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.

Both Unimportant and Untimely.

We observe that some of our contemporaries refer to the arbitration conference held at Washington during the past week as if it were an affair of importance.

That is a mistake. It cut the ground from under its own feet. It robbed itself of the possibility of possessing real consequence by ignoring the most striking current instance of that need of international arbitration which it advocated.

It passed a set of resolutions, prefaced by a preambulatory sentence 256 words long, and most of them ponderous polysyllabic words, conveying jumbled ideas which it hardly paid the reader to unravel. These resolutions provided for presenting a memorial to Mr. CLEVELAND, urging the establishment of arbitration between the United States and Great Britain, "and as far as possible with other civilized nations." But the word Venezuela does not occur, even in the all-gathering preamble, nor is there any reference to the Guiana boundary dispute in it or in the three resolutions. Even the mention of "other civilized nations," just quoted, was an afterthought, suggested as an amendment by a member who seemed to be a little sensible of the absurdity of making not even a vague and veiled allusion that might include that dispute.

Could any course be less frank or more preposterous? A conference that treated in this gingerly fashion Great Britain's flagrant offence against international arbitration, the offence of denying to a weak power the remedy which she would concede to a strong one, cannot possibly be of consequence. Indeed, if it had any effect, it might be harmful, as misrepresenting American sentiment. But Great Britain can hardly be misled by a body which, in undertaking to discuss arbitration, sedulously covers up the most important of current events with which the subject is concerned. The conference came to the lamest of conclusions, and apparently has fallen flat.

The Morton Canvass.

Despite the indecorous intrusion of some MCKINLEY boomers, not delegates, into the gallery of the Grand Central Palace on March 24, where they shouted with lusty lungs for "prosperity's advance agent," there can be no doubt of the sincerity, cordiality, and good faith of the Republicans of New York in their declaration that LEVI PARSONS MORTON is the first choice of his party in New York.

Governor MORTON'S hold on the respect and good will of his Republican friends is no new thing in this State. He has been honored when a candidate for office. In 1888 the national ticket which bore his name for Vice-President carried New York at the same election when the Republican State ticket was overwhelmed in defeat and Republican nominees fell by the wayside or beyond the breastworks. As lately as 1894 the personal popularity of Mr. MORTON was attested by the stupendous majority of 150,000 in a contest where his rival was DAVID BENNETT HILL, the first among New York Democrats. In the State Convention of the year succeeding, the Republicans of New York declared, with no weakness or misgiving, their partiality for Mr. MORTON as their Presidential candidate. In Saratoga in September they recited his "clear and flawless record" and declared that they pledged to him "the loyal and unstinted support of New York" in the coming Republican National Convention for the nomination of a President of the United States.

As the present battle for victory at the St. Louis Convention proceeds, with a REED victory here, a MCKINLEY victory there, an ALLISON delegation from one State, and a CULLOM delegate from another, the claims and qualifications of LEVI P. MORTON, the first choice of New York Republicans, are not to be forgotten or disregarded. The Republicans of his State are behind him.

The Situation in France.

The constitutional question raised by the refusal of the French Senate to vote an appropriation for Madagascar has not been settled, but merely postponed, by the resignation of the BOURGEOIS Cabinet. By a great majority the Deputies reaffirmed their former assertion of preponderance, which, of course, is tantamount to saying that Ministers are accountable to their Chamber alone. For the deadlock thus created no permanent remedy seems attainable, except through a revision of the Constitution; and it is doubtful whether this can be brought about in a constitutional way in the teeth of the Senate's opposition.

The determination of the Senate to drive M. BOURGEOIS out of office by a refusal to vote supplies, was no doubt caused by the irritation of the Opportunists at the proposal of an income tax. That irritation was justified, but the income tax project could have been defeated without provoking a constitutional crisis. It was merely the principle of an income tax which was sanctioned in the Chamber of Deputies by a very small majority, and nobody believes that any of the suggested applications of the principle would have been sanctioned by that body; if they had been, the Senate could have rejected them. As it is, the Opportunists have strengthened rather than weakened M. BOURGEOIS in public opinion, by arraying on his side the sympathy of the popular Chamber, very few of whose members tolerate the pretensions of the other House to coördinate authority. Nor can they look forward even to a temporary gain from their exhibition of ill temper, for, should President FAURE now appoint Ministers acceptable to the Senate, under the leadership of M. CONSTANS, for example, they would undoubtedly be met by a vote of want of confidence on the part of the Chamber of Deputies. Should the Chief Magistrate, on the other hand, decide to recognize the claim of the popular Chamber to preponderate, he must necessarily create a Cabinet substantially identical with that which has just resigned. Then the Senate would be forced either to renounce its claim to coördinate control over the Ministry or accept the responsibility of continuing the deadlock by persisting in withholding supplies.

