The Sun.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 11, 1895.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to Foreign Countries added.

THE SUN, New York city.

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LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the UNITED PRESS and NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS is at 51 to 59 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

Lord Salisbury's Speech.

Upon its face, the speech of the British Prime Minister to the guests of the new Lord Mayor of London, on Saturday evening, was no more than an exposition of very pacific intentions on the part of his Government in the conduct of foreign affairs.

With regard to the progress of Russia in Asia, and its supposed schemes for acquiring Chinese territory, he declared that he looked upon them with absolute equanimity, and that he agreed with Lord BEACONSFIELD in thinking that there is room for everybody in Asia. As to Turkey, he said that Her Majesty's Government, ruling over more Moslems than the Sultan does, cannot take part in favor of Christians against Moslems. All it asked was absolute justice, so that Christians and Moslems shall observe each other's rights and pursue their respective industries in confidence and peace. This demand the Sultan had conceded as a matter of theory; the only question was the manner of fulfilling his promise.

After these peaceful utterances, however, Lord SALISBURY went on to say:

"If the Sultan can be persuaded to give justice to the Armenians it will not signify what the exact nature of the undertaking may be. If he will not heartily resolve to do justice to them the most ingenious Constitution that can be framed will not avail to protect or assist the Armenians. Only through the Sultan can any real, permanent blessings be conferred on his subjects.

"What if the Sultan is not persuaded? *I am bound to say that the news reaching us from Constantinople does not give much cheerfulness in that respect.* You will readily understand that I can only speak briefly on such a matter. It would be dangerous to express the opinions that are on my lips lest they injure the cause of peace and good order, which, above all things, I have at heart. But supposing the Sultan will not give those reforms, what is to follow?

"The first answer I should give is that above all treaties, all combinations of the powers, in the nature of things, is Providence. God, if you please to put it so, has determined that persistent and constant misgovernment must lead the Government which follows it to its doom; and while I readily admit that it is quite possible that the Sultan, if he likes, can govern with justice and can be persuaded, *he is not exempt any more than any other potentate from the law that injustice will bring the highest one on earth to ruin.* It is not only the necessary action of the law of which I speak on which we may rely. *There is the authority of the great powers.*"

Translating this guarded diplomatic language into plain English, it means that, if the Sultan will not adopt effective measures for protecting his Christian subjects in the enjoyment of equal rights with their Moslem brethren, the Great Powers of Europe will themselves undertake the government of his empire. In fact, the London *Spectator*, which is credited with being an unofficial organ of the British Government, described, in an article published on Saturday, the course of proceeding likely to be followed. Austria, aided by Great Britain, will occupy Macedonia; Russia will march into Armenia, and the fleets of Great Britain and France will anchor off Constantinople. That this will be tantamount to the dismemberment of Turkey the *Spectator* concedes; but it says that Europe's gigantic armaments could not, in the interests of civilization, be better employed.

In confirmation of the *Spectator's* announcement, private intelligence lately received in this city makes the proposed allotment of the Turkish territory to be this: Austria will take Macedonia; the Danubian provinces will be independent; Russia will have Armenia; Great Britain Egypt and Syria, and France Asia Minor, leaving Constantinople to be governed by a Commission representing all the Powers.

Of course it is within the power of the Sultan to defeat this scheme by timely concessions, but his fanaticism is such, and he is surrounded by so evil advisers, that he is likely to invite his doom and become the last occupant of the Turkish throne. Any way, the world is approaching important events which it will take only a short time to bring about.

Joy Between Buffalo and Albany.

There is joy along the towpath between Buffalo and Albany and between Oswego and Syracuse because the proposition to expend $9,000,000 in improving the two main canal waterways of the State is successful. Those citizens who live along the line of the Oswego and Champlain canals are also happy, as the improvement will benefit them. The law makes about $4,000,000 immediately available. On Jan. 1 that amount of canal bonds will be placed on the market.

New York's canals, the chief of which, the Erie Canal, was completed in 1825, have cost collectively for construction and repairs the sum of $100,000,000. The canal system now comprises 640 miles of navigable canals and 84 miles of feeders. There are 261 locks, 1,100 bridges, 93 waste weirs, and 865 culverts. What the new law, the expenditures of which the people authorized by their vote on Tuesday, provides is the deepening of the Erie and Oswego canals to nine feet and of the Champlain Canal to seven feet, at an expense not to exceed $9,000,000. All single locks on the Oswego Canal and those on the Erie Canal are to be lengthened and equipped with proper hydraulic machinery, not only for drawing boats in and out of the locks, but also for operating the lock gates.

