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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 23 street. All information and documents are promptly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

Mr. Phelps on the Monroe Doctrine.

To inaugurate the law department of the Brooklyn Institute on Monday evening, the officers of that flourishing and influential organization asked the Hon. EDWARD J. PHELPS, a distinguished Vermont lawyer, Yale College lecturer, and former Minister to the Court of St. James's, to deliver a public address on the Monroe Doctrine. In response to this request, Mr. PHELPS made a remarkable speech. His conclusions are that this country is wrong in its attitude toward England on the Venezuelan question, and wrong in its attitude toward Spain on the Cuban question. As to Venezuela, he declares his belief that there never has been any boundary line at all between that republic and British Guiana. As to Cuba, he pronounces the rising of the patriots there "a rebellion of banditti, with no national organization, no capital or Government, a rebellion of pillage, anarchy, and murder."

Now, a lawyer can always make out his case if he can furnish the facts as well as the argument; and if the facts in regard to Venezuela and Cuba are what Mr. PHELPS asserts them to be, few would be found to question his conclusions. But our understanding of the facts is very different. We do not propose at this time to go into any elaborate or exhaustive discussion of the Venezuelan question; but we say that any one who has studied that question carefully, is aware that there is ample ground for the belief that Great Britain, in the guise of a mere boundary claim, has recently been endeavoring to appropriate a large area of territory which really belongs to a weak and poor South American republic. Does not such a condition of things present a proper case for remonstrance on our part? And yet all that we have actually done thus far is to attempt to ascertain, by means of the Commission now sitting in Washington, what is the true character and what the foundation of the British claim. Mr. PHELPS asserts that self-interest would justify our interfering "if some foreign power should seize Nicaragua and control the commerce that might pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific through that country." But is it not more credible and more honorable to protest in behalf of Venezuela, for principle's sake, than it would be to protect Nicaragua on account of the money invested in the proposed canal, or the commerce to be carried on there?

But it is when Mr. PHELPS leaves Venezuela and reaches Cuba that the judicial faculty becomes wholly lost in the passion of the advocate. He admits that there are two exceptions to the rule that we should attend to our own business and keep out of the controversies of other countries. One is when self-interest demands our intervention, as already suggested. The other is "where interference is necessary for humanity's sake, such as, for instance, is represented to have taken place in Armenia."

Adopting the rule and exceptions precisely as thus formulated, we are confident that any fair-minded person acquainted with the history of Cuba would justify our interfering for so short a period as the last twenty-five years, would unhesitatingly reach the conclusion that civilized nations ought to take some steps to relieve the people of that beautiful but unhappy island from the military oppression to which they are continuously subjected for the purposes of the foreign tax gatherer. "A rebellion of banditti," says Mr. PHELPS. "A rebellion of banditti" forsooth! Has it required thousands upon thousands of Spanish soldiers, and the best military talent which Spain can command, to enable that country to retain her grasp upon Cuba against the efforts of a rebellion of banditti? The Spaniards would hardly feel themselves complimented by the estimate which Mr. PHELPS puts upon their Cuban foes.

The patriotic people of Cuba are engaged in a struggle to be free. Their treatment by Spain has been such as to entitle them, at the very least, to the sympathy of all free and liberty-loving countries. It is painful to find that a public man of so much distinction as Mr. EDWARD J. PHELPS is so inadequately informed, or so unaccountably prejudiced, in reference to Cuban history, past and present, as not only to refuse his sympathy to the Cuban patriots, but to denounce them as bandits engaged in pillage, anarchy, and murder. On the other hand, it is pleasant to know that neither his misinformation nor his mistaken view as to the character of the combatants is shared by the Congress or the people of the United States.

The Curious Views of Mr. Phelps.