If the two Chambers could be convoked in joint assembly at Versailles, it is probable that an amendment of the Constitution might be passed, providing that Ministers shall be accountable to the popular Chamber alone. But the consent of the Senate is essential to such a convocation, except in one contingency. That contingency is a vacancy in the Presidential office; and there is a rumor that President FAURE may undertake to put an end to the crisis by a resignation of his post. But can the two Chambers, when convoked in joint session for the purpose of choosing a President of the republic, deal with any other matter? At the last meeting, when M. FAURE was elected Chief Magistrate, the question was distinctly answered in the negative. At a previous meeting, held for the express purpose of revision, the rule was laid down that only such matters could be debated as had been specifically prescribed for discussion by the two Chambers voting separately on the bill authorizing the joint session. This is a question, however, as to which the opinions of constitutional lawyers are divided. Some lawyers hold that when the two Chambers are convoked in joint session they constitute a national assembly whose powers are plenary, and not to be limited by the antecedent act of a fraction of its members. In the existing circumstances this view might commend itself to the Chamber of Deputies, which would constitute nearly two-thirds of the joint assembly, and which would be strongly tempted to seize the opportunity of extinguishing the pretensions of the Senate. As, however, the President of the Senate is by law the presiding officer of the joint assembly, much would depend upon the firmness with which he enforced his conception of the competence of the meeting to perform any other function except that of choosing a President. When M. FAURE was elected, some of the Radicals and Socialists proposed amendments of the Constitution, but all such motions were declared out of order, nor was debate permitted.

It is clear that the Senate, by resolving to measure strength with the Radicals, has created an entanglement from which French politicians will find it hard to extricate themselves in a constitutional way.

The Canadian Election.

There is to be a general election in Canada on the 23d of June, and the parties are setting themselves in battle array. A general election in Great Britain or one of her colonies corresponds most nearly to a Presidential election here. It determines who shall be the head of the Government, the Queen or the Governor of the colony being merely a figurehead, and what the general policy shall be. The coming conflict in Canada promises to be one of extraordinary violence and bitterness.

The main issue, ostensibly at least, will be the Manitoba school question, that is, the question whether the province of Manitoba shall be compelled by federal legislation, in alleged pursuance of a judgment of the British Privy Council, to give the Roman Catholics separate schools. The Tory Government brought forward what its friends call a remedial, its enemies a coercion bill for that purpose at the end of the session which has just expired; but the Opposition blocked the bill, and there is now an appeal to the country. What will be the result it is hard to say, and the most contradictory predictions are heard in quarters which ought to be the best informed. Two-fifths of the Canadian population are Catholics, French or Irish, whose general sympathies will naturally be with a Government proposing to legislate in the interest of their Church, while the Roman Catholic hierarchy is out in full force upon that side. On the other hand some Protestant Tories have bolted, and the bolt is likely to be continued or even to be increased in the elections. The case is further complicated by the formation of two independent parties, the McCarthyites, led by Mr. DALTON MCCARTHY, a lawyer of eminence, who takes a strong Protestant line, and the Patrons of Industry, a farmers' organization, whose objects are economical government and free trade. Between the McCarthyites, who are also free traders, and the Patrons there is a partial alliance. The difficulty of forecasting the result of this or any Canadian election is enhanced by the want of union, territorial, ethnological, or commercial, among the provinces which lie scattered at wide intervals along the northern margin of this continent, the French province severing the British provinces on the east from British Ontario and the provinces beyond it on the west. It is as if one undertook to forecast the result of a general election for six States taken from the most distant and dissimilar sections of the Union, say two old slave States, three New England States, and one on the Pacific coast.

Besides the Manitoba school question there is a question between protection and free trade, or at least a reform of the tariff. The protectionist policy of the Tory Government has proved a failure. It could not be otherwise when the home market was so confined. Agricultural depression in Canada is severe, and the farmer, ascribing it partly to fiscal legislation, is in revolt against the tariff. He wants the American market. Of this the Tories are conscious, and they have made sham overtures to Washington for reciprocity in the hope of allaying his discontent. But his credulity has limits, and the value of his farm continues to fall. It is probably not without an eye to the political exigencies of his Canadian allies that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN at this moment holds out the lure of an Imperial Zollverein, which might indemnify the Canadian farmer for exclusion from the market of his own continent. Had the Opposition been firm and bold in advocating a continental policy so far as commercial relations were concerned, the farmers' vote would certainly have been theirs; but they have allowed themselves to be scared by the cry of disloyalty in discriminating against the mother country, and the reform of the tariff which they now offer is hardly definite or drastic enough to fire the heart of the voters.

The Tories will not fail to wave the old flag and make their usual appeal to British sentiment and hatred of the United States. Perhaps, as at the time of the last general election, they will get up a story of a conspiracy to hand over Canada to the American republic, and support it, as they then did, by the publication of stolen or fabricated documents and betrayed letters, demonstrating thereby the superiority of the monarchical and aristocratic to the democratic sense of honor. The Liberals will probably, as is their wont, feebly vie with the Tories in loyal professions and demonstrations; a policy on their part not less weak and suicidal than it is hollow, since its only effect is to stimulate a sentiment which militates against themselves.

