The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1896.

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.

Hawaii.

Although ex-Secretary FOSTER has returned from Honolulu with a strong belief that we ought to annex Hawaii forthwith, yet the true opinion is, we think, that of Mr. HATCH, the Hawaiian Minister at Washington, namely, that annexation must wait until Mr. CLEVELAND is out of office.

So strongly is his Administration committed against receiving Hawaii, so indelibly marked will it be, in history, with his attempt at overthrowing the republic there and setting up a throne, that his coöperation could not be expected in any annexation project.

Mr. FOSTER properly points out the uncertain condition occupied by Hawaii, and the relief that would come to her from being either welcomed into the Union or definitely shut out and allowed to plan her own course. He dwells on the strong foreign labor element in the islands, notably the Japanese and Chinese, which may some day become a menace to the peace of the Government, under the present political system. But it seems to be a sufficient answer to both points that the little time of waiting that still remains for Hawaii is small compared with the nearly four years that have already elapsed, and she has a sound and efficient Government for this interval.

As to the possible attempt of any other country to seize Hawaii, it need not be thought of for a moment. The islands are universally conceded to us whenever we may choose to take them. Hawaii herself has always disdained the attempt to quicken our action by either real or rumored relations with other countries that might give us anxiety. She is fixed and loyal in her resolve either to be admitted into the Union or to remain an isolated republic.

And as the honor of annexing Hawaii does not belong to the CLEVELAND Administration, as that Administration should go upon the record with its past Hawaiian policy in no respect extenuated or redeemed, so it would probably be unwise to precipitate the discussion of the subject at the coming session of Congress. The session will be crowded with other subjects of prime and urgent importance, and there would be little leisure for the annexation project, even if it could be carried to a fruitful result.

The 4th of March, now not far away, should mark the turn of the tide for Hawaii.

Not the Legislature of New York.

According to a statement, which we believe to be correct, made by our neighbor the *Tribune*, Messrs. DORMAN B. EATON, EVERETT P. WHEELER, and E. LAWRENCE GODKIN have set themselves up as a Legislature for the State of New York, and have enacted thirty-three folio pages of new law, by which, if they can bulldoze Governor MORTON into affixing his signature, they will control all the offices in the State. These thirty-three pages of new legislation repeal the Constitution of the State in reference to the civil service, and override a recent decision of the Court of Appeals. They determine the processes by which, substantially, every public place under State, county, or municipal government, shall be filled; and if it is finally determined that GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON are really a Legislature, and that they have proceeded within their rightful powers, every citizen of the State of New York who is ambitious to enter the public service, must bow himself down before GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON and subject his ambition to their desires.

But we had not heard, for our part, that GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON were really a Legislature. If the people have authorized these men to reconstruct the Constitution, to revise decisions of the Court of Appeals, and to create a new political system in the State of New York, the fact has escaped our attention. And before Governor MORTON puts his name to these thirty-three pages of Chinese tomfoolery, obviously intended to tie the hands of his Republican successor and to forestall the action of the Republican Legislature about to assemble, we advise him to find out what sort of a commission it is that GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON hold, and from whose hands they got it.

The statute governing appointments to the civil service in this State was passed in 1883. It authorizes the Governor to appoint three Commissioners to aid him, as he may request, in preparing suitable rules to give effect to the law, classifying the service and describing how it may be entered. But GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON are not the Civil Service Commissioners; and the service has already been classified; and the rules have been made. Since these rules went into effect, moreover, a new Constitution has been adopted, which says that appointments and promotions under the civil service shall be made according to merit and fitness, to be ascertained, so far as practicable, by examinations, which, so far as practicable, shall be competitive; and that "laws shall be made to provide for the enforcement of this section." There is nothing in this section about GODKIN, WHEELER, or EATON. It does not say that they shall make the laws. It does not even say that the authorized Civil Service Commissioners shall make them. It does not empower Governor MORTON to make them. It clearly implies that something is to be done in the way of amending the present system, and that it must be done by the enactment of laws.

We dare say Governor MORTON will go slow in this matter of the civil service. He can hardly be brought to believe that GODKIN, WHEELER, and EATON are the people of the State of New York, or that they are the Republican party, or even that they are the Legislature. As a matter of fact, they are only a trio of extremely fussy and unnecessary persons who think they can hypnotize a Republican Governor.