On Monday evening in Brooklyn the Hon. EDWARD J. PHELPS delivered an address on the Monroe doctrine. Some of the views which he propounded were remarkable as showing that some Americans are more English than the English, and are eager to maintain the British side of a case after the British Government has itself abandoned it. A reference to Cuba also indicated that the speaker is completely out of sympathy with the vast majority of his countrymen, and strangely blind to the enormities which are now continually perpetrated in that island. Mr. PHELPS denied that the Monroe doctrine is applicable to the Venezuela controversy for the reason that "we have no conceivable interest in the question of a boundary line drawn through a jungle of swamps." If he considers this to be a fair way of defining the subject of the frontier dispute, it is certainly fortunate that Mr. PHELPS was not made a member of the Boundary Commission. It is true that part of the detestable land is marshy; but gold is not found in swamps, and one of the chief bones of contention is the gold-bearing region which lies in the interior highlands. Mr. PHELPS must also be aware that a capital feature of England's claim is Barima Point, which is situated at the mouth of the Orinoco, and the possession of which would give to England the control of one of the three great river systems of South America. Let us suppose that subsequently to the purchase of the Louisiana territory Spain had claimed a strip of land skirting the Gulf from the eastern boundary of Texas to a point commanding the principal mouth of

the Mississippi River: would Mr. PHELPS consider such a claim too insignificant to fight about, because the pretended boundary line ran, for a great part of its length, through the bayous and swamps that border the Gulf of Mexico? But we need not further discuss a subject about which almost all intelligent men on both sides of the Atlantic are now agreed. What renders Mr. PHELPS's position somewhat farcical is the fact that even Lord SALISBURY and his colleagues in the British Ministry have admitted the applicability of the Monroe doctrine to the Venezuela controversy.

As regards Cuba, Mr. PHELPS laid down two principles which he must have meant to announce as principles of international law, for otherwise they would have no bearing on international questions. We quote them in the order in which they were put forward. First: "No country has any right to interfere in the affairs of another country with which it has no quarrel, except for humanity's sake." Secondly: "The United States have no more right to interfere in Spain's struggle with the Cuban patriots than Spain or any other European country would have had to interfere in the war of the rebellion in this country." Now, the principles of international law are to be collected from international practice. No student of history will deny that almost all the wars by which Europe was afflicted during the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries, were waged upon the theory, which RICHELIEU was the first vigorously to enforce, that one country has a perfect right to interfere with the affairs of another country in order to preserve the balance of power. Coming to the nineteenth century, we find in 1823 a French army interposing between the Spanish King and his liberty-seeking subjects, and, for the purpose of upholding despotism, remaining four years in the peninsula. This interposition was performed with the approval of the Congress of Verona. In December, 1830, the Conference of London sanctioned the revolt of the Belgians and proclaimed the dissolution of the kingdom of the Netherlands, at the same time asserting for itself the right of interfering, even against the will of both countries, to regulate the conditions of partition. In 1823 the Government of JAMES MONROE recognized not merely the belligerency but the independence of several Spanish-American republics, although these had suffered much less at the hands of Spain than Cuba has now suffered. Finally, in 1859, NAPOLEON III. led an army across the Alps with the avowed purpose of furthering the wish of the natives of Lombardy for deliverance from the Austrian yoke. Clearly, then, if any principle of international law can be deduced from age-long international practice, it is a well-established principle that one country has a perfect right to interfere in the affairs of another, whenever self-interest or the belief that self-interest would justify our interfering, or that some foreign power should seize Nicaragua and control the commerce that might pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific through that country."

But is it not more credible and more honorable to protest in behalf of Venezuela, for principle's sake, than it would be to protect Nicaragua on account of the money invested in the proposed canal, or the commerce to be carried on there? But it is when Mr. PHELPS leaves Venezuela and reaches Cuba that the judicial faculty becomes wholly lost in the passion of the advocate. He admits that there are two exceptions to the rule that we should attend to our own business and keep out of the controversies of other countries. One is when self-interest demands our intervention, as already suggested. The other is "where interference is necessary for humanity's sake, such as, for instance, is represented to have taken place in Armenia."

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The Shocking News from Cuba.