The original policy of the State in respect to its canals was by the collection of tolls to make them either self-supporting, or at least sufficiently self-supporting to pay for ordinary repairs and maintenance. In his memorable message sent to the Legislature on Jan. 4, 1876, Governor TILDEN called attention to the fact that in the fiscal year preceding only one of the canals of the State, the Erie Canal, had yielded more in tolls than it consumed in expenditures. Finding from investigation, that in the five years preceding the date of his message the State of New York had collected for extraordinary repairs and deficiencies from canals between $11,000,000 and $12,000,000, and that, notwithstanding this outlay, the service of the canals was not satisfactory to merchants and shippers, Governor TILDEN declared:

"In this condition of things I propose reconciliation between the discontented taxpayers and the distressed transporters by a thorough reform in the service and the system, which should remit taxes, reduce tolls, and increase the efficiency of the canals."

The reforms introduced by Mr. TILDEN were of great benefit and service, and later on, as the competition of the railroads became more active and more successful, the policy of the State was further broadened by a reduction of the tolls and by the abandonment of such of the canals as were not an essential part of the system and had ceased to yield any material revenue. In a recent report made to the Chamber of Commerce the declaration was made that "it costs nearly three times as much to carry grain to our harbor over the 500 miles of the Erie Canal, as to bring it over the 900 miles of water between Chicago and Buffalo, or the 1,100 miles of water between Duluth and Buffalo." "If," the report added, "the Legislature could now be induced to improve the Erie Canal, wheat could be carried much cheaper and faster. We then could better compete with other exporting centres."

This is what is to be done, and the advantages of the change will certainly outweigh the expenditure. New York raises for its canals in a year about $1,500,000 from taxation.

The Alaskan Boundary Dispute.

The denial by the Dominion Minister of Militia that forces have been sent to take possession of the disputed territory in the Yukon country, in behalf of Great Britain, will perhaps relieve some anxiety felt for American miners there. If we can trust the reports from Ottawa no new forts have been erected, and Fort Cudahy, where Capt. CONSTANTINE is stationed with a score of the Northwest Mounted Police to prevent smuggling, is on the 141st meridian, which is one of the undisputed treaty bounds.

While this assurance is gratifying, the recent words of Senator MORGAN carry none the less weight:

"There can be but one conclusion to that dispute. This Government will certainly never admit the British contention that the ten marine leagues of our coast line begin at the outer edge of the islands that stud the coast."

If England's claim were to be admitted, she would get possession of some bays and inlets through which the trade of Alaska is carried on. A distinguishing feature of that coast is the line of islands lying off the mainland, and affording a convenient dwelling place for the people. The determination of the boundary may give Great Britain lofty peaks, like Mt. St. Elias, or valuable placer mines in the Yukon district; but she cannot come down to tidewater and get the use of Alaskan harbors, freed from our Government customs regulations, by her preposterous pretence of reckoning the ten-league strip from the outer edges of these numerous littoral isles.

The convention of Feb. 28, 1825, between Russia and Great Britain, under which we derive our rights, has this description of the boundary line:

"ARTICLE III.—Commencing from the southernmost point of the island called Prince of Wales Island, which point lies in the parallel of 54° 40' north latitude, and between the 131st and 133d degrees of west longitude (meridian of Greenwich), the said line shall ascend to the north along the channel called Portland Channel, as far as the point of the continent where it strikes the 56th degree of north latitude; and from this last-mentioned point the line of demarcation shall follow the summit of the mountains situated parallel to the west as far as the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude (of the same meridian); and finally from the said point of intersection, the said meridian line of the 141st degree, in its prolongation as far as the Frozen Ocean, shall form the limit between Russian and British possessions on the continent of America to the northwest."

The next article of the agreement stipulated that Prince of Wales Island should belong wholly to Russia, and then proceeded to define the line of demarcation already spoken of in the following terms:

"That whenever the summit of the mountains that extend in a direction parallel to the coast from the 56th degree of north latitude to the point of intersection of the 141st degree of west longitude shall prove to be at the distance of more than ten marine leagues from the ocean, the limit between the British possessions and the line of coast which is to belong to Russia, as above mentioned, shall be formed by a line parallel to the winding of the coast, which shall never exceed the distance of ten marine leagues therefrom."

Is there any reasonable doubt that when this treaty was made, seventy years ago, the phrase, "the winding of the coast," was understood by those who used it to mean the winding of the mainland shore? It is of such a contour that the term "winding" would naturally be used, rather than of the outer edges of islands which, so far from being continuous, may in places be miles or scores of miles from each other.

This is not the only point involved in settling the boundary question, but it is one of primary importance for securing the seaboard line to the United States. That the purpose of the treaty was to give this seacoast strip to Russia is clear, and our country naturally does not admit a forced interpretation that would rob it of a part of its legitimate control there.

The Palisades.

The question of setting apart the Palisades as a national reservation is likely to come before Congress at the approaching session. The Legislature of New York early this year passed a bill having for its aim "the acquisition of the Palisades of the Hudson River for the United States." It provided for the appointment of three Commissioners to confer with three from New Jersey for the adoption of a plan under which Congress might purchase the Palisades "as a reservation, or for the purposes of fortification."