A Cabinet Demagogue.

Mr. FRANCIS, the new Secretary of the Interior, has made an explanation of the letter of Nov. 19, in which he made this demagogical appeal to the forces of social discontent:

"If some legislation is not enacted to check the growing influence of wealth and circumscribe the powers of trusts and monopolies, there will be an uprising of the people before the century closes which will endanger our very institutions."

This is the explanation which this recent demagogical addition to the CLEVELAND Administration now gives of that epistolary expression:

"The letter was sent to a mixed assemblage of Democrats and Republicans. What I said about the fostering of trusts had no reference to the sound-money Democrats, but to the Republicans. Sound-money Democrats surely do not believe in protected industries, which thrive at the expense of the people. Therefore I said nothing but what I believe the members of my party, without reference to recent differences, will be willing to endorse."

What a humbug the fellow is! The present tariff, passed by a Democratic Congress, is distinctly protective, and more protective than any other we have ever had, with the single exception of the MCKINLEY tariff. It is distinguished only as an ineffective revenue-raising tariff. How, then, can this Cabinet demagogue say that "sound-money Democrats surely do not believe in protected industries, which thrive at the expense of the people?" If that is so, why have we now a protective tariff of Democratic construction?

Moreover, protection does not breed trusts. It does not interfere with domestic competition. Do the greatest trusts, like the Standard Oil and the Coal trust, for instance, get help from protection?

Generally the trusts would exist with or without protection. It is rather against them, since it fosters competition from home sources.

If there is danger "to our very institutions" anywhere it is in the presence in the Administration of a mischievous demagogue like Secretary FRANCIS. Fortunately his official life is short. We shall be rid of him in three months.

Spain's Offer to Russia.

Spain had nothing to offer France in return for "moral support" as against this country. She could not offer to England, as the price of it, anything worth having. She could make no promise of an advantageous kind to any member of the Dreibund as a means of securing it.

But she had something of value to offer to Russia, the character of which was explained in a Washington letter printed in Monday's SUN. Our correspondent remarked that Russia is desirous of obtaining from Spain a concession of exceeding importance, that of a naval coaling station in the Philippine Islands, which Spain has the power to grant. The enormous growth within recent times of Russia's interests in the Pacific, her new relations with China, her designs upon Corea, her rivalry with Japan, her possible troubles with England in the Orient, make it a matter of the utmost consequence to her that she should secure this concession from Spain. There is reason for believing that, some time ago, Spain expressed a readiness to grant it "in case Russia was prepared to offer a *quid pro quo* of sufficient magnitude, such a one, for example, as she could promise to supply in the event of a dispute between Spain and the United States." Russia would be permitted to establish a naval station in the Philippines upon easy terms, Spain asking nothing in return for the concession beyond Russia's moral support in certain contingencies. Russia might possibly be requested to attach her signature to a collective note addressed to the American Government; but this could not involve Russia in any contention with the United States, or in anything other than moral support for Spain, if that should be needed.

It was a strong temptation that Spain presented to Russia. If our information be correct, however, Russia has not succumbed to it. We have excellent assurance that she will never succumb to it. She is our true and tried friend, and she would not, under any circumstances, or for any inducement, sustain any European country, morally or otherwise, to our disadvantage.

Nevertheless, we have not a doubt that Russia will obtain the naval coaling station which she desires in the Spanish Philippines. The Spanish throne is tottering. Russia's day will come.

Will The Czar Himself Govern Russia?

It is just as well to regard with some skepticism the report telegraphed from Berlin that NICHOLAS II. has determined to be henceforth his own chief Minister. Indeed, according to the story, he means to go even further, and to rule without any Minister at all, assuming personal control of the whole of the complicated foreign and internal affairs of his vast empire. With that end in view, it is alleged that he no longer consults with any but subordinates, who are restricted to the submission of information, uncolored by opinions, the function of decision on every point being reserved to the sovereign himself.