An interesting feature of the contest will be the vote in the province of Quebec. It will be seen how far the Bishops have retained their power over the French peasant. Influences subversive of their authority have lately been at work. French Canadians who go to the New England factories for employment and return to Canada bring free notions with them; while railroads have been breaking up the rural seclusion and simplicity. Mr. LAURIER, the leader of the Liberal opposition, is a French Canadian and a Catholic. His Catholicism, as it does not lead him to support separate schools, will not count for much in the contest, but his nationality may attract to him the support of the less ecclesiastical elements among the people.

If public opinion were to decide, it is almost certain that, notwithstanding the Catholic vote, the Government would be beaten and the Liberals would come into power. But it is not intended by the Government that public opinion shall decide. During the long reign of Sir JOHN MACDONALD the country was governed by the corruption with which it is now saturated, while the moral sensibility of the people has been seriously impaired. The instruments of corruption to a large extent have been public works, undertaken or encouraged by subsidies as bribes to particular districts, of which a list was recited in Parliament the other day; while the Government has drawn from the contractors contributions to its election fund. Recent disclosures, which the Government used its majority to arrest, lifted a corner of the veil. Fiscal favors to sinister interests, the virtual sale of Senatorships for subscriptions to the party fund, and the lure of imperial titles, to which the Canadian Government recommends and which are extremely seductive to the rich, have also formed part of the stock. More potent perhaps than all has been the sinister alliance of the Tory and anti-American party with the Canadian Pacific Railway, the manager of which, Sir WILLIAM VAN HORNE, before the last election published a manifesto on the Tory side. Sir MCKENZIE BOWELL, the retiring Prime Minister, was a respectable man, not likely to ply the engines of corruption with the unscrupulous energy which the perilous situation of the Government demanded. By a singularly treacherous intrigue in his Cabinet, he has been lifted out of his saddle, and Sir CHARLES TUPPER has been installed in his place.

Under Sir CHARLES TUPPER all the questionable methods from the use of which his predecessor might have shrunk will be brought into play without hesitation or reserve. The Maritime Provinces, cut off from their natural trade relations with New England, impoverished by commercial atrophy, and drained of their young life by the exodus, have shown themselves easily purchasable. Manitoba and the Northwest are very needy. British Columbia is proverbially venal. Ontario will probably go against the Government. But it will not be surprising if, on the whole, Sir CHARLES TUPPER should succeed in making up a majority sufficient to confirm him in power. A glorious vista of moral government will then be opened to the country!

What Mr. Bayard Said at Boston.

Among the Democrats who voted to censure Ambassador BAYARD for un-American utterances in England is Congressman BAILEY of Texas. The *Galveston News* reports Mr. BAILEY as explaining his vote of censure upon the grounds here presented:

"I voted to censure Mr. BAYARD, not on account of his Edinburgh speech, in which he denounced protection, but I voted to censure him on account of his speech at Old Boston, in which he maligned his countrymen as 'a violent people who need to have their will obstructed.'"

Our Galveston contemporary remarks:

"Either Congressman BAILEY or THE SUN misquotes Ambassador BAYARD'S speech at Boston, England. * * * According to THE SUN, Mr. BAYARD, in referring to the difficulties with which the President was then troubled, declared: 'He stands in the midst of a strong, self-confident, and oftentimes violent people—men who seek to have their own way, and men who seek to have that way frequently obstructed.' If THE SUN is reliable, Mr. BAILEY and Mr. COCKRELL of Texas, Democrats, voted with Republican campaigners to censure a Democratic Minister for something he never said at all."

We have no means of knowing whence Mr. BAILEY derived his version of Mr. BAYARD'S Boston speech. We got ours from the *Boston Guardian, Skegness Advertiser and Lincolnshire Independent* of Aug. 10, 1895, wherein the remarks of the Ambassador were reported at great length and obviously from the notes of a shorthand writer. We received a copy of this local journal with a long name immediately after the incident; and we printed Mr. BAYARD'S remarks at that time precisely as they had been reported in that newspaper. The passage in question is as follows:

"The office of President of the United States is not only one of great dignity, but it is one of great responsibility and great anxiety. He is called to that position by the voice of his country—not unanimously, for that would be impossible—but it is called by a majority of the voices of his countrymen, and against oftentimes a powerful minority. Therefore, there is no bed of roses for the man who occupies the position of President of the United States. He stands in the midst of a strong, self-confident, and oftentimes violent people—men who seek to have their own way, and men who seek to have that way frequently obstructed, and I tell you plainly that it takes a real man to govern the people of the United States. [Cheers.] Fortunately, in this case there is a real man to govern the people of the United States and to hold their highest office. [Cheers.] He may displease a great many, he may disappoint and obstruct a great many, and I hope he will continue to do so [cheers]; but, on the other hand, there is not a man, woman, or child in the United States that does not in his or her heart respect the man who is their chief ruler. [Cheers.]"

