The Sun.

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Local News.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the United Press and New York Associated Press is at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

Magnanimity.

Again on Saturday the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL figured in the Senate as the defender and apologist of the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND'S Administration.

Indeed, Senator HILL seems to be the sole member of the Senate who is at the same time capable of using the English language effectively, and willing and ready to render a service to the White House.

This is magnanimity of the highest type. There is nothing in PLUTARCH'S "Lives" surpassing it. It places Senator HILL'S name high on the roll of those great men who have possessed and publicly exercised the rarest of the virtues.

All the same, it must cut like a knife.

A Man to Reward.

The name of the Hon. WILLIAM L. WILSON heads the eligible list that rumor makes of the persons likely to be appointed to the Mexican mission. Mr. WILSON is mentioned for several other offices, most of them not yet vacant. It is expected that Mr. CLEVELAND will throw some soft cushion for the fallen Professor to rest on.

There is another, and perhaps an even more deserving cripple to be taken care of. The services of the Hon. WILLIAM MUDD SPRINGER in trying to lift the financial projects of Mr. CLEVELAND and roll them through the House entitle him to the most generous treatment at his principal's hands. The amount of nervous excitement and mental perspiration to which the War Steed of the Sangamon has been subjected in the last few weeks would have broken down a less buoyant nature. He has struggled with figures, exhibits, caucuses, and his fellow members. He has spoken much, and has had to think several hours a week. He has supplicated and he has prophesied. He has butted his whole impetuous frame against the impenetrable wall of the opposition. He has been a hero in the fray, and if he has come out of it somewhat frayed, Mr. CLEVELAND'S gratitude to him should be all the greater.

There is something in Mr. SPRINGER'S mercurial temperament that may have a charm for members of the Latin race. In suggesting that he should be appointed as Minister to Mexico we mean well to Mexico and to him. There are strong scientific reasons for his appointment. What, for instance, would be his effect on the rarefied air of the table lands?

Build Up the Navy!

In the House debate on the Navy bill JERRY SIMPSON, the Kansas Populist, and Dr. EVERETT, the Massachusetts Mugwump, have joined forces to oppose the authorization of new ships.

Dr. EVERETT has occupied himself largely with mentioning other things that demand appropriations. "Think of the Indians," he said. "Think of what they call for. The starving Navajoes called for $25,000 the other day, and there was a doubt as to whether it should be given to them; and yet we have money to build war ships!" Besides, he said, "there is something greater than renown in war; there is something better than dying for your country, and that is living for it." The fact is, however, that unless some people are willing to die for the country, there may be very little of a country left for the other fellows to live for and enjoy.

Sockless JERRY'S point was that we don't need battle ships, but light-draught vessels of high speed, capable of going into bays and coast waters. No naval power, he said, made a practice of sending battle ships to other countries, because, with their armor belts making them topheavy, they were not generally considered good seagoing vessels. All that, of course, is preposterous, and might indicate that the Kansas statesman had never heard of the use of battle ships in bombarding Alexandria. Besides, the very phrase employed in the present bill is "coast-line battle ships," thus showing that what it proposes is not aggression upon other countries but the defence of our own land. And what sort of defence against a fleet of battle ships like the Majestic, attacking New York or Boston, could be furnished by light-draught gunboats? Heavy armored vessels must be ready for the ships that could be sent against such ports.

Dr. EVERETT should not be so enamored of the Chinese civil service system as to want America to imitate also the Chinese policy of inadequate provisions for naval and military defence, the result of which is now apparent. Mr. SIMPSON should re-read the article by Secretary HERBERT, a few words of which he quoted, as if they lent support to his own supposition that the cruiser, as distinguished from the battle ship, must be the war vessel of the future. The Secretary, on the contrary, urgently argued, in that article, for battle ships, and there is no doubt that our navy needs these, not only for the future but for to-day.

'Twixt the Devil and the Deep Sea.

The acute political complication in which, by stress of striving for patronage, our local Republican friends have become involved in the second month of their municipal administration is alike instructive and amusing. The laws of political procedure are immutable, however often defied by reformers. There is always sure to be trouble when it is attempted to set them aside.

The Republicans of this city prior to the recent election had devised a plan of organization of an elaborate and comprehensive character. It was called the "Committee of Thirty" plan, and had the cordial acquiescence and substantial support of the Union League Club, under political letters patent attested by these members of the Thirty: WILLIAM L. STRONG, now Mayor; WILLIAM BROOKFIELD, CORNELIUS N. BLISS, EDWARD LAUTERBACH, CHARLES S. SMITH, HORACE PORTER, and EDWIN EINSTEIN, Republican candidate for Mayor in 1892. This system of Republican reorganization prescribed an enrolment whereby every Republican elector was to have an equal voice in the party councils; election district committees, whereby the former district leaders, or "bosses," were forever to be abolished; exclusion from membership in the Republican county organization, of all officeholders. The integrity of the organization so contrived and established was recognized unanimously by the Republican State Convention at Saratoga. Its technical regularity was upheld by the courts. It was approved overwhelmingly by the Republican voters at the November election; and thus, for the first time in many years, when Mr. STRONG became Mayor there was a veritable representative Republican organization in town, on the lines established by him and his Union League associates.