It is, of course, possible and natural that a young ruler, by this time awakened to a sense of his responsibilities, should desire time to choose men qualified for offices so important as the Ministry for Foreign Affairs and that of the Interior. To acquire beforehand some first-hand knowledge of those departments may well be regarded as the indispensable condition of a wise selection. It is, also, conceivable that NICHOLAS II. may have chafed a little under the domination of the late Prince LOBANOF. There is a famous historical example of such impatience. "Henceforth I will be my own Prince Minister," was the ejaculation of LOUIS XIV. on the death of Cardinal MAZARIN, who was not only an astute and experienced statesman, but the unacknowledged husband of the King's mother, ANNE of Austria. Nevertheless, for some years FOUQUET remained master of the French finances, and, after his downfall, COLBERT long directed not only the exchequer, but the industries, commerce, and colonies of France. Nor did many years elapse before LOUVOIS became virtually all-powerful at the War Office. So that the practice of consulting subordinates alone, and of personally exercising the power of decision in all matters, was not really carried out even by the *Roi-Soleil*, whose maxim was "I am the State."

It is true that in the annals of the House of ROMANOFF there are some close approximations to individual government on the part of the sovereign. If it can be said of any Muscovite ruler in the last two centuries that he or she truly ruled, the description is applicable to PETER the Great and CATHERINE II. Nor can it be denied that ALEXANDER I. and NICHOLAS I. played each personally a considerable part, but from time to time they were served by able Ministers. To ALEXANDER II. himself is due most of the credit for the emancipation of the serfs, but during his reign GORTCHAKOFF must be acknowledged to have shaped Russia's foreign relations, while it was MOURAVIEF who prevailed upon his imperial master to sign, just before his assassination, the abortive decree endowing the empire with parliamentary institutions. Under ALEXANDER III. it was the representative of the Church, POBEDONOSTZEF, who exercised preponderant influence over Russia's internal affairs, and M. DE GIERS remained until his death in the ascendant at the Foreign Office.

Thus we see that in this century, at all events, there is, even in autocratic Russia, no precedent for the complete monopolization of authority which NICHOLAS II. is reported to contemplate. Moreover, so manifold and intricate have become the internal and external problems pressing upon the St. Petersburg Government that, in the absence of prolonged experience, abilities almost superhuman would be required for a single man to solve them. No such abilities are attributed to the young Czar, NICHOLAS II.; and we may take for granted that even if it be true that for a time he means to try to rule without Ministers, the experiment will be short-lived.

The Dry Tortugas.

In these days of possible hostilities with Spain, a special interest attaches to the announcement that a Board of navy and army officers is to examine Fort Jefferson, on Garden Key, in the Dry Tortugas, with a view to rehabilitating it and to founding a naval station there. There are ten low lying islands, partly covered with mangrove bushes, and the group lies about 120 miles southwest of the end of the Florida mainland.

Unlike nearly or quite all our other defensive works, Fort Jefferson was not designed to protect an important city. It is perhaps the most conspicuous example to be found of our fortifying a purely strategic position, for Key West has some intrinsic consequence as a town. In the Dry Tortugas what we have of value is one of the finest, most commodious, and safest harbors of the Southern coast, and it is desired both to make it available for ourselves and to prevent it from being seized as the sheltering haven and the base of an enemy.

A round half century has elapsed since Fort Jefferson was begun, in 1846, under President POLK, with JEFFERSON DAVIS as Secretary of War. It is one of the largest works in the United States, covering the greater part of Garden Key, and was originally designed, if we do not mistake, for about 420 guns, although only a part were mounted; and it cost about $5,000,000. It was seen then, as now, that an enemy's fleet, obtaining the harbor of the Dry Tortugas as a base, might control both the Florida Straits and the Yucatan Channel. For this reason it has shared with Key West the reputation of being the military key of the Gulf of Mexico.

During the civil war Fort Jefferson was used as a military prison, but when, in the reaction after the war, post after post on the seaboard lost its garrison, and was even suffered to fall into decay, Fort Jefferson followed this fate. It attracted attention for a time as the place of confinement for Dr. MUDD, whose life sentence was remitted after his valuable service during the yellow fever scourge of 1868. When the surgeons of the station succumbed. Then it became, as it is to-day, a quarantine station; and this use of it is, according to a report made by the Inspector-General's Department, a few years ago, an obstacle to its reoccupation.