It was perhaps natural, and certainly in accordance with custom in such cases, to appeal to Congress to perform the required task. The object, of course, is to save the majestic wall of rock which forms one of the most characteristic features of the Hudson, from further destruction by the quarrymen. But while this purpose is so desirable, its attainment should not be made to depend wholly upon the favorable action of the general Government.

To use this line of cliffs for fortifications would be little less than preposterous, and certainly a great waste of money compared with its expenditure at other places for the defence of New York. They could not be of any value whatever as an auxiliary to the seaward defences of the city, whether at the southern or the eastern entrance, or in preventing an enemy who had forced those defences from coming near enough to hold the city at its mercy. It is highly improbable that a hostile army could approach from Canada or elsewhere as far as the Palisades, but if it did it could reduce the city in spite of them.

As to the other alternative suggested in the act passed by the New York Legislature, that of a Government reservation or park, where perhaps troops in and around New York might be exercised, it would be only less out of the question. To take the regulars from the harbor forts to the top of the Palisades for purposes of drill would be a singular proceeding, apart from the fact that the duty mainly expected of them is the protection of the city as garrisons of the forts. There is now room in the harbor reservations for the training and evolutions of the forces now on duty here or likely to be called here.

It is well to mention these points in order that the Commissioners who deal with Congress in the matter may be prepared for the objections that will be raised to their scheme. If they have these objections well in mind, they may perhaps be able to frame a plan under which the general Government may be somehow justified in undertaking the task of preserving the Palisades, either alone or in coöperation with New Jersey and New York.

Perhaps it may be wise to ascertain, in the first place, the minimum that is needed for the main purpose, namely, to save the face or slope of the Palisades from destruction, and then to add alternate projects like those of a driveway on the bank or a park at the top. In its simplest form the scheme would have the advantage of comparatively small cost with the main purpose accomplished. In its more elaborate form it would suggest combining this main purpose with other advantages. But under the peculiar wording of the act of the Legislature, the Commissioners spoken of are limited to making an appeal to Congress. Should this be done successfully, the problem will be solved; but an adequate solution should not be despaired of, even if it is thrown back upon the States, and particularly upon New Jersey, which in this matter has most at stake.

Three in Five—Two in Three.

A conversation reported in *Turf, Field and Farm* shows that discussion as to reducing the standard of trotting races from three heats in five to two heats in three is already active. Mr. DAVID BONNER, whose interest in the trotting horse is as noted as his knowledge, argued with Mr. ALBERT C. HALL, a breeder of Kentucky, that the change ought to be made as calculated to "help the breeder and increase the attendance at races." Mr. HALL's reply indicated the cause of the *status quo* to be hopelessly weak. Our contemporary gives it here:

"The breeder has suffered because supply is in excess of demand. Anything that will quicken consumption will benefit him. The clip at which the trotters and pacers are going in contests of divided heats, is using the horses up rapidly. One long campaign is all that the average horse can stand. His owner is compelled to retire him from the track to the road and buy new material for the next campaign. The extra demand is eating up the surplus stock of breeding farmers and giving better tone to the market for horses that are bred to trot and can trot more than two heats in one afternoon. Why put a check upon consumption when consumption is the hope of the man who breeds to sell?"

Mr. HALL's confession that "the clip at which the trotters and pacers are going in contests of divided heats is using the horses up rapidly," and that "one long campaign is all that the average horse can stand," is sufficient to show the three in five system to be doomed. Horse owners trot for their own pockets and not the pockets of breeders, and no horse owner worth making an exception of prefers to use his horse up in a season. When it is clearly recognized that the modern increase in speed has brought the interests of trotting men and breeding men into conflict, the former must prevail, even at the latter's expense.

The breeding man breeds for the trotting man and not for himself. If he trots horses of his own breeding, he will soon lose his desire to work them off their legs. The running-horse men long ago discarded their long heat races, and the speed of the trotter is now so much more exhausting and destructive than it was in the old 2:40 days, that the sort of races in use fifty years ago, and used still, must be changed, at least for the faster classes. This Kentucky breeder's own argument in opposition shows that the change is but a matter of time.

The Defence of Baltimore.

Gen. CRAIGHILL's recommendation that a battery of heavy guns should be planted at North Point for the defence of Baltimore, is one of interest. The outer line of protection, both for that port and for Washington, is at Hampton Roads, therein including Fort Monroe and the entrance to Chesapeake Bay. But there is a clear possibility of forcing this line, so that it becomes desirable to provide defences nearer the important cities on the Potomac and the Patapsco. Powerful batteries are to be placed at Fort Washington, about a dozen miles below the national capital, on the Maryland bank of the Potomac, and a like provision at the mouth of the Patapsco would secure protection for Baltimore.