In the Ambassador's explanation to Mr. OLNEY, he spoke of another report, published in another Boston newspaper, and called the attention of the State Department to "sundry discrepancies" in the two versions. A copy of this other newspaper, the *Boston Independent and Lincolnshire Advertiser*, was sent by Mr. BAYARD to Mr. OLNEY, and by the latter communicated to the House of Representatives on the 20th of January last. In this second report the remarks in question appear as follows:

"The office of President of the United States is one not only of great dignity, but it is one of great responsibility and care and anxiety. He is called to that place by the voice of his country—not unanimously, for that would be impossible. He is called there by a majority of the voices of his countrymen, and against a powerful minority. Therefore it is there is no bed of roses for the man who occupies the position of President of the United States. He stands in the midst of a strong, self-confident, and, oftentimes, violent people—men who seek to have their own way, and men who seek to have that way frequently obstructed, and I tell you plainly that it takes a real man to govern the people of the United States. [Cheers.] Fortunately in this case there is a real man to govern the people of the United States. This man who is there maybe may disappoint and obstruct a great many, and I hope he will continue to do so, but, on the other hand, there is not a man, woman, or child in the United States that does not in his or her heart respect the man who is their chief ruler. [Cheers.]"

A comparison of the two reports will show that the discrepancies are trifling, and do not in any way affect or modify the sentiments for which the House of Representatives censured Mr. BAYARD. The *Galveston News* will see, also, that so far as there is any discrepancy between THE SUN'S statement of what Mr. BAYARD said and Congressman BAILEY'S statement, our version is the accurate one.

But when our esteemed contemporary proceeds to say that there is nothing in Mr. BAYARD'S language for which any man should have been condemned, we cannot agree with it. The contrast exhibited to the school children of old Boston between the strong ruler, the "real man," on the one side, and the strong, self-confident, and oftentimes violent people on the other, gave an altogether false notion of American institutions as they are, and constituted a grave infraction of official propriety and personal good taste.

Expert Testimony.

The announcement by the District Attorney of the preparations made by him for expert testimony at the approaching trial of Mrs. FLEMING provokes renewed inquiry as to the wisdom of the laws and court practice now governing the introduction of this class of evidence. Col. FELLOWS has secured Prof. VICTOR VAUGHN of the University of Pennsylvania and Prof. MOTT of this city as chemical experts. In materia medica Prof. PEABODY and Prof. THOMPSON will testify. Prof. WOOD of Philadelphia is to be the leading expert in toxicology, and Prof. LOOMIS and Prof. PRUDDEN will give evidence in pathology. Dr. W. J. O'SULLIVAN, the doctor-lawyer, has been specially retained to take charge of the scientific side of the case. The trial will last several weeks and the cost of it will be large. Judging from the BUCHANAN, MEYER, CARLYLE HARRIS, and similar cases which have recently been tried here, $25,000 seems a moderate estimate of the probable expense.

It certainly strikes the average taxpayer that this is paying a pretty high price for doing justice in Mrs. FLEMING'S case even if she is proved guilty. No adverse criticism, of course, can attach to Col. FELLOWS. It is not his fault or that of any District Attorney that he has a complicated scientific case requiring the testimony of experts, who must necessarily be eminent, and the commercial value of whose time is so high that its use by the people in a long trial is an expensive proceeding. The demerits, if there are any, are not with any official, but with the system which compels the employment of these experts at special times and in extraordinary fashion. Other systems have been suggested by medical and legal authorities, all of them having a general basis of standing boards or lists of experts to whom cases should be referred. We are aware that strong arguments can be brought against all these plans, yet the ingenuity of the lawmaking power ought to be capable of devising some less expensive method than that which now prevails.

Another objection is the disadvantage at which the present system places the accused person. How is Mrs. FLEMING, for instance, to get experts from Michigan and Pennsylvania, the first in their profession, to testify for her?

Expert testimony in criminal cases, whatever be its theory, seems to us of very doubtful value as it has developed in actual use in the last few years. At a murder trial recently held in a neighboring city, the judge impatiently declared, after expert evidence had dragged for a week, that he did not understand any of it and he did not believe the jury did. The tendency of these cases is to settle down to a struggle between the experts, involving balancing of niceties and exploration of scientific labyrinths which jurymen are not fitted to undertake, and which, far from enlightening, confuse them. Tests are made in court of a character demanding considerable knowledge of chemical reactions and pathological data for their correct appreciation. Hypothetical questions are framed in a single sentence containing thousands of words, which few jurors can follow. The tactics invariably adopted by the defence when its case is weak and expert testimony is brought in, is to befog the jury in a mass of scientific terminology and wrangling which makes even simple matters mysterious. The sight of the experts who have just been testifying solemnly to scientific truths, sitting behind the respective counsel who employ them, and suggesting trap questions on the examination of opposing experts, to be themselves subjected to the same process by the opposing experts in their turn, divests expert testimony of its judicial character, and renders the jury as distrustful of it as of the mere statements of the lawyers.