In that report it was urged that the harbor of the Dry Tortugas has been for years "a tempting and easy prize for the audacious," and that "owing to its isolation and accessibility, we might have lost it at any time during this interval without knowing, until too late, that it had passed out of our possession." Its real value as a naval auxiliary would have become apparent in the effort to recapture it.

It is noticeable that in the list of the twenty-seven principal ports requiring defence, compiled by the Fortifications Board of 1885, the harbor of the Dry Tortugas is not included. But that is not a point against it, as even Puget Sound was not found in the list. Several years ago Gen. HOWARD advised the reoccupation of Fort Jefferson; and the present movement is founded on the desirability of getting a more sheltered and deeper harbor than Key West for a naval coaling station in that region. The Dry Tortugas, lying about sixty miles to the west, furnish, it is believed, such a harbor, and, at all events, on this point the Board will report.

Twenty years or more must have passed since the garrison of Fort Jefferson, after being reduced in 1870, was withdrawn altogether. The Marine Hospital Service, which then took possession of it, naturally kept up only what its own accommodations needed, and the account given by the army inspecting officers a few years ago as to its military condition was discouraging:

"Rotten gun carriages, cracked bastions, rusty guns, in fact, general decay, were apparent on all sides. The brick work throughout needed, and still needs, repairing. All the bastions had cracked and settled, and there were thousands of lineal feet of cracks in other parts of the walls. Many of the casemates leaked, and the moisture had caused an excessive formation of stalactites. Nearly all the embrasures of the two tiers of casemates had been enlarged so as nearly to equal in width the span of the arches. It is said that this mutilation of the fort was done by the troops during the fever epidemic of 1868.

"The six wooden platforms for the 15-inch guns in barbette are in ruins through decay. The other barbette platforms are of old pattern, but with 4-inch pintles. Whether they would withstand the shock of full-service charges cannot be definitely settled, but probably not."

If the Dry Tortugas should be turned into a naval coaling base, the hospital would doubtless be removed and a wharf built. Probably many of the buildings could be repaired and made useful, both for naval purposes and for the artillery garrison that would be stationed there. Fort Jefferson is of the old type, as are the guns now mounted there; but the condition of twenty-five 10-inch guns was found by the inspectors to be good, and it would be easy to supplement the old ordnance by some modern high-power guns and mortars, so as to give the station an adequate defence.

The Kaituma Railway.

The recent denial, on authority, by the *Pall Mall Gazette*, that England had granted railway concessions across territory disputed with Venezuela, was perhaps based on her view of disputed territory before the announcement of the OLNEY-PAUNCEFOTE agreement.

We have before us copies of the Georgetown *Chronicle* containing accounts of the grant made by the Court of Policy at that place. It was in the form of the Kaituma Railway bill, which came up under a motion for the suspension of the rules, in order to allow its second reading. The river Kaituma is a branch of the Barima, and the route along its right bank was discovered by Mr. D'ANDRADE, who obtained from the Colonial Government last year the privilege of building a cart road there. Without carrying out this plan, the grantee proposed to substitute a railroad; and during the debate it was stated that a journey to the gold fields, which now takes four or five days from Mount Everard, could thereby be accomplished in two hours.

It does not appear, from the debate, that Venezuela's possible rights in the matter were considered at all. We do not find any question raised as to the ownership of the region. The word Venezuela does not appear in the debate as reported. The Kaituma is mentioned as being in the northwestern district of the colony, and the road was to proceed thence southwesterly to a point opposite the Arakaka Creek landing. The chief objection raised to the bill was that the Government knew too little of the person who proposed to build the road, and of the route which it was to take. But this objection was not considered vital and the bill was passed.

As it turns out, however, this railway concession will be subject to the arbitration decision, and meanwhile may be regarded as an example of the way that matters would have been rushed in that region had not our country intervened.

The Billion Test.

While the Mugwump journals have generally abandoned the pretence that the CLEVELAND bonds were issued without reference to the need of meeting the Federal expenses, their agitation against the greenbacks as a perpetual menace to the gold standard continues. Whether this is kept up from actual dread of the greenbacks, or from sheer cranky loyalty to the President, who wrote in his message of less than a year ago, that it "cannot be safe to rely upon increased revenues as a cure for our present troubles," need not be considered. However, there is easy proof that revenue may be an absolutely certain defence of the gold reserve against the danger of public demand for it in the name of the greenback.