Ten years ago the Fortifications Board put Baltimore ninth in a list of twenty-seven ports most requiring defences. It proposed for it five 12-inch, five 10-inch, and five 8-inch guns, with sixteen 12-inch mortars, and reckoned the entire cost of the forts and their armament, together with submarine mines, at $2,184,000. Such an outlay should be ample, because Baltimore can really be protected in part not only by the outer line of defences in the region of Cape Henry and Cape Charles, but by obstructions in the Patapsco.

But North Point, as the Chief of Engineers shows, is the place for the defences immediately designed for the special purpose of protecting Baltimore; it was there that the British landed when they marched against the city in 1814.

They Should Not Disband Until Justice Is Done to Their Foremost Mind.

We notice with surprise a report from Indianapolis which asserts that the Populist party of Indianapolis is about to shut up shop in discouragement and disgust. Members of the Populist Executive Committee of that State are said to have resigned, or to be about to resign, confident that their occupation is gone. It seems to us that these too-quick despairers need a sounder heart. If the colossal and unequalled cranks who gave their party its interest and its distinction, have fallen by the wayside, and no longer possess the air; if WAITE and LEWELLING and PEFFER no longer rule the audible universe, yet there is hope. There will always be people to reject the multiplication table, and to insist that the laws of gravitation are crooked; and the number of cranks is a fixed average quantity except in some parts of Kansas. There is no reason why the Populists should be full of doleful dumps. There will commonly be grasshoppers while the world lasts; and even the decay of free silver will not obstruct the progress of calamity. And if the earlier race of statesmen decay, there are others.

The Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND, the consecrated stepfather of the Income Tax, is still in the field. He is a good Populist, if good Populist there is; and the Populist party ought to have the gratitude and the decency to keep together long enough to nominate him for President next year.

The book crop of these years is stupendous, immeasurably greater than that of any other period in the world's history. We have attempted to gather the statistics of the book crop of this year in the four chief book-growing countries, Germany, France, England, and the United States. We are not yet able to give the exact figures of the gross product; but we have got to a point where it seems pretty safe to say that about one thousand new books have been printed in these countries every week of the year. Talk of the corn, the watermelon, cotton, swine, apple, and bean crops; but don't forget the book crop. Think of the great industries; but be sure to put among them the book-making industry. It gives employment all the time to tens of thousands of authors, paper makers, compositors, typefounders, pressmen, press builders, bookbinders, pen makers, and ink makers, besides book publishers and book sellers. If all the time and the energy used up in the writing, making, and reading of books were applied to the cultivation of the soil, the earth would blossom like the rose, and every one would have leisure for serious thought.

We have before us at this moment the autumn catalogue of the books got out by a single publishing house. The catalogue itself is a big book, and contains hundreds of titles. The compositions of one poet take up sixteen volumes; those of another are in ten. The books are upon almost every subject that has ever occupied the mind of man or of woman. We would like to read ever so many of them; but we couldn't get through even a quarter of them in a year, if we gave up all our time to reading. We are speaking of the catalogue of but a single publisher whose books are in the English language. There are hundreds of other publishers whose books are in the languages of the four countries here named. The year's crop of books is overwhelming.

We are not discouraging honest authors. We offer encouragement to every author who is able to write a good new book. We need a fresh supply of such books all the time. There is room for them in the world.

With the six leading powers of Europe taking charge of the Armenian question, and with the fleets of England, Russia, France, and Italy assembling near the scene, our country obviously needs in the Mediterranean no greater naval force than it has there. The San Francisco and the Marblehead are fine cruisers, and the political condition of the Porte, rather than any dangers to missionaries, is the problem of the hour. Still, it is not unlikely that our force in European waters will next year be increased to three, if not four, ships.

Elsewhere in THE SUN we print the figures which mark the increase of immigration at this port during the past six months, as compared with the corresponding period of last year. The increase has been unexpectedly large, amounting, indeed, to 50,000 souls. The tide of immigration, which ran low for some time, has again risen; and we are led to surmise by advices from Europe that the volume of it may soon be as large as it was in the years before the panic.

Year after year we have urged Congress to pay some attention to this important question, to turn a thought upon the great alien drift toward our country. The matter has been too long left unheeded.

When Russia shall obtain possession of Constantinople in southern Europe, and of Port Arthur in eastern Asia, her power will be doubled.

Points of analogy between the late war of Japan and China and the Franco-German conflict of a quarter of a century ago have often suggested themselves, and another is now added. For, as the uprising of the Commune followed the conclusion of peace with Germany, so in China the Mohammedan rebellion is making great headway. Matters become serious when the leader of the Dungans after a series of victories threatens a march on Pekin unless his terms are complied with. And for the suppression of this rebellion China has no GORDON at command. And another cause of trouble is the mutiny of troops at Kiu-Kiang, on the Yangtse, above Shanghai.