We are bound to say that this whole expert business seems to us in need of reform; but how to reform it is a difficult question.

Milwaukee Ahead of Paris.

One of the features of the Paris Exposition of the year 1900 is to be a series of public readings by the chief authors of all the countries of Europe; readings from their own works, whether prose or poetry, in the grand amphitheatre. "Imagine," says M. RENÉ BARIEAN, "that you could hear ZOLA, TOLSTOI, D'ANNUNZIO, SWINBURNE, and other men of genius, rendering passages from their unpublished manuscripts, or criticising the compositions of their fellow authors! Is it rash to predict for them a great success?"

Something of the kind was got up in Milwaukee a few weeks ago at the Wisconsin Authors' Convention. There was a competition for cash prizes in the Ethical building between the "resident literati of the State," all of whom were represented in the Convention, either in person or by contributions. An author was not permitted to read his own piece on the stage, but was required to hand it over to the professional readers who had been employed for the occasion. There were prizes to the amount of $140, part of which was assigned to the poets and part to the prose writers of Wisconsin. More than 200 native and original manuscripts were submitted to the Convention, but all of them had been subjected to a preliminary examination, and as about half of the authors had violated the rules made for the competition, their works were barred out. It had been provided, for example, that a prose article should be confined within 2,500 words and a poem within 750 words; whereas one of the prose articles by a resident author contained 40,000 words and one of the poems 4,000. These were properly shelved, but it seems that there is yet a hope that "they may be published by some leading magazine in the Eastern States." Three days had been allotted to the reading of the approved works of the authors, or, as a Milwaukee contemporary calls them, the "literati" of the Badger State. We hope that the award of prizes was satisfactory to all the competitors.

One of the differences between the affair at Milwaukee last month and that which is to be held in Paris four years hence, lies in this matter of the cash prizes. There is to be nothing of the kind at Paris. Another difference is that the authors at Milwaukee were not allowed to recite their own compositions, while those at Paris are to enjoy that important privilege. Yet another difference. The competition at Milwaukee was confined to Wisconsin authors, while that at Paris is to be international.

It is manifest that Paris, which has something to learn yet, would do well to study Milwaukee before the year 1900.

Reform in Danger.

The German-American Reform Union seems to have supposed that the weather last week was not hot enough without being further inflamed by a discussion as to whether the mystic word "Reform" should be dropped from the name of the union. Few concerns engaged in the discussion and improvement of things and the collection of offices can derive more heat from a discussion than the G. A. R. U. can. No wonder that the discussion over the proposed change of name is described as long and heated. All reform is long and heating, but the Garoo variety is the longest and most heating known.

The gentlemen who wanted the word Reform expelled from the title insist that Reform has been a "dismal failure" in this town. One of the five philosophers to whom the proposition has been referred is the illustrious Mr. TAMSEN. Surely Mr. TAMSEN ought not to maintain that Reform has been a dismal failure. He himself is a sufficient proof of the contrary. Who has contributed more to the hilarity of the town. If he has failed he has failed ludicrously and in dialect. But from the Reform point of view should he be said to have failed? He got an office, and to get an office is the aim and hope, the beginning, middle, and end of Reform. To be sure, he has a good deal of difficulty in keeping his office, but he should regard that difficulty itself as an evidence of Reform, which has an inveterate habit of being prosecuted and persecuted.

It cannot be that the great TAMSEN will vote to strike out Reform and so to expurgate the name of an association of which he is a jewel and ornament of price. It cannot be that the Garoos will forget that Reform still expects every man to do his duty and get an office. As a sign and advertisement the word Reform must be regarded as a valuable asset. The great TAMSEN and his friends should not rashly throw anything away. In the fall business Reform may be wanted again.

If WARNER MILLER should come out for McKINLEY, it would leave Hon. CHARLES HACKETT suspended in the air.—*Syracuse Post.*

The Hon. CHARLES HACKETT walks the air already, and if he is suspended 'tis to some major star. He fills the folds of heaven with his boom for Senator; the spheres sing him ballads and topical songs of cheer. What is it to the Hon. CHARLES HACKETT whether Dr. WARNER MILLER goes in or comes out?