Following the Republican victory in the State and city, an election was held for officers of the Republican County Committee for the year 1895, and two factions contested for mastery under the rules established by Mr. STRONG, Mr. BROOKFIELD, and their associates. On the one side were Mr. BROOKFIELD, JOANNES SIMPSON, Mr. BLISS, and the Union League element, so called; on the other side were JACOB PATTERSON, VAN COTT, MURRAY, DEANE, and LAUTERBACH; the PLATT faction, so called. The Chairman of the Committee of Thirty, Mr. BLISS, was with the Brookfieldites; the Secretary, ex-Judge HALL, was with the Plattites. The contest between the two, without allegation of fraud, irregularity, or unfairness, resulted in the triumph of Mr. LAUTERBACH, who defeated Mr. BROOKFIELD for the Chairmanship of the Republican County Committee, and thus became the representative of all enrolled Republicans in this town.

Instead, however, of recognizing the triumph of the LAUTERBACH faction, achieved under the code of rules he had aided in establishing, Mr. STRONG ignored them, and ignored the Republican organization, by giving the Department of Public Works to Mr. BROOKFIELD of the minority, thus upsetting the whole plan of Republican representation established by himself and his associates a few months before. Of course, the PLATT men are in a condition of great mental distress and temporary gloom over what they denounce as Mr. STRONG'S disloyalty, and there are threats of reprisal by the Legislature, which has, of course, the inherent power to take away from Mayor STRONG the exceptional and unusual powers which seem to have been granted him by the Republicans of Albany under what may be mildly described as a misapprehension.

Among politicians familiar with undercurrents it is generally understood that a reasonable basis of compromising the present difficulties between the Republicans of the Legislature and the Republicans of the Mayor's office, though not between the two factions of local Republicans, will be found through the retention in office by Mayor STRONG, of Police Commissioners MURRAY and KERWIN, both PLATT men. Politically such an arrangement, to forestall hostile action by the Republicans in the Legislature, is probably feasible, but if adopted or attempted, it would precipitate upon the local Republicans another difficulty of an amusing rather than of a serious character. To remove either Mr. MURRAY or Mr. KERWIN, in order to give a place to a BROOKFIELD man, would invite an attack upon the STRONG administration by the Republicans in the Legislature. To retain in office, as part of the bi-partisan system, Messrs. MURRAY and KERWIN, or either of them, on the other hand, would mean the total severance of the STRONG administration from the PARKHURST element.

Now, the PARKHURST element, the radical, uncompromising, neo-political, lawless, vocal, reckless, and hysterical element is the essence of the anti-PLATT or Union League faction in New York. It is held together by antagonism to bi-partisanship in the Police Board, and no Public Works patronage can affect it. To break definitely, deliberately, and without recourse of compromise, with the PLATT element by the removal of MURRAY and KERWIN means war between STRONG and the Legislature. To break definitely, deliberately, and without recourse of resuming their mutual admiration demonstrations, by retaining MURRAY and KERWIN, means war between STRONG and the PARKHURST contingent, who are about the only soldiers, not mercenaries, in the Union League army.

The position of Mayor STRONG between the two fires is not enviable. Nor is the result to be predicted with certainty.

Reform in Chicago.

The Hon. JOHN PATRICK HOPKINS, Mayor of Chicago, is weary of the cares of State. He pines, and not for publication only, for retirement. He has been banged by parsons, macerated by newspapers, snapped at by reformers, pulled about by politicians, and miscellaneously cursed by men of many names. Of course, this doesn't prove that he has been an inefficient Mayor. It merely indicates that Chicago is at present beaten high with the waves of reform. The success of New York in the reform line has stimulated the younger town to working up an active business of the same kind. The newspapers and the parsons had labored vehemently to show that Chicago was deeply and darkly wicked, and that there was no good in her; but Chicago could not be roused to moral indignation until Mr. LEXOW'S Committee got well into its detective story in this town. Then to be wicked as a municipality or as a community, seemed to Chicago to be metropolitan and supreme among cities. "I am resolved to be wicked," said the Queen of the West. "It's the style. Advertising pays. Get the worst! If New York is any worse than I am, I will put my feet into the abyss and bury myself and my eighty-story palaces of steel in the nethermost ooze." So Chicago was wicked. Chicago must be reformed. The first thing to do was to consult experts in wickedness and reform. They were imported from New York at great expense, and received amid the tears of a great city. The first question asked of a visiting reformer was: "Which is the wickeder, Chicago or New York?" Some of the solid men of the Reform Club and the City Club declined to be examined as experts in corruption, and, frowning, put the question by. They were not loved. They had not hopped to the hysteria of the situation. But presently came the inerrant PARKHURST, fresh from his toils and triumphs and slummings saltatorial. His reform banner seemed larger than Lake Michigan. His voice sounded like an orchestra of thunders. How he managed to squeeze into the Auditorium no man knows, but squeeze in he did, and thousands crowded rapturously after. Early in his lecture, he proclaimed that Chicago was wickeder than New York, and then the great building quivered with the cheers until the Hon. FRED W. PECK quivered, too, for its safety, and the Hon. HARLOW N. HIGINBOTHAM bit off his second front shirt button in pure nervous excitement.

