The Sun.

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Silver in Politics.

Six bills for the free coinage of silver were introduced into the House on the first day of the session, three of them by Republicans. The successes of the Farmers' Alliance will undoubtedly have the effect of strengthening the hands of the friends of free coinage on both sides of the House. Mr. REED's ability and strength of will in suppressing free coinage and forcing the Senate to recede from the position to which Mr. PLUMB had led it, can only be appreciated when it is remembered that the free coinage men are an undoubted majority in Congress. But at the first session they did not have as much courage as Mr. REED.

Will the majority consent to be suppressed? Can the demand daily heard with increasing emphasis from the South and West be resisted? Some of the Western Republicans are already telling the Administration that unless it consents to free coinage their States cannot be counted upon in 1892. It is probable that if the Republicans do not pass a free coinage bill now the Democrats will in the next Congress.

Nothing can be made out from Gen. HARRISON's obscurities upon the subject of silver. If he had been a man of any brilliancy and power of initiative, he might have come out for free coinage. Mr. BLAINE is known to be a friend of silver, and this is another recommendation of his candidacy. Doubtless both Republican and Democratic candidates for President will follow public opinion in regard to silver. The Mugwump candidate adds to his other innate and accidental fatal disqualifications the disqualification of having regarded silver as a bull regards a red parasol. He may be getting ready to change, but the somersaults of fat men are ridiculous.

Altogether, silver seems likely to play a part in the politics of the next two years.

The Mental Torture of Convicts.

Great indignation has been aroused in Ohio by the action of the Warden of the penitentiary in that State in failing to inform a condemned murderer on Thanksgiving Day that he had been reprieved until the 19th of December. It appears that information of the reprieve reached the Warden at 5 o'clock in the afternoon of Thanksgiving Day, but the convict was not told anything about it until midnight. He was occupying the death cell, only a short distance from the gallows erected for his execution, and according to the despatch from Columbus from which we gather these facts, he "was left alone for six hours in the hope that he would weaken and confess, but at 10 o'clock he sent for a priest and dictated a statement to the public in which he declared that, standing on the brink of eternity, he knew nothing of the death of his alleged victim."

The Ohio newspapers criticise the Warden very severely for needlessly keeping this prisoner so long in such cruel suspense; and his conduct does seem to have been wanton and heartless. But is it any worse, any more cruel and inhuman, than the course of action which the electrical execution law of this State enforces upon the Wardens of our own State prisons?

Here, when a criminal is sentenced to die by electricity, all that the Court does in reference to the time is to fix the week in which he must be put to death. No one except the officers of the law who may be present at the execution, and the persons officially invited to witness it, is to be informed of the day or hour when it is to take place. The prisoner himself must be left in ignorance on this subject if the Warden complies with the mandate of the statute, which is that no previous announcement of the day or hour of the execution shall be made except to a Justice of the Supreme Court, the District Attorney and Sheriff of the county where the conviction was had, two physicians, twelve reputable citizens as witnesses, such clergymen, not exceeding two, as the prisoner may desire, and not more than seven assistants or deputy sheriffs.

In other words, it is the cruel policy of the law of the State of New York, as now expressed upon our statute book, to leave a condemned murderer in suspense as to the hour of his execution, from the beginning of the week fixed for the infliction of the death penalty; and this suspense may continue until the last hour of the seventh day. It is difficult to conceive of any method by which greater mental torture could be inflicted upon a condemned murderer. If we desired to punish murder by the infliction of such torture, we could not improve upon this plan. It was hardly consistent, however, to establish electrical execution on the theory that it was more humane than hanging, and at the same time couple with it these provisions for concealing the day and hour of death from the prisoner. The increase in mental anguish under the new system makes the death penalty more horrible than it was before, even if it be true that it is less painful to die by electricity than to die by the rope.

Saving the Large Game.

The British East Africa Company has at last closed its large territory to sportsmen. After JOSEPH THOMSON described the wonderful game region on the high plateaus around Mount Kilima-Njaro, it became the fashion for lovers of sport who could afford it to visit that country and put in a few months hunting the elephant, rhinoceros, and other large game. Even the Russians participated to some extent, and a few of our own hunters have visited this part of Africa and returned with many trophies.

When STANLEY last emerged from the Dark Continent he joined his protest to that of others against this wholesale slaughter of East African game. He said these animals would be needed for the nourishment of thousands of workmen who would soon be building a railroad to Victoria Nyanza, or carrying out other large enterprises.

The East Africa Company has decided now that some efforts must be made to protect large game against wholesale slaughter by European lovers of sport. It has therefore closed its territory to these hunters, and they must find some other field for the exercise of their proficiency. Of course, only wealthy men have been able to indulge in these adventures, for a visit to the game country involves the equipment of a large party, including many natives, and a few months there involves an expenditure of at least several thousands of dollars.

