The Sun.

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THE SUN, New York City.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamp for that purpose.

Advertisements for THE WEEKLY SUN, *issued to-morrow morning, must be handed in this evening before 6 o'clock.*

Now or Never!

With Great Britain once in possession of the Sandwich Islands, the key of the North Pacific will never be ours, except as the prize of a successful war.

That great Power gets what it can, and keeps what it gets. However obtained, territory that is useful to England commercially or strategically is never philanthropically relinquished.

In Hawaii the story of Gibraltar would be repeated at our expense. For a century, for two centuries perhaps, we should look across the water from our western coast to this British stronghold, as Spain looks from San Roque to Gibraltar.

Shall there be established with our acquiescence another Bermuda in the Pacific, to match the Bermuda of the Atlantic and to complete the hostile cordon around this republic?

To England, Hawaii would be an immensely valuable link in the chain that binds her empire. The islands are the first and most important station between the western terminus of her great military railroad, the Canadian Pacific, and both Australia and India.

To us, Hawaii is the natural outpost in the Pacific of America's system of national defence, the safeguard of America's western commerce in the Twentieth century, the station of our war ships, and the refuge of our merchant marine.

Will England hesitate if she gets the chance? Not an instant. But shall she have the opportunity which circumstances, for once in close accord with natural right, national policy, and manifest destiny, bring first to us?

Ships Available in the Pacific.

It was fortunate that Secretary TRACY, resisting the temptation to send all the new ships on the Pacific station to the coming naval review in New York harbor, retained the Boston at Honolulu. Her value in keeping order there and in preventing what might have been a bloody race conflict in the late political crisis cannot be overestimated.

But the future of Hawaii is still to be determined, and as we may see the ships of various European nations hurrying to Honolulu, it is well to know what we have available for guarding American interests.

The Boston is a steel protected cruiser of 3,189 tons displacement, 15.6 knots speed, and a main battery of two 8-inch and six 6-inch breech-loading rifles. Her secondary battery contains two 6-pounder, two 3-pounder, and two 1-pounder rapid-fire pieces, four 47-mm and two 37-mm Hotchkiss revolving cannon, and two Gatlings. Capt. G. C. WILTSE is in command, and was responsible for the prompt landing of about 300 bluejackets and marines on the appeal of the foreign residents. Capt. B. F. DAY had received orders some time ago to relieve him, taking the steamer which goes this week.

Next in importance is the Mohican, a wooden vessel of 1,900 tons displacement and 10.65 knots speed, under Commander NICOLL LUDLOW. She is the flagship of Commodore J. S. SKERRETT, acting Rear Admiral, who was put in command of the Pacific station only three weeks ago. She left San Francisco for Honolulu on Sunday. An old-time ship, her main battery is also old, consisting of eight 9-inch smooth bores, one 8-inch muzzle-loading rifle, and a 60-pounder breech-loading rifle. Her complement is 21 officers and 193 men.

A third craft available is the Ranger, of 1,020 tons displacement and ten knots, under Commander E. LONGNECKER. She was ready for service at Mare Island, like the Mohican, when the news from Honolulu came. Her complement is 21 officers and 127 men. Then we have the Adams, a wooden ship of 1,375 tons displacement and 9.8 knots speed, under Commander THOMAS NELSON. She had been fitting out at Mare Island for a cruise to Samoa, and will soon be ready to follow the Mohican and the Ranger. Her complement is 20 officers and 160 men.

These four vessels are immediately available. The Alliance, now at Samoa, under Commander W. H. WHITING, has been ordered home, and would take in Honolulu on her way, but perhaps is waiting for relief by the Adams. She is a sister ship of the latter, having 1,375 tons displacement and about 10 knots speed, and carries six guns, of which four are 9-inch smooth bores, one an 8-inch muzzle-loading rifle, and one a 60-pounder breech-loading rifle. Her complement is 18 officers and 160 men. There is no need of including the Thetis, Commander G. C. REITER, the Arctic wooden craft of 1,250 tons, with trivial battery and low speed, now engaged in surveying duty on the lower coast of California.

Were there an actual necessity for its presence, the coast-defender Monterey might be pressed into service and sent to Honolulu. She is a low freeboard steel vessel of 4,138 tons, and carries the most powerful battery in any of our ships afloat—two 12-inch and two 10-inch breech-loading rifles. Her secondary battery contains six 6-pounder and four 1-pounder rapid-fire guns and two Gatlings. Her bunker capacity is not enough for a voyage to Honolulu, but a convoy could take coal along, or coal could be stowed on her decks. Her turrets, however, are not yet complete, and in any case she might be more useful in her legitimate service along the coast, since an exigency which could require her at Honolulu might require her still more at San Francisco.