PARKHURST had conquered. Chicago was wickeder than New York. Reform became thicker than mud. A Round Table of the wise and good, calling itself the Civic Federation, and apparently combining the virtues of a sublimated Goo Goo club with all that we dream of in the Committee of Seventy, flourished like the green bay tree. Meanwhile, the Hon. JOHN PATRICK HOPKINS was not enjoying himself. The Cook County Democracy was badly hurt by its own greediness, and more by being responsible for the unpardonable PARDON ALTGELD. Mr. HOPKINS got it right and left. Republicans and reformers, a regular New York combination, held him responsible for a system and a condition that he did not cause; and, besides, in the new zeal of reform an angel, guaranteed genuine, would have been denounced as the foul fiend himself. So Mr. HOPKINS is tired. He has had enough and too much. He wants no more, although it appears that a great portion of his party still wants him.

It is said that the Democratic nominating Convention will be called about March 1. Since HOPKINS'S choice, the Democrats have been in sore perplexity. At one time they seemed to look in the direction of a hustling old-timer, the Hon. DE WITT CLINTON CREGIER. Yet it may be that happier counsels will prevail. Not once nor a thousand times in the last few weeks have the hearts and the hopes of the most thoughtful Democrats in Chicago turned with an evident uplifting to the Hon. WASH HESING. From the moment when, mounted on a bicycle of plated gold, he reviewed the forces under his charge in the Post Office, until the moment when his earnestness, his eloquence, and, more than all, the ordered gardens and sweet capillary banks of his gifted side-whiskers won the consent of a reluctant Congress, or, at least, of one branch of it, to give Chicago a $4,000,000 Post Office building, he has held the Democrats of his city in willing bonds of admiration. Who so fit as he to lead them, or so apt to dazzle and dismay the combining forces of Republicanism and reform? He, too, is a reformer. Every aspiration of æsthetics would be bound up in his success. Every coterie of culture would gather at his feet. The sacrifice asked of him is indeed tremendous. The specifications for the new Post Office include a Whiskering Gallery in Mexican onyx, a Comb Room in silver and ivory, and a marble fireproof museum for Mr. HESING'S Callitrichological Exhibition. His ambition is tenderly fixed upon those plans, that building, those future homes of Beauty. But if Duty calls, Beauty obeys. Will he take the nomination for Mayor? He has lately called attention to his achievements as a civil service reformer in the Post Office. As a good civil service reformer he will take anything in sight. Honor, then, to Chicago and the Hon. WASH HESING! None but the brave deserve the fair; and he is passing fair.

A Lexington Parable.

Some indignation has been expressed in Kentucky and elsewhere because the Collector of the Lexington district, the father of Mr. SHELBY, Col. WILLIAM C. P. BRECKINRIDGE'S partner in the law business, has appointed the Colonel's impetuous son, DESHA, as income tax collector for that district. This is the young man who attempted to demonstrate anatomy by means of a large knife upon the Hon. GEORGE KINCAID, an OWENS man, in Lexington; and who has otherwhere shown a steely glitter and a taste for flesh carving.

It is a waste of nervous tissue to be wroth at an incident so clearly symbolical as this appointment. In considering it, the candid mind will doff all prejudices and preconceptions, and even wave away the seemingly evident fact that Collector SHELBY must have thought that he was making an appointment pleasing to Mr. CLEVELAND in thus selecting the eminent son of an eminent Cuckoo. It is in its parabolic and metaphorical significance that this appointment should be contemplated by the thoughtful. For just as the Hon. DESHA BRECKINRIDGE stood with his knife in his hand, howling for the heart of Judge KINCAID, so does the Income Tax stand howling for the blood of wealth, industry, sobriety, and thrift.

The Hon. DESHA BRECKINRIDGE will pass as a representative of the Income Tax. We say this with apologies to other collectors.

Horses and Asses.

The Master Horseshoers' Association has perceived the need of more legislation and determined to contribute its mite. It is announced that Mr. FINN of the First district will introduce into the Assembly tomorrow a bill providing that "no person shall practise horseshoeing as a master horseshoer unless he is a citizen, is registered, and has resided in the place where he plies his trade at least one year." A Board of Examiners to consist of three veterinary surgeons and two master horseshoers is to examine and certify to the qualifications of master horseshoers.