From time to time we have had from Havana official reports of the exploits of Spanish troops in bounding hostilities against the patriots occupying the northern and southern coast of the island of Cuba, far as the Windward Passage. Three Spanish cruisers were on the lookout for her in the Bahama Sea; four war ships awaited her at Havana and Matanzas, and lesser naval craft kept watch at every port where a landing was practicable. The distance to be traversed was not great; it was a voyage of but three or four days; her crew could hardly be expected to fight a Spanish hull, much less the Spanish armada that is now on guard all around Cuba.

Most tars of large experience thought there was no chance for the Bermuda; but these tars did not know GARCIA, or O'BRIEN, or the genius of liberty, or the spirit of Cuba. We confess that we ourselves had half a notion that the Bermuda would have a jolly time with the Spanish fleet.

But she got abaft it, and afore it, and through it, and around it, without its ever getting sight of her. It was skillful seamanship, worthy of the Spanish Main in olden times.

It was supposed that surely the Bermuda would strike for some obscure spot on the Cuban coast, steering clear of Havana and Matanzas, with shot guns, and where Admirals, Captains, marines, and mariners are on the alert day and night. All right. She made for an available place, where she landed her cargo, and there it was received by a waiting force of patriots, able to defend it. What was her course? We don't know. How did she escape the three cruisers, the great Spanish war ships, and the whole Spanish navy? We can't tell. But she got there, and she carried power to the revolution. There must have been gallantry, and first-class eyesight. She took a roundabout way, which Spain had never thought of.

About the same time, another ship, bearing arms for the revolutionists, entered another Cuban harbor, and landed her cargo, for which a patriot military force had been waiting. That, also, was a gallant and skillful piece of seamanship.

The arms and ammunition which will be of immeasurable value to the revolution. It is reported that there were two or three small pieces of field artillery aboard the Bermuda. That will be the great news for GOMEZ and MACEO, who we believe, have had only one rusty Spanish cannon, which would not go off. Siege guns must yet be procured for operations against Havana, when the time comes for them.

We rejoice that the revolutionary patriots have at last been able to obtain some military munitions, which have been so very much needed during the past twelve months. We shall now expect news not less glorious than that which the men in arms against the abominable despotism of Spain have so often sent us.

The New Liquor Law.

The readiness, and even cheerfulness, with which the liquor dealers and the public generally are rendering obedience to the RAINES law and accommodating themselves to its novel requirements, affords a new proof of the law-abiding spirit prevailing in this community. The only show of rebellion against that drastic piece of legislation has come from PARKHURST. He declares that he will not obey it, and would not obey the Decalogue if it had been enacted by God in the same way.

the rules of war, have refrained from retaliatory acts, and have protected Spanish prisoners taken in battle, sending them back within the Spanish lines if they did not desire to join the revolution. They have certainly never destroyed a Spanish hospital or infirmary in which sick or wounded Spaniards were lodged.

Spain is the savage; Cuba the civilized belligerent. The warlike methods of Cuba are legitimate; those of Spain are criminal. We printed yesterday a despatch from Havana, which was repeated from Madrid, that WEYLER will continue to "exercise the utmost possible severity against all Cubans who oppose Spanish authority."

The utmost possible severity of WEYLER is a thing too horrible to think of; and we may say for the instruction of Senator HALE and Senator HOAR and the Boston Chamber of Commerce that the inhuman words are from the mouth of the man who possesses absolute authority in Cuba, and that they have received the approval of the Government at Madrid. "Prisoners," said the same despatch, "continue to arrive at Havana in large numbers." There is no check upon the butchery behind the walls of Morro Castle. The Madrid despatch speaks of the execution of WEYLER's "decrees," by which are meant the three bloody decrees of Feb. 16 and the bandit decree of March 8, under which three-fourths of the population are subject to the penalty of death, and the soldiers of the patriot army are dealt with according to the bandit laws of Spain.

It is monstrous. This is not war in which Spain is engaged; it is murder and rapine. Spain does not deserve to be recognized as a belligerent in Cuba. She is a buccaneer, who ought to be put under restraint. The American Senator who compares the conduct of our own civil war with that of WEYLER's troops in Cuba is a slanderer of the army of the Union.

