The Sun.

MONDAY, AUGUST 31, 1896.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid.

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

Postage to Foreign Countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

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Don Dickinson of Michigan.

The sound-money Democrats of Michigan, at their State Convention at Lansing, invited the Hon. DON M. DICKINSON to lead the delegation to Indianapolis. Mr. DICKINSON declined this honor, but stated his position with regard to the Chicago ticket and platform in language sufficiently distinct:

"It is not embarrassing at all, as you suggest, to be so mentioned by my fellow Democrats, but in this State my present belief is, as you know, that we should fire both barrels at the unmistakable enemies of the republic. A certain half-dozen unreconstructed adherents of treason in the South, deluding and betraying their people for the second time, have made an alliance with the enemies of honor, law, and order at the North.

"They mean not only the reorganization, enlargement, and packing of the Supreme Court of the United States, but also the reorganization, enlargement, and packing of the United States army. They mean more and worse evil than is in the Chicago platform, bad as that is. This republic is not a failure any more than the war was in 1864, but the threat is more menacing to all that we love in this country of ours than that of '61.

"I could not go to Indianapolis, but you will find me doing my duty as I see it in this emergency. Long live the republic!"

When Mr. DICKINSON expresses the opinion that the honest money Democrats of Michigan can serve their country best by firing both barrels at the unmistakable enemies of the republic, we understand him to mean that in his State, at least, the surest method of helping to defeat BRYAN is to vote for McKINLEY. And when he informs the promoters of a third ticket that, although he cannot go to Indianapolis, they will find him doing his duty as he understands it in this emergency, we understand him to mean that he intends to fire both barrels by voting directly for McKINLEY.

That is a patriotic determination, and the example will be potent in the central Western States. There is as little doubt of Mr. DICKINSON's Democracy as there is of his shrewdness as a practical politician. In this campaign it is an honor to be classed as a McKINLEY Democrat.

The Ruin of Cuba.

The Spanish commander at Havana, by the decree against the sugar planters, by the strict enforcement of the decree against the export of tobacco, and by the order which will obstruct the gathering of the coffee crop, is hastening the destruction of the material interests of Cuba.

So is the revolutionary commander who, under the harsh, but necessary laws of war, is justified in wrecking the railroads, devastating the estates, blowing up public buildings, and razing the enemy's towns that fall into his hands.

The Spanish commander has wasted hundreds of millions of dollars, and brought financial ruin upon Cuba. The Cuban commander has striven to avert the ruin.

The Spanish commander has sacrificed an army of the young men of his country in fighting for a lost cause. The Cubans are in the field for liberty.

For a year and a half Spain, a foreign Government, has prosecuted this ruinous, vicious, sanguinary, and horrible war upon an American country, almost under the eyes of the American people. It is "ruin upon ruin, confusion worse confounded." And our Government has never uttered a word of impatience or raised a hand of remonstrance.

A Clear Field for the Great Issue.

The year 1872 was a year of rival and conflicting Democratic National Conventions, and subsequently of Democratic defeat in the contest for the Presidency and for the Governorship of New York. Since then there have been in this city ten elections at which the people voted for a Mayor, eight at which they voted for a District Attorney, nine for a Sheriff, five for a Surrogate, nine for a County Clerk, four for a Comptroller, and eight for a Register. There have been chosen also at the various elections since 1872 more than one hundred Judges of the civil and criminal courts; and the voters of New York have been called upon yearly to express their preferences respecting the government of city departments and the administration of municipal affairs.

This year, for the first time not only during the period to which we have referred, but for a much longer period than that, there is an election in New York at which is to be chosen no county officer, except a Coroner to fill a vacancy, and no municipal office of any kind is to be filled. The election is exclusively a contest on other lines than those arising from the politics of this municipality. Who is there in New York city, or even within the boundaries of the future Greater New York, that can recall to memory a Presidential election in New York at which Aldermen were not voted for in the same year? Usually in a Presidential year, since the reorganization of the city departments on the present basis, there has been an election of one or more members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, concurrent with the choice of Presidential electors. But this year there is nothing of the kind. The Board of Estimate and Apportionment will remain as it is now, so far as the suffrages of the voters of New York are concerned.