In considering the prospects of a quarrel between Russia and Japan regarding Corea, it must be borne in mind that while the former is overwhelmingly the greater in military and naval resources, the latter has the advantage of position and of operation at a point near her base. This is well understood, no doubt, by the strategists of the islands, whom their victory over China has confirmed in the belief that bulk of territory or population may not be the most important element in deciding a contest between nations. Of course there is not a moment's comparison between the splendid fighting abilities of Russia's army and navy and the weakness shown by China; but the point is that Russia cannot use all her strength, and especially at the outset.

Russia's navy is far stronger than Japan's, but the immediate question is as to the force she has in Asiatic waters, and not as to the force in the Baltic and the Black. So, too, the preponderance of Russia's army is enormous, but with her trans-Asiatic railroad not yet built, it is a long and costly process to bring much of that force to bear against Japan. Matters, however, are not yet pushed to the point of prospective war, and the two countries may find that their interests can be harmonized.

THE ANTI-LYNCHING CLAUSE.

South Carolina's Constitutional Convention Discussing Jurisprudence.

COLUMBIA, S. C., Nov. 10.—The Constitutional Convention spent all of yesterday considering two sections of the article on jurisprudence. The measure to prevent lynchings was read and amended as follows:

"In the case of any prisoner lawfully in the charge, custody, or control of any officer, State, county, or municipal, being seized and taken from said officer, through his negligence, permission, or connivance, by a mob or other unlawful assemblage of persons, and at their hands suffering bodily violence or death, the said officer shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon a true bill found shall be deposed from his office, and shall, unless pardoned by the Governor, henceforth be ineligible to hold any office of trust or profit within this State. It shall be the duty of the Prosecuting Attorney, within whose circuit or county the offence may be committed, to forthwith institute a prosecution against said officer, who shall be indicted and tried in such county other than the one in which the offence was committed, as the Attorney-General may elect in the same circuit."

A Platform for the Democratic Party.

Seriously Proposed by J. A. Mette of South Carolina.

We demand that the Constitution shall be abolished, and declare in favor of a Bill of Rights.

We demand that the Senate shall be abolished, as it is an aristocratic body and opposed to popular government.

We demand that the President shall be deprived of the right to veto an act of Congress, and that the Governor of a State shall be deprived of the right to veto an act of the Legislature.

We demand that the courts shall be deprived of the power to nullify any of the laws of a State or of the United States.

We demand that all important legislation, when petition is made by two-fifths of the members of Congress, or of a State Legislature, shall be referred directly to the people in a general election.

The Number of Drunkards.

From the Quarterly Journal of Inebriety.

I stated two years ago that there were approximately one million six hundred thousand persons who use spirits to excess in the United States. By excess I meant all persons who drank to intoxication continuously or at long intervals. These figures were reached from a study of the statistics of persons arrested for intoxication in the lower courts, also the general opinion of persons with a wide acquaintance among business men, who assert that less than 2 per cent. of all drinking men come under legal notice.

Of course, wide differences of opinion will prevail until some accurate statistics are made. Two attempts to make a census of drinking men in Eastern towns revealed many difficulties and the intensely morbid desire to conceal the drinking customs of people. Both of these censuses indicated one drinking man to every eight persons, and produced a strong conviction that this was a very low proportion. There are many reasons for believing that the estimate of a million six hundred thousand persons who use spirits to excess in this country is a minimum rather than a maximum statement.

Consolation for the Goo-Goos.

From the Nebraska State Journal.

O, don't be discouraged though borne to defeat
Upon the cold wave of the desolate tide;
It always must happen that some shall be beat
While others, in grandeur, to victory ride.

I've been there myself, and I know how it feels
To sense the cold chill of an awful despair,
When late in the evening the ballot reveals
You're left, while your heartless opponent is "there."

I know how the morning once dawned on my grief,
To think he should win after all I had said;
I called him a liar, a rogue, and a thief,
And after election I took to my bed.

The sun will shine on as it ever has done,
The moonbeams disperse the dark shadows of night;
Cheer up, my good friend, you're not weeping alone—
Just think of the many who lost in the fight.

Be glad, if you can, for the fellows who won,
Rejoice in the joy of their prosperous trip;
You did all you could—made an elegant run—
So now, in defeat keep a stiff upper lip.

NAVAL NEWS AND NOTES.

The Personnel Bill—Water-tube Boilers—The Making of Guns.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 10.—The amount of work done in the last Congress on the plans for reorganizing the personnel of the navy will, it is believed, allow abundant time for effecting final legislation on the subject at the coming session, especially as it is the long one.

The great need is felt to be that of a measure which will unite in its support both line and staff, and both young officers and old. Again, while quicker promotion, with consequent increase of pay, is the general object aimed at, this must not be sought at such a cost as will create an outcry against it in Congress. And especially is it considered inadvisable to propose to carry too many officers on retired and reserve lists.