Master horseshoer, it may be necessary to explain, is a romantic term for a man that keeps a blacksmith's shop.

Assemblyman FINN ought to perfect this bill by adding to it a provision that no horse that is not a native of the United States, registered, and has not resided for a year in the place where his owner seeks to have him shod shall be shod by a registered master horseshoer; and any master horseshoer knowingly shoeing any horse that has not complied with the terms of the statute shall be imprisoned for a term of years not exceeding his natural life by a year and a day.

There are horses and there are asses. The maker of this horseshoers' bill is no horse.

We call attention to the letter in another column describing the condition of the Harvard University Library; a letter based on the reports of President ELIOT and Librarian WINSOR and on the personal observation of the writer. The increased use of the library is one of the marked characteristics of modern university study; as the student of chemistry, physics, astronomy, or natural history now acquires his knowledge in the laboratory, the observatory, or from the collections in the museum, instead of from text books, so the student of language, of literature, of history, of philosophy is directed to all the books in his subject, and applies to it in the library the same independent, laboratory method of investigation. College libraries are no longer mere repositories of books, consulted by the professors and some few unusually bookish students; they have become the workrooms for the large proportion of the students who are in earnest, and in the older and growing colleges the library buildings are inadequate for the new uses to which they are put.

At Yale and at Dartmouth, in recent years, new buildings have been erected to relieve the pressure; the first of the edifices of the new Columbia to rise will be the library; Harvard now appeals to her alumni for a new reading room, to accommodate her army of students, and for an additional building in which to store her rapidly increasing accessions of books.

There is a funny piece of news from Canada. On motion of the reeves of Fort Erie, the Welland County Council has memorialized the Dominion Parliament to enact a law to prevent the entrance into Canada of the "large numbers of mechanics and other workingmen who are continually entering it in pursuit of employment, thus shutting off our own citizens from their means of subsistence." We may tell the reeves of Fort Erie that we had supposed the boot was on the other leg. We have heard for years of the tens of thousands of Canadians who are continually entering this country in search of employment, and who, even during the hard times of the past year or two, have preferred the United States to their native provinces. There are living in this country a million of Canadians who have found life here more desirable than in Canada, while it is sure enough that not more than a very few thousand Americans have gone to Canada for years in search of anything. Let the reeves of Fort Erie watch the boundary line and send us word which way the pedestrians are travelling, even at this time of the year.

Matinée has been stretched beyond the point where it can be held to have any meaning by the application of the word by a London manager to a theatrical performance beginning at 5 o'clock in the afternoon and ending at 8 in the evening, as our London correspondent reports. Beginning properly enough as a designation for a concert or entertainment given in the forenoon, the term was transferred to an afternoon theatrical performance, which began first at 1, then at 2, sometimes at 3, but at any rate ended before night. This meaning prevails among us now. The change from a morning entertainment to one ending by daylight was natural and gradual. Should this innovation in theatre hours, however, become popular, the term matinée will be as great an absurdity as the Frenchman's "5 o'clock tea" at 3, or as SAM WELLER'S "cold swarry." It now means an afternoon entertainment. Afternoon is a good English word, exactly defining what is meant. Why not use it?

The conviction of the German firm of FRINGS & SPATSY, at Apia, of importing SNIDER rifles and ammunition, which they sold to the Atuan rebels, throws some light on recent affairs in Samoa.

They had these arms brought by vessel furtively, concealed in packages usually employed for different merchandise. They managed to have a portion of the arms landed in Savaii and a portion in the Atuan rebel district. A queer feature of the affair is the statement that three Samoan chiefs who seized for the Government a portion of the contraband arms have since been arrested by the German Consul on the charge of intimidating the German resident whom they forced to give up these arms.

At all events, the evidence of violating the laws was so clear that the German firm and Capt. LAFFINGS, who was also concerned in the importation, have been fined 150 marks, which, though the maximum penalty, seems to be a small punishment for the offence.

Thus, while Mr. GRESHAM was citing to Congress German official papers to show the extent of the insurgent movement in Samoa, German residents aided that movement by supplying it with the means of fighting. It has also been charged that the officers of a German war ship not long since feasted rebel chiefs aboard their vessel and made much of them. It is certain that when an outbreak was suppressed some time ago by German and English war ships, the terms imposed were the surrender of a few guns, which cannot have been a cruel penalty as long as FRINGS & SPATSY were ready to supply others.

I. B. MASTERSON of Centralia was in our midst Monday.
T. H. PRICE of Hallsville was in our midst Tuesday.
GEORGE SUMNERS was in our midst Wednesday.
S. J. JENNINGS of Centralia was in our midst Thursday.—*Centralia Fireside Guard.*

How did you feel when they were in it?