Nor does this statement of the exceptional and unprecedented peculiarities of this year's contest exhaust its odd features. For, although a Governor is to be elected and a Lieutenant-Governor also, the control of the State departments and of the State administration itself will not be affected by the voting. That happens in this way: Heretofore the members of the State Senate, having power of confirmation of the Governor's appointments, have been chosen in alternate years, and these Senators, if not elected on the same day when the Governor was chosen, were voted for in the election of the following year. This year, however, this condition of things is changed. The State Senators elected last November have a three years' term, and thus the Governor to be chosen this year will have, during the whole of his term, a State Senate composed of fourteen Democrats and thirty-six Republicans, unless the election in the Twenty-sixth district to fill a vacancy should be carried by the Democrats. In that case the State Senate would be composed of thirty-five Republicans and fifteen Democrats, not a great difference. The State officers, the Secretary of State, the Comptroller, the Attorney-General, the Treasurer, and the Engineer have heretofore been elected in alternate years. As the term of office of these public servants has been two years and the term of office of the Governor, since 1876, has been three years, the chance of a change in the administrative departments at Albany has occurred oftener than the chance of a change in the Governorship. By section 2 of Article V, of the State Constitution as amended, it is provided that these State officers elected in 1895 should serve for three years; and thereafter, beginning with the election of 1898, the term should again be two years. Consequently, whatever may be the result of the balloting this year for Governor and Lieutenant-Governor, the confirming power over the Governor's appointments will remain in the hands of the Republicans until another Governor is elected. Whatever the result of the balloting may be, there will be no change in the State officers until after 1898.

Thus it happens that in New York, for the first time in many years, the occasions for factional differences are practically obliterated in a Presidential election. Presidential electors will be voted for by the citizens of New York this year without any complication or confusion of State or municipal questions, on the one, supreme, and overshadowing issue of honest money and the preservation of the public faith. All minor questions and considerations will be held by the voters this year as subordinate to the graver and more serious question which is dividing the voters of the United States on lines which are not ordinarily those of partisan division. The one great issue ranges on one side citizens who believe in the gold standard of value as the sheet anchor of commercial honor and faithfulness, and upon the other side those who seek a personal advantage, indefinite and illusive, by endeavoring to overthrow the gold standard.

Jack Cade on the Stump.

It is unfortunate that the voice of the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN is not entirely equal to his demands upon it, yet it has stood the strain very well thus far, and everybody will hope that the slight huskiness with which it has been attacked at times in the last three weeks was cured by the rest of yesterday, and that it will carry further and be clearer than ever this week and be sufficient to its owner's needs in all his travels and talkings yet to come. Everybody will hope so, with the possible exception of the young man's managers, who may yet regret that he was not born mute. His admirers will hope so because they love to listen to his organ. His opponents will hope so, because they believe that the more he talks the less will be the number of Popocratic votes in November.

Mr. BRYAN went up like a rocket at Chicago, came down like a stick in the Madison Square Garden, and has since been flopping Westward, leaving a strong smell of burning paper and stale gunpowder. In Chicago he was the Boy Orator, at second hand. In New York he was the Boy Reader, evidently an excellent person for emptying a hall in case of fire. In New York and Pennsylvania he has been the demagogic ranter, ceasing gradually to use more than a few of those mistakes which he has imagined to be arguments, and plunging delightedly into the easy exercise of inflaming the ignorant or the shiftless with a feeling that it is a wrong that not they but some other folks are rich. The candidate has thrown away his statesman's robe and appears as JACK CADE and cries:

"And you that love the commons, follow me.
Now show yourselves men; 'tis for liberty.
We will not leave one lord, one gentleman;
Spare none but such as go in clouted shoes.
For they are thrifty, honest men, and such
As would, but that they dare not, take our parts."

It will be remembered that it was the Hon. JACK CADE who tried to introduce the great principle of 16 to 1 into England in the fifteenth century, his platform, as reported by the Hon. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE, being as follows:

"There shall be in England seven halfpenny loaves sold for a penny; the three-hooped pot shall have ten hoops."

Mr. BRYAN still repeats from speech to speech some of the queer questions and assumptions which clearly seem invincible fact to him, but which give to thinking men almost a contemptuous opinion of his intellectual capacity and his mental acquisitions. Not thought, but emotion, or the simulation of it, is his field; and as he warms up to his work his harangues become more reckless and his incitements of prejudice more violent. Possibly his disappointment at his Madison Square rapid exit reading may have increased his natural inflammation, but his temperament and his powers, such as they are, incline him to extremes, and he has been a sort of professional spouter against the rich for several years. Almost immediately after his nomination he was reported as saying that "this is to be a camp meeting campaign;" and now he is holding forth against the plutocrats and syndicates and money changers as the minions of Satan himself and calling his hearers to put them out. In the region of argument he has always been awkward and uncomfortable. In the same speech he will contradict himself. It hurts him to think, but when it comes to working himself up into a passion, assailing somebody, adopting the sentimental-economic vein, and exploding frequently in rhetoric, which is as easy to him as breathing, then he is happy and at home. His simple avowals of his fondness for making speeches show that he appreciates his one talent and is never tired of using it. The man likes to act. The applause of the crowd intoxicates him; and as he finds that the coarser effects are enthusiastically received by the gallery, he continues to play to that home of critical taste.