Every calling in life is desirous to better itself, and the naval profession only follows this general rule. The army, on its part, has a scheme of reorganization on hand, with a view to increase promotions. In such proposals the rule of "each for himself" is human, and it leads to some complaints. Thus, some of the older officers of the navy think that the younger men are trying to crowd them out of the active list, and they do not propose to be crowded out without a struggle. Again, the staff is determined to get some of the advantages it has long been seeking, if its support of measures for the benefit of the line is to be accorded. But with the need of harmony so apparent, and also of moderation in the increase of the cost of the naval service, it is thought that an acceptable measure will be framed.

As a result of the examination by Chief Engineer Perry and Passed Assistant Engineer Bryant of the lake steamer Zenith City, a freight boat, water-tube boilers of a pattern similar to hers are likely to be put on the new composite gunboat to be built at Elizabethport, on one of those awarded to the Union Iron Works at San Francisco, and on one of those secured by the Bath Iron Works. But Chief Engineer Melville opposes the introduction of water-tube boilers of any type into the larger and more important vessels as a substitute for the Scotch or cylindrical fire tube.

Admiral Ramsay's statement of the number of knots made by vessels of the navy during the year, and of their average speed, was wholly without comment, and he is credited with saying that he thought all these ships could be made to repeat their record speed, should there be any object in doing so.

One point brought out in Admiral Ramsay's report is that while eight vessels were put into commission during the year on which he reports, nine were put out. This fact illustrates the difficulty in increasing the number of vessels available; for while some old vessels drop out altogether from the cruising list, others have to be repaired.

Another interesting matter is that more than sixty-nine per cent. of our enlisted force are American citizens. This proportion is likely to increase steadily under the operation of existing laws.

The relief in the command of the Asiatic station for which Admiral Carpenter has asked, on account of the serious illness of his wife, who is in the United States, anticipates his retirement for age in February. Commodore F. V. McNair, his successor, is familiar with the far East.

It is hoped that the provisions made for ships and guns by Congress at the coming session will allow the Government factory at the Washington yard to be kept in full operation. The wise policy adopted for both the army and the navy has been to encourage private enterprise while also maintaining Government construction plants, both as an independent and sure source of reliance and as a check against combinations to raise prices unduly. Both the army and the navy, therefore, depend for supplies of the steel ingots which they make up into heavy guns. In addition, the army, for coast defence, under the action of Congress, ordered 100 heavy guns complete from the Bethlehem works, and many mortars also from private works.

The navy, however, in some respects, goes far beyond the army in its call upon private industries. Thus, nearly all its new steel fleet has been built in private yards, the Maine and the Texas and the Raleigh and the Cincinnati, with the completion of the double-turreted monitors, being exceptions to the rule. Again, while the War Department makes all its own small arms, at Springfield, the navy supplies its small arms from private manufacturers, its recent contract for 10,000 of the Lee rifles being a case in point. Still another instance is the supply of secondary batteries from private sources, no fewer than 431 Hotchkiss and 165 Driggs guns having been ordered and completed, as Capt. Sampson notes in his last report. Other supplies will of course be needed for new ships from time to time.

Yet it is highly important, also, that the factories at Watervliet and Washington should be kept busy. The naval factory will now get some new work through the decision of Secretary Herbert to construct there a hundred three-inch field guns for landing and boat service, just as the army constructs its field pieces. While that will help to furnish employment for a time, yet it would be well for Congress, now that the Washington ordnance yard foresees leisure, to employ it in supplying a reserve of guns both for the navy and for the auxiliary cruisers. One additional source of work will be the conversion of the old six-inch guns into rapid-fire guns by applying to them the Fletcher breech mechanism.

The Dolphin, the creditable pioneer in our new steel fleet, is to perform a useful duty in blowing up derelicts along the coast.

IMMIGRATION.

It Has Been Large at This Port During the Past Six Months.

The immigration to this port from Europe during the past six months, or from the opening of May to the end of October, has been much larger than it was during the corresponding period of last year. There has been an increase for each of these months, as will be seen by the following table:

IMMIGRANTS LANDED AT THE PORT OF NEW YORK.

	1895.	1894.
May	22,832	34,648
June	17,403	24,837
July	11,748	17,904
August	11,478	18,424
September	14,834	28,025
October	15,383	23,426
Totals for six months	92,673	142,164

It thus appears that the immigrants landed at Ellis Island from May to October of this year, inclusive, numbered very nearly 50,000 more, or, in exact figures, 49,491, than for the same months of the year 1894. Italy and Russia have sent their full share of this increase.

It is true that, in giving the statistics by fiscal years, which is the official method, there was a decrease of immigration in that one of them which ended in the month of June last, as compared with the one which ended in June of last year. It was in the spring of this year that the increase over the previous year began, and it has continued steadily since the spring, as may be seen from the monthly returns given in the foregoing tabulated statement.