And we have the other side of the Pacific to draw from, if necessary. Admiral HARMONY commands the Asiatic station, and has under him the Lancaster, Capt. A. H. MCCORMICK, commanding a wooden ship of 3,250 tons, 9.6 knots speed, and ten 8-inch muzzle-loading rifles; the Petrel, Lieutenant-Commander R. S. MACKENZIE, a steel gunboat of 890 tons and nearly 12 knots, carrying four 6-inch breech-loading rifles; the Marion, Commander C. V. GRIDLEY, a sister ship of the Mohican, of 1,900 tons, 11¼ knots, eight guns, and a complement of 18 officers and 176 men; the Alert, Commander G. R. DURAND, a sister ship of the Ranger, of 1,020 tons, 10 knots, four guns, and a complement of 21 officers and 127 men. From these, leaving out of view the Palos and the Monocacy, one or two vessels could easily be spared for Honolulu. But there is another source of reliance, should serious trouble come out of the Honolulu affair. Admiral GHERARDI's fine squadron, now on the South American coast, can be turned back to the Pacific. He has with him four fine modern steel protected cruisers. These are the Baltimore, 4,600 tons; the San Francisco, 4,083; the Charleston, 4,040, and the Yorktown, 1,700. They are powerfully armed, with an aggregate of thirty-six 8-inch and 6-inch rifles, and all but the Yorktown are very fast. Our naval force in and near the Pacific is adequate for all present needs.

The New Home Rule Bill.

By far the most important and probably the first measure to be introduced in the session of the British Parliament, which begins to-day, is Mr. GLADSTONE's new plan of semi-independent government for Ireland. A synopsis of the bill has been forwarded by cable, and was printed in THE SUN on Sunday. We defer a thorough study of the project until the full text is before us, and until we hear Mr. GLADSTONE's interpretation of certain provisions which as yet seem obscure. Meanwhile we may direct attention to some features of the scheme which indicate that the species of autonomy to be offered to Ireland is less extensive than that enjoyed by one of our States; and that, as regards the state of things existing in the day of GRATTAN's Parliament, the new régime involves in some respects a higher and in others a lower degree of independence. There is no doubt, however, that the proposed legislative and administrative system makes larger concessions to the Irish Nationalists than those embodied in the bill of 1886, which Mr. PARNELL was willing to accept.

It will be observed that under the new scheme the Irish Government can exercise no control over the Irish militia; it can make no laws affecting naturalization or quarantine, and it cannot authorize any banks of issue. In all these particulars it has a more limited authority than is possessed by one of our State Governments. It is also debarred from enacting any law relating to a regency. Now in GRATTAN's time the Dublin Parliament refused to pass an act identical with the regency law framed by WILLIAM PITT, with the result that, had not GEORGE III. suddenly recovered his sanity, his eldest son would have been invested in Ireland with functions very different from those which would have been delegated to him in England. This was one of the incidents which convinced PITT that a separate Government for Ireland was unworkable; and evidently Mr. GLADSTONE is determined to avoid this source of possible embarrassment. It will also be remembered that GRATTAN's Parliament had control of the Irish militia and volunteers, so far as control could be exercised by the legislative when divorced from the executive branch of government. Legislation in regard to land also, which pertained to GRATTAN's Parliament and which lies within the competence of our State Governments, is withheld for five years from the Dublin legislature; but this is to assure the execution of the several land purchase acts which now stand upon the statute book.

The legislative power is to be vested, as it is in the State of New York, in two chambers. The upper House, for the present, is to consist of seventy-five elective members with the twenty-eight peers who now represent the Irish peerage in the British House of Lords; but after the expiration of thirty years the places of the twenty-eight peers are to be vacated and filled with elective members. A relatively high property qualification is required for those citizens who are to take part in electing members of the upper House, and a still higher qualification for those who are to be deemed eligible for membership. Similar provisions in regard to the State Senate obtained in the State of New York for some forty years after the adoption of our first State Constitution. The popular branch of the Irish legislature is to consist of 204 members, or double the number of Ireland's present representatives at Westminster, except that the representation of Trinity College, Dublin (two members), remains the same. The parliamentary franchise is unaltered. The two chambers will sit separately, and in the case of a disagreement which cannot be settled by a reference to a joint committee, the specific question at issue may be referred to the people. Whether this application of the Swiss referendum is due to Mr. GLADSTONE himself, or to Mr. BRYCE, who is said to have been largely concerned in the formulation of the bill, it is shrewdly designed to propitiate the Irish Unionists without alienating the Irish Nationalists; for it assures to the Unionists an appeal to the sober second thought of the people, while at the same time it gives to the Nationalists the advantage of the numerical majority upon which they can usually count. As to Ireland's representation at Westminster, this is to remain at its present figure (103); but the same men may be returned, if the constituencies so desire, to the Imperial Parliament and to the Irish legislature. We should add that the 28 Irish representative peers will continue to sit in the House of Lords. An attempt is made in a clause of the bill to define explicitly and exclusively the questions on which Irish members of the British House of Commons may be allowed to vote. To this, which is one of the crucial points of the scheme, we shall return hereafter.