At the end of the rebellion in Colombia the Government has followed the example which was given by the United States under the Administration of President LINCOLN, when the Union had triumphed. The defeated rebels of Colombia are not to be punished, their property is not to be confiscated, and they are not to be deprived of the goods in their hands. The amnesty granted by the President seems to have been comprehensive.

A policy of the same kind was adopted in Argentina after the recent rebellion. It was on account of his opposition to it that President SAENZ-PENA was compelled to resign the Presidency last month, and it was because Vice-President URIBURU favored it that he became the President, to the satisfaction of Congress.

A very liberal act of amnesty was proclaimed in Brazil last year, when the rebellion there had collapsed; and the results of it have proved favorable to the public peace.

In South America a policy of lenity has largely superseded the sanguinary policy which formerly prevailed when a rebellion had been suppressed or had been successful.

Never was there greater magnanimity than that of our Government thirty years ago, under the Administration of Mr. LINCOLN. Never had there been an example so impressive given by any Government in the world. Ever since it was given the happy results of it have been reaped by the North and by the South. The influence of it has been felt in far distant republics, and will be felt for ages.

A rebellion is a serious thing, but when it has been crushed upon the field of battle further vengeance must usually be regarded as impolitic. A dynamite plot is a different thing.

A New Rule of the Tamsenbund.

THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We have had our attention called to a new rule promulgated by the Chief Archon of the Hanseatic League, who is at present in charge of the Sheriff's office, which is admirably calculated to deprive a judgment creditor of the benefits which the law intended to give him.

It is the rule in all civilized communities, or has been up to the advent of the present Tamsenbund, that a judgment creditor could take advantage of his judgment on any sale on execution thereunder, and could bid in the property of his debtor and apply the same in satisfaction (or partial satisfaction) of his judgment. This system was too simple for the pretzel reformer above referred to, and he has now decreed that the judgment creditor must raise funds with which to pay himself, in case he is the bidder on the sale, and must actually pay over to the Sheriff in cash the full amount of his bid.

The system in detail is as follows:

First—A check for the full amount of the bid is paid to the auctioneer and deposited in bank.

Secondly—The auctioneer then draws a check to the Sheriff for the full amount received.

Thirdly—The amount of the auctioneer's fees is then determined and audited, and a check given by the Sheriff to the auctioneer.

Fourthly—The amount of the Sheriff's fees, poundage, &c., is then determined, and a check for that amount is then paid to the deputy who has had charge of the execution.

Fifthly—The deputy deposits the check to his account and draws a check for the poundage to the Sheriff.

Sixthly—The balance, if any, is then paid by check to the long-suffering judgment creditor.

Seventhly—Finally the judgment creditor gets a bill of sale.

The result of this beautiful system is that a matter which could be transacted in fifteen minutes consumes anywhere from four days and a half to six weeks. Simply to comply with an absurd and ridiculous rule of the Sheriff's office, the judgment creditor is not only kept out of the money due him on execution for this period of time, but must in addition pay the amount of his bid out of his own pocket, or borrow that amount and pay it to the Sheriff, in case he does not possess it himself.

To make the beauties of the system more apparent, assume the case of a man who has all of his property tied up in a single judgment, say of $10,000. On a sale under execution on said judgment he desires to bid in the property in order to protect himself. He is obliged to bid, we will say, $5,000 for the property. Under this present system he will be obliged to give the Sheriff his check for $5,000, although there was a balance of $5,000 still due on his judgment and unpaid. In case of his inability to borrow, beg, or steal that amount for the days or weeks necessary for the Sheriff's office to audit its accounts and make the transfers above indicated, he would be utterly deprived of all benefits under his judgment, and might be compelled to allow the property to be sacrificed for a song and be without remedy.

As this rule is not generally known to your readers, we feel certain that it may be doing them a kindness to notify them of its existence.

What to do? Huh! LAWYER.

THE HARVARD LIBRARY.

A Reading Room and More Stack Room Needed—An Appeal to the Graduates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* President Eliot has at last taken a step which those familiar with the facts hoped would be taken long ago. In his last report, after again setting forth the deplorable condition of the university library, and showing the helplessness of the Harvard corporation in the matter, he appeals to the body of the alumni and to the friends of the university to organize and to raise the money for the library's urgent wants. How bitter the need is can be inferred from the fact that the appeal is made in this time of financial depression, when the undertaking to collect a large sum of money must seem desperate even to a man of President Eliot's undaunted courage, dealing with such loyal supporters as the graduates of Harvard.

The facts in the case are simply these: Harvard must have a new reading room, large enough to hold 400 readers; she must have shelf room for 200,000 volumes, with the prospect of having to provide for a million before long; and she must have these right away. The least sum for which the necessary additions can be put up is $250,000; to erect a building at all worthy of the university will cost nearer half a million. The corporation has not the money to do this, and is not likely to have it in the ordinary course of events, for it must be remembered that by far the greater part of Harvard's endowment consists of trust funds given for specific purposes; no person seems ready to connect his name indelibly with that of the university by giving it what in the nature of things must always be its most prominent and necessary edifice. All that remains is for the sons of Harvard to realize how serious is their mother's need, and to put their hands into their own pockets and into those of their friends to help her out.