Suppose that the revenues should produce in a year a surplus of $1,000,000,000. Then, if every note now bearing the Government stamp were a greenback, and whatever was the stress of financial difficulties, not a single paper dollar would be presented for redemption in gold. All greenbacks not locked up in the Treasury would be held by the commercial public as too valuable to part with in a terribly tight money market.

The records of our currency during the last thirty years show with reasonable certainty that if during Mr. CLEVELAND'S Administration the Federal revenues had but equalled the Federal expenses, without producing so much as a cent of surplus, there wouldn't have been enough drafts upon our gold reserve to require the issue of a dollar's worth of bonds.

ANDREW H. GREEN, "the father of the Greater New York," the friend of the parks, and the promoter of the North River Bridge, has nearly recovered from his long illness, and is now able to attend to much of his business. He will take part in the final meeting of the Greater New York Commission. He is 75 years old, and his recovery from a severe and dangerous surgical operation is regarded as remarkable.—*Philadelphia Ledger.*

The whole of the people of the Greater New York have reason to rejoice with Mr. GREEN'S personal friends over his recovery from his long and serious illness. In all this community there is not a life more valuable to it than that of ANDREW H. GREEN; there is not another citizen more deserving of honor, or who has been more useful in his day and generation. Long may he live in health and strength to see the complete realization of his statesmanlike conception of the Greater New York.

It is touching to behold the confidence with which the eminent members of the Live Stock Exchange, who called upon Major MCKINLEY for the purpose of recommending him to appoint the Hon. SAMUEL WURZEL ALLERTON as Secretary of Agriculture, speak of that gifted Cook county ruralist's prospects of appointment. Thus the Secretary of the National Live Stock Exchange says, with admirable simplicity, that "while Major MCKINLEY did not tell the committee outright that he would make Mr. ALLERTON a member of his Cabinet, we feel from the way he treated the matter that he will appoint him." This is ample evidence of the patient courtesy and kindness with which Major MCKINLEY treats his callers. He sends them all away in good spirits and thoroughly pleased with him and themselves. The delegations which come to boom candidates for the Cabinet depart in the same genial frame of mind and sure that their errand has been successful. The case of the ALLERTON delegation shows, however, how easy it is to deceive one's self when one longs to be deceived. Of course Mr. ALLERTON may be appointed Secretary of Agriculture, but it is clear that there was nothing particular in Major MCKINLEY'S language to the ALLERTON boomers to justify their belief that he will be appointed. There are plenty of other candidates, and to all of them Major MCKINLEY will be, as he ought to be, just as polite and guarded as he seems to have been to the Chicagoans. It is inevitable that various somebodies and nobodies should be disappointed when the Cabinet list is published, but it will be their own fault. There are plenty of people who are ready to believe that a President-elect has a great admiration for their political sagacity and mental power if he happens to shake hands with them or to tell them that the weather is very pleasant to-day.

If the lecturer is worth his salt, you can hear a pin drop in any of the hundreds of audiences that are listening to the Free Lectures to the People this season. These are not talks for the public amusement. The man who thinks he will be bored by the solid facts of science, hygiene, history, art, and literature had better keep away. But if any one doubts that the multitude will improve the chance to get solid information, let him drop down to Mulberry and Baxter street, for instance, see the crowded school assembly room, and observe the interest and attention with which the people of that neighborhood listen to talks on astronomy, geology, birds, fisheries, and other edifying subjects, by men and women who know what they are talking about. About one hundred and forty lecturers are dispensing this sort of intellectual nourishment in the twenty-nine assembly places throughout the city. It is a great educational opportunity and many thousands of hard-working men and women are improving it on Monday and Thursday evenings.

The Boston folks continue to harry the poor Bacchante. Listen, for instance, to the Hon. S. B. CAPEN, President of the Municipal League, as he speaks at the meeting of the Watch and Ward Society:

"The statue is to be covered soon. Thank God for that. May it never be uncovered in our midst. And why do I speak of this here tonight? A few days ago one of the prominent members of the Suffolk bar, a gentleman of wealth and culture, who has had large opportunities of public travel, told of a recent trip to Paris. And he gave it as his judgment that the reason why Paris is so corrupt and why there are so few homes, as we understand the word, comes from the fact that in the streets of the city and in public places there are so many statues representing the nude in art."

