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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.

From the Mother of Presidents.

GEORGE WASHINGTON, whose unselfish patriotism established the precedent limiting the tenure of the Presidential office to two terms in the case of any individual, and THOMAS JEFFERSON, whose incomparable political wisdom and foresight accepted that precedent as a principle necessary to the permanence of our free institutions, were both sons of Virginia.

From the Democrats of the State that gave to this nation WASHINGTON and JEFFERSON, the State in which nearly one-third of all the Presidents of the United States have been born, comes with peculiar appropriateness at the present time this affirmation of the unwritten law that there shall be no third term:

"It is the unwritten law of this republic, established by the custom and usage of one hundred years and sanctioned by the example of the greatest and wisest of those who have founded and maintained our Government, that no man should be eligible for a third term of the Presidential office."

The Democratic Convention which has set this example to the Democrats of every other State in the Union was made up of men favoring the gold standard and of men favoring the independent free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. The silver men outnumbered the gold men by about three to one. There were differences of opinion in the Staunton Convention as to the financial platform; but not a single voice, so far as we can ascertain from the reports, was raised in opposition to the resolution against third terms.

Virginia leads. Let the Democracy of every State in which a Democratic Convention is yet to be held put itself as squarely in the right on the third term question, whether the majority in its councils happens to be for gold or for silver.

Now is the time for the Democracy to write in ineffaceable characters the unwritten law; now, and not in some future Presidential year, when perhaps a Republican President, having held two terms of office, shall be intriguing for a third term nomination, or actually standing as a candidate for a third election, and it shall become the patriotic duty of the Democratic party to defeat and overthrow him.

Extradition.

The rumor in Philadelphia that Spain may demand the extradition of all persons who have engaged in filibustering expeditions from this country to Cuba seems absurd on its face.

The offence in the case supposed is a violation of our statutes, and we should not turn over the offenders to Spain in order that our laws might be vindicated. Nor does there appear to be any reason for supposing that such offences come within the terms of the extradition treaty. Certainly the case is not one of piracy, and that appears to be the offence nearest to filibustering among those named in the treaty. The contrast, too, between the case of Spanish criminals committing offences in Cuba and then escaping from justice to America, and American citizens charged with breaking our neutrality laws by aiding a political uprising in the island, is manifest.

Spanish officials have pushed very far, at times, their desire to have our Government help them in checking movements here in sympathy with the patriot cause in Cuba, but we do not think they would venture to make so preposterous a demand.

The Fight Over the Ships.

In rejecting the compromise upon three new battle ships and a price limit of $425 a ton for their armor, the Senate has taken an extraordinary course.

The original navy appropriation bill was passed in the House by an overwhelming majority, and it proposed four battle ships and a large number of torpedo boats. The only opposition to it was by a part of the House that insisted on six battle ships. The Senate made a great number of changes, among them being the cutting down of the battle ships to two, a reduction in the allowance of torpedo boats which made it certain that their number must be reduced, and a limit in the price of armor to $350 a ton. The House conferees yielded by degrees almost everything at stake, except the battle ships and the price of armor. One minor matter relating to the personnel was conceded to the House, but even as to the torpedo boats the Senate had its own way, although three important changes were involved. The concessions of its conferees were concurred in by the House.

At last, even in the matter of the battle ships, the House conferees, although they had received little or nothing of consequence from the Senate conferees in return for their own concessions, agreed to a compromise. They met the Senate's representatives half way by making the number of battle ships three, and the maximum cost of armor $425 a ton, instead of $500 as they would have preferred. On Saturday the Senate rejected this conference report by the bare majority of 24 against 22.

It seems to us that the House has now gone far enough in the sacrifice of its convictions as to what the country's defence requires. Even four battle ships, with the torpedo boats proposed, would be a less costly provision for new construction, as we have already shown, than the one made in the navy bill of 1890. A reduction to three battle ships is the utmost that ought now to be conceded. The Senate's action, put on the ground of economy, is preposterous, coming after a prodigious River and Harbor bill, which it had augmented by millions.

As to the armor plates, the rejection by the Senate of the action of its conferees is very strange. The fixing of any maximum price is a Senate innovation, growing out of sundry investigations in which a Senate committee became interested. The House conferees merely sought not to have the bill crippled by too low a price, if the Navy Department authorities couldn't be trusted to determine what was excessive. They observed that the very last contract, made a few weeks ago, on bids submitted, was for much more than $500 a ton, and that it was a reduction from former prices. They hesitated, therefore, without better information than the Senate could give, to make so narrow a limit as $350 a ton.

It should be noted that fixing the maximum price of armor at $425 a ton does not imply that this amount will be paid, just as fixing the maximum cost of the hull and machinery of a new battle ship at $3,500,000 does not prevent bids at $2,500,000. The only mistake in either case would be that of putting the maximum so low as to prevent any bidding.