The restriction upon shooting in this region has come none too soon. Hunters were killing without any discrimination everything they came across, even though they could not utilize the food thus provided. It is about time that the process of exterminating the noblest animals of Africa, merely that sportsmen may have a few months' fun and adorn their homes with skins and horns and other trophies of their prowess as Nimrods, should come to an end. No game region can stand such incessant slaughter as has been visited upon the large animals of all parts of Africa that have been accessible to European sportsmen. Some efforts are also making in other parts of the continent to protect game from utter extermination; and it is to be hoped that the noble animals that are found chiefly in Africa will be saved from the entire destruction which has overtaken our own bison.

Pension Prodigality.

In the brief time devoted to receiving bills on the first day of the present session, Congressman PICKLER hurried in a measure for raising all pensions to at least $6 a month. The member from the new State of South Dakota is plainly under the impression that the great fault of this Congress has been in not giving away enough money in pensions.

At a recent date there were more than 120 different rates of regular pensions paid, between $1 a month and $100, besides the few special pensions which carry more than $100 a month. Below $6 a month there were, in round numbers, 100,000 pensioners, over two-thirds of them receiving $4 per month, less than a third $2 per month, and several thousand one or another of nearly twenty different rates. These included nearly two thousand at $3 a month, and others at such odd sums as $2.12½, $5.33⅓, and so on.

Now, however, we find Mr. PICKLER proposing that all this throng of pensioners shall have their receipts increased to $72 a year, which will be more agreeable to get than the smaller sums that have been the rule for a quarter of a century. And he has a precedent for this proposal in the raising of the rate of scores of thousands of other pensions from $8 a month to $12 under a bill signed by Mr. CLEVELAND. Of course, when the standards of pensions established long ago are altered in this fashion twenty or thirty years after war exigencies are over, there is no saying where the end will be. Precisely the same reason that exists for raising 70,000 pensions from $48 a year to $72 will exist for further raising them from $72 to $144, and so on indefinitely, so long as the Treasury holds out.

Secretary NOBLE, who fairly chuckles over the growth of the pension roll in his report, shows that the appropriations for the present year must be increased to a total of $133,000,000 to meet obligations already incurred. Last year the Board of Pension Appeals reported that "the combined pension rolls of Great Britain, France, Germany, Austria-Hungary, and Belgium cost annually only $31,002,150, or a little more than one-third of the cost of our own." That reckoning was made on a previous annual expenditure of $88,275,113. But now, with the outgo already raised to $133,000,000, our pensions will cost between four and five times as much as those of these five countries combined.

While there were 537,944 pensioners on the rolls up to July 1, there were also on the 18th of October no fewer than 892,221 claims pending, of which 483,278 had arisen under the Dependent Pension bill of last June. At a moderate estimate these claims may bring the number of pensioners up to 700,000 or higher, although the civil war ended more than a quarter of a century ago, and hundreds of thousands of those who fought in it are no longer living.

The Alliance and Gen. Gordon.

Mr. J. R. SLEDGE of Dallas is a great man in the Farmers' Alliance at the South. He describes himself as "a Hayseed Socialist," and is described by the *Fort Worth Gazette* as "a sort of evangelist in the grand army of the Alliance, generally in the saddle, so to speak, peregrinating from State to State and looking after the welfare of his order." Mr. SLEDGE's latest field of missionary labor is Georgia, where he "spent nearly a month helping the brethren to elect a United States Senator." Curiously enough, Mr. SLEDGE expresses satisfaction with the result of his labors in Georgia:

"'You are mistaken,' said he, when the remark was ventured that GORDON had downed the Georgia Alliance. 'You are mistaken about that. GORDON is all right on the principles advocated by the Alliance. A perfect understanding was reached between him and the Alliance members in the Legislature the night before he secured the nomination. He agreed to the principles of the Sub-Treasury bill. If he had not done so, he could not have been elected, for we had a majority to beat him.'"

Mr. SLEDGE explained the failure of the Alliance members of the Georgia Legislature to elect the Hon. PATRICK CALHOUN, who, like the Hon. THOMAS M. NORWOOD, swallowed the whole Alliance platform without a wriggle, by saying that Mr. CALHOUN was objectionable to some members of the Alliance on account of his being a railroad man. "GORDON is all right," continued the Hayseed Socialist, "and we think we can count on him. If we didn't think so, he would have been left at home." He further explained that Gen. GORDON's opposition to the Sub-Treasury plan was due to the fact that "the money power got hold of him and threatened to defeat him if he did not let go of the Alliance. He got frightened and took water. But that was nothing. He'll do, all the same. We are not afraid of him."

We have seen in the *Atlanta Constitution*, which opposed Gen. GORDON and favored the election of CALHOUN, an intimation that there was an agreement or understanding between the Alliance and Gen. GORDON. Mr. SLEDGE says flatly that there was such an understanding, and yet the vagueness of some of his talk, such as "we think we can count on him," and "we are not afraid of him," seems to show that the Alliance is merely whistling to keep up its courage.