The welcome which a rattling and inflammatory stump speaker gets is no sure indication of the future political course of the men who do the howling. As at a baseball game the spectators weary of too much skill on the part of the pitchers and long to see the ball "smashed" and the players flying over the field, and as at a boxing match the crowd, unless composed of connoisseurs, takes but a moderate joy in the skill shown in feinting and dodging and likes to hear a good loud rain of blows, so at a political meeting people often want a strong, hot dose of rhetoric, and abuse is often eagerly relished. "Give it to them," "Let 'em have it," and similar cries of encouragement, not always without sarcasm, will be heard. This sort of thing does not necessarily convert; it simply excites.

On the other hand, there is no doubt that the mental exposure which Mr. BRYAN has been making of himself disgusts many of his supporters. Every speech which he utters strips off another layer of his intellectual garments and brings him perilously near nakedness. Is this the young prodigy? Is this the wonder of oratory and intellect? Is this the kind of man to whom at the age of thirty-six the country is to be intrusted? At thirty-six a man's judgment might naturally seem to be less trustworthy than that of older men. What qualities has Mr. BRYAN shown to prove that he is older than his age? His speeches paint him as he is, unformed, incapable of serious intellectual effort, without more than ordinary mental stores, without the high imagination which an orator must possess, with no other gift than an engaging personality, a continuous dribbling of words, a thin but emotional temperament, and formidable only in his boldness in seeking to enrage the destitute or the disappointed by his wailings over their imaginary wrongs.

Now, it is possible enough that there are plenty of persons who would not scruple to vote for a fool if he were on the regular ticket, but for a fomenter of social hatred and disorder, a man who tries to set the very poor against the very rich, conservatives generally will refuse to vote. Mr. BRYAN's speeches are sure to do good service against him, for they show what he is and by what means he is trying to climb into power. JACK CADE of Nebraska cannot be elected President.

A Catholic College in Oxford.

All English-speaking Catholics will be interested to learn that the Duke of NORFOLK has bought a site in the city of Oxford on which will be presently erected a college for the reception of Catholic students. The establishment of this institution will typify one outcome of the Tractarian movement, as the foundation of Keble College in 1870 represented another. It could never, indeed, have entered into the dreams of JOHN HENRY NEWMAN during his days of storm and stress at Oriel, that some of his contemporaries would live to see a Catholic college in the stronghold of the Anglican Church; yet, since the abolition of religious tests at Oxford, there has been no reason why the Queen's Catholic subjects should not build there a college of their own, and the chief cause for wonder is that the work should have been so long delayed.

It is natural that Catholics should have felt a proprietary interest in Oxford, and have resented with peculiar interest their exclusion from it, for to their coreligionists are due the greater part of the university and collegiate endowments. This is true, of course, of all the colleges founded before the reign of HENRY VIII., including All Souls, Balliol, Brasenose, Exeter, Lincoln, Magdalen, Merton, New College, Oriel, Queen's, and University College. Of those subsequently established, the two which date from the reign of HENRY VIII., namely, Corpus Christi College and Christ Church, were certainly intended for Catholic students by their founders, Bishop FOX and Cardinal WOLSEY; while for two others, St. John the Baptist's College and Trinity College, the university is indebted to the period of Catholic reaction under Queen MARY. The list which we have given shows that, if the University of Oxford comprised no other colleges except those founded by Protestants, it would be poor indeed. Of such Protestant foundations there were before the reign of Queen VICTORIA only four, namely, Jesus, Wadham, Pembroke, and Worcester.

Although, however, a vast majority of the founders of the Oxford colleges intended their endowments for the use of Roman Catholics—indeed, one college, Lincoln, is said to have been called into existence for the express purpose of opposing the heresies of WICKLIFFE—the intention was stiffly set at naught for upward of three hundred years, notwithstanding that the wishes of the founders were enforced in most other respects with irrational fidelity up to the middle of this century. A Catholic lad might be able to prove that he was near akin to the founder of an opulent college, the statutes of which provided that for such kinsmen scholarships should be reserved forever; nevertheless, the boy would be shut out unless he would abjure his religion by subscribing to the Thirty-nine Articles. It is well known that this discrimination against Roman Catholics was brought to an end by the law abolishing religious tests in the English universities. At present all the privileges of Oxford are open to Catholics and Nonconformists, except that they cannot take a degree in divinity, and are therefore debarred from holding a professorship in divinity.

Why Catholics would like to have a college of their own at Oxford is obvious enough. The desire is that Catholic young men, while enjoying all the advantages of a great university, may not be exposed to the impairment of their religious beliefs. Hitherto, notwithstanding the abolition of tests, the great majority of Catholic students have, from motives of prudence, been sent to schools established for Catholics alone, some of which have a good reputation for scholarship. This will doubtless continue to be the case with lads designed for the priesthood, but a strong attraction will be henceforth exerted upon Catholic laymen by the college which the Duke of NORFOLK is to build in Oxford.

Put Brakes on Bicycles.