But if the Senate continues to reject the advice and agreement of its own conferees as to the armor, and accepts the three battle ships, a way out of the difficulty may be simply to provide that no further contracts for armor shall be entered into until Congress shall hereafter fix the price. The armor for the Kearsarge and the Kentucky was not contracted for until more than a year after they were authorized, and six months hence Congress will again be in session, and can then take up this subject in ample season, provided the battle ships are authorized now.

The Frivolous Goo Goos.

The Goo Goos are recovering their bumptiousness bravely, and are now proceeding to add to it impudence. These callow youths, joined in the most ludicrous and preposterous association ever brought together for political purposes, are taking themselves so seriously that they have actually addressed a letter to Governor MORTON calling upon him to submit to their inspection "the names of such gentlemen as have been recommended and are before you for appointment" as Greater New York Commissioners. They explain that they want to see them in order to decide which they like best, or if they like any at all. In their own language they want a chance to give "an expression of their views" on the subject, or, in other words, to get an excuse to write and to publish another letter.

Now, we do not doubt that it is important for this political kindergarten to express its "views." The Goo Goos need the training which may be acquired by the expression. It will do them good to get out such thoughts as they have in their debating societies, under a competent instructor; but while they are undergoing the process of intellectual training and are slowly learning something about the political questions with which they seek to grapple, kind friends should warn them against making public the puerility brought out in their drill rooms. They are a very awkward squad just now, but if they keep at it they may improve eventually so that they can give a public exhibition which will go far to remove the impression produced by their first comical appearance in politics. The public do not now want their "views;" they want them to become capable of having views worth serious attention.

In the first place, their whole movement is a childish conception. A Good Government Club is an absurdity. The whole purpose of politics is merely to secure good government, according to the different judgment of political parties. Every party is a good government party in the opinion of its followers. That is the reason for its existence; yet these bumptious Goo Goos imagined that they had conceived a new idea, and they proceeded to patent it as an original discovery. They were not for any party, they said, but only for good government; and then they proceeded to make a party of themselves, which, being counted at the election, turned out to be composed of about 1,500 voters out of the whole number of regular partisans, numbering about 300,000. That is, they had about one-half of one per cent. of the vote of this city. There were so many political fools in New York, and no more. At least no more were willing to stand up and be counted and ticketed as such.

It is this pitiable collection of political folly and intellectual inactivity which now presumes to advise Governor MORTON concerning the Greater New York, a scheme comprehensible only by men of developed minds. This little crowd of 1,500 in the infant class of politics assumes to speak, and really imagines that it speaks, as the representative of the mature intelligence and judgment of this great city which is to be, with its population of three and a half millions, The Goo Goos actually suppose that Governor MORTON, a man of long experience in both politics and business affairs, a man of real consequence, will violate confidence in order to get the benefit of their callow criticisms as to a matter of the highest importance, and a public duty which taxes the resources of the broadest statesmanship. They expect him to call on a lot of bumptious children and their dull-witted adult associates to give him counsel concerning the performance of a function committed to him by the people.

We are approaching a grave period of politics in local affairs, and no sensible man has any time just now for amusing himself with Goo Goo frivolities.

Melquizo, the Savage.

The subaltern of WEYLER's who has gained the worst reputation for savagery in Cuba is Gen. CAYETAN MELQUIZO. His misdeeds could not be more horrifying than those of Gen. LUQUE or Gen. PIU or Col. TEJADA; but he has had such opportunities for rioting in ferocity as have fallen to no other Spanish officer in Cuba. Men of his kind were held in restraint during the administration of MARTINEZ CAMPOS; but since WEYLER was put in power four months ago, CAYETAN MELQUIZO has had all the stimulus needed to sustain him in his monstrous performances.

The record of MELQUIZO in the present war resembles that of WEYLER himself in the ten years' war, the details of which were printed in the "Book of Blood"; and we may suppose, as WEYLER recently declared that he merely obeyed VALMASEDA's orders when formerly in Cuba, that MELQUIZO can now say that he merely executes WEYLER's orders. Neither MELQUIZO nor WEYLER is a soldier of the battlefield; both of these men have gained their notoriety in Cuba as slaughterers of helpless people. Their military exploits are unrecorded; it is with deeds of shame that their names are principally associated.