When, in 1875, the corporation of Harvard College determined to sink $90,000 of its small unrestricted capital into an addition to Gore Hall, it supposed that it was providing amply for the needs of the library for at least twenty years to come. The library then contained 175,000 volumes, and increased at an average rate of about 4,000 volumes a year. Cambridge contained a thousand students, of whom nearly half made no use of the books at all. Within five years the number of books had increased to 220,000, the additions had risen to 10,000 yearly, and the librarian, Dr. Winsor, sounded the first note of warning. By 1880 the danger of the library's being swamped by the new books had become imminent; the librarian in his report showed the necessity of immediate relief, and the President repeated the facts in his annual report. These statements have appeared in every report since; at first in the future tense, now in the past. When the library became full, in 1892, room was made for a while by crowding books and disturbing the scientific and costly classification. The librarian described the condition as tending rapidly to chaos. Last year chaos was reached. As the President puts it, "15,000 volumes were boxed and piled up in the cellar of Appleton Chapel, a humiliating expedient to which the librarian was simply forced to resort. The same thing will soon have to be done again. No sooner were these books boxed up than some of them were urgently needed."

An equally simple expedient would be not to buy any more of the books constantly required by professors and students to keep knowledge at Harvard abreast of the times. Harvard might as well close her doors. Her library now contains 323,000 volumes and as many pamphlets, while the departmental libraries which are not kept in Gore Hall bring the number of volumes up to 437,000, and additions come in at the rate of 13,000 a year. There is a steady stream of gifts of books and of money for books. There is now no place to put the books, and the library has no money to make a place. Will not the alumni provide one?

With the unexpected growth of the library has come an even more surprising increase in the use of the library on the part of the students. Graduates of twenty years ago or more can have no idea of the part the library plays in the life of the students of to-day. The development of the elective system, the unparalleled increase in advanced study, the abandonment of the methods of instruction by text books alone, have simply forced men into the library. In 1875, of 1,000 students in Cambridge, only 55 per cent. used the library; in 1889, of 1,400 students, 83 per cent. took books out; in 1894 though the proportion fell less, the number is greater, for 1,895 men out of 2,577 used the library. The falling off is chiefly in the freshman and sophomore classes, which are more easily discouraged by the difficulties of obtaining books quickly in the disorganized state of the library. For all these men the only reading room available is Gore Hall, an edifice copied from the mediæval cloister libraries, from which light and air were excluded as far as possible. Of it Dr. Winsor said in 1889: "There is not enough reading room accommodation." "The eyes of the students and their bodily health in general are impaired by the inadequate light and foul air of the reading room." "The present building has no means of lighting it artificially." And in this winter of 1895 the Harvard University library still closes as it did a century ago, "half an hour before sunset."

Matters became so bad that in 1890 the undergraduates, after in vain seeking relief from the authorities, took things into their own hands and raised by subscription in a single year $22,000, of which $13,000 is now in the hands of the Treasurer of Harvard College. For some reason the corporation in no way encouraged this subscription, if it did not directly discourage it; and the information that the problem had been satisfactorily solved put an end to it.

Two years ago, by a most unfortunate accident, the university lost a gift which would have met the present appeal needless. The late Frederick L. Ames, then a member of the corporation, announced his intention of presenting to Harvard the needed reading room and addition, to cost nearly half a million. The plans were made and accepted and the contracts drawn up ready to be signed, when Mr. Ames died suddenly. By his will his estate was so tied up that his heirs, should they wish to carry out his intentions toward the college, are powerless till the youngest heir comes of age, at a distant day. Whatever intentions they may have, Mr. Ames's proposed gift is lost to the college, and the corporation is again face to face with the library problem. The constantly increasing number of students is still unprovided with anything like reasonable accommodation, and, unless help comes, must give up the use of the reading room.

The corporation is in no position to spend a quarter of a million on any building. It simply has not got the money. The general public and many of the alumni, impressed by the many gifts which have been made to Harvard for various purposes, find it difficult to understand why a university so rich should ever need money. In point of fact, over a large part of its income the corporation has no control; it simply manages the property, and pays out with one hand what it receives with the other. For scholarships, for professorships, for prizes, for books, for a hundred purposes specified in deeds of gift, it must use the money as the trust requires, and in no other way. Its unrestricted capital is very limited, and from the income of that capital must be supplied all the necessities not already provided for of a great and growing institution, and they are many. The $90,000 taken out of that capital to build the addition to the library seventeen years ago, President Eliot asserts, has never since been made good. The remainder cannot now be diminished without seriously crippling the whole university.