Things will be lively in town to-day ANDY HORN, MIKE CALLAHAN, Silver Dollar SMITH, and their brethren will do a flourishing hotel business, and there will be a big powwow of statesmen at Mr. T. C. PLATT'S stopping place in Fifth avenue. The circus animals will move to Brooklyn, and the Rev. MADISON C. PETERS will preach at the Bloomingdale Reformed Church in the morning upon "The Resurrection of CHRIST the Impregnable Proof that Death Does Not End All," and in the evening upon "The Secrets of a Happy Home;" prelude, "The Ice Trust." Truly, we think Mr. PETERS is doing more than his share.

The pirates on the Barbary coast are at it again. When the Alisa, returning from its races with the Prince of WALES'S boat on the French Riviera, found herself fired upon within sight of the rock of Gibraltar, and escaped capture only by the timely freshening of the breeze, her owner must have wondered if he had not been put a century back, before the United States navy made the Mediterranean safe.

The depredations of the Riff pirates are due to England's dog-in-the-manger policy. Spain two years ago, in its little but expensive Melilla war, got the upper hand of the Riffians, and would probably have made them powerless had it not been for the intimation that any permanent occupation of the Morocco coast would be regarded as an infringement on British interests. She had to content herself with an indemnity, for which she paid dearly, as it will be recollected that it was on its return from conveying the Moorish Ambassador home that her crack cruiser, the Reina Regente, was lost with every soul on board.

Since then German or Italian or British vessels have been repeatedly attacked or captured by the Riff pirates, followed by demands for indemnity by the several Governments on the Sultan of Morocco. The European powers should take measures to put an end to this nuisance. If they can agree on no other means, they might induce the Riffians to attack some American ship and enable the United States to show them the way, as it did once before in the days of DECATUR, BAINBRIDGE, and PREBLE.

All things come round to him who will but wait long enough. He may have to wait for centuries or until the Golden Year when everything is as it was; but patience is an excellent plant to cultivate, obstructed though it be sometimes by those unpleasant weeds called Job's comforters. Many cynical wagerers have betted that the Columbian World's Fair medals would never be seen by any man of the nineteenth century. Mistake. Those medals are already in process of distribution. It is possible enough that many of the exhibitors to whom they were to come have died without the sight; but it is superfluous to repine. Rather is it in order to rejoice that at last the medals are visible, and that many eyes and some collections are to be made happy thereby.

Were the people of Pennsylvania to be given an opportunity to fairly express their views as to the alleged Presidential candidacy endorsed at Harrisburg?—*Philadelphia Telegraph.*

An opportunity was given to our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary to express its views in English, but alas! the opportunity was rejected, and English syntax lies a-bleeding.

We rejoice over the gradual disappearance of that gruesome thing, the "bicycle face." It is not seen nearly so often in these times as it was a year or two years ago.

One important item in the revenue of Great Britain is derived from duties on tobacco. It amounted last year to $50,000,000, showing an increase of $1,650,000 over the previous year, due, as the Chancellor of the Exchequer said in his recent speech in Parliament on the Budget, to an increased consumption of cigarettes. He mentioned one manufacturer as now making 2,000,000 cigarettes a day, who hardly made any a few years ago.

The news of the good prospects for this year's peach crop in Delaware is followed by news of a like kind from New Jersey. Indeed, the reports from nearly all the peach-growing States are favorable, and it looks as if we were to have a great peach year. Only a few years ago all the peaches sold in this market were brought here from three or four States, but they can now be procured from nearly every State of the Union, and some very good ones have come to us from the Pacific coast. New York is ready to consume millions of dollars' worth of peaches upon condition that they are of the best quality and sold at a fair price.

Scribner's for May offers an interesting table of contents. Most Americans probably will turn to Hamilton Busbey's "Evolution of the Trotting Horse;" but after that comes the first of two papers on "Vailima Table Talk," describing Robert Louis Stevenson in his home life. The late Dr. West Roosevelt is represented by a short story, "Rather Too Much Energy," and J. M. Barrie, Mary Gay Humphreys, W. J. Henderson, and Octave Thanet are some of the other contributors.

THE SEALING DAMAGES.

Shall We Pay Less Under the New Agreement than Under Mr. Gresham's?

WASHINGTON, April 25.—The statement made in some quarters that the new arrangement for ascertaining the true amount of the seal fishery damages is likely to cost us as much as the lump sum of $425,000 which Secretary Gresham desired Congress to concede is a pure assumption. The Commission is to consist of only two persons, having power to sit either in San Francisco or Vancouver, with a third person, to be appointed by Switzerland, intervening only in case of disagreement. There may be some expenses of witnesses and counsel, but they hardly need be heavy, as so much of the testimony has already been collected and sworn to.