Soon after WEYLER arrived at Havana, in February last, we began to get reports of MELQUIZO's deeds. In the first week of March, just after the Guatao massacre, we learned of the affair near Cosiquas, Havana province, where he fell upon and shot all the pacific country people within reach, among whom were a septuagenarian, five boys, the rural doctor, and a child, the names of all of whom were printed in THE SUN. From that time onward, during a period of three months, or until he was made commander at the trocha a few days ago, we frequently got news of the perpetration of other atrocities of a similar kind by MELQUIZO. "The *pacíficos*," he said, "are the worst kind of rebels, and must be swept off." A few days afterward he killed nine peasants at Bainoa and eight other people living near there, including a woman and two children. Wherever he went that month, which was his first month of slaughter, he dealt mercilessly with the helpless, hundreds of whom fell at his hands. He began the month of April with the Good Friday affair at Campo Florida, and it was when we published the record of that day, and the names of nine of the slain, among whom were several storekeepers, an old schoolmaster, and a cripple girl, that we printed MELQUIZO'S picture. The cruel deeds of MELQUIZO in April were even more numerous than in the previous month, and the results of his three days of murder at Minas were made manifest in the list of the dead *pacíficos* which we printed. At the month's end the Captain-General was so well pleased with the savagery of MELQUIZO that he recommended his promotion to the rank of division commander, though he could point not to any battle, but only to a petty skirmish, in which he had been engaged.

A Havana letter recently published in THE SUN contained a part of MELQUIZO'S record for the month of May. Women were bayoneted, colored children were put to the sword, laborers were shot in the fields. It seemed as though the man, whose picture makes him look only about 40 years old, had grown more bloodthirsty every week of his life in Cuba, more eager for the blood of unresisting Cubans.

It grieves us to receive such reports as are here summarized about the conduct of any soldier belonging to the army of any civilized country. It is with pain that we have printed the reports of the past three months about MELQUIZO, who is a disgrace to the profession of arms. He has just been recompensed for his deeds by Captain-General WEYLER, a man of his own kind, who has secured his promotion, and put him in command at the trocha near Havana. Fortunately for the people living thereabouts, the unquailing revolutionist, Gen. MACEO, is near at hand and will see to it that in the province of Pinar del Rio MELQUIZO shall not engage in the cowardly practices associated with his name.

Among the several military malefactors whom Spain has sent to Cuba as subalterns for the wretched WEYLER, MELQUIZO undoubtedly stands foremost.

Privileged Communications to Lawyers and Doctors.

The term privileged communications is used by lawyers to denote those confidential statements which are made by clients to their attorneys, by patients to their physicians, and by churchmen to their priests. A notable change in the law of privileged communications was made at the last session of the Legislature and will take effect on the 1st day of September.

The secrets of the attorney's office were protected by the common law of England; but not so the secrets of the sick room and the confessional. In New York, however, statutes were long ago enacted which extended to physicians and to clergymen of all denominations the same privilege of refusing to disclose professional communications as was enjoyed under the common law by attorneys and counsel; and now the statutory provisions in regard to privileged communications to members of all three professions are grouped together in the Code of Civil Procedure.

Section 835 of the Code relates to lawyers and reads thus: "An attorney and counsellor at law shall not be allowed to disclose a communication made by his client to him or his advice given thereon in the course of his professional employment." The amendment which goes into effect at the beginning of September will make it read thus:

"An attorney or counsellor at law shall not be allowed to disclose a communication made by his client to him, or his advice given thereon, in the course of his professional employment, nor shall any clerk, stenographer, or other person employed by such attorney or counsellor be allowed to disclose any such communication or advice given thereon."

The change, it will be observed, consists in the addition of the clause concerning clerks, stenographers, and other employees of lawyers. Such persons are frequently present at interviews at which confidential statements are made to counsel, and often act as the messengers of the client to transmit such statements. In these cases, the privilege and duty of the lawyer to remain silent do very little good to the client if the lawyer's clerk or stenographer or office boy may be compelled to speak; and hence it has been deemed wise to extend the requirement of secrecy to the lawyer's servants, whatever their capacity.

A similar extension would also seem to be expedient so far as privileged communications to medical men are concerned. As the law now stands it prohibits any person "duly authorized to practise physic or surgery" from disclosing any information acquired by him in attending a patient in a professional capacity, and which was necessary to enable him to act in that capacity. This obviously applies only to regularly licensed physicians and surgeons, and not to trained nurses or hospital stewards and attendants. It seems to us that they also should be compelled to keep secret their knowledge of the ailments of those under their care.

All the World Before Us.

For a year past the mind has often been turned toward countries not ordinarily prolific sources of news interest; turned toward Russia, for example, by the coronation of the new Czar, or toward Persia by the assassination of the Shah, or toward Turkey by the Armenian massacres, or toward Japan and China by the war between those two countries, or toward South Africa by the determined Boers.

It is a good thing for all of us to extend our vision over the far-off countries of the world, which are so different from our own country, or from those European nations with which many of us are familiar. It enlarges our knowledge of human kind and of contemporary history; it brings us into closer acquaintance with peoples whose traditions, customs, and government are unlike our own; it tends toward the enlargement and enlightenment of the mind. It causes us to remember constantly, in a way never understood by the Roman poet, that nothing human is alien to us.