The importance of a well-regulated library to the university needs no explanation. It is the heart of the college community; when its action fails, every organ of college life is paralyzed. It affects every instructor and every student. Time presses; were the money already in hand, two years must pass before the buildings can be erected. Harvard's 10,000 living graduates need it better themselves; President Eliot appeals to every one of them, for it is they who must organize, who must subscribe, and who must make others subscribe. EXUL.

NEW YORK, Feb. 16.

Nordhoff.

From the Washington Post.

No wonder the esteemed SUN asks whether this is, whether it can be, the same "Charles Nordhoff who, as the friend and confederate of Sir Claus Spreckels and Paramount Blount, worked so hard and wrote so copiously to discredit President Dole and his Government with the American people, and to preserve royal honors for the woman whom he now, as a Judge, condemns to exportation." No wonder that, harking back to Nordhoff's protestations of eighteen months ago, we ask ourselves whether he was then saying what he really believed or merely saying what he wanted to delude others into believing. This, however, is the same Charles Nordhoff, and now we are waiting to see what will be said of his latest utterances by the Cuckoo organs which so recently were certifying to his profound acquaintance with Hawaiian conditions and affairs, and ridiculing and denouncing everybody who took issue with him.

A Western Critic of Eastern Newspapers.

From the Oakland Northwestern.

Some of the New York papers are notorious for the cheap and ill-considered matter which they print, while on the other hand THE SUN, *Tribune*, and *Times* have a reputation for great excellence in this respect. As Eastern and other settled communities are more critical than the people of the "uncultured West," we find that the newspapers of the West are usually less carefully edited and lower in point of literary excellence than those of the East. To illustrate, it may be said that some of the New England newspapers, those of Boston, Springfield, and Hartford especially, maintain a higher standard of literary excellence than those of Chicago, St. Louis or Cincinnati. The newspaper is in truth, to a greater or less extent, the exponent of the social, moral, and intellectual condition of the people who support it, and if this is true the character of the Western press is easily explained.

LOADING A COTTON SHIP.

Songs with Which the Black Screwmen Lighten Their Toil.

CHARLESTON, Feb. 16.—Texas has long aspired to leadership in the production of cotton. The cotton statement for Jan. 1 shows that she did lead last season, producing 2,861,653 bales; Georgia comes next with 1,151,460 bales; then Mississippi, with 1,127,260 bales; Alabama is fourth in the list, with 825,746 bales, while South Carolina occupies fifth place, with 787,808 bales. A great deal of the Texas cotton is shipped from Galveston, where the cotton screwmen and stevedores are about equally divided between the blacks and whites. The screwmen at Galveston work by the piece, and average $5 a day, while the foremen, one in every squad of five men, receive $7.50 a day. In Charleston, from which a vast volume of South Carolina's export cotton is shipped, a different system prevails. The stevedores are all white, while the foremen and screwmen are all black and colored. The foremen get $5 a day and the screwmen get $4 a day.

The great world at large, which has its own business to attend to, and seldom sees more of an ocean freight steamer than her smokestack and masts as she stands as a chained leviathan at her pier, knows very little of the capacity of such a ship, or the toil and anxiety which are involved in loading her with the precious products designed for foreign ports.

The loading of a steamship is not such an easy thing as it would appear to be at first sight. The stevedore contracts to put as many bales of cotton and as much of other substances into the big thing of iron within a given time, usually ten days, as she will hold. During the time the steamer is in port she is in the hands of the stevedore. He is responsible to the shipper or broker who has the contract for her return cargo. The Captain may dance and curse and give all the captious orders his sea dog nature may prompt, but the stevedores and the screwmen waste very little time, attention, or sympathy on him. They simply let him "shoot himself out," as they phrase it.

I went through the Urania, a Liverpool tramp here, with Mr. S. W. Bennett, an old Custom House employee, recently, and was surprised to find that the small steamer was under contract to carry 9,000 bales of cotton, 300 pounds or thereabouts to the bale, 3,000 barrels of turpentine, and 30,000 tons of cottonseed meal, which is a very high grade fertilizer, much used of very late years in Europe and America, instead of phosphates, guano, and other fertilizers.

It was in one of the compartments of the iron tramp steamship Urania that I first witnessed the interesting process of packing a large bale of cotton into the very smallest space, much less than an ordinary bale of cotton would occupy. The process of "nosing up" three bales of cotton into the space which two would ordinarily occupy cannot be understood or explained by the uninitiated. There are five men in each squad, one of whom is the foreman, who does nothing but direct which bale shall be fitted into a given space and the manner in which it shall be placed. The four men throw the heavy bales into position as easily as if they were straws, albeit with numerous grunts untranslatable. It is a matter of dexterity and not of strength. The three bales are piled upon each other edgewise, and then a long notched plank is placed against one of the iron stanchions resting on the floor or against a layer of cotton, as the case may be. One end of the screw, which weighs about 300 pounds, is placed against the three bales of cotton, and the other in one of the notches or the plank, which is about two inches thick. Then the "nosing" begins. The four men yank the crank of the screw, which has a right and left prong, by a sudden jerk sufficient to disarrange the physical organism of an amateur.