The election of Gen. GORDON has been everywhere received as a square defeat of the Alliance. He announced himself as unalterably opposed to the Sub-Treasury plan. He had said that even if his perpetual exclusion from office should be the penalty he would never support that plan. Whatever understanding he may have with the Alliance, there is no evidence, and there is extreme improbability, that he gave up his opposition to the Sub-Treasury scheme. If Mr. SLEDGE or anybody else can show that Gen. GORDON receded from his position at the last moment, the showing ought to be made. Otherwise the Alliance will be guilty of trying to bring under suspicion of weakness a man conspicuous for his courage. Apparently, the Alliance is attempting to conceal its defeat by representing that Gen. GORDON is an Alliance man.

The Steady Light.

It is satisfactory to see that the Hon. JAMES L. PUGH, whom the unshaken Democracy of Alabama have again elected to represent that State in the United States Senate, is not among those who have gone crazy through the late general election. Mr. PUGH's diagnosis of that superficially bewildering contest, and his view of its relation to its successor two years later, is found in the *Atlanta Constitution*'s account of his speech before the Alabama Legislature accepting his reëlection. The *Constitution* says:

"Mr. PUGH pronounced the present condition of the national Democratic party to be very good and its prospects very bright. The late elections in many cases the result of local fights, and the Democratic victories cannot be taken as an index to what will be the result in 1892, but he was hopeful that 7,000,000 voters would march to the polls and elect a Democratic President."

Mr. PUGH's method of accounting for the cyclone is the best foundation for his prophecy. He is not a lunatic who expects to march over the hard road to Washington under the light of the local fireworks which sputtered in November, 1890. The Democratic beacons which never go out must be fed and strengthened, or 1892 will be gloomier than 1888. And they are fed and grow brighter every day.

It cannot be that North Carolina will fail the Democracy after such an example of loyalty has been furnished by Georgia and Alabama. In each of these States the effort to take the place in the United States Senate held by the Democrats and give it to a representative of the Farmers' Alliance was nobly and successfully resisted by the election of Senators GORDON and PUGH. The same sort of struggle is now directed in North Carolina against the Hon. ZEBULON VANCE. "The name of the 'Sage of Gombroon,'" says the *Atlanta Constitution*, "is a household word from ocean to ocean." It will blaze with greater glory and satisfaction to Democrats when it is made the name of the next Senator from North Carolina. That State should not be the first to drop out of the Democratic list.

The Portuguese expedition against Bihe, which started out with cavalry and KRUPP cannon to cut up the rebellious natives of that plateau, are not having things all their own way. The latest news is that they have met with very serious loss, and after three days' fighting they barely gained a victory over a petty king. The Portuguese have found that while it is profitable in time of peace to sell guns and powder to the aborigines, these civilized weapons of warfare in the hands of the natives prove very inconvenient for the whites when war begins.

A reporter who has been at work trying to ascertain just how many speeches the eloquent Mr. CHAUNCEY DEPEW has delivered this year has thus far been able to count up 160, but he says that the returns from the rural districts are not yet all in. The reporter has been trying to classify these speeches under separate heads, and has found that those under the head of "festive and humorous" are more numerous than those under the other four heads, "commercial," "religious," "literary," and "political." Some of these brilliant speeches, if fully reported, would occupy from three to four columns of solid type; others would run over a column, and several could be brought into three-quarters of a column.

Of course England has a foothold in South America, as she has in all the other quarters and continents of the world; and there has for years been trouble between the Government of British Guiana and that of the adjacent republic of Venezuela. The Venezuelans allege that the British authorities have encroached upon their territory by taking possession of certain mineral lands near the Orinoco; and, though they have protested against this action, their protests have been left unheeded in London. They invoked the mediation of our Government several years ago, being very desirous of the settlement of the boundary dispute; but, though Secretary BAYARD laid the case before the British Foreign Office, no settlement was brought about. Meanwhile, British encroachments are kept up, and Venezuela has repeated her appeal to our Government.

It is the imperative duty of the British Foreign Office to give heed to the remonstrances of Venezuela, to take immediate steps for the settlement of this vexatious and irritating dispute, and to order the withdrawal from Venezuelan territory of the troops sent there by the authorities of British Guiana.

We are interested in the report that a man in this city has won a bride who is old enough to be his mother, and also in the report that a woman in Chicago has wedded a man young enough to be her son. We are not surprised by these reports. Such incidents are constantly occurring in this moss-covered yet budding and blooming world.