To the use of electricity, to the telegraphic wires upon the land, and the cables under the sea, it is that we owe this intimacy with our fellow men everywhere.

The announcement is now made that the Massachusetts will be turned over to the Government on Wednesday, and will go into commission next Monday. The Oregon will apparently be ready during next month, and still earlier than she will come the Texas and the monitor Terror. Then, in September, we may expect the Puritan, the largest and most powerful of our six monitors. Only about two months later, our splendid new armored cruiser Brooklyn, a vessel of great importance, and likely to attract widespread attention, is to be completed. During the last month of the year the Wilmington, Helena, and Nashville are expected to go into commission. Next spring the six composite gunboats should be finished. The month of April is fixed for the completion of the fine battle ship Iowa. After that, a lull may be looked for in the turning out of large ships, but some of the torpedo boats may come forward even before the completion of the Iowa, as several, according to their contracts, should be ready even by August of this year, and may be completed by next winter or spring. Our navy will steadily stronger grow during the next twelve months.

Sir EDWIN ARNOLD would like to see in all Christian Governments a Minister of State charged with the interests of the birds, beasts, and fishes.—*Esteemed Contemporary.*

Sir EDWIN is good to the birds, beasts, and fishes, but they are tolerably well protected now, the birds and beasts by societies, the fishes by the want of dexterity and romantic temperament of the fishers.

Silver is on all lips throughout the land. It is echoed and reechoed from the gilded mansion to the lowly cottage.—*The Hon.* JONAH JEREMIAH MOTT, *Chairman of the Silver Party.*

The Hon. JONAH JEREMIAH MOTT is in his wonted form and voice, but why "gilded mansion"? Gilded mansions should not be allowed by the argyromaniac economists, even if there are sixteen lowly cottages to every gilded mansion. The Hon. JONAH JEREMIAH MOTT should excise gilded from his vocabulary. It smacks of plutocracy.

ADJOURNMENT OF CONGRESS.

Appropriation Bills Still in Conference May Protract the Session.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—Unless all signs fail, Congress will adjourn this week, and those in touch with the business of both Houses appear to agree that that result may be secured by Wednesday. The business of the Senate depends entirely upon the headway made with conference reports. Several of the appropriation bills are still to be disposed of, as follows: Indian bill, upon which the House refused to act favorably on the conference agreed to in the Senate; the Post Office bill, the report on which was agreed to in the House on Saturday, and will be accepted by the Senate on Monday; the Naval bill, which will doubtless be disposed of speedily to-morrow, as the conferees have already agreed upon a compromise which they believe will be acceptable to both Houses; the Sundry Civil bill, upon which the House and Senate seem to be deadlocked over the appropriations for public buildings inserted by the Senate, and the District of Columbia bill, numerous items of which are still in dispute. It is confidently expected, however, that all of these will be out of the way within the next forty-eight hours.

The new Deficiency bill, which passed the House on Saturday, will be rushed through the Senate to-morrow with all possible speed, it being the intention of the committee to move to lay on the table any amendments that may be offered, so that the bill will pass as it comes from the House. This motion to lay on the table is the only method the Senate has under its rules to cut off debate, and it will be appealed to liberally when this measure comes up.

The Immigration bill is the unfinished business, and Mr. Lodge will call it up to-morrow for consideration if an opening presents itself.

Mr. Hill, who is in charge of the Contempt of Court bill, a piece of legislation growing out of the Debs case, is also anxious for consideration, and may lock horns with Mr. Lodge for the right of way. Mr. Gear will seek to fix a day during the next session when the Pacific Railroad refunding acts shall be taken up. In this he may succeed, as both the friends and opponents believe that this subject should be settled one way or the other.

All of these and other matters that may come before the Senate will tend to make the next few days exceedingly busy ones, and if Mr. Allison, Chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, carries out his previously expressed intention of not reporting the adjournment resolution until all the appropriation bills have gone to the President, there may be ample time to discuss several things upon which Senators desire to speak.

TEACHERS' COURSES AT YALE.

Instruction to Be Given to Them on Certain Subjects on Saturdays.

NEW HAVEN, June 7.—An important innovation just announced by the Yale faculty is a series of courses for the teachers of the State during the coming year. They will be open to teachers who are either graduates of colleges or are qualified by reason of their previous studies to pursue the subjects of their choice. Teachers taking these courses will have their names enrolled in the university catalogue under the heading "Courses for teachers." They will not, however, be regarded as candidates for a degree. Such courses will consist of twenty-four exercises to be given on Saturdays, eight in the fall, eight in the winter, and eight in the spring.