Now for the particulars in respect of which the new bill must be pronounced a decided improvement on the measure which met with Mr. PARNELL's approval: The Irish Government is, at the end of five years, to have exclusive control of the Irish judiciary, except the Exchequer division of the High Court of Justice, vacancies in which are to be filled by the Crown on the joint recommendation of the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland and the Lord Chancellor of Great Britain. The Dublin metropolitan police is not to remain permanently under the Lord Lieutenant, but only for a period of five years, or until the Irish Administration shall establish an adequate substitute. Moreover, the Dublin legislature may provide for the formation of a police force in all Irish counties and boroughs, to be under the control of the local authorities; and apparently, though the telegraphic synopsis is somewhat vague on this point, this force is to be ultimately substituted for the Royal Irish constabulary. Finally, the share of the imperial burdens which Ireland must bear, is only half as large as the quota to which Mr. PARNELL assented. If the customs and excise duties collected in Ireland by the imperial Government exceed the fixed amount which that country is to contribute to the imperial revenue, the excess must be turned over to the Irish Government. To appreciate what this may mean, should Ireland become prosperous, we need only consider how immensely the State of New York would profit if it had a right to all that part of the customs and excise duties levied within its territory in excess of its proportionate contribution to the Federal revenue.

In one vital respect the new measure, like the bill of 1886, represents a vast advance upon GRATTAN's Parliament. A hundred years ago the Irish executive was in no sense responsible to the Irish legislature. Now the Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, like the Viceroy of the Dominion of Canada, will govern through Ministers directly accountable to the Dublin legislature. A veto power is reserved to the Crown, as it was in 1886, and we are told that controversies regarding constitutional questions will be referred to the Judicial Committee of the imperial Privy Council. We must wait for Mr. GLADSTONE's exposition of his project to learn on whose advice the veto power will be exercised, and whether in the Judicial Committee of the Privy Council Ireland is to be represented in proportion to her population.

The friends of Ireland who are not wholly satisfied with the new scheme should compare it, clause by clause, with the measure proposed seven years ago. Then let them ask themselves whether any larger improvements on the bill of 1886 would have any chance of being ratified in the present House of Commons, where a change of less than twenty votes from one side to the other would extinguish Mr. GLADSTONE's narrow majority.

Protect the Parks.

For more than thirty years the public parks of New York have been planned and made and their affairs administered for the most part under the influence of the same wise and experienced understanding that in 1858 began the Central Park. As their territory has expanded there has grown up in the community an admiration of their beauty and an appreciation of their sentiment that hitherto has stood as a defence against their diversion to foreign ideas and purposes, or to irresponsible and conflicting interests. This barrier appears to have been overthrown. The Trustees of the American Museum of Natural History have succeeded in overriding the protest of the artistic director of the parks, and in getting placed in their own hands the determination of a question involving an architectural addition to the parks of the largest magnitude. It does not rightfully belong there, nor, evidently, could it be nor has it been properly determined there.

There is a serious public outrage, not to say vital injury to the parks, contained in the existing plans for adding to the museum in Manhattan square. They should be withdrawn and the situation approached anew with due regard for the several points of public interest that have been unfortunately suppressed from consideration.

Counsellors to the Legislature.

In an article on legal ignorance at Albany, our esteemed contemporary, the *Brooklyn Eagle*, says that a capable lawyer, who would scrutinize every bill to be introduced in the Legislature before it was offered, could save much time for the Senate and Assembly as well as for the Governor and the courts; and then, speaking of the aid afforded by one of the members of the Statutory Revision Commission in this respect, it says: "The service which Prof. COLLIN renders to the State because of his familiarity with its Constitution is appreciated by lawyers if by no one else."

In making this statement we think the *Eagle*, which is usually well informed and wise, has overlooked two notable performances of the Statutory Revision Commission, of which Prof. CHARLES A. COLLIN of Ithaca is the most prominent member.

The Legislature of 1892 repealed the law against holding court on election day, without knowing that they were repealing it. This was done through the agency of the Satutory Revision Commissioners. The fact of the repeal was so carefully kept from the public, that as late as the fourth day of October last the Court of Appeals handed down a decision in language which unmistakably showed that the Judges of that tribunal supposed the statute still to be in force, although in fact it had been repealed months before.

At the instance of the same Commission, with Prof. COLLIN at its head, the Legislature of 1892 repealed the statute which has been in force half a century, providing for a summary proceeding before a Supreme Court Justice to compel an outgoing public officer to deliver over the books and papers of the office to his successor. This repeal passed unnoticed until an attempt was made to proceed under the statute in the Long Island City Mayoralty contest, when it was discovered that the law had been abrogated by the enactment of the Public Officers law of 1892. The summary proceeding to obtain official books and papers from a person usurping a public office is as important as it ever was; and we do not believe that the Legislature really intended to abolish a legal remedy in which the public at large, as distinguished from private litigants, have so vital an interest.