What remains for the Cuban revolutionists? They will not retaliate. They could not issue or execute decrees like WEYLER'S. They could not perpetrate deeds like those of which Spain is guilty. So far as we can see, nothing remains for them but persistence in the struggle, and that to the last, and that till they fall in the field, or till victory crowns their arms. If Spain be not driven from Cuba, brave Cuba is doomed.

It is most certainly the duty of this Government to recognize the belligerency of the Cubans, and also, in the name of humanity, to take means for putting a stop to the reign of terror and murder in Cuba.

The Success of the Bermuda.

The success of the arms-bearing ship Bermuda in reaching the right place, and in landing her cargo of military material for the service of the revolutionists, is greatly to the credit of the veteran patriot, Gen. CALIXTO GARCIA, and also of the Yankee skipper bold, JOHN O'BRIEN, who served as ship captain. It looked like a most perilous adventure for the Bermuda when she left this harbor a fortnight ago. The Spanish navy in American waters had been apprised of her departure, and knew her destination. The word was passed from New York to the Florida Keys, and from there along the whole of the northern and southern coast of the island of Cuba, far as the Windward Passage. Three Spanish cruisers were on the lookout for her in the Bahama Sea; four war ships awaited her at Havana and Matanzas, and lesser naval craft kept watch at every port where a landing was practicable. The distance to be traversed was not great; it was a voyage of but three or four days; her crew could hardly be expected to fight a Spanish hull, much less the Spanish armada that is now on guard all around Cuba.

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How the new law is going to work can only be determined by circumstances. Apparently, now, obviously, it will lessen the number of drinking places greatly, thus depriving many of their main now engaged in the traffic. But their loss is likely to be the gain of those who are strong enough to pay the increased tax and remain in the business. The surviving remnant will have the advantage of a decreased competition. The prohibition of the free lunch will also be grateful to a great part of the dealers. They have tried of themselves to do away

with the custom, which entails on the saloons large expenses, but they have been unsuccessful because of the timidity of others about taking the step, and because to some the lunch counter seemed absolutely necessary to their existence. We hear of many dealers who will save enough by giving up their free lunches to pay the increased tax, even if they do not make a larger gain by charging for the food. The practice was legal, and generally they are glad that it is legally abolished.

Undoubtedly the beer and liquor traffic in New York has suffered grievously of recent years because it is overdone and because so many of the dealers have been at the mercy of the brewers. It has been stimulated artificially, and has not grown normally with the demand. This RAINES law will serve to bring about an equilibrium that may gain for it the favor of the liquor dealers to an unexpected extent. Its necessary concessions to the hotel keepers will surely make it agreeable to them especially. If the large increase in the public revenue expected from it shall be obtained, that result will gratify the people. The subject of the clubs to its requirements will be popular, as being fair and equal.

At any rate, it is one of the most interesting pieces of legislation in the history of the State. It constitutes an experiment whose outcome will be watched with great solicitude, for if it proves successful, it is likely to change radically and permanently the past relations between politics and the liquor business.

No Side Track for Tom Reed.

The idea that the Hon. THOMAS BRACKETT REED would make an excellent candidate for Vice-President, and, if elected, an admirable presiding officer for the Senate, originated somewhere out in the Mississippi basin. It has had an amazing vogue during the past week in the Western or McKinley States, and is no doubt respectfully regarded by the Ohio statesman, who was the Speaker by his appointment as Chairman of the House Committee on Ways and Means in the Fifty-first Congress, and consequently, his present national reputation and his two hundred instructed delegates, more or less.

We observe that the Vice-President idea has reached Washington, where it is promptly disposed of by the Hon. JOE MANLY in this emphatic fashion: "Mr. REED is still in the race, and very largely at that, and what's more, he cannot be sidetracked to the Vice-Presidency." Probably this is official.