As a supplement to the class-room exercises there will be special lines of reading advised, and whenever it is possible the subject will be illustrated by charts or models, or by laboratory experiments. Suggestions as to methods of study and teaching will be given. All who hold tickets to these courses will have the privileges of the university library, the Peabody Museum, and the art school. The courses include studies in psychology by Profs. Ladd and Dunham; in political science by Profs. Sumner, Fisher, and Farnam; in history by Profs. A. M. Wheeler, Bowne, Smith, and Adams; in English by Profs. Beers and Lounsbury; in modern languages, by Profs. Palmer and Luquiens; in Greek by Profs. Seymour, Goodell, and Perrin; in chemistry by Profs. Mixter, Wells, and Gooch; in physics by Profs. A. W. Wright, Hastings, Williams, and Brewer; in biology by Profs. Sidney I. Smith, Chittenden, and Evans, and in mathematics by Profs. Phillips, Beebe, and Lockwood.

From the Chronicles of Hanna.

And it came to pass that as the season approached when the gates of the Temple of Gop were about to be opened in the great city beyond the Mississippi, that hosts of those having hopes in Bill-the-Still gathered themselves together in the town of Canton in the land of Buckeye.

And among them were chief men from divers provinces throughout the land extending even from Maine unto California, for there were those who looked toward Bill-the-Still from every section of the country.

These had come to the tents of Bill-the-Still in the land of Buckeye in order that they might consult with Hanna, the Profit, if so be that he had not yet removed the muzzle from the mouth of Bill-the-Still, so that he might speak for himself.

But the muzzle was still upon him, and the string thereof was in the hands of Hanna, the Profit; and there were with him others who also held strings in their hands, but they did not have the exceeding pull that Hanna, the Profit, had.

Then did all these men from the outermost distances of the country and from the innermost provinces lift up their voices saying as with one voice: Behold, the season approacheth when the High Priest of the tribe of G. O. Pier is about to be chosen, and it behoveth us, also, that having determined upon our choice, we should make us a choice of one who shall be second unto him. Let us therefore now choose who this man shall be.

Thereupon Bill-the-Still, hearing these things, essayed to speak, for it was apparent that he had wishes in this matter, but Hanna, the Profit, placed his finger on his lips and gazed fiercely on Bill-the-Still so that he uttered no word.

But those near to him raised their voices in response to the call of the hosts who had come thither from all parts, saying: It is well; it is well; choose ye, who shall come second to Bill-the-Still.

Then was the earth round about the tents of Bill-the-Still rent in twain by the great and mighty shout which went up to the heavens from all those gathered in the presence of Bill-the-Still, and the sentiment and the spirit thereof were the same and the voices said: Tom Reed! Tom REED!! TOM REED!!!!

And as all the voices said, so said the voice of each one, and in them all was the same choice and the same sentiment, and there seemed great honor to feed, the Czarite.

And Hanna, the Profit, and Hahn, the Low Priest, and many others were greatly pleased at this overwhelming evidence of the popularity of Reed, the Czarite, for second place. And they winked the other eye.

But waiting without the gates was Manley, the Faithful, and they came unto him saying: We have given to your noble Chief the second place in the order after Bill-the-Still. Come now, we beseech thee, and rejoice with us.

Then Manley answered them with scorn, saying: You're puttin' up a great front, you are. Hadn't you better wait till you get McKinley into first place before you go around tryin' to queer Tom Reed by workin' him for second? Say, you fellers give me the jig-jigs, you do.

Summer Pastures.

The lambs, they gambol
On the green.
But calves along the
Beach are seen.

THE FRENCH SPOLIATION CLAIMS.

The Argument of Mr. Cleveland Against the Principle on Which They Rest.

WASHINGTON, June 7.—Although the House has sustained the President's veto of the General Deficiency bill, and has substituted a measure which omits the two classes of items to which he specially objected, yet his criticism of the merits of the French spoliation claims ought not to pass unchallenged.

Had Mr. Cleveland confined himself to saying that, as these claims had originated nearly a century ago, there was no urgency for paying them in these days of deficient revenue, the case would be different; but he has attacked the validity and justice of the claims, after the Court of Claims had reported in their favor, and after an actual appropriation of over $1,300,000 in former years to pay a part of them. The historic fact is that in the year 1778 we made a treaty with France in which, in consideration of her aid to secure our independence, we agreed to give her certain rights in our ports and to help protect her West India possessions in case of her hostilities with England. These stipulations, years afterward, when the French revolution had broken out, we did not perform, and France felt aggrieved. Her cruisers began to prey upon our commerce, and many merchantmen were destroyed. When claims were made against France in 1800 for these depredations, and a commission was appointed to settle the matter, the two classes of claims were set off against each other, France relinquishing hers against our Government for failure to perform its alleged treaty stipulations, and the United States agreeing not to present the individual claims of its citizens against France.

