied that he had not be held it at all. The Judge, apparently struck with this ill luck, cried: "So, after leaving your home and your friends three times without a sou in your pocket; after begging and sleeping in the streets, you have not seen the Exhibition!" The boy apparently blushed for shame, and to cover his confusion he remarked that he had beheld the Eiffel Tower. But he had had a look at the tower from the outside only. Then he was allowed to leave with his mother, who three times this season had been called away from home to fetch her prodigal.

LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

The Late Mr. Grady's Boston Speech.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Notwithstanding the many laudations of the late Henry W. Grady's Boston speech, the facts he gave showed his argument to be fallacious. He furnished in his address statistics showing the undoubted progress of the negroes in acquiring property and in becoming skilled laborers, but he regretted that they had been intrusted with the right of voting.

The colored race in the South numbers millions, and if it had been denied the suffrage on the color line the negroes must have remained wholly dependent upon the will of the white voters. "Power is in its nature grasping." How could a race wholly deprived of political power, and dependent upon another and distinct race, have maintained its just and proper rights? Why should the blacks, capable of improvement and progress, as stated by Mr. Grady, have remained wholly without the franchise? E. W.

SAUGERTIES, Dec. 25.

Boston's Great Secret is Out—No Pan-baked Beans Are Genuine.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* No true Bostonian is ashamed of his love of the succulent matutinal dish which graces his table every Sunday. No jeers can move him; no gibe can silence his ever-ready testimony to the gastronomic delights of the genuine baked bean. He knows that every word of defamation is born of ignorance, and he looks upon the flippant critic more in pity than in resentment. But when there arises an opportunity to brand an imposter and to defend a glorious New England institution at the same time, the duty of a true son of the Puritans is imperative.

THE SUN of to-day states that "a family from the Hub, temporarily living in Fifty-third street, regularly every Saturday afternoon sets its pan of beans out to cool on the second-story window ledge," &c.

Pan of beans, indeed!

In the name of our Puritan grandmothers permit me to expose this imposture. This "family from the Hub" never got more than a glimpse of the golden dome on Beacon Hill; never skated on the Frog Pond; never saw one of the progeny of Councilman O'Flannigan's gondolas in the Public Garden, and above all never sat around a steaming tureen of genuine Boston baked beans.

No Boston baked beans were ever cooked in a pan. They are baked in thick earthern pots, and therein lies the test of their genuineness. The pale, mushy, pan-baked mess that masquerades in this town as Boston baked beans deserves all the contempt that is visited upon it. I don't know of a hotel or eating house in the whole metropolis which serves the real article—an unbroken fruit cooked to the nearly tenderness of a boiled chestnut in a sweet, clear liquid of richest amber.

When we moved our goods and chattels to New York the worst disaster incident to the transfer was the breaking of the family bean pot. My wife sent to the nearest grocer for a new one. He had none, never heard of them. Every grocer within a mile was applied to, with the same result, and, in despair, we were obliged to have sent to us from Boston this indispensable article of New England culinary equipment.

If the housewives of New York will send to their New England cousins for one of the earthen jars which simmer in every Boston oven on Saturday afternoon and use it intelligently, we will soon see ridicule turned to thanksgiving, and the metropolis paying tribute to her elder sister for teaching her an art no less prized because so long despised.

NEW YORK, Dec. 25. HUBBITE.

The Low Tension Current Defended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In George H. Benjamin's letter in to-day's SUN are statements to which, as an interested party, I take exception, particularly as to the veracity and good faith of a person whose name is a synonyme of a branch of the business of which Mr. Benjamin professes to be a representative. I refer to the name of Mr. Edison. I have not the time nor disposition to enter into details or personalities, as I have no personal acquaintance with Mr. Benjamin and have not had the honor of meeting Mr. Edison for nearly five years; but I do wish to call Mr. Benjamin's attention to a few of the now numerous practical installations of the Kinsman low tension or safe arc lamp, both in this city and elsewhere, but notably in connection with the low tension system of the Edison illuminating companies' 220-volts currents, which, with due deference to the opinion of some, is safer from an insurance company's standpoint than kerosene oil lamps or cigar stumps.

Another notable instance is an isolated plant installed by this company, which is a case where we used an Edison dynamo and the Kinsman lamp for an exclusively arc-light plant, which has not only been accepted and paid for, but indorsed by all who have seen it as superior to any high-tension system as to steadiness and brilliancy, as well as its qualities of safety and economy. This is the first instance of the kind on record. I believe that the day is not far distant when this entire city will be lighted in the manner now employed by this company. I would not, however, be willing to so carelessly place myself on record against the so-called high-tension system, as Mr. Benjamin has against the low-tension systems, but I may at some future time point out some of their valuable points and opportunities in the enormous field of electricity to which only the small gates have as yet been opened for the uses of that class of current. But for the present, considering the prominence you gave Mr. Benjamin's letter, I feel that it is but justice to all concerned that you give equal prominence to this letter.