Everything in Boston is interesting, and Mr. CAPEN'S remarks are especially interesting, but the theory of the member of the Suffolk bar with wealth and culture is positively exciting. Can't he be induced to publish his views at length? They would be welcomed by students of art, of morals, and of Parisian civilization.

The Hon. LYCURGUS TIMBERLAKE, one of the most original and fruitful of modern lawgivers, has just met with a temporary defeat, which, however, leaves no gash in his hitherto victorious shield. The Temperance Committee of the Alabama House of Representatives has reported adversely his bill making it unlawful for a woman to wear in public tights, bloomers, shirt fronts, or any article of clothing commonly worn by men. Undismayed by the heartless conduct of the Temperance Committee, the Hon. LYCURGUS TIMBERLAKE moved to have his bill put upon the calendar, but in vain. It is no secret that some representatives of smaller calibre are jealous of the glory of the author of the Anti-Shirt-Front bill. His motion was beaten by an almost unanimous vote. "The measure," say its exultant enemies, "is dead." How little they know the Hon. LYCURGUS TIMBERLAKE. He will not rest. He will not sleep. He has sworn that the shirt front shall not be worn by women in Alabama. And observe how deep his purpose runs. His epoch-making bill forbids women to wear in Alabama "any article of clothing commonly worn by men." So, when he has his way, the women of Alabama must go hatless and shoeless. Woman's costume is a delicate matter for a reformer to strive to amend; and neither JUSTINIAN nor NAPOLEON had the power to execute such reforms as the Hon. LYCURGUS TIMBERLAKE proposes. But now that he has proposed them, he will carry them out, at whatever expense of intellectual force. It is useless for the misguided Alabamians to oppose his bill. The Hon. LYCURGUS TIMBERLAKE is a born lawgiver, and has law to give away.

The Boston Board of Health has shown a proper regard for health and civilization by declaring that expectoration in public places is a nuisance; and persons guilty of committing that nuisance are to be abated by means of a fine of one hundred dollars. The trouble about edicts and ordinances against this barbarous and diabolical habit has been that they are seldom or never enforced. Will the Boston ordinance be carried into effect? Will culprits be fined, and imprisoned if they can't or won't pay the fine? Here is the opportunity for Boston to surpass all her ancient glories, and to stand at the head of civilization in the United States. To stop the curse of expectoration would be not the least beneficent achievement of the nineteenth century.

UNFAIR REPRESENTATION.

A Simple Matter of Right and Wrong.

From the Galveston News.

The *News* believes in handing over to the politicians of Mississippi and South Carolina all that they are entitled to, but sees no reason, in equity or law, why they should be given the earth. To show how the laws of Mississippi and South Carolina operate in the election of Congressmen, take the elections of 1894.

The total vote of the several districts in Mississippi is shown as follows: First, 3,820; Second, 5,106; Third, 1,852; Fourth, 8,964; Fifth, 8,699; Sixth, 6,016; Seventh, 5,124. In South Carolina the figures were: First, 9,543; Second, 5,973; Third, 7,105; Fourth, 11,224; Fifth, 9,986; Sixth, 10,639; Seventh, 10,088. Total vote in Mississippi, 39,581; total vote in South Carolina, 68,645; average vote per district in Mississippi, 5,655; average vote per district in South Carolina, 9,092. In the same year the average vote per district in Indiana was 43,000; in Texas, 34,000; in Illinois, 38,000; in Kentucky, 32,500; in North Carolina, 30,500; in Connecticut, 38,500. Recently the *News* argued that it is manifestly unfair for 1,852 voters in Mississippi to have a Representative in Congress, while in Texas it requires 34,000 to 40,000. Indeed, in 1894 the vote in the Sixth district in Texas was 40,494, against a total of 39,581 in the seven Mississippi districts. Congress ought not to permit this inequality to longer exist.