These examples of what has recently been accomplished through the influence of persons who stand in the position of legal counsellors to the Legislature, are more suggestive of the evil than of the good which would be done by permanent officers exercising such functions.

Learning the Language.

We assure that distinguished prelate, Mgr. SATOLLI, the immediate representative of Pope LEO XIII., that he can very quickly learn to speak the English language, which he desires to make use of at times in this country. From one-third to one-half of all the words employed by ordinary English writers are of Latin origin; and, even if we have somewhat changed the ancient form or sound of many of these words, they are still apprehensible by any Latinist; and we think that Italians, especially Italians of learning, can acquire a knowledge of the English composite speech far more readily than it can be acquired by people whose native parlance is radically unlike the English.

We do not doubt, for example, that it is within the power of Mgr. SATOLLI to learn to speak and read English very well within three months from the time of his beginning. If we had the leisure to put him through his drill, we should like to do it.

It is singular that so small a proportion of our Italian immigrants make haste to learn the language of this country, but prefer to live here under very grave disadvantages. We advise them to tackle our speech if they want to get along well. They will smile with happiness when they notice that so very many of our words bear a family resemblance to their own. The English words are not always as mellifluous as their Italian congeners, but we can't help that. The ancestors of the English were mere barbarians to the Romans at the time when the ancestors of our Italians were enjoying the elegant numbers of VERGILIUS.

It is singular that, while so many of our Italian immigrants are negligent of English, nearly all our Jewish immigrants strive to master it as soon as possible after they come here, though the learning of it is very hard to people whose native tongue is Hebrew. Not only the younger persons of the Jewish immigration begin to grapple with English upon their arrival, but likewise men of all ages and pursuits; and there are scores upon scores of evening classes and of garret or basement private night schools in which gray-haired Jewish veterans from eastern Europe can be seen taking their first lessons in English pronunciation and spelling and reading and writing. These astute people are aware that it is advantageous to understand the language of the land where they dwell.

It begins now to look as if the opposition to Rapid Transit were of the nature of simple blackmail. The surface roads, as we are informed, have practically withdrawn their opposition.

A correspondent who used SOLOMON's injunction not to remove the "ancient landmark" as an argument for leaving the City Hall standing, has led another to say that SOLOMON was merely repeating ancient law. In Deuteronomy xix., 14, it says: "Thou shalt not remove thy neighbor's landmark," and at xxvii., 19, we read: "Cursed be he that removeth his neighbor's landmark." Job says, xxiv., 2: "There are that remove the landmarks," yet "a little while and they are gone. Yea, they are brought low," and are "cut off as the tops of the ears of corn." But none of these solemn prohibitions applies to any point of the question about a new City Hall for New York.

Landmarks in Patriarchal days meant landmarks simply. They laid off the boundaries of nations, or of a man's farm, the seat of his livelihood. If one removed a landmark it was like stealing title deeds. It might lead to war. It might misguide a traveller. It was a villainous and cursed act. Our City Hall is not a landmark under the meaning of MOSES, or EZRA, as the case might be, or of JOB, or of SOLOMON. It is the admired property of the city of New York, to be dealt with entirely as the judgment of the responsible municipal officers and the exigencies of the situation may prescribe. The wiser course would seem to have it give way to another building.

We are unable to confirm the statement of a contemporary that Egypt is the favorite resort of American tourists in these times. The *Herald* says: "The Riviera is no longer the American vogue; it is more correct to go on to Egypt and the Nile. Go to Cairo." Very well. We are able to affirm that there is not in all the world a more interesting city than Cairo in Egypt. At the same time it is true that, in some respects, Jerusalem, Constantinople, and Rome are even more interesting than Cairo, though there is no pyramid anywhere near any of them. What a pyramid is that of Khufu!

We are indebted to the *Congregationalist* for the information that there are in this country, outside of the Roman Catholic Church, 143 religious communions. There are twelve kinds of Presbyterians, seventeen of Methodists, twelve of Baptists, several of Episcopalians, and four of Quakers. There are three sects of Mormons, two of Dunkards, and a dozen of Mennonites, besides the Schweinfurthites, the Winnebrenarians, the Schwenkfeldians, the Spiritualists, Theosophists, Ethical Culturists, and a whole lot more. Is there any other country in the world which has as many religious bodies as there are in the United States?

And yet the Rev. WILTON M. SMITH, in addressing the Young Men's Christian Association at its anniversary meeting here last week, reported that of the 300,000 young men in the city of New York, not more than 75,000 ever enter a church. We do not know how Mr. SMITH procured his statistics, but we suppose they were collected by the agents of the Young Men's Christian Association. Can it be possible that they are correct, and that three-fourths of all our young men (less than 21 years old) never go to any church? If Mr. SMITH's figures are to be trusted, they deserve the thought of clergymen of all creeds.