The French and Belgian journalists are bold and clever interviewers, and in a few days probably the foreign mail will bring us a very interesting lot of impressions of the ex-convict TIMMERMAN, who has just been released after thirty-one years' solitary confinement in the central prison of Louvain. In Belgium the term "solitary confinement" is interpreted by the law with all possible rigor. The prisoner sees nobody. He is always alone in his cell, and his only companions are books. TIMMERMAN, the released convict, is now fifty-six years old. In June, 1860, he was condemned to death for the murder of his sister-in-law; but death sentences in Belgium mean imprisonment for life; so TIMMERMAN was taken to prison and kept there until the French Senator, M. BÉRANGER, obtained his release. M. BÉRANGER was a member of the Penitentiary Congress that was recently in session at Antwerp. He became interested in the case of the long-confined prisoner, and obtained permission to visit him, after having first gone over the long record of his conduct in prison, which was without a single mark against him. The result of the visit was that the philanthropic Frenchman became convinced that TIMMERMAN had long ago repented of his crime, and that it would be safe to give him at least conditional freedom. He appealed to the King, and the pardon was granted.

NOW TIMMERMAN, old, but still strong and healthy, walks out of his cell into a new world, a RIP VAN WINKLE whose impressions, if cleverly captured, as they doubtless will be, upon electric lights, telephones, torpedo boats, repeating rifles, PULLMAN cars, elevators, tramways, microbes, the Triple Alliance, the Farmers' Alliance, six-foot blondes, seven-foot driving wheels, twin screws, pug-nosed princesses, cured consumptives, harmless mad dogs, and things *fin de siècle* in general, must be singularly striking. If they don't set the unfortunate man crazy.

Silver Coinage in China.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

Secretary Blaine has just transmitted to the Treasury Department a despatch from Minister Denby in China which has a very important bearing upon the financial situation of the world, and particularly upon the question of silver. Minister Denby says:

"A proclamation has been issued by the Tientsin and Pei-Ho Taotais that the Canton dollars and parts of dollars made by order of the late Viceroy Chang are a legal tender in any part of China. The new coins have full imperial sanction. The proclamation was issued by order of the Viceroy of Pih-Li, who is also superintendent of the northern trade. All merchants and others are ordered to receive these coins at their standard value."

It is hardly possible to overestimate the importance of this step. Minister Denby very truly says that it will work a financial revolution in China. Although we have been in the habit of thinking of China as a silver-standard country there has been no standard of silver considered as coin. Silver has been considered and dealt with as bullion only—a mere article of merchandise, whether it was Mexican dollars or trade dollars or what not. Now, however, China proposes to make her own silver coin, and to make it a legal tender by operation of law. Silver will be exalted from the rank of a commodity to that of money.

An obvious result of this action, though possibly not an immediate result, will be to enhance the price of silver bullion.

Mr. Reed Able to Tell a Story.

From the Chicago Herald.

Mr. Reed tells a story to illustrate his views as to the situation of the Republican party.

"We are like the man up in Maine," he said. "This man was charged with a good many offences against the peace and morality of the neighborhood, and so his neighbors got together and gave him a horse-whipping and ducked him in a horse pond and tarred and feathered him. After all this was over, and the man had cleaned the slime and tar and picked the feathers off himself he showed up one day bright and smiling. 'There's nothing the matter with me,' he said; 'I'm just as good a man as I ever was, and all here, safe and sound, and feeling first rate, though I must own my moral tone has been lowered a little.'"

Anxious Columbus.

Isabella—Columbus, why do you keep your eye on the earth so constantly? I believe you are getting valser every day!

Columbus—I don't care a rap for the fair, but I do want that story I wrote about the discovery published by the magazine that bought it.

EMMENSITE AND GELBITE.

Their Success in Preliminary Experiments is to Insure Them a Decisive Trial.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 3.—Of the making of high explosives and smokeless powders there is no end. These materials are of enormous importance in warfare, and perfection has not yet been reached in them. The secrets, also, of their composition and manufacture are kept as far as possible, and each nation wants its own supply. To the familiar gun cotton, dynamite, nitro-glycerine, and explosive gelatine have been added within a few years several scores of high explosives, either for blasting or military uses, including the chlorates, the picrates, the panclastites, and others, numerous enough to form distinct groups and classes. Among those which have recently attracted attention for use in the bursting charges of shells is lyddite, invented by M. Turpin, who sold it to Sir W. Armstrong, so that it is now used by the English military authorities. This is a picric acid compound, while another, originally of much the same character, but now improved, is the French melinite, in which picric acid is supposed to be combined with some coal-tar product. The French use it with entire confidence, since no melinite shell, it is said, has ever burst in a gun. We find also, the Austrian cerasite, invented by Siegrich of the Pressburg dynamite factory, which is a modification of blasting gelatine, said to be perfectly safe to handle and more powerful than dynamite. Then there are robulite and romite, the Russian explosive sleetover, the Swedish actinite, invented by Rudolph Sjoborg, and so on.

In smokeless or nearly smokeless powders the variety of inventions is equally marked, the French having their famous Vieille, or Poudre B; the Germans, ballistite, or Nobel powder, which has also been adopted by Italy; the English, their Maxim, cordite, and Chilworth powders; Belgium, the Wetteren; Austria, a smokeless powder invented by Major Schwab; while there is also the Hengst powder, the Swedish Grakrut, invented by Skogland, the Ellsworth, the Bruguère, and others.