This the *Houston Post* is pleased to declare "vicious agitation." In other words, the Houston pander to all manner of vicious politics pretends to believe that it is equal, even, and fair for the 1,852 voters of the Third Mississippi district to select a member of Congress with the same salary and powers given by 40,494 voters in the Sixth Texas district to their Representative. This is a fair illustration of the ideas which moral degenerates of political perversity have of equality, justice, and truth. How about the law relating to such a case? Is it to be observed or disregarded? If it should be disregarded in this case, why apply it anywhere? Article 14, section 2, amendments to the Constitution, declares:

Representatives shall be apportioned among the several States according to their respective numbers, counting the whole number of persons in each State, excluding Indians not taxed. But whenever the right to vote at any election for electors of President and Vice-President, or for United States Representatives in Congress, executive and judicial officers, or the members of the Legislatures thereof, is denied to any of the male inhabitants of such state being 21 years of age and citizens of the United States, or in any way abridged except for participation in rebellion or other crime, the basis of representation therein shall be reduced in the proportion which the numbers of such male citizens shall bear to the whole number of male citizens 21 years of age in such State.

The law of the case is certainly plain. The equity of the demand for equal representation in Congress and in the Electoral College will not be questioned save by demagogues who are eager to profit by injustice and fraud. Give to Mississippi and South Carolina just what Texas has, a Representative for every 34,000 votes, or give Texas just what Mississippi and South Carolina have, a Representative for every 5,655 or 9,092 votes—no more and no less. This is right. Anything else is wrong.

Jews and Gentiles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Am I to understand from "Medico's" letter, published in to-day's issue of your paper, that my recent hostile criticism of the Jews, based on an indisputable statement of fact, to wit, their share in the Constantinople massacres, proves me to be bigoted, narrow-minded, a malignant persecutor, of unhealthy mind filled with poisonous germs, one of the kind who engenders racial warfare and retards the progress of humanity to higher and nobler aims, &c. This broadside is almost on a par with the proposition of a Jewish citizen to stamp anti-Semitism as the long ill-defined sin against the Holy Ghost, the unpardonable crime, or with the pleasant suggestion of another son of Israel that Rector Ahlwardt be kidnapped, taken to some lonely spot, and burned alive like a Southern ravisher.

I do not propose to follow "Medico's" example, however. Personal abuse is not argument. I am willing even to admit that the Jews are not only an intellectual race, but that they have the seed in them of much that is great and noble. Were it otherwise, they never could have given the world a Moses, an Isaiah, an Ezekiel, a Spinoza, nay, Jesus of Nazareth, the Saviour of mankind. Bring up a Hebrew child amid refined gentile surroundings, and his chances of developing into a good and useful citizen are as good as any one's. It is the abominable Talmudic spirit which perverts the Jews from the cradle up, the spirit which far from making them "respecters of the law, of the opinions of others, and, above all, lovers of humanity," has instilled in their minds the poison of such teachings as the following:

"The holy treasures are for Israel, not for the non-Jews, the dogs."—The Talmud, Megilla 7, 2. "A Jew shall not give to a Gentile any meat; he shall give it rather to the dogs, for they are better than the Gentiles."—Rabbi Baschi, Deuteronomy Rabba, 21. "The chosen people are worthy of eternal life; the Gentiles are asses."—Rabbi Edels, Tract Makkaboth, 23, 1. "It is forbidden to let a young Jew or Jewess be nursed by a Gentile nurse; for her milk engenders a malicious nature in the Jew."—Schulchan Arukh (Talmudic abridgement) Jore dea, 81, 7. Haga. "The Jews who slay Gentiles will enter into the fourth palace of Paradise."—Sohar I., 39, 2. "Who intends to kill a beast, but kills a Gentile, shall not be punished."—Tract Sanhedrin, 78, 2. And so on, ad libitum!

V. GRIBAYEDOFF.

NEW YORK, Nov. 30.

The Humanity of the Jews.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "The wish is father to the thought" is the spirit which aptly characterizes the letters of Mr. Adams and Mr. Gribayedoff on the Armenian question and the Jewish Women's Council.

