

London Office of THE SUN, 25, Abchurch Lane, E.C. 4, London, E. C. 4, England.

A Small and Nasty Job.

On Friday last the Senate passed without discussion a bill ordering the payment of \$2,500 to the firm of PORTER, HARRISON and FISBACK for legal services.

The HARRISON in this firm of claimants is the Hon. BENJAMIN HARRISON, President of the United States.

This same claim has appeared in previous Congresses, generally, if not always, under the title of a bill for the relief of SEWELL, COLTON and others—the "others" being PORTER, HARRISON, and FISBACK.

The claim originated during the days of the war. A man named ANDREW HUMPHREYS was arrested on a charge of conspiracy, and indicted and tried, and for a time confined to the limits of two townships in the county in which he lived.

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At this stage of affairs, PORTER, HARRISON, and FISBACK appeared for the first time as counsel for the defendants. They filed a single brief, presenting the obvious and unanswerable proposition that the motion to transfer the cause to the Federal Court ought to have been granted.

All that the President's law firm ever did in connection with the case was to file that one brief. The State of Indiana paid him \$500 for that service, probably very much more than the service was worth.

Gen. HARRISON may think that he is fairly entitled to the \$2,500 he demands from the Federal Government, in addition to the \$500 already received from the Governor of Indiana, for filing that wonderful brief.

But it strikes us that the Republican party would be well advised to pay him ten times the sum he demands for the services he rendered.

Registration.

The proposal of Mr. CHASE, the Democratic Senator from the Albany district, that a uniform and explicit registry law for the whole State should be adopted as the primary and chief feature of any intended electoral legislation has encountered the most strenuous opposition from the Republican Senators and leaders generally.

Of course, the Democratic decriers of the pretended reformers who are opposed to a general registration, which might dampen their Republican allies, are stepping forward with excuses, but the real point at issue cannot be so easily obscured.

The most charitable supposition is that Professor HUXLEY has never read our Declaration of Independence. If he has, it is only to be ashamed of himself for writing about it and pretending to quote from it; even though it be true, as he announces at the beginning of his article, that he has had "some thirty years' training in the art of making difficult questions intelligible to audiences without much learning."

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Naturally enough, a Senator entertaining such notions is not in favor of a franchise system which will put an end to the fraud which has made the Cattaraugus district notorious. His plan is to cut down the Democratic vote in New York and Brooklyn by an Australian scheme of disfranchisement; but not to limit the Republican strength to its rightful proportions by a registry law for Chautauque and Cattaraugus.

examination there does not seem to be any good reason why a citizen, resident in a large city like New York or Brooklyn, should be compelled to go to the polls twice in order to be allowed to vote once, as is the case now—since he must go once to register and once to vote—while the resident of a farming district in the country then needs to attend only once. The policy of the Democracy has always been to place as few difficulties and embarrassments as possible in the way of a fair and honest ballot; while the Republicans have believed in the multiplication of restrictions and annoyances that would be felt mainly by Democrats.

How Our Court of Appeals is Overworked.

The pamphlet number of the Northeastern Reporter for Jan. 31, 1899, is chiefly devoted to the reports of decisions by the Supreme Judicial Court of Massachusetts, which is the tribunal of last resort in that Commonwealth, and to decisions of the Court of Appeals of New York.

Eighteen opinions of the Massachusetts Supreme Court are printed in this number, and fifteen opinions of the New York Court of Appeals.

The eighteen opinions of the Massachusetts Supreme Court occupy sixteen columns and a half of the Northeastern Reporter. The fifteen opinions of the New York Court of Appeals occupy fifty-five columns.

These tribunals are of equal rank and standing in the respect in which their opinions are held throughout the country. They are held in equal esteem. But it is a noteworthy fact that in laying down the law the Court of Appeals of the State of New York finds it necessary to say more than three times as much as the Supreme Judicial Court of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts.

Professor Huxley and the Declaration of Independence.

It is not pleasant to rebuke so self-complacent a philosopher as Professor THOMAS HENRY HUXLEY for an article in which he contains an article on "The Natural Inequality of Man," published in the January number of the Nineteenth Century.

The title of Professor HUXLEY's article indicates its argument. In the course of a discussion of what he calls Rousseauism, Professor HUXLEY pretends to quote from the American Declaration of Independence:

"What is the meaning (he asks) of the famous phrase that all men are born free and equal, which enlightened Americans were as much philosophers as their inferior common sense and their practical acquaintance with the facts of life would lead them to, as far as the foundation of the Declaration of Independence?"

If Professor HUXLEY had taken the trouble to refer to the text of the Declaration of Independence, instead of trusting to hearsay or to the recollections of a not too faithful memory, he would have ascertained that the "famous phrase" which he quotes does not occur anywhere in that document.