There is every reason for believing that when the current fiscal year is ended in June next the immigration statistics will be much higher than they have been for some years past. This estimate is justified by the fact that, while the arrivals for the fiscal year 1894-5 numbered but 190,928, those for the past six months have numbered 142,164. The falling off for the last fiscal year occurred in the first half of it, or in the year 1894.

There is no office under the Government in which the statistics are more carefully kept than in that of the Commissioner of Immigration for the Port of New York. About 80 per cent. of all the immigrants to the United States from foreign countries are landed at Ellis Island. That is the place in which those who are interested in the question of immigration have the best opportunity to study it.

ON FIRE IN THE PACIFIC.

Working Desperately for a Week to Save the Ship John Ena.

SAN FRANCISCO, Nov. 9.—The Hawaiian ship John Ena arrived this morning from Newcastle, Australia. She reports that on Oct. 25 smoke was seen issuing through the trunk hatches and the deck houses of the vessel. Capt. Schnauer set to work to discover the place of the fire, and found that smoke was coming from one of the hatches. The men could not breathe between decks. All the hatches were opened and the steam force pumps set to work.

Enough coal was thrown overboard to permit the men to get under the deck; beams near the hatchway, where considerable coal was found to be on fire. The flames were fought desperately until Oct. 31, when they were subdued. Capt. Schnauer said that if it had not been for the ship's powerful steam pumps the vessel would undoubtedly have been lost.

The whaling steamer William Bayliss arrived from the north to-day. She brought 2,000 pounds of whalebone and 100 barrels of oil.

Gen. Martinez Campos.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—SIR: A recent article in THE SUN refers to Captain-General Martinez Campos as Campos. I have just returned from Cuba, and there he is never called simply "Campos," but always "Martinez Campos." As I understand it, his name properly is "Martinez y Campos," the Campos being the maiden name of his mother, and the Martinez the name of his father. Years ago, however, he dropped the "y," which is, I believe, a privilege enjoyed by Spaniards of much distinction. WILLIAM E. SILL.

NEW YORK, Nov. 9.

SWEPT BY A TIDAL WAVE.

A Wall of Water that Covered a Steamship Six Feet Deep on Her Upper Decks.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

The steamer Progreso, one of the great vessels chartered by the Panama Railroad Company in its opposition to the Pacific Mail, returned yesterday with the news of an encounter in the open ocean with the terrible tidal wave and cyclone that later destroyed La Paz and Culiacan. It was supposed here that the great storm passed over the ocean off the Gulf of Mexico, following a track that took it safe past all the large steamers. The Progreso, however, was in the very heart of it, and the news is just reaching her agents here because no telegraphic report was made while the steamer was at Panama.

The Progreso left this port for Panama on Sept. 24, and had a quiet run down the coast for the first four days and part of the fifth. The first warning came in strange barometric changes, followed by a gale, which was a forerunner of the cyclone proper, which burst upon the steamer from a southeasterly direction, and veered in the course of a brief space of time half around the compass. The Progreso has no sails whatever, and her Captain brought his vessel head on to the storm. The steamer was picked up and tossed about by giant waves like a whitehall in a bay gale. All hands were called on deck, and the Captain and mate were together on the bridge. The waves got higher and higher, and the dreadful, swirling wind fairly cut the faces of the men on the steamer. Powerful as were the Progreso's engines, it seemed barely possible to keep her out of the trough of the sea.

Although the sky was nearly as black as night, there was yet light enough for the officers to make out the shape of a monster wave, higher and more fierce than any of the others, which came upon the steamer like a race horse. Fortunately the Progreso was bow on to this great tide, and it swept completely over her, fore and aft. The Progreso was going to Panama rather light, and was consequently high up out of the water. Such was the height of this wave, though, that the water passed over the bridge and deep over the tops of the midships house. It passed clear over the whole steamer aft. The wreck on the deck of the big steamer was as complete as was ever seen on the deck of any deep-water ship. The Progreso had a wooden and steel bridge extending for 100 feet or less from the midships to the after house. This bridge was probably six feet above the main deck and supported on steel pillars two inches thick. The force of the great wave completely destroyed this bridge, bending and twisting the pillars as if they were mere wires. The steam winch was twisted and broken so that the men had to work for half a day fixing it at Panama.

The behavior of the Progreso in the critical moment was superb. She came up out of the water as serenely as a duck and went plunging on into the seas that followed the giant wave.

DEADLY SHOTS FIRED BY THE SUN.

In One Instance an Innocent Man Was Sentenced to Be Hanged.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

In the paper of last Saturday appeared an account of a strange accident in which a man was killed by the discharge of a gun while lying asleep on a lounge in his room, the weapon being discharged by reflected rays of the sun falling upon the cartridge chamber of the firearm.