PAUL DU CHAILLU has lived to see the geographical world admit that the stories he told about the gorillas and dwarfs were true. He is more fortunate than some other explorers, who have had justice done to them only after they were dead. DU CHAILLU, however, had to wait a long time for justice. It is only three or four years since the geographical periodicals, recording new travels in regions where he had pioneered the way, began to bear testimony to the fact that recent explorers were confirming DU CHAILLU's assertions. Yesterday the American Geographical Society did a graceful thing in recognizing his services as an African explorer.

The Rev. Dr. ABBOTT of Plymouth Church makes the declaration that, though he has sometimes been applauded while preaching, it is not the habit of his flock to cheer those passages of his sermons which they like. We still maintain, however, that if cheering is to be permitted in church at all, it must be brought under knowing leadership and indulged in with moderation. It must not be boisterous or exciting or exhausting, and anything like a cat-call must be prohibited under penalty of extrusion.

The literature of Russia, in so far as it has been put into English, or French, or German, is more sombre and depressing, less proud and mettlesome, less agreeable when retrospective, and less inspired with hope, than the literature of any other country of Europe. As for TOLSTOI, TURGENIEFF, and others of their kind, tell us not of them. It is enough to break one's heart to listen even to the folk-songs of Mme. LINEFF, who recently gave two Russian concerts in this city. There is a plaintive undertone in the liveliest of them all. There are no heroics in any of them. Yet we must praise the art, the temper, and the fine voices of Mme. LINEFF and her worthy company of Muscovites.

All the emperors, kings, queens, sultans, and other rulers of foreign parts are invited to put themselves on exhibition at the Chicago Fair. If they were to do so, it would be worth while to go to the Fair. It is harassing to learn that not one of them has accepted Chicago's invitation.

We cannot possibly express a desire that the challenge which a sexagenarian Scotchman of Newark has sent to a quadragenarian Scotchman of the same place, will be accepted. The sexagenarian, who received an insult from the quadragenarian, offers to meet him on the field of honor with sword or pistol under the code; and if these weapons are objected to, he offers to fight him in the ring, under London rules. It is an interesting case, and we ruminate while reading the challenge sent to JOSEPH HOLMES by AARON WILLIAMS. We decide at once that we cannot approve of the duel with deadly weapons, as duelling is prohibited by the law of the State of New Jersey; but we are disposed to decide that, if there must be a fight, it ought to be in the ring with mawlers, more especially as the sexagenarian boasts that he can whip the quadragenarian and stands ready to put up a forfeit of $1,000 under the terms of the challenge. It is perfectly absurd for HOLMES to say that WILLIAMS is too old to engage in a fist fight under London rules; let that point be decided by the challenger. It is not always the youngest man who comes off first best in the ring; and a Scotchman who is only sixty may be in better fighting trim than another who is as old as forty.

If it be determined, then, that these two Newark gentlemen must meet in the ring, we shall watch the proceedings with interest, and may the right man win! In the event that people can see the fight without paying gate money, we are sure that a huge crowd will enjoy it hugely.

If the new Brooklyn paper stands up bravely, firmly, pertinaciously, and to some purpose for the Greater New York, it will be in so far deserving of the applause of Brooklyn. There is no question before the Brooklynites of more importance than the great New York question.

PRESIDENT CLEVELAND'S POLICY.

Silver and Pensions First—The Tariff of Secondary Interest.

From the Tribune.

A prominent Democrat of this State, who has a national reputation, had a chat with President-elect Cleveland yesterday, in the course of which Mr. Cleveland told frankly what he is now doing, and what his policy would be in respect to Federal appointments.

"Mr. Cleveland," said this Democrat, "is thinking now more about the repeal of the Sherman Silver act and of the settlement of the silver problem generally than he is of Cabinet appointments. But the Cabinet appointments, as well as all other Federal appointments, will be largely governed by Mr. Cleveland's ardent desire to stop the coinage of the present dishonest silver dollar. Mr. Cleveland regards the silver issue as the paramount one now in politics; superior even to the tariff issue. The settlement of the Government's relation to silver, therefore, will have the precedence to the settlement of the tariff issue. The Sherman act in his opinion is a peril to the country, and it must be repealed before anything else can be done with safety. Feeling as keenly as he does upon the matter, Mr. Cleveland cannot but observe with astonishment the conduct of certain Democratic Congressmen who after a visit to him for the purpose of pushing the appointment of certain friends of theirs to high Federal offices, return to Washington and do their utmost not only to prevent the repeal of the Sherman Silver act, but even work hard to pass a free coinage act. These gentlemen will learn before another year has passed that Mr. Cleveland does not intend to put in high Government positions men who will attempt to defeat his policy in respect to silver; and that he has observed the action of such Democratic Congressmen at Washington who, pretending to be his friends, steadily favor in committees and on the floor of the Senate and House of Representatives the free coinage of silver."