Mr. Cleveland takes the ground that "our Government was not justified in claiming indemnity for our citizens," because at that time "our cruisers and armed ships were roaming the seas capturing her vessels and property," so that a state of war existed. But that is not the whole point. It might be argued not only that our citizens had no claim upon France for damages, but also that France had no claim upon our Government for non-performance of the treaty of 1778. The real point is that, instead of standing on that ground and stating that there was no basis for either set of claims, the one set was simply made to extinguish the other. Thus there was no adjudication by competent authority that the claims of our citizens were ill-founded, and it may therefore be asserted that our Government took possession of private claims with which to buy its release from alleged obligations. It cannot at this day be averred that France might not have made some allowance on these American claims, in order to secure American friendship, even if she thought them of dubious foundation. Nor can it be averred that our Government, even if it thought the French view of the treaty of 1778 extravagant, might not have acknowledged some slight obligation under it, in order to appease the nation which in the darkest hour of our struggle had come to our aid.

This is the precise point which Mr. Cleveland's veto message ignores, resting instead on the argument which France might have made against the validity of the claims of our citizens, had such a side dressed its point in 1800, instead of making the mutual set-off then agreed upon. And yet no less a personage than Napoleon was cited during the House debate as saying in these last years, in reference to these American claims, brought forward while he was First Consul, that the argument for suppressing these claims on both sides "at once put an end to the privileges which France had possessed by the treaty of 1778 and annulled the just claims which America might have made for injuries done to us in time of peace. This was exactly what the First Consul had proposed himself in fixing these two points as counponderating each other. Without this it would have been impossible to satisfy the merchants of the United States and to banish from their memory the losses they had suffered." The First Consul's ratification of that treaty was dated July 13, 1801.

Mr. Cleveland, besides making the argument against the American claims on the ground that no treaty existed between us and France, also carefully sets forth the adverse views taken by Polk and Pierce who vetoed bills to pay them, as he himself has vetoed them now. He also takes the trouble to point out that in 1802 a House committee reported the facts without recommendation; that in 1803 an adverse report on them was negatived by the House; that in 1807 no action was made on another favorable report, and that in 1818, 1822, and 1824 there were adverse reports. Then he drops his historical summary of these reports. And yet Mr. Mahon, who reported to the House that although there had been three adverse reports prior to 1826, as well as favorable ones, yet since May 20 of that year, when President John Quincy Adams sent a message to the Senate, in which he carefully set forth the official documents and correspondence, "from that time up to 1895 not a solitary adverse report has been made to the Senate or House." He further stated that since May 20, 1826, there had been fifty-three reports in favor of the claims, "every one of them urging in the strongest terms the payment of these spoliation claims." It certainly does not leave the question in its full form before the country when Mr. Cleveland specifies the only three adverse reports ever made, and that one, before the message of 1826 had shed needed light on the subject, and yet is absolutely silent on the fifty-three reports in their favor, made without a single break of opposition in the last seventy years.

Mr. Cleveland cites Polk and Pierce as sustaining the view of the matter which he himself takes. On the other hand there is a body of distinguished statesmen and jurists led by such men as Clay, Clinton, Cushing, Edward Everett, Livingston, Marshall, Chief Justice Marshall, Pickering, Sumner, and Webster, who have urged these claims. These are but a small part of the illustrious names that might be cited on this side of the claims. The views of Webster, delivered when President Adams made the communication already spoken of, may be worth citing:

The papers show American citizens had claims against the French Government for 615 vessels unlawfully seized and confiscated. If this were so, it is difficult to see how it could be contended that United States can release these claims for its own benefit with any more propriety than it could have applied the money to its own use if it had received it, if Government had been ready to make compensation in money for the property thus illegally seized and confiscated, or how the Government could appropriate to itself the just claims which the owners of these 615 vessels held against the wrongdoers, without making compensation, any more than it could appropriate to itself, without making compensation, 615 ships which had not been seized. I do not mean to say that the rate of compensation should be the same in both cases; I do not mean to say that a claim for a ship is of as much value as a ship; but I mean to say that both the one and the other are property, and that Government cannot, with justice, deprive a man of either for its own benefit, without making a fair compensation.

These were the views of seventy years ago, and they hold good to-day. So far from being discreditable to our times, it is in the highest degree creditable that eleven years ago, under the act of Jan. 20, 1885, Congress referred this question for adjudication to the Court of Claims, and that in the year 1891 an installment of a little over $1,400,000 was paid in settlement of claims favorably reported to Congress by that court. The question as to the condition of the Treasury at this time, and also as to the merits of any particular classes of claims, may properly be decided by Congress as in the present instance. But that is quite a different matter from making a general argument, as Mr. Cleveland has done, against the fundamental principle involved in all the claims.

"Larry" Godkin on Gentlemen.

From the New York Evening Post.