Since the publication of the story a correspondent from York, Pa., writes concerning the accident, and refers to a similar case, in which, through the efforts of a clever Cincinnati lawyer named G. C. Wallis, the person accused of murder and sentenced to be hanged was set at liberty, the circumstantial evidence on which he was convicted being entirely exploded by a witnessed demonstration as to how the accident really occurred.

The York correspondent referred to volume 13 of the Criminal Law Magazine, page 607, on which a full account of the case appears. The case was that of the State of Tennessee against Avery, tried in Henry county, that State, and is one of the most remarkable in the history of criminal jurisprudence.

In June, 1887, Charles Ensley, the cousin of a man of the name of Avery, was killed in his room while lying on a lounge about 4 o'clock in the afternoon. The weapon which caused the death was a small rifle, sending a 32-calibre ball through Ensley's brain. No one was in the house at the time but Ensley. An empty rifle was found lying on a rack on a wall of the room in which the killing occurred, and the bullet fitted the tube.

Avery was arrested for the crime, as he was the only living close relative to Ensley, and by his death profited to the amount of about $100,000. Avery was tried, pleaded not guilty, but was convicted of murder in the first degree, and sentenced to be hanged. He appealed to the Supreme Court, and engaged Mr. Wallis to defend him. The Supreme Court remanded the case back to the Circuit Court on technical errors. Two mistrials were brought about, and then came the strangest part of the story. The brilliant Wallis struck the keynote to the mystery. In August, 1891, he had the rifle loaded and hung on the wall. A white sheet with the form of a man marked on it was placed in exactly the position occupied by Ensley when lying asleep, and a heavy cut-glass pitcher of water like the one found in the room was placed on the shelf above. The temperature was 90° in the shade, one of the hottest days of the year.

The pitcher acted as a sun glass, and the hot rays of the sun shining through the water were refracted directly on the cartridge chamber of the rifle.

Eight witnesses were in the room, and a few minutes after 3 o'clock a puff and a report occurred, and the ball struck the outlined form back of the ear in the exact location where Ensley was shot, and the theory of circumstantial evidence went to pieces. The incident, being witnessed and sworn to, readily explained itself to the jury.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Cordite having resisted the climate of India, orders have been issued to use up all the ordinary powder as soon as possible and to supply cordite to the troops.

London's twelve great livery companies and sixty minor guilds own between them more than $75,000,000 of property and derive a greater income from it than that of the universities. They will be asked by the London County Council before long to give an account of the uses to which the money is put.

Guy de Maupassant's statue in the Parc Monceau will be very modern. His bust stands on a column, around it is arranged a marble bench with cushions, on which reclines a young Parisian woman dressed in the latest fashion, with puffed sleeves and an hourglass waist, reading one of Maupassant's worst novels.

Henri Rochefort begins his memoirs by giving the recollections of his grandparents. His grandmother was in the Place de la Concorde when Marie Antoinette was executed, and described the Queen as stupefied and so limp that she had to be lifted from the cart to the scaffold. His father saw the troops swear fidelity to the "Acte Additionel" of Napoleon on June 1, 1815. The Emperor was dressed in a troubadour costume of white satin, with a crimson mantle. He looked very ridiculous, for his fat body was supported by thin little legs, and the white satin made his flabby, bilious face look green.

Crossing a female Manx cat with an ordinary tomcat has had results of surprising mathematical accuracy. The mother had six litters of three kittens each; in the first they were all tailless, in the second two were without tails, while one had a half tail; the third time only one was tailless, and two had half tails; with the fourth litter there were no more tailless kittens, but two had half tails and one a full tail; in the fifth the proportions were reversed, one having a half tail and two full tails, while in the sixth litter all the kittens had full tails. "The gradual elimination of the tailless condition characteristic of Manx cats," says *Nature*, "is singular, and well worth putting on record."

Potassiumorthodinitrocresolate is the name of a new antiseptic discovered in Germany, but as it is intended to be used generally it is also called antinonin. One part of the substance in from 1,000 to 2,000 parts of soapsuds is destructive to all the common parasites injurious to plants. Yeast used in brewing remains fresh for a long time when treated with it; it destroys all bacteria, and yeast can endure a solution as strong as five per cent. of the substance. It is odorless and very cheap. To determine whether water-colors are injured by being exposed to the light, experiments have recently been made in London with pigments, set in vacuo, set in dry air, and set in ordinary frame, and exposed for thirteen months. In a very large majority of cases no change was noticeable.

Some interesting figures for the mortality of French soldiers in the colonial possessions have been collected by M. Lagneau. The average mortality per thousand men, 7 in France and 12 in Algiers and Tunis, becomes 21 in Cochin China, 29 in Réunion, 50 in Guadeloupe and Martinique, 75 in Senegal, Tonkin, and Madagascar (the figures for which are those of the 1889 expedition), and 237 in Guiana. The troops most affected are those of the marine infantry, which is sent on all expeditions to new countries and is employed in garrisoning the most unhealthy posts, thus contracting disease which carries off the men even after they return to