During this process of "nosing" the four screwmen become bathed in perspiration and croon the most outlandish gibberish. It is hardly to be comprehended by the untutored ear. The swaying of the black bodies is as regular as if they were automatons. As they sway and croon the three bales gradually yield to the turning of the crank until they are compressed, flat side down, into the space which two bales, unpressed, would occupy. This monotonous and tiresome process is repeated hour after hour until the 9,000 bales are compressed into the space which 6,000 bales would occupy thrown into the ship's hold in the usual way. Usually only one crew occupies a compartment, but in the Urania I found two crews at work, because of the great width of the ship.

As the process of "nosing" proceeded, each of the gangs crooned a ditty, in which the big foreman sometimes joined, which was as intensely diverting as it was nonsensical. One of the songs ran in this wise:

I lubes Miss Susan, she lubes me:
Pull erway, pull erway;
She fat gone fer de oddder sho';
Pull erway, pull erway;
I lubes Miss Susan, she lubes me;
Pull erway, pull erway.

It is impossible to describe the peculiar gyrations of the bodies and the weird, crooning, musical sound of the voices, especially in the refrain, as this song, repeated over and over until the three bales are "nosed" up, and begun again when another three bales are placed in position to be "nosed." But the song that struck me most forcibly was the following:

Riley hab a baby; de baby hab no head;
Frow um in de fryin'-pan, an call um ginger bread.
Rio, Riley, Democrat Riley, oh;
Rio, Riley, oh; Rio Riley, oh.

The last line would be drawn out in a long, ringing cadence and die away in a gentle echoing sound. The amount of music which the four men managed to extract from these senseless words would astonish Mr. Dvorak or Mr. Damrosch.

I became interested in Riley, as I judged he must have been some local celebrity, and upon investigation found such to be the case. Riley was a hackman. He was coal black, tall, and as straight as an arrow. He was something of a dandy withal. Riley did not take to politics in the reconstruction days, but as a matter of business he announced himself as a Democrat. This drew down upon his devoted head the wrath of the entire black population, including the street boys, all of whom made his life a burden. But his business prospered. The whites patronized him more and more, until Riley's hack business expanded into a flourishing livery stable. But before this, on one occasion, infuriated members of his race chased him all over town the better part of a day; then, again, they smashed his hack into splinters, and his white admirers chipped in and bought him a better rig than the old one.

Rio, Riley, Democrat Riley, oh;
Rio, Riley, oh; Rio, Riley, oh;

was a refrain to improvisations of all sorts, mostly of the most grotesque nature, by old and young of Charleston's black population. But Riley clung to the even tenor of his Democracy and prospered in his livery business, until one unlucky day he came into collision with a white man who used a gun, and Riley's light went out. The fact that he lived and prospered because he shaped his politics to meet the requirements of his business is kept alive by such songs as that sung by black screwmen in the hold of a monster iron tramp from Liverpool.

The screwmen of New Orleans whom I saw at Galveston did not sing while "nosing" cotton. As they turned the crank of the screw the sudden jerk was accompanied by a grunt which can be compared to no other sort of a grunt I ever heard, and which I do not think was ever heard outside of a ship's hold as uttered by a black screwman.

The cotton shipment movement lasts about five months of the year, when Galveston, New Orleans, Mobile, Savannah, and Charleston employ an army of black screwmen. They receive good wages, but I was informed at Galveston and here that they save very little of their money. On Saturday it comes in one hand and goes out of the other. When the pressing season is over they take to fishing, truck driving, and whatever else they can get to do. They toil only that others may grow rich.

T. THOMAS FORTUNE.

The Natives on Trial at Honolulu.

From the Pacific Commercial Advertiser.

The natives brought to trial were H. C. Ulukou, Keki, Keolo, Tommy A-i, Inosole, John Piko, Kaanaana, William Kekoa, Elia, Sam Hookano, Kahikikoin, Kola Kapena, Walauae, Keawe, Bikilea, George Makalena, Kamae, Kalawalu, James H. Bush, Buff Moepali, Manuel Rosa, and John Wise. The general plea was not guilty to inciting or abetting the rebellion, and while nearly all admitted that they had taken up arms, they had done so from fear of the consequences threatened by the leaders. Considerable time was consumed with explaining the true purport of the charge and specifications, with the following results: Ulukou, not guilty; Keki, guilty to charge and specifications; Keolo, guilty to charge and specifications; Tommy A-i, the same; Inosole, guilty to specifications and not guilty to charge; John Piko, guilty to specifications excepting the clause "abetting, counselling others," also guilty to charge; Kaanaana, guilty to both specifications and charge; William Kekoa, the same as Piko; Elia, not guilty; Sam Hookano, not guilty; Kahikikoin, not guilty