To say with emphasis that a man is a gentleman, in our language is proverbially, so far as this world goes, the highest encomium that he can receive. No epithet adds anything to it, on the contrary, it is reduced by epithets, because it implies in our usage all the highest qualities that a man can have among men. A truthful gentleman, a brave gentleman, a reliable gentleman are pleonastic and even vulgar expressions, pleonastic because the word gentleman implies all those other qualities, vulgar because no one who is a gentleman could be capable of failing to recognize this fact.

As the Roman did had by the term ille if the qualities which *virtus* implied, so our gentleman has all the qualities which in mediæval theory or fancy went with "gentle" blood. This can be seen by the qualities left out, as well as by those included. Virtues peculiar to women are not "comprised." It has been very justly said that a woman cannot by any possibility have the feelings of a gentleman.

We rarely meet apothecaries or dentists in society.

The City of Surprises.

From the Cycle.

A friend writes me that he was riding on the front platform of a street car in Boston, and as there was no one out there but himself and the driver, he, in a fit of absent mindedness, repeated a few lines of Virgil in an undertone. To his surprise the driver of the car took up the lines where he left off and carried them on to the end and in Latin. And yet, in natural Boston, there hangs a sign board on which is printed this legend:

"VETERINARY SURGEON. HORSES CLIPPED SATISFACTORILY IN ONE HOUR."

The End of the Underground Scheme.

From the Sag Harbor Express.

Singularly enough the underground plan was advocated by every one of the anti-political bodies except THE SUN. There is no doubt that its vigorous and consistent opposition to the underground plan had much to do with opening the eyes of the Judges to the impending danger to the city's finances, and THE SUN is to be congratulated on the court's endorsement of its sound Judgment in the matter.

WHAT BROOKLYN LACKS.

But as Part of the Greater New York She Will Have It All, and More.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The people of Brooklyn are mainly responsible for what the city lacks. Where civic pride is conspicuous by its absence, it follows as a natural and logical sequence that the environment produced is commonplace and uninteresting to a degree. Brooklyn lacks what all other well organized communities have, and furthermore she has created nothing strikingly characteristic or grand in contradistinction to existing features elsewhere. A visiting stranger bent upon a tour of observation, cultivation, or pleasure, is simply amazed at what he does not see.

Here is a city approximating a million resident souls, right at the gateway of the ocean and on a harbor unsurpassed on the globe, with splendid natural resources and a topography formed by the hand of nature for grand effects, when aided by the inventive mind of man; and what has been the result? A sprawling, unkempt metropolis, with sporadic attempts at beauty here and there, made hideous by contiguous pest holes of dirt and scattered specimens of painful architecture.

Brooklyn has not one solitary broad and well kept business avenue or street within its borders. It does not possess a public square worthy of the name. It owns not one public fountain that a country village of a thousand souls would tolerate. Only the most kindly and liberal critic will admit the existence of more than two truly artistic statues; and both of them are dwarfed and humiliated by their positions and surroundings. An absolutely public library in the broadest acceptation is non-existent. An art gallery and school for the development of the fine arts is still a dream of the future. An actual college or university is a hope perhaps never to be realized. A school for instrumental and vocal culture in the public sense is as yet unborn. A generation had passed and gone ere this great city erected even a trivial memorial in enduring stone to its brave sons who fought to preserve intact our Union. When they did finally do so the noble arch was located nearly a-straddle a set of railroad tracks. The one public memorial to our soldier dead, previous to the erection of this arch, stands in Greenwood Cemetery, and is the property of New York.

The story can be continued, with regard to what Brooklyn lacks, and a sorry tale it is. But the first lack that makes all the other lacks is the lack of civic pride. G. C. A.

BROOKLYN, June 7.

A Frank Question Candidly Answered.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why, as the one notable exponent of English pure and undefiled, do you resort to the use of slang on the editorial page?

J. K. MACDONALD.

140 NASSAU STREET, June 6.

Sometimes, we suppose, from pure cussedness; and sometimes with the intention of illustrating for the benefit of philosophers the flexibility of our marvellous language, and the rapidity with which changes are occurring in the frontier lines of permissible expression.

The Son of the Marquis of Davalos—A Correction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the issue of your journal of May 8 I have seen a paragraph headed "Young Nobles Join Gomez," in which it affirms that my son, Don José Antonio, had joined the insurgents, and even cites a letter said to have been signed and addressed by him to me advising me of his determination.

As everything stated in the said paragraph is untrue, and as my son is with me and has never thought of taking any part in the revolution, I trust you will have the goodness to publish this letter in your journal rectifying the misstatements of the said paragraph, and denying at the same time the authenticity of the letter referred to and said to have been subscribed by my son, who now signs these lines with me in declaring said letter to be fictitious. I am, dear sir,

THE MARQUIS OF DAVALOS,
JOSÉ ANTONIO POLIDO.

HAVANA, May 15.