Mr. Hitt once said that a Commission would probably cost about $15,000. It is difficult to understand how it could cost so little, but even were the expenses five or even ten times as great it is possible that the Government might come out better than by the payment of a lump sum. As stated by Senator Morgan, the amount claimed by Great Britain was $542,109.26, and of this Mr. Gresham proposed to allow $425,000. Nevertheless, of the items in the first-named sum no less than $299,092.50 was for speculative damages or prospective profits, as shown by such phrases as "probable catch" or "estimated balance of catch," and so on, written against items aggregating this amount. In 1872, at Geneva, the United States presented similar claims, but this decision was made upon them by the arbitrators:

And whereas prospective earnings cannot properly be made the subject of compensation, inasmuch as they depend, in their nature, upon future and uncertain contingencies, the tribunal is unanimously of the opinion that there is no ground for awarding to the United States any sum by way of indemnity under this head.

If this sum for prospective profits should be deducted, we should have the original British claim reduced to $242,176.92, which is $182,823.08 more than Mr. Gresham desired Congress to allow.

Again, it appears from the counter case of the United States submitted at Paris that out of nineteen vessels, for which damages were claimed, ten were in fact owned by our citizens. On four of them alone, the Thornton, W. P. Sayward, Anna Beck, and Dolphin, the aggregate claims were $251,981.88. These stand in the name of one Thomas H. Cooper, a British subject, who is shown by his own evidence to have no pecuniary interest in them, while the real owner is Joseph Boskowitz, who appears to have been an American. So, too, the Carolina and Pathfinder, really owned, according to our counsel, by one A. J. Rechtel, an American citizen, put in claims for $55,078.01, while the Alfred Adams, Black Diamond, and Lily, owned by A. Frank, an American citizen, have claims amounting to $54,794. The aggregate of these three owners is $355,853.89. It is expressly declared in the Paris award that the question as to whether the vessels "were wholly or in part the actual property of citizens of the United States" had not been decided by the tribunal, and could be raised by the United States in any negotiations for the payment of damages. But if the amount thus spoken of is deducted from the original British claims, the sum left becomes only $186,315.53.

Furthermore, of this sum $111,301 falls under the head of speculative damages, so that, according to Senator Morgan's reckoning, "the total amount of claims of British subjects which, it thus appears, could possibly be recovered, is $70,924.53." He gave reasons for showing why even this sum might be reduced. For example, there are certain sums called "personal claims" some of which might concern citizens of the United States; and again, in the case of the Henrietta, the seizure was made in Behring Sea in 1892, when the *modus vivendi* was in operation, and when sealing there was illegal. But without making all conceivable deductions and then adding interest to July or August, 1895, he found the amount due to be $96,112.50 at the utmost. Since, with the commissions and inquiry there will be more interest, the sum might in round numbers be put at $100,000.

Such a reduction may be too much to count upon. The Commissioners may conclude that in this case, unlike the Alabama's, prospective profits must be allowed; but even then they may reduce the amount, because the owners, of course, put their figures as high as possible, very likely expecting some reduction.

Again, the point regarding American ownership may not hold in some cases, or perhaps in any. But all things considered, it may fairly be hoped that the total result of the inquiry will be to inflict a much smaller amount of damages than $425,000 upon the Government.

WAR'S RAVAGES IN CUBA.

An American Planter Pleads for Our Interference.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter has just reached me from the very heart of the war in Cuba. It is written by one of the largest plantation owners on the north side of the island, whose name is known to all Cubans. I withhold the writer's name, however, for should it be publicly connected with this letter it might cost his freedom, or even more. The letter reads:

"The war has paralyzed the whole island; agriculture, industry, and commerce are at a dead stop. I am an American citizen, and so do not meddle, but I sympathize with the Cubans, as they deserve their independence. They have suffered enough. They need the United States interference to end this struggle expeditiously, otherwise it will take them longer, but they will gain even if it be over a pile of ashes.

"The correspondence is sometimes opened, so we cannot receive any letters which would in any way compromise us. Many innocent people are being killed by the Government troops. You can judge what the Spanish army is when they mistake themselves and fire upon their own troops, burn plantations and houses, and then publish it as the work of the rebels. For God's and humanity's sake the United States ought to interfere, and I pray that they will; if not, this will all be in ashes soon, and we will have to abandon all our property and immigrate. The Spanish troops have burned one of our properties, and a good one, you may imagine, all planted with cane and with beautiful timber. I am afraid that the rest of our properties will suffer if this war is not ended."

This gentleman has lost more than $100,000 already, and has made a claim to the United States Government against the Spanish Government for more than that amount in Spanish gold. He is but one of thousands who are looking forward hopefully to our Government for release from a reign of terror.

DE WITT C. WARD.

ENGLEWOOD, N. J., April 23.

THE COLORED SCHOOL QUESTION.

Proposition that Colored Men Raise Money to Make a Fight in the Courts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with great regret how the Board of Education of Jamaica, L. I., is debarring colored children from the white schools. Can it be that the people of this civilized country have stooped so low in this advanced age that poor, innocent, inoffensive children are to be deprived of an education in white schools? It makes no difference if they do furnish for them other than white schools. I fail to see why such a thing as a "colored school" should be in existence. Public schools, as their name implies, are for the public. Negro children are a part of the public. This is the whole thing in a nutshell.