There have been statesmen who entered the race for the nomination for President without any unconquerable prejudice against the second place on the ticket, if the first place should be reserved by destiny for somebody else. There have even been candidates who deliberately aimed at the higher office in order to hit the lower. The Vice-Presidency is a post of honor and dignity, well worthy of the ambition of any citizen who has the inclination to serve his country in that way; but the fact remains that it is not a first prize for politicians of the first class.

There is about as much chance of TOM REED's spending the next four years in the chair now occupied by the Hon. ADELAID E. STEVENSON as there is of his accepting an appointment as the keeper of the Cape Elizabeth lighthouse. But how does the idea of a Vice-Presidential nomination for himself strike Major MCKINLEY? MORTON and MCKINLEY would be an alliterative and almost musical ticket. REED and MCKINLEY would look quite as well on banners, and sound quite as well in campaign songs as MCKINLEY and REED. SHAKESPEARE and NAPOLEON would make a strong combination.

The Guggenheimer Episode.

The factional differences among New York City Republicans, so far from having been abated or appeased by the State Convention a week ago, have now become acute. Skill, caution, diplomacy, patience, circumspection, sagacity, and forbearance will be required from the leaders of both factions unless a smash-up at St. Louis is a part of the programme of each. The recent episode of GUGGENHEIMER's visit to the State Club illustrates the matter clearly. The details of this transaction are interesting.

Mr. O. J. WISE was a member of the Tammany Hall organization in 1892, but in 1893 he was a Republican, and ran unsuccessfully for the Twenty-first district. Next he became an anti-machine Republican and Chairman of the Millholland Executive Committee in 1895. He was a PLATT Republican in 1895. He now, or was until a few days ago, at least, a supporter of the presidential candidacy of LEVI P. MORTON, and he had, or alleged that he had, a claim of a pecuniary character against J. E. MILLHOLLAND, the most energetic of the local MCKINLEY boomers. With little respect for the requirements of harmony in the Republican ranks, he chose the week of PLATT's round up at the Grand Central Palace as opportune for enforcing this claim by legal process. He said he could not find MILLHOLLAND, his former chief agent (MILLHOLLAND's heart was in Ohio), and after diligent search he entrusted the quest for that prime MCKINLEY boomer to one DANIEL GUGGENHEIMER, a minor, who started with the summons and complaint to the State Club, the MCKINLEY rallying point. GUGGENHEIMER wore a MORTON button in the lapel of his coat, and it appears, according to the chronicle of WISE, that as he (GUGGENHEIMER) stood in the lobby of the State Club, he was noticed by one of the members.

That in a minute later the member of the State Club, adopting the idiom and using the dialect peculiar to Ohio and Ohio men away from home, exclaimed, "What have you, me boy?" GUGGENHEIMER, with his legal papers in his hand, responded, pointing to the MORTON button on his lapel, "That, sir, is the man who will be nominated in St. Louis."

"Give it to me," said the MCKINLEY man, trying to snatch the button. The boy replied, but other MCKINLEY boomers, appearing from the various rooms of the State Club, came running to the scene and overpowered GUGGENHEIMER, "throwing him roughly on the floor, pummeling him, and tearing the button from his coat." Divested of his badge of loyalty to Governor MORTON, GUGGENHEIMER fled toward the Fifth Avenue Hotel, the home, except on election day, of THOMAS COLLIER PLATT and the trying place of genuine MORTON Republicans.

The PLATT men are pointing to this GUGGENHEIMER episode as an evidence of the profound disunity of the MCKINLEY boomers to the interests of Governor MORTON's candidacy. But regarded from an impartial and disinterested Democratic point of view, how are such hostile acts as the sending of GUGGENHEIMER on his perilous mission to be reconciled with that harmonious Republican spirit which is necessary to success in St. Louis? Far from showing the insincerity of the MCKINLEY boomers,

does it not rather display the foolishness, the lack of sense, and the misdirected zeal of some of those to whom have been committed the desire of Governor MORTON for the Presidential nomination?