Our Navy Department, while keeping a watch upon foreign inventions, has been experimenting with the new explosive of Dr. Stephen H. Emmens, and with results increasing in promise, until now it is believed to merit having a gun, or rather a long mortar, specially built for testing it. As described by Lieut. Southerland of our navy, the ammonite experiment was composed of one pound of the combustible, or nitrated carbolic acid, and one pound each of nitrate of soda and nitrate of ammonia. The first of these three substances was heated in an earthen dish until it became semi-liquid, when the other two were gradually stirred in. Then the paste was taken off of the fire, and, after cooling and hardening, was reduced to a yellow powder by pounding it in a mortar with a pestle, which was a very practical test of its safety under concussion. It was found that on being lighted it burned feebly; while mixed with charcoal and fired from a pistol it gave a sharp report and a very thin whiff of smoke. When a charge of sixty pounds was placed under a raft composed of forty ordinary railroad ties securely bolted together and exploded by means of an electric fuse, pieces of the raft were blown to the height of over 200 feet, and not a single tie was left intact:

Ten-pounds cartridges, one of dynamite and one of emmensite, were hit by shots from a Springfield rifle. The former exploded, but the latter, although broken into two pieces, did not.

Seven-pounds cartridges of emmensite were separately placed against the top, the sides, and the bottom of ½-inch iron plates and exploded; in each instance the plate was badly broken.

A cylindrical tin case, about 1½ inches in diameter and 5 inches long was filled with emmensite, made as above described. In the presence of the witnesses of these tests, and fired from a small gun; it perforated a 2-inch board without exploding.

These were experiments at the Government ordnance yard in the presence of officers appointed to witness them. At the manufactory other experiments have been successfully made. A bullet has been driven through a thin plate of iron from an ordinary pistol with a charge of emmensite, when with a larger charge of gunpowder a similar projectile only dented the iron. Three pounds of emmensite divided up among four holes, each four feet deep, in a rock, tore it to pieces for a long distance. Ensign Brainard of the navy gives an account of experiments witnessed by him at the factory:

Four-ounce emmensite cartridges were placed in a cylindrical tin can and the spaces between them filled with gunpowder, about a pound and a half being used. The powder was exploded with an ordinary blasting time fuse. The cartridges were fractured, but not exploded. Parts of them flashed, and, being bunched together, they were exploded by a fuse embedded in the emmensite. I then placed the bunch back where the fuse was embedded exploded, and that the two thicknesses of heavy paper between it and the other pieces prevented their explosion.

Ten-ounce cartridges said to contain emmensite, were then placed in a wooden box and the box placed on a bonfire. The emmensite burned, but did not explode. It was not till about 45 pounds of emmensite had dislocated 775 cubic yards of stone weighing about 1,550 tons.

Gelbite is a smokeless powder, obtained by treating a specially prepared paper with emmensite. In some tests at the Washington Navy Yard from revolvers and rifles, it gave off only a slight dusty puff, which was very quickly dissipated, but was accompanied by a sharp, quick report. It has a decided yellow color, and its propulsive force is said to be very nearly three times that of ordinary gunpowder.

An objection to some nitrate or smokeless powders is that they deteriorate under changes of temperature; but emmensite can be either heated or frozen without being essentially damaged. It has been soaked in water with little if any injury. The navy high explosive hitherto has been gun cotton, which has also been used in the guns of the Vesuvius. But that vessel has her pneumatic tubes built into her, and the aiming has to be done wholly by the helm. Assuming that ammonite should require the use of special short guns, like the one which the Ordnance Bureau has now determined to construct for it, and also that it would require a mortar-like elevation instead of ordinary horizontal shell firing, yet these guns would have the great advantage of being suited to any vessel in the service. That a shell filled with a bursting charge of emmensite would be more effective than one filled with ordinary powder seems to be evident; while in firing powder as the propulsive charge instead of the pneumatic apparatus it would acquire a far greater range. The experiments with the new special gun will doubtless be made as soon as it is constructed, and will attract much attention. The army authorities have also been testing the new explosive during the year.

Views of a Distinguished Physician Concerning Succi, the Starvationist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The professional starver Succi is at present depriving himself of nourishment, for a consideration, in a public hall. He, and the persons identified with him, set forth that this proceeding is in the interest of science. The statement is made with intent to defraud.

A person who should deprive himself of food for a protracted period, would, if he did so under natural conditions, furnish an interesting and instructive occasion for the study of the phenomena and general pathology attending the progress of starvation. Succi does without food, but he suppresses all of the phenomena and penalties of starvation, excepting only the degree of attenuation which he manifests in his person. He never feels the pangs of hunger, and hunger with its attendant effects is the most interesting and important of all the phenomena of starvation.