Thousands of bicyclists all over the country are turning their thoughts to the great annual bicycle exhibit to be held at the Grand Central Palace in this city next February. The strength, style, lightness, and durability of the new wheels will all be important points for prospective purchasers to consider; but the element of safety, both to riders and pedestrians, will not be overlooked. The record of bicycle accidents for the last six months shows that a large percentage of the fatalities have been caused directly by the inability of the riders to stop their wheels quickly at the critical moment. Back-pedalling has proved to be a dangerous and insecure substitute for the hand brake. The presence of the brake on every one of next year's wheels would be a surer guarantee of safety to the wheeling and non-wheeling community alike than either careful or skilful riding, or even the strict enforcement of the law.

Last February, when the resolution requiring brakes on bicycles was before the Aldermen, it was defeated apparently on the testimony of a few know-all wheelmen conspicuous for their lack of wisdom and of experience in cycling. But at that time the experiment of abandoning the brake was comparatively new. While many riders had tried it, the majority had not. The members of both classes, however, must have learned since then, by observation, if not by personal mishap, that no bicycle is safe or complete unless provided with a readily applied brake.

The fact that any wheel may be supplied with a brake at the rider's pleasure is not enough. Manufacturers should encourage its use by exhibiting and recommending machines which are neatly equipped with brakes, not wheels which are brakeless and remain brakeless unless they receive this necessary attachment after the purchase. If wood is found to be a desirable factor in the new wheels, well and good; and if handle bars are to be shorter, that change will doubtless be welcome; but, in the rush for improvements, let the manufacturers do their part by making the brake at least as acceptable and convenient to wheelmen as any other part of the machine.

Rifles at Sea Girt.

The sixth annual meeting of the New Jersey Rifle Association, to be held this week on the State range, is an event of more than local interest. Sea Girt has fallen heir to the time-honored matches of the National Rifle Association which used to be shot at Creedmoor, and thereby has acquired the degree of national character that the Long Island range once possessed. Marksmen from various States resort thither to contest its individual and team matches, and they are expected this year from as far north as Maine and as far south as Georgia. The range is a convenient and accessible middle ground for visitors from such widely distant points, and, being charmingly situated by the seaside, needs only favoring skies to repeat this year its usual success.

The competitions this week are more numerous and more varied than ever before. They include the three matches of the National Association and a full score of others. While a few of the matches are restricted to New Jersey entries, the great majority are for all comers, and besides the $1,200 in cash prizes there are cups and trophies that are covetable as emblems of superiority, some of them having been fought for annually during many years.

In the efficiency of our citizen soldiers skill with the rifle is of such obvious value that whatever contributes to it is worthy of encouragement. The annual meeting at Sea Girt represents much practice and training, stimulated by the prizes and honors it has to offer, and deserves the support of all parts of the country, so that it may become still more useful and more truly national in scope.

Which represented the higher civilization and the more refined ideas of politeness, the address of LI HUNG CHANG, without a word about the greatness of the country from which he came, or the reply of Mr. CLEVELAND, with its swelling eulogy of the richness and prosperity of the land which our guest has come to see for himself?

"Who is the greatest American financier, leaving out HAMILTON and GALLATIN?" asks an esteemed correspondent in Cranford, N. J. Can there be any doubt about it? How can anybody ask such an easy question? The greatest financier, American, European, Asiatic, African, Oceanican, dead or living, before or since HAMILTON and GALLATIN, is DIFFENDERFER. How can anybody pretend to compare any other financier, no matter how illustrious, with DIFFENDERFER? DIFFENDERFER is more than a financier; he is finance. Learn DIFFENDERFER and you have learned the whole business. There is nothing beyond and after DIFFENDERFER; practically there was nothing before DIFFENDERFER. It is DIFFENDERFER who, as Secretary of the National Silver Executive Committee, proposed as the best means of collecting a Silver campaign fund that the farmers should contribute cattle and sheep, corn, wheat, potatoes, and so on, which offerings should be sold at Harvest Campaign Festivals for the benefit of the noble cause of 16 to 1. Thus would DIFFENDERFER help the farmer get rich in preparation for the time when 16 to 1 is to make him richer. There is nobody like DIFFENDERFER, and it is safe to estimate that there will never be his equal. The Hon. WILLIAM P. SINJUN ought to invite DIFFENDERFER to the Hotel Bartholdi. The people want to see DIFFENDERFER think.

The Hon. WILLIAM MORRIS STEWART's plea that when he was advocating the gold standard in 1873 and 1874 he meant "coin," although he said "gold," is received with too much incredulity. It has long been evident that Mr. STEWART is suffering from absence of mind. Who can be sure that this concise Nevada speaker doesn't now mean "gold" when he sends forth his voice at such rare intervals in behalf of silver?