The passage in the Declaration which Professor HUXLEY had vaguely in mind is another and a very different thing from that which he makes his text for a page or two of satirical comment upon the supposed political qualities of new-born infants, not one of whom, he says, with fine irony, "would live for four-and-twenty hours if it were not imprisoned by kindly hands and nursed to the breast it could never find for itself." Here is what the Declaration says:

"When, in the course of human events, it becomes necessary for one people to dissolve the political bands which have connected them with another, and to assume among the Powers of the earth the separate and equal station to which the Laws of Nature and of Nature's God entitle them, a decent respect to the opinions of mankind requires that they should declare the causes which impel them to the separation. We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness."

In any attempt at close reasoning and exact writing, even mere verbal misquotation is a capital offense. Professor HUXLEY's sin is still his. His line of argument indicates that he has wholly misapprehended the spirit and intention of the carefully measured words which form the introduction to the very concrete specifications of tyranny, injury, and usurpation brought against the King of Great Britain by the authors and signers of the Declaration.

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Journey was known in Europe before he himself emerged on the shores of the Indian Ocean. This is a great advance on the conditions of African travel only ten years ago, when explorers who ventured further inland than Lake Tanganyika were lost entirely to view for more than a year.

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SECURING THE DESERTERS.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—The chief disgraces and evils in the administration of the army and of the navy, too, for that matter—is the extraordinary prevalence of desertions, and Congress is edging its brains to find a remedy. Some singular propositions have come of the attempt.

Senator Hum's bill "to prevent desertions from the army, and for other purposes," contains a provision which adds a pound of vegetables to the daily ration, which would be an excellent thing for those who remain loyal to the cook house, whatever its effect as a disincentive to desertion. Another section authorizes United States marshals, and constables, and police officers to arrest and return deserters; and especially the negro officers that can be put upon the track of the culprit the better the chance of catching them. A third section grants a furlough of three months at the end of the first three years of the soldier's enlistment, with a privilege of honorable discharge at the end of the furlough, if he applies for it. That is not all. The soldier's term should be reduced to three years, let this be done at the outset, instead of paying the soldier three months' wages and allowances for doing nothing, and then having him quit the service after all, granting a short vacation to those who re-enlist; just, although the soldier's term should be reduced to three months at the end of the first three years of the soldier's enlistment, with a privilege of honorable discharge at the end of the furlough, if he applies for it.

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A PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE'S IDEAS ABOUT MARRIAGE.

Mrs. Betta Lockwood Argues that It Is No Failure, but a Great Success.

HANOVER, N. H., Feb. 15.—Mrs. Betta Lockwood lectured in Kibben's Opera House to-night before a large audience, consisting mostly of Dartmouth students. She took for her subject, "Is Marriage a Failure?" and brought forward many strong arguments to show that it was not.

"Marriage," she affirmed, "was as old as the world, and the abolition of the marriage customs of a country would seem to be to society what anarchy is to law—a going backward, or a return to the primitive state."

She said that statistics show that there have been 365,000 divorces or marriage failures in this country during the last ten years, but we probably can offset these with ten million successful marriages. Drunkenness is one of the chief causes which lead to divorce, and the number of divorce cases went up very seriously during the last year. Really a life partnership, and on many important occasions the wife has been the power behind the throne. If James Buchanan had had a wife with half the backbone of Abigail Adams or Lucy Webb Hayes, he would have squelched the rebellion in his infancy. But one thing is certain, and that is, that a man or one in which each party to the contract pulls the other way, is worse than the recent deadlock in the House that has been trying to get the bill for this marriage institution to be from the House of Representatives for the purpose of promoting domestic felicity.

It is not the children, she said, who are the cause of the divorce, but the fact that the children have been a natural growth of society, and with the increase of numbers it became necessary to have a law.

History proves that whenever marriage has been the result of barter or sale it has been a failure. It is not the children, she said, who are the cause of the divorce, but the fact that the children have been a natural growth of society, and with the increase of numbers it became necessary to have a law.

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THE DESERTING INDIAN.

The Need of Revising the Emergency Fund for Cases of Special Distress.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 15.—Fifteen years ago Congress put in the annual Indian appropriation act an item of \$50,000 "to supply food and other necessities of life in cases of distress arising from emergencies, not foreseen or otherwise provided for." To guard against an improper use of this fund, it was enacted that a report of any expenditure made from it should be rendered to Congress at the next session thereafter.

During that year, accordingly, the sum of \$429,000 for food was expended for the eastern band of Cheyennes of North Carolina, and another of \$196 for the Chipewas of Lake Superior in Wisconsin. The following year the Northern Cheyennes and Arapahoes of Tongue River Agency in Montana received about \$3,710; the Mohaves of Arizona and California, \$2,575; the Flat Valley Indians of Idaho, \$4,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. In 1877 the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,000; the Flat Valley of Nevada, \$1,272. Last year the sum of \$300 was expended on the absentee Shawnees of Indian Territory, and the sum of \$5,253 on the refugee Crees from the Dominion. In 1888 the Turtle Mountain band received a second \$3,000; the Kootenais of Idaho, \$400; the Yumas of California, \$5,