Succi uses what he calls an elixir, a compound containing adulterally chloroform, chlorodyne, and cannabis indica, each a powerful drug and product adapted to stupify the stomach and alas, if not wholly destroy the sense of hunger. He also smokes tobacco very freely, which is in itself an important agent in the extinction of hunger. Habitual opium eaters know next to nothing of the sense of hunger. Cataleptics have lived for astonishingly long periods without nourishment of any kind. The condition of the nutritive system which obtains in cataleptics, in opium eaters, and in habitual drunkards, does away almost entirely with the sense of hunger to which all the important phenomena of starvation inseparably attach. All physicians are familiar with the cases of drunkards who abstain for long periods from food. They cannot support life on alcohol alone, but they can reach the point of inanition and weakness which precedes death, without experiencing any of the tortures of starvation.

If Mr. Clark Russell's shipwrecked sailors had been habitual opium eaters or habitual drunkards, and had fed with them a sufficiency of rum or opium, they would not have furnished the degree of tragedy that was necessary to his literary purpose, but they would have lived longer, and they would have been less sensible to external danger and discomfort.

There is, therefore, every difference in the world between starving with a powerful anodyne at an admission fee of twenty-five cents a head and starving in an open boat at sea with or without water to drink. For this reason I hold that this Italian starvationist is a good deal of a humbug, and that the opium dens and drinking shops of this city furnish a very considerable quota of unconscious rivals. I admit that the man does not eat but that fact does not prevent his starving from being an arrant imposture, so far as the general public is concerned. For men of my profession he has no sort of interest at all. MEDICUS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 3.

Not Right.

"Do you belong to the church?" inquired the clergyman of the janitor.

"No," replied the janitor; "the church belongs to me."

Maidenly Gratitude.

Her stocking was filled from toe to top
When she rose on Christmas morn:
And, munching the sweets, she blessed her stars
That she was Chicago born.

THE NORTH RIVER BRIDGE PLANS.

Questioning the Right of New Jersey to Direct as to the Location of Viaducts.

The question of improving the westerly river front was discussed again in the Mayor's office yesterday by the Driveway Commission. Mr. Cyrus Clark presided. Among the members of the Commission present were Francis M. Harris, Lawson N. Fuller, Samuel D. Babcock, Nathan Straus, Moris K. Jesup, W. E. D. Stokes, and E. P. Barker. Corporation Counsel Clark sent a communication to the Commission asking that an extension of time of one week be granted him in which to answer the question of the Commission concerning the rights of the New York Central Railroad to property adjoining the proposed driveway.

Mr. Stokes offered a long preamble and resolution detailing the work done by the New York and New Jersey Bridge Commission and describing the location selected for the bridge. After stating that the plans of the Bridge Commission contemplate using over six miles of streets within the city limits for a viaduct road, the preamble says:

"This viaduct road, it is claimed by the projectors of the scheme, they have the right to lease to whom they please and for such compensation as they can obtain, without the permission or authority of the corporate authorities of the city of New York, and this assumption is based on the permission of said act to locate stations, approaches, and connections to and with said bridge. If this assumption is well founded, the said projectors could, with equal right, have established their station at the battery or on the East River at the foot of Wall street, and thus traversed the entire city with a viaduct road of the proposed great dimensions, or may hereafter, from time to time, alter or extend such viaduct road in any direction throughout the city where they may find a railroad track to connect with.

"And whereas, the location of said proposed bridge on the New Jersey side is controlled by a previous charter obtained from the Legislature of that State, which, it appears, determined the starting point from that shore and necessarily the location on this side of the river, which New Jersey charter doubtless exercises a like controlling direction of the franchise, its approaches, connections, and stations, and practically, under the pretence of bridging the Hudson River, the property, highways, and general municipal rights of the city in the most important respects have been surrendered to independent and foreign control."

This is the resolution:

"*Resolved*, That the Counsel to the Corporation be and is respectfully hereby requested to furnish this Commission with a copy of the charter granted by the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, under which the said bridge was located in said State, together with the names of the parties profiting by the same, together with the articles of association of the said New Jersey Company if the same can be obtained, with his opinion whether, under the pretence of establishing approaches, stations, and connections to said bridge, this city, the act passed by the Legislature of this State gave authority to locate, build, and establish a viaduct road throughout the city to be leased and controlled by the said projectors for their own emolument in the manner and to the extent which they have assumed, and what are the reasonable limitations of a bridge company authorized to establish approaches and the right for its located use—whether they are not in principle the same as those practically applied to our Brooklyn bridge—and in view of the great magnitude of the question affecting so largely the material interests of the city, as well as the objects for which this Commission was created, that Messrs. Whitney and Bowers be appointed a committee to confer with the Counsel to the Corporation on the subject."

The preamble and resolution were adopted. The Commission will meet next Wednesday.

BANKER PUTNAM PROTESTS.

He Objects to the Seizure by the Park Board of Some Property of His.