The motion of the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS of Dedham, Mass., seems to be as violent as ever, but there is something the matter with his reverberations. Less than two months ago he thundered across the continent, and the moo of the sea cows on the Pacific strand was sterilized by the sound of him. His hand, still warm with the approving pressure of the gentle ALTGELD'S, hid the New England States from view. He visibly dripped with greatness. Tears dropped from the eyes of the Tutelar Codfish under the Gilded Dome; surely the end was coming and Mr. WILLIAMS was about to swallow Massachusetts. But somehow Massachusetts and the rest of the country recovered from the first shock. The area circumscribed by the Dedham warrior turned out to be no bigger than he had formerly occupied. New England became visible once more. The waves on Billington Sea ceased to be excited. The Apt and Honorable Artillery found on their return from the conquest of England that they were still bigger men than old WILLIAMS. The pickerel continue their piracy unabashed; the frogs croak away just as if Mr. WILLIAMS had not the floor; the cranberries can be heard growing. The grin of the Tutelar Codfish is almost undignified. Nothing in Nature's aspect indicates that one of the rising men of Dedham, Mass., has risen.

Kansas scored a gain in population last year of 1,925.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

Wait until Kansas helps put down finally the Populist fanatics who have been so peculiarly active in that State and have done it so much harm, in pocket and reputation, and it will begin to gain in good, big figures once more. Kansas is all right, and it is only the still lingering fear of the old enemies of the prosperity and credit of the State which prevents it from growing faster.

Poetry is one of the many important productions of Cleveland, and the stock of 1896 is fully equal to that of preceding years. Not merely in national campaign poetry but in local campaign poetry Cuyahoga shows a fine line of goods. Almost anybody in the business could build a set of verses on some thrilling national theme, but it is given to few to construct a local piece as sound and beautiful as appears in our esteemed contemporary, the *Cleveland World*, under the title, itself a poem, "Vote for Sheriff LEEK." Space is short, but art like this preempts it without objection:

"Bold and fearless when required,
Yet he's mild and meek,
Blameless always in his office,
Such is Sheriff LEEK.

"At the polls as men of honor,
We will dare to speak,
And defend the right forever—
We will vote for LEEK."

How can anybody help voting for LEEK? Mildness and meekness are noble qualities, even in a Sheriff. Long life to LEEK and poetry.

A queer feature in the programme of LI HUNG CHANG's visit is his intention, after seeing New York and its environs and going as far south as Washington, to leave the country at Niagara Falls, and thence continue his way across the continent through Canada.

Having seen England, there is little for him to gain in travelling thousands of miles through one of the less populous parts of a British colony, in preference to viewing the wonders of our own West. Hence it has naturally become a subject of speculation why he decided to switch off into the Dominion in this way. It has been suggested that perhaps he was led by British representatives in China to fancy that this was the favorite way of crossing the continent, and that they may have impressed him with an account of the teeming population, thriving industries, and matchless objects of interest on that route.

But may not our Chinese visitor have recalled, rather, the riots of which his countrymen were the victims in Wyoming and in various parts of the Pacific coast? Perhaps he concluded not to venture into regions which had such a celebrity, even though those events took place long ago. There must be some adequate reason for his singular choice of a route across the continent.

One Mr. GEORGE E. GROOT, an Ohio man who seems to be the Chairman of the Notification Committee appointed by the Silver party Convention, observes, with appropriate solemnity, that "it is probable that the Silver party will dissolve after November." How much of it will there be left to dissolve? How much of it is left now beyond the patient Mr. SINJUN? The Silver party is a myth, a hoax. 'Tis the *Mrs. Harris* of parties, and most persons begin to believe there is no such party.

The Hon. TOMTOM WATSON, after writing three miles, eight furlongs, and two rods of editorials and sixteen cords of letters, will open the campaign in Texas one week from to-day. Mr. WATSON is noted for his calm and excellent judgment, but it seems almost rash for him to leave Georgia and the side of the Hon. SEAB WRIGHT and fly to a State which has produced the greatest Populist in the world. Mr. WATSON is rich in a melodramatic figurehead crowned with a yellow hat, and his stream of silver speech is as the waters of the sea; but, in all politeness, what is he compared with CYCLONE DAVIS of Sulphur Springs, the only Populist in the world eighty-three inches high in his socks, when he wears them? CYCLONE DAVIS wears a hat, too; a hat a few sizes larger than Connecticut, Rhode Island, and Delaware, and vocal beyond precedent. And Mr. DAVIS's hat is not yellow. A Populist in a yellow hat; yellow, the color of the accursed standard of the money sharks! If Mr. WATSON insists on going to a State where he can only be second best, he should at least have the propriety to cover his thoughts with silver.