F. E. KINSMAN,
President Electric Construction and Supply Co.
Dec. 29, 1889.

There Will be Plenty of Room.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "And he measured the city with the reed, 12,000 furlongs. The length and the breadth and the height of it are equal." —Rev. xxi., 16.

Twelve thousand furlongs, 7,920,000 feet, which, being cubed, is 496,793,088,000,000,000,000 cubic feet. Reserving half of this space for the throne and court of heaven, and half the balance for streets, we have the remainder of 124,198,272,000,000,000,000 cubic feet. Divide this by 4,096, the cubical feet in a room sixteen feet square, and there will be 30,321,843,750,000,000 rooms. We will now suppose the world always did and always will contain 1,000,000,000 inhabitants, and that a generation lasts 33½ years, making in all 2,970,000,000 every century; and that the world will stand 100,000,000 years, or 1,000 centuries, making in all 2,970,000,000,000 inhabitants. Then suppose there were 100 worlds equal to this in number of inhabitants and duration of years, making a total of 297,000,000,000,000 of persons, and there would be more than a hundred rooms, sixteen feet square, for each person. F. L. WALL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.

Appeal of the Island Mission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me to make, through your columns, my annual appeal to the charitably disposed on behalf of the friendless men, women, and children in the public hospitals, asylums, and almshouses on Ward's, Blackwell's, Randal's, and Hart's Islands. It is the especial aim of the Island Mission to afford, through the channel of private benevolence, such modest comforts for these poor creatures as it is beyond the province of the city authorities to supply. The private hospitals and infirmaries each have their particular friends and patrons who take care that the patients want for nothing. In the city public charitable institutions the Island Mission seeks to fill the place of these, or at least do something to cheer the monotonous existence of the inmates. The claims of the sick and crippled children on Randal's Island will, I am sure, appeal at this Christmas season especially to the sympathies of happy boys and girls in their comfortable homes.

Pictures, framed and unframed, toys (cheap and indestructible ones preferred), games, and children's books may be sent to the house of Mrs. Richard M. Hunt, Vice-President, 2 North Washington square. Money contributions will be received by Mrs. Ashmore, Acting Treasurer, 102 Waverley place. Yours faithfully,

MORGANUS MARKS,
President of the Island Mission, for cheering the lives of the poor and sick.

Civil Service Questions in Brooklyn.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read your recent editorial in THE SUN entitled "Some Civil Service Gems," and I know that some of the questions asked by the examiners of the United States Civil Service Commission are absurd.

For instance, at the examination held in Brooklyn last August some of the candidates for positions as letter carriers in the city of Brooklyn were asked the following questions among others:

"Name three States, from east to west, that lie wholly on the north bank of the Ohio River, west of Pennsylvania."

"What is the principal river in Oregon?"

"Name five of the principal dry-goods stores in the city of Brooklyn."

"Name five horse car lines which pass the City Hall."

"Name five churches in the western district of the city of Brooklyn and their location."

This last one was a puzzler to those candidates who lived in the E. D., a great many of whom could name five churches, but when it came to locating them found themselves "in the soup." OFFENSIVE PARTISAN.

Knew the Signs.

"Ma, the minister is coming."

"What makes you think so? Did you see him?"

"No; but I saw pa take the parrot and lock it up in the stable."

Will Regret It.

Mrs. Simpson—So your servant has run off. How foolish in her to leave a good home like this. Don't you think she'll regret it?

Mrs. Sampson—Yes; my husband went with her.

Something Larger.

Guest (to waiter)—What do you mean by bringing me such a small piece of meat? Have you nothing larger?

Waiter—Oh, yes, I'll go and get your bill.

The personal discomfort and the worry of a constant cough, and the soreness of lungs and throat which usually attend it, are all remedied by Dr. D. Jayne's Expectorant, a safe medicine for pulmonary disorders and throat affections.—Adv.

MR. ROOSEVELT INQUIRING AROUND

Into Democratic Assessments and Republican Contributions.

Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, the only Chinese Commissioner that people hear about, was again at the Custom House yesterday. He had come from Washington to make another investigation, leaving the other two Mandarins stowed away somewhere. Mr. Roosevelt was brim full of vigor and bubbling over with enthusiastic energy. He started in early in the little Chinese mill, a hundred feet from Collector Erhardt's office. A lot of subordinates in Surveyor Lyon's department were corralled and shunted along the narrow corridors into the room. They were weighers and assistant weighers and others, and nearly all were Republicans. They were timid at first. They didn't seem to know why they had been dragged into the presence of the Mogul. But Mr. Roosevelt was cordial and their fears subsided, and they proved to be almost garrulous witnesses in their testimony as to how they had been forced to pay political assessments under Surveyor Beattie. The old story of Widow Maginniss's pig was trotted out again, and for the four hundred and forty-seventh time they told how they were marched up to the Hon. Dick Jordan's campaign ranch in Liberty street, and mulcted as regularly as a municipal, State, or national campaign came around. Their chief objection to such proceedings was that as Republicans they were compelled to chip in the sinews for the Democrats. They wouldn't have cared a copper if they had been asked to "contribute" to Republican campaign funds. The celerity with which some of the witnesses jumped from the word "assessment" to "contribution" in giving their testimony had its elements of humor. Under the Democratic régime they were "assessed," while in the last campaign they "contributed."

Mr. Roosevelt also examined a number of subordinates as to the methods used by them in securing appointment under Collector Magone. It is asserted by some of Mr. Roosevelt's informants that some of Mr. Magone's appointments were made in violation of the Chinese statutes. The same charge is made against some of Naval Officer Burt's appointments. The investigation lasted well into dusk. Mr. Roosevelt then announced that he had nothing to say for the present. His report would be handed to his brother Commissioners. They might accept it and then again they might reject it and come on here and make an investigation for themselves.

Mr. Roosevelt will return and start other investigations at the Custom House next week. He was asked if removals were likely to follow his investigations. Mr. Roosevelt replied that it was not time yet to talk about such matters.

EXCISE TRIALS BY POLICE JUSTICES.

The Grand Jury Renews the Suggestion—Down on the Use of Child Spies.

The Grand Jury expressed their views upon the excise question in a presentment submitted to Judge Gildersleeve yesterday. The say that they agree with the October Grand Jury that excise cases ought to be disposed of by summary proceedings before a magistrate, or in the Court of Special Sessions, either with or without a jury. They say that the District Attorney has submitted to them a large number of these cases, but the pressure of other business and the investigation of matters of grave public importance have prevented them from considering more than a very few. They believe that the Grand Jury of this county cannot investigate and present excise cases and at the same time give proper attention and time to the great volume of other business imperatively demanding their consideration. But, even if the Grand Jury could deal with their part of the procedure now in vogue in these cases, it would be impossible for the General Sessions Court, with its already crowded calendars, to provide for the trial of the indictments found. They say:

"It is manifest that no reason exists why, in the county of New York, a different practice should be in force than in all the other counties of the State, where Courts of Special Sessions have jurisdiction to try excise cases by the intervention of a jury, and we believe that in this county these cases should be tried in the Court of Special Sessions, with or without a jury, as the defendant may elect.

"It appears that minor children are sometimes used by and with the consent of the police authorities of this city, or their subordinates, in procuring evidence to be used in criminal prosecutions, more especially against houses of ill fame. The result, in many instances, must be the entanglement of the minor in evil influences and great danger of moral contamination, and the Grand Jury believe that the practice is one of no public utility, and should be abolished, as it now exists. We, therefore, recommend that the Police Department take measures to prohibit its members from being in any way concerned in the use of minors in the procuring of evidence."

BROOKLYN'S HEALTH.

Not One Case of Small-pox Has Occurred in That City This Year.

In his annual report to Mayor Chapin, Health Commissioner Griffin of Brooklyn says:

"The general health of the city has been good, the percentage of mortality being a little less than that of last year. The estimated population for the month ending Nov. 30 is 843,602, and the number of deaths from all causes, including those that have occurred in hospitals and other institutions, 18,379, which gives an average annual death rate per 1,000 of 22.10.

"The death rate for 1888 was 22.72 per 1,000 of the estimated population, which, on Jan. 1, 1889, was 814,505. The death rate for 1884, 21.90 per 1,000; for 1885, 23.09 per 1,000; for 1886, 22.24 per 1,000; for 1887, 22.72 per 1,000; for 1888, 22.72 per 1,000; for 1889, 22.10 per 1,000.

"The zymotic diseases caused 4,456 deaths, the constitutional 3,478, the local 8,439, developmental 1,471. Among the principal diseases, croup occasioned the death of 385; whooping cough, 296; typhoid fever, 169; phthisis pulmonalis, 2,049; bronchitis, 898; pneumonia, 1,819; Bright's disease, 474. Of the whole number of deaths, 4,729 were children under 1 year of age, and 3,