If the negroes of this State do not fight this matter, so long as there is a court for them to resort to, it will be their own fault if things continue as they now are at Jamaica. I am a poor man, but I am perfectly willing to contribute $20 as a fund to engage eminent counsel to defend the rights of the negro children. What do the white people care about Indignation meetings? The negroes have held just such meetings time and time again, and what is the result? What we want to do is to agitate this matter to a final settlement. Law is law, and we now want to see if there is really any justice in the law for the negro. The Board of Education in Jamaica is doing exactly what the Southern white people were accused of doing—trying to deprive the negro of the knowledge that will fit him to struggle with this busy world.

Let every negro who has a drop of love for his race take up this matter and offer his services and his money for the protection of these little children. It does not matter whether he has children of his own or not; it is for the race.

ANTHONY MCCARTHY.
117 East Forty-fifth street.

Another Puzzled Shakespearean.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Cleveland's letter to Mr. Parker, President of the Birmingham Dramatic and Literary Club, on the occasion of the Shakespeare commemoration, was, of course, in all things admirable, but it contains one passage which seems to me to need elucidation: "Surely if English speech supplies the token of united effort for the good of mankind and the impulse of an exalted international mission, we do well to honor fittingly the name and memory of William Shakespeare."

What on earth does this mean?

NEW YORK, April 24. GEORGE HOWARD GOWEN.

A Democratic View of Bayard.

From the Rochester Union and Advertiser.

Ambassador Bayard gave John Bull a feed of taffy at Birmingham yesterday. Ambassador Bayard loses no opportunity to give George Washington in his farewell address a black eye, but perhaps that is good diplomacy.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

A great deal of music has been going on during week, and a great many last meetings have been held of bowling, badminton, riding, and amusement clubs. The opera has, of course, been the centre of attraction. "Carmen" on Monday night, "Faust" on Wednesday, and the gala performance on Friday awakened a storm of applause and excitement, which would have been more impressive if less bewildering. The testimonial benefit for Messrs. Abbey & Grau on Friday drew an immense collection of people, and is said to have produced a satisfactory result from a financial point of view. Yesterday's afternoon and evening performances were expected to close the regular season; but to gratify the longings of the public one more opera will be given to-morrow, and another on Tuesday evening. The artists go hence to London and Paris, where they are not likely to have more warm and steadfast friends than they have in what Europeans are apt to call this "uneducated" country.

The last of the weddings are now running off the reel, and some of the prettiest of the season took place last week. Miss Azuba Barney was a charming bride, and with her troop of brides-maids made a very picturesque appearance at the altar of the Church of the Heavenly Rest. The pews could hardly be compared to a flower garden. They were more like one of London's best flower shows at the height of the season. Brilliancy of color predominated over everything else. Form, style, "chic" were of no account whatever. One saw nothing but hats and bonnets covered with every blossom that nature or gardeners ever invented, in tints far more glaring than the good taste of either could possibly have imagined. At the reception, which was attended by a crowd of the gay set, the same kaleidoscopic effect was produced, although it must be admitted that young fresh faces, like Miss Vanderbilt's, Miss Duer's, Mrs. Paget's, Mrs. Egerton Winthrop's, and some others did not look amiss under their forests of roses.

A more sober and quiet wedding, though not less interesting, was that of Miss Sarah Elizabeth Erving to Mr. James G. King, son of Mr. Edward King. The company was limited to relatives and intimate friends, among whom, however, were included all the oldest and best of Knickerbocker names. The large family of daughters that Mr. and Mrs. Erving have brought to years of maturity have been richly endowed by nature with feminine attractions, aided by careful training, and one seldom hears of a band of sisters marrying so rapidly.

The racing season is coming on apace, and the national capital has been for the last week crowded with New Yorkers, who have been enjoying all that the old-time track at Bennings had to offer, and with very good reason, too, for to them is owing much that has made the Washington races attractive and successful. The association has been organized by August Belmont, but Mr. S. S. Howland, who, although a resident of Washington, was born and brought up in this city, has managed the whole enterprise with commendable skill and ability. The sport was good, and there were no pool sellers, bookmakers, or race-course followers of any description to hurt the feelings or ruffle the tempers of Washington's sweetest set. Every embassy and legation had its representative on the course; every pretty woman, with Miss Belknap and Miss Hichborn heading the procession, was present; matrons, in spring attire, gave dignity and importance, and when the thermometer fell below 90° the success of the meeting was quite complete.

The golfing season, which can hardly be said ever to have closed, had its formal opening at Yonkers yesterday. Innumerable new courses are being laid out throughout the country, and those who have to be satisfied with old ones have had holes lengthened, new greens put in, and the links made as nearly perfect as possible.

Bicycling can hardly be called sport. It is only a new form of exerc