That Italy has no reason to complain of the willingness of our Government to atone for wrongs done here to its subjects, has once more been made clear in the case of the three Sicilians lynched in the Hahnville jail, near New Orleans, as it had previously been in the case of the miners killed in Colorado last year and the Mafia murders several years ago. The expression of regret in this latest case has already been communicated, and doubtless pecuniary reparation will follow, as in the two earlier cases. The careful preservation of American rights in foreign lands exacts a like respect for what is due to foreign countries for wrongs done them in our own.

THE SILVER RING.

Two Kinds of Silver Mines and Two Kinds of Silver Mine Owners.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The emissaries of the Silver Ring who came to this city this week, seeking campaign funds from silver mine owners, have returned to New York with empty pockets. Their mission was unsuccessful, for the reason that all the mine owners of Boston who own good properties are for sound money. They are satisfied with the present condition of silver mining and believe that the 16 to 1 swindle would not only ruin the manufacturing and agricultural interests of our country, but also seriously cripple the silver mining industries by breaking down the price of silver to so near the cost of production as to leave no margin for profit.

As the silver mining interest is to-day, good mines which are equipped with modern apparatus and managed by shrewd and energetic managers are paying fairly well. Yet there is not anywhere to be found among experts in silver mining one man of national reputation who will sign his name to the statement that silver under free coinage will go upward and remain for ninety days at $1.29 per ounce. Within the past ten days one and one-half million dollars have gone from Boston for investment in machinery and railway approaches to two silver mines in Mexico wherein silver can be mined for 12½ cents an ounce.

The present market price of refined silver, 65 cents, does not tempt makers of silver and plated wares to lay in large stocks of the metal. Every refiner and maker of wares made wholly or in part of silver expects to see refined silver hammered down to 40 cents an ounce within a year at the furthest.

The howl for a Government swindle upon the people to shove a 53-cent dollar out of our mints comes from the persons who own poor mines where pay ore cannot be landed upon the surface of the earth in competition with good mines. A Boston broker and dealer in mining investments who has placed millions of Eastern capital in Western mines says that the Silver Ring's case in a nutshell is this: They own a lot of mines which are played out or not worth developing, but by flim-flamming a free-coinage bill they may find a market which will enable them, for a short time, to work the market and unload their mines on gullible investors. But without Government help the Silver Ring cannot get ten cents on the dollar for their mines, because it has been figured out by a score of the ablest mining engineers and investment brokers of the West and East that the Silver Ring mines from 1879 until Jan. 1 last have not averaged a daily wage of seventy-five cents a day for each man engaged at the mines. In the good silver mines owned by persons who are for honest money the average daily wage during the above mentioned period is $2.50.

Many of the Silver Ring's mines have been on the market for years, the properties have been scornfully rejected at home and abroad by well-informed investors, and after having gone through the "one dollar a share, non-assessable" scheme to milk the farmers and mechanics of their hard-earned savings, have been consolidated by the ring for the purpose of swindling the voters into the belief that a half-dollar dollar is better than a hundred-cent dollar. G. WILFRED PEARCE.

BOSTON, Aug. 29.

If the Gold Were Driven Out.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have not seen the statement made in your paper of a fact that, it seems to me, should have very great weight in connection with the money question.

The avowed object of the followers of silver is to increase the circulating medium of the country. It has been frequently stated that this will drive all the gold from the country and reduce the circulating medium by the amount of gold now in circulation. In making this statement it seems to me that enough emphasis has not been laid on the fact that in addition to this loss of gold there will be a loss of nearly one-half the value of the present silver currency from its depreciation. In attempting to increase the amount of circulating medium in the country the Popocratic party will in fact, if they succeed in carrying the election, reduce it by nearly two thirds.

If the above train of thought has been already presented to the consideration of the public, I hope you will excuse me for suggesting it, but the matter is of such vital importance to the community that I offer that as my excuse. ALFRED F. STEVENS.

NEWARK, N. J., Aug. 29.

We have already, several times, explained that no great amount of gold is in circulation in this country, and that, therefore, it is idle to discuss the effect of driving it out of circulation. Our correspondent is right, however, in saying that under the reign of silver it will require a larger volume of circulating medium—that is, a larger number of dollars—to do the same amount of business than is now required under the reign of gold. Prices being doubled, purchases and sales would be computed accordingly. Still, the deficiency would soon be made up by the influx of silver, and the impediment to business would not long continue.

How Far Did Bloomingdale Extend?

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your paper there has been some discussion relative to the substitution of "Bloomingdale" for "Yorkville" (which is both inappropriate and unsuitable) as the name of a borough suggested in one of the tentative charters issued by the Greater New York Committee. There are many reasons for the change, chief among them that it would preserve a historic designation in an age when it seems bent on wiping them from the map. Then the location warrants it. Your correspondent "Knickerbocker" ventures to bound its confines, and says that it stretched along the Hudson River from about Sixteenth street northward. As a descendant and occupant of "one of the country seats overlooking the river" which he mentions, and which was razed only last November, I would state that my no-neighbor at the foot of West Fifty-fourth street was situated at Bloomingdale, and I have many letters in which it was so addressed. This reason, and the further one that Bloomingdale square was set apart for a park on Ninth avenue below Fifty-ninth street, tends to prove that the name prevailed below that street.