Park Commissioners Gallup, Hutchins, Dana, and Straus were present at yesterday's meeting of the Board. Albert E. Putnam, a banker, charged the Board with having taken advantage of his absence in Europe to change the lines of a road so that they trespassed upon some property belonging to him at Riverdale avenue and the Fieldstone road. This action, he claimed, deprived him of a strip of land 300 feet long and 40 feet wide. Mr. Putnam said he didn't wish to be robbed of his property, and he emphasized this declaration by shaking his fist in Commissioner Hutchins's face. Mr. Hutchins wanted to make an explanation, but Mr. Putnam interrupted him:

"I only want to be treated fairly in this matter," he exclaimed. "I bought this property and paid for it, and I will not be imposed upon."

"I am authorized to pay you for your property," said Mr. Hutchins, "with a bonus of five per cent. added."

"I don't want any pay from you, sir," Mr. Putnam angrily retorted.

Commissioner Dana questioned Mr. Putnam regarding the exact location of his property and its value, and then suggested that a good way to settle the controversy would be by arbitration. This course was adopted. The property in dispute separates the homes of a young couple about to be married, whose parents desired to purchase it and throw the whole into a homestead.

Lawyer Frank Loomis, representing the Harlem Railroad Company, notified the Board that an agreement had been entered into between the company and the property owners and residents along the line of the road from Tremont to Fordham whereby the road would protect the stone walls and abutments beside the tracks by a wooden fence five feet instead of seven feet high.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Mr. Joseph Thomson, the explorer, was remarkably polite recently under trying circumstances. He was steaming along the Shiri River when a Portuguese gunboat whose commander disputed Thomson's right to make a highway of the stream, poured a volley of shot into his boat. The young man merely lifted his hat, bowed very gracefully, told the engineer to put on a little more steam, and went on his way without showing any belligerency.

The Congo Free State has just seized for its own use the best known steamboat on the upper river. It is the steamer Peace of the British Baptist mission, and it was the first to travel on most of the Congo tributaries. It is the little boat in which Mr. Grenfell made his numerous discoveries. Mr. Grenfell opposed the seizure, but the State asserted that it required the steamer for the suppression of the slave trade on the Kassi River, and so the authorities hoisted the Free State flag over the vessel. The crew were impressed into the service of the State. It is said Mr. Grenfell is on his way to Europe to protest against this act of violence.

Lord Wolseley has a very poor opinion of the white trader in Africa. He says it is useless to appeal to his humanity or feelings. The average trader, he says, does not care whether the vile alcohol he sells claims more victims than war or pestilence, or whether the arms he barters for oil and ivory, cause large districts to be laid waste by the slave dealer. If he only grows rich he cares nothing for all the suffering he may inflict, though Lord Wolseley adds that the mouth of this same trader is often filled with moral platitudes when he speaks in Europe on African topics. Lord Wolseley thinks African questions should be settled by the European powers, without any regard to the wishes or opinions of African traders.

A few years ago a sturdy old Chinese General and Viceroy died in Canton, who was noted for having his own way, no matter what the authorities at Pekin or even the Emperor himself wanted. Chang Chih-tung, the new Viceroy of Hunan, is now emulating the famous General's example. His imperial master in Pekin recently increased the tax on opium. The Viceroy of Hunan decided that the tax was too high, and that the opium raisers of his province need not pay it. He therefore issued a proclamation informing the people that the extra tax, which the Government imposed, would not be collected, as he considered the old tax high enough. It remains to be seen whether his disregard for the imperial order will get him into trouble.

The pickaxe can hardly be stuck anywhere into the soil of modern Rome without bringing to light some relic of the old empire or the later republic. While laying some water pipe the other day the workmen unearthed a fine bust in Carrara marble of the Empress Faustina. The bust is quite uninjured. In a vineyard belonging to the Capuchins a statue has been resurrected which is recognized as a statue of the Goddess of Fortune. Ten feet below the surface, in the Via Folla has been found an ancient Roman road, which is undoubtedly the road that in early Roman times led from the city to the Flaminian Gate. Thirty feet below the surface in another part of the city have just been found the remains of an old Roman house, parts of which are in a tolerable state of preservation.

The Reason.

Peeler (before doors of wrecked bank)—What are you loafers collecting here for?

The Peeled (in chorus)—Because we can't collect inside.

The Honest!

"What do you base your application for divorce upon, madam?" asked Mr. Brief.

"O—cruelty," sobbed the woman. "He s—same h—home the stubber n—night and wh—when I told him my c—c—cat was dududead he l—lul—laughed."

Why Not?

The maid at the window over the way
Throws me a kiss when I pass her by,
And I watch for her greeting day by day,
For the roguish glance of her beaming eye,
Like a gleam of sunshine, as dimples chase
In swift procession across her face.
And do I love her? You bet I do,
Though I am forty, and she but two!

PROF. KOCH'S REMEDY.

Description of the Liquid and the Phenomena Attending the Injection.

From the London Lancet.