GUGGENHEIMER was a minor. He had no vote. He could shout for MORTON and victory, but he couldn't hope to put a MORTON ballot in the box in November. Equipping small boys with MORTON badges is clearly a waste of political energy, and a misuse of campaign funds at this stage of the Presidential canvass. Again, a process server, in any country, is not a process server, but the duties which devolve upon him, while necessary to the administration of justice, do not make his visits welcome to the recipient of his attentions. This great philosophic truth was stated with terseness and precision by that eminent Democratic statesman, the Hon. SAMUEL J. TILDEN, in his speech to the Oneida county farmers during the first year of his tenure as Governor. "The tax gatherer," said Mr. TILDEN, "is not a popular personage. His appearance may be awaited with anxiety and apprehension, but not with pleasurable anticipations. Many, indeed, there are who would be glad to be excluded from the list of those he calls on." As it is with the tax gatherer, so it is with the process server, and it is much to be doubted whether the interests of Governor MORTON can be promoted by the unwelcome aid of individuals bearing upon their coat-lapels MORTON medallions while carrying in their right hands legal papers directed against those whose support for the MORTON column is desired. Victories are not gained in this way.

While the Democratic factions in New York are getting together, the Republican factions seem to be getting wider apart.

We must get back immediately to the sound old American doctrine of bimetallism.—Denver Evening Post.

Two responses are appropriate to this recommendation of a policy, alike simple and discomfiting to our contemporary of the mountains. In the first place, if bimetallism be two-standard, it never was known in the United States. In the second place, supposing bimetallism to be the use of gold and silver at once, it is not only a sound policy, but it is a policy which would more voluminously than it flourished at any time before 1873, when the law permitting free silver coinage came to an end.

Between 1793 and 1873 the total of silver dollars coined was 8,000,000. Between 1873 and June of 1895, more than 400,000,000 silver dollars have been coined; and they are worth gold.

The Democrats of Corpus Christi, Texas, are keeping up with the procession of clear speakers on the currency question. They say on this subject:

"We do not believe that the party between gold and silver can be preserved under a free and unlimited coinage of silver by the United States alone at a rate of interest to us, and we are therefore opposed to such measure."

We believe that this sentiment, and not that professed by Senator CHILDS and the majority of the Texas delegation in Congress, when, in February, he voted for the free silver amendment to the DINGLEY bill, represents the Democrats of Texas.

Give honor to great names. At Webster City, Hamilton county, Ia., a Democratic Convention convened, and whizzed through a rejoicing world the information that the Hon. HORACE BOIES, who was accidentally elected Governor of Iowa, not as a Democrat, but as a Republican, had given up the contest for the pursuit of happiness on account of a liquor prohibition amendment, and consequently preferred a lesservile, a "bum" at a tariff for revenue only, was "the great commander and the GLADSTONE of America." It is not entirely clear, in fact, it is tremendously opaque, what the Hon. BOIES is commanding, and the Hon. DR. WITT TALKER, formerly of Brooklyn, has been said to be "the GLADSTONE of America." So have others, including the Hon. MASON BUTLER of North Carolina, the Hon. PITCHPOKE B. TILMAN of South Carolina, and the Hon. WILLIAM ATHERTON of the Kaw.

The fact of the matter is, that the bulk of thought is, not what Iowa is thinking of the Hon. HORACE BOIES, but what the Hon. HORACE BOIES is thinking about and for the country and the Democratic party. Will he renege himself? Tremors and earthquakes and dread uncertainties in the mind of the people will be the result of the pursuit of happiness on account of a liquor prohibition amendment, and consequently preferred a lesservile, a "bum" at a tariff for revenue only, was "the great commander and the GLADSTONE of America." It is not entirely clear, in fact, it is tremendously opaque, what the Hon. BOIES is commanding, and the Hon. DR. WITT TALKER, formerly of Brooklyn, has been said to be "the GLADSTONE of America." So have others, including the Hon. MASON BUTLER of North Carolina, the Hon. PITCHPOKE B. TILMAN of South Carolina, and the Hon. WILLIAM ATHERTON of the Kaw.

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