That its retention would recall the asylum seems no objection; that remembrance would gradually disappear now that the institution has been removed from the city.

It should be used not only for euphony's sake, but for historical accuracy and the preservation of the proper name of this region for centuries past.

ANTHONY KNICKERBOCKER.

NEWBURYPORT, Mass., Aug. 27.

THE BEAUTIES OF A FLUCTUATING DOLLAR.

An American Traveller's Observations in the Silver Countries of the East.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Those who so roundly denounce the bankers, especially those residing in London, should stop to think whether they would not be more in the banker's power than ever if free silver ruled the day. Let us see. The present value of silver bullion is governed by the market price in London. Hence, one day it might be worth 53 cents, on another day 56 cents, and still on another it might be worth only 50 cents or less. At the present time we have no such fluctuation of the dollar between the time of leaving our offices at night and the time of returning to the same in the morning.

Any one who has been in a country that is on a silver basis, such as Mexico, China, Japan, or India, will understand that this is no hypothetical case but an actual fact; for, as credits are always drawn on London, if a traveller in any one of those countries desires to draw money on his letter of credit, he is told that they cannot tell what to charge him until they receive the London rate of exchange, which is based on the market price of silver. During part of the time while I was in Japan exchange was very low, consequent upon rumors of war with Russia, and during those times the price of the Japanese yen, or dollar, dropped; and, when the rumors were discovered to be without foundation, exchange rose, and the price of the dollar went up. In a week's time its value fluctuated ten per cent., and in Japan that was no unusual occurrence. Just think of what a commotion that would make here if it should be necessary for a storekeeper to mark over his whole stock of goods every day because the value of the dollar had changed over night.

Since the great decline in silver has taken place in Japan, prices for farm produce and merchandise, except during the war, have not risen, but have remained about stationary, because of the increased supply, but the price for everything that is purchased outside of Japan in a gold-standard country has risen to almost double. Hotel proprietors and those who are forced to buy those articles that are necessary to the conducting of their business and which are not produced in Japan have now to pay double what they did before the great decline took place, and yet the hotel proprietors dare not raise the price of their rooms on account of competition. The proprietor of the Grand Hotel in Yokohama told me himself that he was making less per day now since silver had declined than before its fall. In Japan the horse is almost an unknown animal as far as transportation purposes are concerned, coolies, both men and women, taking its place. For 38 cents in our money these Japanese runners will pull you in a jinricksha for ten hours at a pace that would kill almost any horse, and yet these runners stand among the highest paid labor in that country.

There are those in the United States who denounce Wall street as a gambling den, and they claim that the free coinage of silver would lessen the use of Wall street; but the whole population of the United States, if we were on a silver basis, would be compelled to look at the London quotation of silver as cabled to Wall street before a single transaction could be made any day without running the risk of loss.

In India it is the same as in Japan. The rupee originally was worth 30 or 32 cents; today it is approximately worth 30 or 32 cents, and some days it is down to 29 cents or up to 34 cents. Prices there for food products are no higher now than before the decline in silver took place, they being governed by the size of the crops dependent upon the quantity of rain that falls during the wet season. Railway fares are the same and the price of an ocean passage to England is invariably the same number of rupees. The railroad and the steamship companies cannot raise their rates, but the traveller who comes from a gold-standard country can buy his passage for just about one-half what was formerly charged. A good coachman can be had in Bombay for ten rupees, or, say, $3.20, per month, and an excellent house servant and courier for one rupee, or 32 cents, per day, with an allowance of four annas, or eight cents, a day for his food; and these house servants constitute the highest paid class of labor in India. These servants are always men, and they commence their day's duties by bringing their master's "chota-hazri," or early breakfast, at 7 o'clock in the morning. They help you dress and then proceed to wait upon the table, act as interpreter during your ride, brush your clothes or pipe clay your torpee hat when you return, and follow you around like a faithful dog on every occasion, pack your trunk, keep off the horde of beggars that hourly annoy you, and then at night when you retire they curl themselves up in their blankets and sleep on the mat outside your door, ready to answer your call. This is a fair example of the best-paid class of native labor in India.

The English soldiers in India, of whom there are 100,000 and over, bitterly complain that their wages, as now received in rupees, will not permit them to keep their families in England as they used to do before the depreciation took place, and are loudly clamoring for a compensation allowance to make their depreciated wages equivalent to what they formerly received. They claim that while they are paid the same number of rupees per month as formerly, yet it will buy in England only one-half of what it used to buy. This is exactly what would occur to every salaried man, woman, or child in this country if the "free coinage of silver" policy prevailed. Salaries might remain the same, but one-half of the ability of those salaries to buy coffee, tea, sugar, and all imported articles would be gone.