"What Cabinet appointments has Mr. Cleveland thus far decided upon?" asked the *Tribune* reporter.

"Only two; John G. Carlisle of Kentucky for Secretary of the Treasury and Daniel S. Lamont of New York for Secretary of War. Both of these appointments are in the line of Mr. Cleveland's policy of unrelenting hostility to the 45-cent silver dollar. Mr. Carlisle, as Secretary of the Treasury, of course will be called upon especially to carry out the President-elect's policy in respect to silver, but Col. Lamont can also be depended upon to enforce loyally this feature of Mr. Cleveland's policy. Col. Lamont, I hear, is placed in the War Department by Mr. Cleveland with the aim by the latter of having a thorough examination of the pension rolls made, and the dishonest receivers of pensions weeded out. Of course the Pension Bureau is in the Interior Department, but the War Department has certain books which will enable Col. Lamont to do this work in a thorough manner. William C. Whitney has said that he thought a man might make a national reputation in the Cabinet who would go over the pension lists and detect the fraudulent pensioners. The nation, he thought, was gladly paying pensions to the honest pensioners, but was discontented over the suspicion that many of the claims which had been granted under former Pension Commissioners, Democrats and Republicans, were fraudulent."

"I presume Mr. Cleveland will make a large number of appointments to office in New York State as soon as he is sworn in as President?"

"Upon the contrary, he will make very few; and he will not make a large number of appointments in the State the first year of his Administration. It is his desire to select business men for the Federal offices at his disposal, and, of course, this work of selection from among them will take a good deal of time; far more so than if he made his selections from an exclusively political class."

Wanamaker and Byron.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Is it possible that these lines are quoted correctly in THE SUN this morning?

> And if we do but wait the hour,
> There never yet was human power
> But could avenge, if unforgiven,
> The patient search, the vigil long,
> Of him who treasures up a wrong.

If it is a correct quotation how can you explain the fact that the lines have become famous? It does not seem to be true that there was never a human power that could not avenge a patient watch, or even a long vigil. And why should a power forgive, or leave unforgiven, a watch or a vigil? I must confess that my memory is so hopelessly confused by reading my morning paper that I am unable to recall the lines as I used to think they were.

DAVID A. CURTIS.

The quotation, or rather the misquotation, is from Byron's "Mazeppa." The correct version is:

> And if we do but watch the hour,
> There never yet was human power
> Which could evade, if unforgiven,
> The patient search and vigil long
> Of him who treasures up a wrong.

This is what a Philadelphia correspondent of THE SUN shot at but didn't hit on Monday when writing of the good Mr. Wanamaker and the wicked statesman James McManes.

Manhattan's Bet Taken.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Your correspondent "Manhattan" (for some reason afraid to sign himself "Tammany") says that not more than 13½ per cent. of us are voters. I contradict him, and he takes refuge in offering to bet $100 on it, hoping, of course, that I will not go to the trouble of inquiring, getting affidavits, or examining lists of registered voters. How amazed he will be to read that I accept the bet he offers in to-day's Sun, regretting only that it is not $500 (which I offer him if he prefers it; $100 will not pay for the trouble), on the condition, however, that the money shall be placed with THE SUN, and the bet decided and published by THE SUN. Mark my words, this will be the end of him.

MEMBER OF CITY REFORM CLUB.

Brains Heavier Than Cuvier's.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: Apropos of brain weights, my notebook gives both Cromwell's and Turgenieff's as greater than Cuvier's, being 2050 and 2012 grammes respectively, as against 1861 (1 grammes = 15.4323 grains, or 0.03527 oz. avoirdupois).

ROBERT GRINSHAW.

The British Agent in Honolulu.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

HONOLULU, Jan. 12.—The British Government has had a secret agent here for some time watching events. The proposed Vancouver-Queensland cable must touch either here or at Johnson's Island, but the English do not fancy the idea of being dependent upon any country for a station. For this reason she is watching Hawaii very closely. Hawaii is the natural landing point for a Pacific cable, but it should belong to the country that owns the cable, at least such is thought to be the belief of the British officials here.

Indiana's Polyglot Senator.

From the St. Paul Daily Globe.

Senator Turpie, who has been reelected by the Indiana Legislature, is said to have eight languages at his tongue's end. He reads Latin, Greek, and Hebrew almost as readily, it is averred, as English, and he has a fluent command of French, German, Spanish, and Italian.

A Chicago Opinion as to The Sun.

From the Chicago Dispatch.

THE SUN is the ablest paper in America.

The Secret of Longevity.

From Brooklyn Life.

Reporter (interviewing an aged negress)—And they tell me, auntie, you are 110 years old. Now, how does it happen you have lived that long?

Aunt Dinah—Don't know sah'y, but spect it's bekase I hebah died, sah.

ORCHID FLOWERS.