"To Old Hiram in Heaven."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The "Cyclopedia of Music and Musicians," edited by John Denison Champlin and William Foster Apthorp (New York, 1890, vol. iii., p. 426), gives the following particulars regarding the music of "The Star Spangled Banner:"

The tune of "Anacreon in Heaven" was composed by John Stafford Smith, between 1770 and 1775, to words by Ralph Tomlinson, President of the Anacreontic Society, which held its meetings at the Crown and Anchor Tavern in the Strand, London. This tune was published by Longman and Broderip (London), and in the fifth book of "canzonets, catches, canons and glees, Sprightly and Plaintive," by John Stafford Smith.

The Paris correspondent of the New York *Tribune* in a letter which appeared in that journal on Sept. 22, 1889, says:

In prowling around the London antiquarian resorts I was fortunate enough to find original copies of the drinking song which became "The Star Spangled Banner." It is entitled, "To Anacreon in Heaven," and is one of the bombastic, inflated, and metaphorical songs which were in vogue during the last century. That it was very popular in London is proved by the fact that Braham made it one of his repertory of songs, and I have heard him sing it about 1842, in which it is changed into a Masonic ode, beginning "To Old Hiram in Heaven," and celebrating Hiram Abiff, architect of the Temple at Jerusalem. A bacchanalian ditty, a Masonic ode, a national anthem—these were the promotions of "The Star Spangled Banner."

A. E. G.

NEW YORK, June 6.

A Jew on Anti-Semitic Prejudice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am grateful to you for the lofty tone of your editorial article on anti-Semitic prejudice in America. I am convinced that THE SUN does not share this prejudice. I am also convinced that you regard the prejudice as ungenerous, unjust, and un-American. But you are clearly mistaken in believing that the prejudice does not exist to any appreciable extent. If you will take the trouble to write to twenty summer hotels in Sullivan county, choosing the little or medium, and asking them whether they make Hebrews welcome as guests, you will receive replies from almost all, if not from all, to the effect that the proprietors do not countenance Hebrews, because the guests do not find them congenial. Some managers or proprietors will tell you that they do not share the prejudices of their guests, but feel bound to respect their prejudices.

I do not care to comment on this fact, but I want to have current history recorded correctly. If the prevalence of this prejudice reflects credit or disgrace on the American people, let the people bear the disgrace, or receive the credit, which they deserve. But do not gloss over the facts. I shall range 2,000 miles to the test above suggested. I mention Sullivan county, because that is the field of a personal experience.

As for the Jews, they must learn from the saintly Nazarene how to bear the reproaches patiently. Their sufferings must and will tend to purify them and elevate them. A HEBREW.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Where the Waiters Ask No Odds.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Common as the practice of tipping is becoming in this city, there must still be restaurants in which tips are neither given nor expected; and among these must be some, at least, of the beef and beans places in the neighborhood of Park row. I have not been so familiar with these places in recent years as I used to be years ago, before they had grown so large, and when coffee and cakes furnished the chief staple of the food provided. In those days I am quite sure that nobody ever thought of tipping the waiter, and I believe that the same practice prevails in them now. It might be that a waiter would take a tip from some old customer with whom he was on friendly terms, but I doubt if he would take one from a casual guest; I think even such a guest should put a tip on the table the waiter would wipe it off on to the floor with the cloth with which he swabs the table.

The beef and beans places are refreshing, not only in the food they furnish but in the spirit of self reliant independence that pervades them.

JACKSON.

An Opening for Herr Damen.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Knowing well that THE SUN is always willing and anxious to assist the helpless, it occurs to me that you might suggest to the Sheriff that he apply to Gen. Weyler for the post of keeper of one of his many jails, where Damen's battle similes may be more effective than they seem to be in New York. Protected as he would be from the press by the official censor, his lot would certainly be a happy one. W. A. CONSKIN.

NEW YORK, June 7.

Lincoln's Own Selection from His Second Inaugural.

From the Adams Tribune.

James T. Baker, shoe merchant of this town, has on exhibition in his window a letter written by Lincoln twenty-six days previous to his death. It was a reply to a letter written by Mrs. Amanda H. Hall of New York. It is in Lincoln's handwriting and is as follows:

EXECUTIVE MANSION,
WASHINGTON, March 26, 1865.

Mrs. Amanda H. Hall:

MADAM: Indeed by a letter of yours to your brother, and shown me by him, I send you what follows. Respectfully, A. LINCOLN.

"Fondly do we hope—fervently do we pray—that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet, if God wills that it continue, until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn by the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said three thousand years ago, so still it must be said: 'The judgments of the Lord are true, and righteous altogether.'"

ABRAHAM LINCOLN.

Mrs. Hall was an historian and writer, a sister of Mr. Baker's mother. She died a few years ago, and this letter was found among her papers. Mrs. Baker now is possessor of the letter, which is now exhibited for the first time to the public.

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