Last year there was imported into the United States about $780,000,000 worth of products which could be classed as necessaries, and all these things had to be paid for in gold or in exports at gold prices. Now the price of wheat is governed by the London quotation in Mark lane, consequent upon the supply and crop reports received from the Argentine Republic, India, and Russia, as well as our West. Now, therefore, if business is disarranged in this country so that there are thousands of men out of work, and those who are at work get paid in depreciated currency, those men cannot afford to be as large consumers of the farmer's wheat and pork as they would otherwise be. The farmer, therefore, would then have more of wheat and pork on hand than he now has, and hence, if normal crops prevailed, the price would in all probability decline, as a greater quantity would be offered in Mark lane. Thus he would probably get less for his labor in depreciated currency under silver than he does now, and so have less purchasing power wherewith to buy his coffee, his sugar, his tea, and his tobacco, and most of those articles coming from countries that demand gold in payment.

ERNEST R. ACKERMAN.

NEW YORK, Aug. 29.

The Present Silver Dollars.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have not seen this point touched upon yet: The opportunity which would be afforded to the sharp and dishonest to defraud the ignorant and unwary, in the event of William J. Bryan's election and the establishment of the free-silver idea.

If we should come to the debased dollars, under free and unlimited coinage at the Bryan ratio, we should then possess two kinds of silver dollars, the 100-cent dollars and the 50-cent dollars; and the unlearned and careless would be constantly in danger of being cheated by the shrewd and knavish.

Our present silver dollars are practically guaranteed as good as gold, and are hence worth 100 cents, while the dollars advocated by Bryan, being without guarantee, would be worth say but 50 cents.

New York, Aug. 30. MAGISTY.

The present silver dollars are not specially guaranteed by the Government. They can be maintained at a parity with gold because they are so few. With free coinage it would be impossible for the Government to maintain the parity, and a Bryanite Government would certainly make no distinction between silver dollars previously coined and those coined after free coinage had begun. That is to say, all silver dollars, including those now in circulation, would be 50-cent dollars.

Too Rough on the Half Dollar.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I respectfully suggest that the silver half dollar be hereafter called a bryan. E. F.

PHILADELPHIA, Aug. 30.

TRINIDAD AND CONEY ISLAND.

An Interesting Parallel Drawn by an Interested Correspondent.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to your editorial article published in THE SUN of to-day, "Brazil Secures Trinidad," it occurs to me it may be a matter of public interest for you to publish some facts regarding the English occupancy of the island of Trinidad.

A few years ago the Brazilian Government by act of its Parliament authorized the purchase of the cables operated by the Western and Brazilian Telegraph Company, an English corporation, along the coast of Brazil, in accordance with the concession granted that company in 1873. The act of Parliament provided that the income derived from the operation of the cables, when purchased by the Brazilian Government, should be used to pay the interest on the cost of purchase and provide a sinking fund to retire the bonds issued for such purpose. It was expected that the Brazilian Government would have no difficulty in floating a loan on this basis, but just at the time Brazil proposed to negotiate this loan, the English cable managers caused the English Government to seize the island of Trinidad with the apparent intention of using it for the establishment of a rival submarine cable to be laid in two sections between Buenos Ayres and the island of St. Vincent, now connected by cable with England.

The island of Trinidad was practically a telegraph post in mid-ocean so conveniently placed that it divided this proposed rival cable into two sections of about 1,800 miles each. Were it not for Trinidad, a cable 3,600 miles in length would have been necessary, and its cost would have been too great. So you see the island of Trinidad was used as a scarecrow to defeat the proposed loan of the Brazilian Government and served to continue the English monopoly of cables on the coast of Brazil.

Practically the same thing has been done on our shores within the past few months. A foreign cable company has landed a cable on the coast of Coney Island without even asking permission from the United States Government. This cable is to connect with a French cable which has a monopoly to connect the West India Islands and the northern coast of Brazil. It is currently reported that our Government officials hold to the opinion that there is no law to prohibit foreigners from landing cables on the shores of the United States.

It has always been understood that the marine league was for national defence. A submarine cable in the hands of foreigners, silent and secret in its operation, is certainly as dangerous as a battery built by foreigners within that marine league. This marine league has been invaded by a foreign cable company, and it seems strange that no action has been taken by our Government.

The courageous action of Brazil in obliging the Englishmen to surrender the island of Trinidad, is a good object lesson for our Washington officials. Undoubtedly the Executive has full power, in the absence of Congress, to prevent such invasion of the coast of the United States by foreigners. Certainly the Executive has police power in this matter under the Constitution, which also provides for the regulation of commerce with foreign countries, the courts of the United States having decided that telegraphy is commerce. JAMES H. BEARD.

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.

The Coinage Act of 1873.

To THE EDITOR O