Passing along either of the great up-town avenues one cannot help noticing the beautiful displays of orchid flowers in the florists' windows. A dozen years ago very few of these gorgeous blossoms found their way to the city florists'. Those then grown in the country were mostly confined to private conservatories, and the nurserymen, as Such of New Jersey and Saul of Washington, who dealt in orchids, refused to cut the flowers, lest doing so should detract from the sale of the plants. Now, however, this order of things has changed, and orchid blossoms have become as much a staple commodity in the florists' shops in the more fashionable parts of the city, as have roses or carnations, only in smaller quantities. The quantity, however, is only limited by the production of the growers; every blossom raised of desirable kinds can be sold at a fair price. At this time of the year the supply is not equal to the demand; yet there is no call for poor or insignificant varieties.

Fosterman of Long Island, Siebrecht & Wadley of New Rochelle, Matthews of Utica, Pitcher and Manda, and De Forest of New Jersey are among the largest growers of orchids for market; and, besides these, May, Asmus, Taylor, and several other successful rose growers around New York, have also started into the business of growing orchids.

In private greenhouses all manner of orchids are grown, variety being one of the pleasures of the connoisseur. Not so with the florists, who raise orchid flowers for market. They restrict their selection to easily grown, free-blooming, winter-flowering kinds, that have large, showy blossoms; and this is why, while the display of orchids in the florists' windows is gay, the variety is limited. Just now it consists largely of *Cattleya Trianæ* and *C. Percivaliana*, *Calanthe vestita* and its varities, and *C. Veitchii*, and *Cypripedium insigne*. There are also a few blossoms of *Cattleya maxima* and *C. Warscewiczii*. The lælias look much like cattleyas, and many of them are very beautiful; but *L. anceps* and its varieties, although the showiest now, wilt rather quickly after being cut. The white *L. albida*, and rose-purple *L. autumnalis*, both delightfully fragrant, also appear in the windows. They are on long stems. *Cypripedium insigne* is the favorite market kind because of its easy growth and free-blooming nature, and its stout, stiff flower stems and lasting qualities; few other species stand up so stiffly. Besides, *callosum*, *villosum*, *Harrisianum*, and some others that might do well, don't come in in quantity. *Spicerianum* is very striking, so are *purpuratum*, and many others, but they are more serviceable as small pot plants to arrange among ferns than as cut flowers. The white clusters of *Calogyne cristata* are very pretty, but the blooms wilt soon; and as specimens in flower the plants have too squat an appearance to be pleasing. The calanthes above mentioned are now deciduous, and only fit for cut flowers. *Lycaste Skinneri* is used cut, and as plants in about the same way as are cypripediums. *Dendrobium Wardianum* is in good bloom, and a few of the earliest *nobile* have appeared; half of the stems are cut with these flowers. They are used for baskets. Species like *chrysotoxum* and *Farmeri* are used among ferns. The color of the blooms of *D. macrophyllum*, *crepidatum*, and *Pierardii* is not distinct enough for market flowers.

Among oncidiums, *varicosum* is past, but *tigrinum* is in fine condition; so is the airy *ornithorhynchum* and the bold *Cavendishianum*. Among odontoglossums, *crispum*, or *Alexandræ*, as it is commonly called, is the most esteemed of the genus; only a few have yet appeared, but in a week or two they will be more plentiful. So highly is this orchid appreciated in the market that one of the most extensive growers has resolved to add a few more thousands of it to his collection for cut flowers for market. Although these comprise the most popular orchids, other species, as *Vanda*, *Schomburgkia*, *Epidendrum*, *Cymbidium*, *Barkeria*, and *Angræcum*, are cut and brought to market as they open.

By intelligent manipulation the florists are enabled to have their orchids in bloom a month or two earlier or later, just as they wish: for instance, by extra warmth and hurrying the growth of *Cypripedium insigne* in winter and spring, it can be had in bloom in October; or, by cool treatment, the blooming time may be deferred till the end of January.

Orchid blossoms are used for almost every purpose for which the best kinds of other flowers are employed. Lovely hand and corsage bouquets are made of them; the finest kind of table decorations are arranged with them; and the richest baskets filled or trimmed with them; and they are used even in funeral decorations. *Asparagus plumosus*, commonly called fern-leaf asparagus, is the green that is put with them because of its beauty, rich effect, and lasting qualities; on the other hand, maidenhair fern fronds, because of their quick wilting, are not associated with orchid blossoms.

At weddings, receptions, and at other times when there is opportunity for elaborate floral display, orchids play an important part: both plants in bloom and cut flowers can then be used to fine advantage. The plants may be banked among ferns, mosses, and palms on mantels or elsewhere; the heavy-habited species, as of cypripedium and lycaste, kept pretty well down to the ground line, and the airy, spray-blossomed oncidiums and phalænopses raised more prominently into view.