The liquid, whatever be its nature, is, in physical properties, a brown, viscid fluid, somewhat like a dilute solution of iodine in color and about the consistence of thinnish syrup. It is supplied to hospitals, for clinical purposes, in a white glass bottle, containing about 40 or 50 grammes, which is corked. One gramme is added to 100 grammes of sterilized distilled water for use, and the doses vary from one gramme of this 1-100 dilution to minute fractions of that quantity. The injection may be made with any subcutaneous syringe, but here the modification known as Koch's own is used. The fluids may be injected into any part of the body. But Koch suggests that under the skin between the scapulæ is the best place, as the skin is very little sensitive there. No reaction occurs at the place of inoculation, and it goes without saying that the injection is made with antiseptic precautions. The patient experiences no effects whatever for some time after the inoculation, but at the end of about four hours the temperature begins to rise rapidly, accompanied usually with rigors, as is the case almost always when there is a rapid increase of the bodily temperature. There is also vomiting. The temperature may rise even to 41.2 degrees C. (106.2 degrees F.). This tremendous rise is reached in about two hours from the commencement of the febrile reaction. The fall of the temperature is also rapid, as a rule, but the speed of the fall depends on the extent of the tissue affected by the tubercular matter. According to Koch, the injected liquid does not kill the bacilli themselves, but only the tissue which has been recently modified by the vital action of the bacilli. If the tissue thus affected be extensive, the temperature will remain high for a much longer time than if only a small amount be affected. Where the tubercular affection is limited, as in lupus, the temperature will reach its normal level at the end of twenty-four hours, and the patient will feel free from malaise. Patients suffering from tubercular affections of the joints, larynx, &c., even feel better at the end of the period of reaction than they did before the inoculation was made. In the case of tubercular glands, the rise of temperature is, as a rule, delayed considerably, and may not reach its maximum for about twenty-four hours. While the temperature is thus rising the pulse also corresponds, increasing to 120 or even 160 beats per minute; vomiting frequently occurs at the acme of the fever. The rapidity of the pulse diminishes along with the fall in temperature. In some cases the reaction becomes quite alarming, with dyspnœa, and in one case of lupus the strongest restoratives had to be employed to bring the patient round. Simultaneously with these phenomena of general constitutional affection there occur certain very marked and characteristic symptoms in all parts of the body, under the influence of recent tubercular virus. The local swelling begins earlier than the rise of temperature. Old cheesy deposits present in a part do not lead to the production of these local phenomena after inoculation. Such cheesy matter is to be regarded as already necrossed; and as Koch explains that only living tissue is affected by his inoculation material, we understand why local reaction does not occur where cheesy matter alone is present. The local phenomena consist in general of swelling of the affected parts, which may be considerable, more or less redness, and in some cases lessened pain.

Lupus is one of the most interesting and instructive diseases in regard of tubercular disease which have been treated up to the present. It is indeed to Koch that we are indebted for the knowledge that lupus is really tuberculosis of the skin. In cases of this disease the phenomena are visible, and we can judge of the various changes without depending largely on the subjective evidence of the patient.

Take as a typical case of treatment one of lupus affecting the nose and face, several of which have been under treatment in Berlin during the last five or six months. With the rise of temperature the patient is already suffering from some malaise, and if asked whether he is ill, will answer that he has some headache and a feeling of "tightness" or tension in the affected part. The part has become slightly redder and of a brighter color, and swollen. These changes keep on increasing in intensity until the reaction has reached its height. The rapidity and extent of the swelling are almost incredible in some cases. The nose may attain twice or thrice its original size, the cheeks become swollen, and it may be quite impossible to open the eyes. The extent of the swelling is to be taken as significant of the extent of the tubercular disease at the place affected. This is frequently far more extensive than could be concluded from the mere size of the actual lupus ulcer or of the tissue which presents the appearance of disease from the existence of cicatrices. When cases of lupus recur, after a lupus ulcer has been healed, the fresh outbreak of disease occurs only in rare cases in the cicatrix itself, but, as a rule, outside it, around its border, in tissue which to all appearance was healthy. The recurrence of the disease in this tissue must be taken to indicate that it was not healthy, as it seemed to be, but that it still contained tubercle bacilli in quantities too small to produce changes recognizable by the surgeon in the living subject, but sufficient to lead to a fresh outbreak of lupus in the course of time. Some ten or twelve hours after the injection of tuberculin there appeared in the parts which were distinctly visible to the eye before inoculation, and also others which were not, become much more distinct, they being the portions specially and selectively influenced by the inoculated liquid. This is an illustration of the fact mentioned by Koch, that his communication, that it is the tissues, and not the bacilli in them, which are affected by the inoculation.

A very characteristic and peculiar feature is the border, varying from a quarter to a third of an inch in width, which becomes visible (after inoculation) around the affected part, where the scab begin to form. This margin is whitish in color, apparently owing to œdema, and outside it there lies an area of skin which presents all the characteristic appearances of erysipelas, except the usual promi nence of the papillæ of the skin. It is puffed and elevated above the tissue outside its own margin. Sometimes skin presenting the same appearance may be traced proceeding in narrow lines outside this erysipeloid area, along paths which may be regarded as the courses