Grown in neat wooden-cabin baskets, or in comparatively small pots, and with good foliage, the plants can be set to display the blossoms to better advantage and in a better and more natural and elegant way than the cut flowers could be arranged; and there is less likelihood of the blossoms wilting by reason of the heat, gas, or draughts in the rooms, or for want of water. The pots or baskets are hidden among green ferns, airy palms, or other suitable plants, or among cut fronds of fern-leaf asparagus. The vivid masdvallias, airy oncidiums, chaste odontoglossums, and elegant phalænopses make up beautifully in this way; and so, too, do the bolder cattleyas and dendrobiums. Individual flowers of masdvallias do not make much show alone, but in quantity they are lovely. The heavy racemes of saccolabiums are difficult to keep erect and in proper place without stilting them; the clusters of trichopilia spread out in drooping fashion over the sides of the pot, and the blossoms of dendrochilum hang perpendicularly in long chain-like racemes from the ends of hard wiry stems. In fact, any kind of handsome orchids, of which there are only a few, can be used as pot plants in a bed of greenery with pleasing effect, whereas were their blossoms used as cut flowers they would have a meagre appearance.

Considering how rare and beautiful orchids are, and how limited is their supply, the prices of them are not exorbitantly high. Cattleyas, lælias, and cypripediums are sold for so much an individual flower, say 50 cents for a lælia bloom, 50 cents to $1.50 for each cattleya blossom, and about 20 cents to 35 cents for a cypripedium. Much depends on the clearness, size, form, substance, and showiness of the blossoms. The general public do not discriminate in cut flowers between the bloom of a priceless, unique variety, and that of a commonplace species; their choice is the loveliest blossom, no matter what is the value of the plant from which it has been cut. Orchids that bloom in sprays, for instance calanthes, odontoglossums, oncidiums, and phalænopses cost so much a spray, say from 75 cents to $3.50, according to size, fulness, and fineness of the spray; and a good deal will depend upon the kind. For instance, a stem of *Dendrobium Wardianum* will cost more than a calanthe with the same number of flowers on it; and a phalænopsis will cost more than an oncidium. Sprays of orchids may average from 10 or 15 cents to 25 or 30 cents a bloom; while phalænopsis and fine Alexandræ odontoglossums may run a little higher.

It would hardly be fair to compare the prices of orchids with the prices of roses, carnations, lilies, and other standard flowers, because of the frequent and often wide variations in the prices of these caused by supply and demand. A little warm, sunny weather hastens in the roses, floods the market, and lowers the prices; on the other hand, a spell of cold, dull weather checks the supply, deteriorates the quality, tightens the market, and raises the prices. Orchids are very little subject to such fluctuations. American Beauty roses are the highest priced in the market; they run from 35 cents to $1.50 each blossom, the price being governed by the size, fulness, freshness, and fine coloring of the flower itself, the length and strength of the stem, and cleanness and vigor of the foliage. Other roses range about 35 cents each to $4 a dozen for the new pink Madame Caroline Testout, $3 a dozen for the delightfully fragrant La France, $1.50 a dozen for Bridesmaid, Catherine Mermet, Madame de Watteville, and Madame Cusin; and $1 a dozen for Perle des Jardins and Papa Gontier.

Most of the roses and other flowers sent to New York are consigned by the growers to commission florists, who in turn wholesale them to the retail florists. We may except the wholesale flower market at Thirty-fourth Street Ferry, where the grower and the retailer come together without the intervention of the commission men. In the case of orchids the large growers make permanent arrangements with the leading retail florists for the disposal of their whole crop of flowers; but the small growers, who have only a few orchids now and then, usually consign them to the commission agents along with their roses and carnations.

Florists propagate and plant a fresh stock of roses, carnations, and violets every year because the young plants keep healthier and bear finer blossoms than do the old ones. This work of propagation is now going on. Toward the end of spring these plants will be cleared out of the greenhouses and the soil in which they were grown emptied out; and after the glasshouses have been repaired, the benches will be filled with fresh earth and the young rose bushes planted in early summer, and the carnations and violets in early autumn. Cyclamens, Chinese primroses, and cinerarias are treated like annuals and raised from seed every year; hyacinths, tulips, trumpet lilies, and lilies-of-the-valley are also grown on the annual system, that is, fresh roots are imported for forcing every season, and as soon as the flowers are cut from them the roots are dumped into the rot pile, for it wouldn't pay the florist to grow them on another year. Freesias are an exception to this rule, however. Even azaleas, cytisus, and hydrangeas are easily raised from cuttings, and the supply is always just as plentiful as the florist chooses to make it; sometimes, however, large plants of azaleas are scarce, but this is simply a question of age.

With orchids, however, all is different. The old plants are perpetual, and the greatest diligence is exercised in prolonging their life. Cypripediums are propagated by division, dendrobiums by division or cuttings of the mature stems, and calanthes by multiplication of the pseudo bulbs; and yet orchids cannot be propagated with the same facility as other popular plants. Indeed, their increase by artificial means is exceedingly slow. The supply is maintained by heavy importations from Central and South America, the