The letters show upon their face that they are based upon meagre and unreliable data, and that the conclusions of the writers are valueless. Generalizations made upon imperfect or distorted knowledge of the facts ordinarily do not merit consideration, but when they tend to fan the flame of prejudice among the ignorant and unthinking because of their publication in a responsible journal, it is not amiss to call attention to the illogical character of such views and to the evident bias and bigotry which inspired them.

Any one who has ever attended a convention knows how easily such a meeting is swayed in its actions, particularly in matters which are not the vital ones that brought the delegates together. In respect of the Armenian question, it was proposed, in a spirit of humanity, to adopt resolutions of sympathy with the oppressed Armenians, when one of the delegates called attention to the circumstance that Christian churches differed as to the facts of the alleged persecution, and that it was doubted by many if these persecutions were real. It was suggested that it would be unwise to adopt such resolutions until the actual facts were known. The meeting therefore took no action, not because it did not sympathize with the persecuted, but because there was doubt expressed as to whether there had been such persecutions. The letter of Mrs. Nathan in Saturday's SUN shows that a baptist minister of this city quite recently in a published sermon declared that the stories of these persecutions "were manufactured out of the whole cloth."

It is upon this action, or rather inaction, that the un-Christian charge is made that Jews do not sympathize with the sufferings of Christians. As a matter of fact, the Convention was characterized by the broadest humanity, and resolutions of sympathy with all the persecuted of earth were unanimously adopted.

If the traducers of the Jewish character would take the trouble to read the history of the Jews and their literature, and to study their domestic life, they would quickly learn that no more sympathetic, warm-hearted people ever breathed than the Jews, despite the centuries of persecution to which they have been subjected in the name of religion.

SAMUEL GREENBAUM.

New York, Nov. 30.

The Jews and Armenians.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In reply to the letter from one V. Gribayédoff in your Saturday's issue it should be said:

1. The statement that a resolution expressing sympathy with the persecuted Armenians was sidetracked at the National Council of Jewish Women is untrue.

2. Equally untrue, and quite absurd on the face of it, is the assertion that the Jews have organized or encouraged the Armenian massacres.

3. As to the somewhat contemptuous claim that "they (the Jews) are not accustomed to assuming physical risks of any nature," this is not a subject well adapted for newspaper discussion. But I should be pleased to convince the writer personally of its incorrectness if he will kindly call on me.

ELMIRA, N. Y., Nov. 29. JEROME W. FRANK.

DE ARMAS AND CASA-MIRANDA.

Canovas Seems to Regret His Talk of Shopkeepers and a New Trafalgar.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read in the *Herald* a cable from Madrid in which it is said that the Count of Casa-Miranda in an interview "denied that he had ever had any conversation or negotiated with Señor José de Armas-Cardenas, who says that he was a diplomatic agent of the Cuban Government and went to Spain to treat for the purchase of Cuba by the insurgents."

In another cable of the Associated Press the Count of Casa-Miranda does not appear as denying that "he had ever had any conversation" with me, but says, in regard to the assertions in my pamphlet *La Pérdida Española* that "he has not had any relations with Armas-Cardenas, author of the pamphlet, for several years past."

I first knew Casa-Miranda in Madrid in 1889. He was then secretary of the Spanish Premier and, as now, the confidential agent of Señor Canovas del Castillo. Last summer, when I went to Spain, not as a diplomatic agent of the Cuban Government, which I never professed to be, but in a private effort to settle the Cuban question, the Count of Casa-Miranda, as I published in my pamphlet, acted as an intermediary between the Spanish Premier and myself, and arranged my two interviews with Señor Canovas del Castillo.

I can adduce, to fortify my assertion, that in May last, on my return from Paris, when I first spoke there with Casa-Miranda and he told me that Canovas was ready for the interview if I could bring back from New York a guarantee that the Cubans in arms would accept a treaty of peace in which Spain should grant independence to Cuba and Cuba should indemnify Spain, I laid my understanding with Casa-Miranda before respectable persons in New York, among them Mr. R. A. C. Smith of 100 Broadway.

Mr. Smith, to guarantee me against any annoyance in Spain, as I am a well-known enemy of the Spanish rule in Cuba, wrote to several persons in Washington to obtain for me a letter from Mr. Olney to Mr. Taylor, which would give me also an opportunity to call on the American Minister and notify him of my enterprise in case I succeeded with Señor Canovas.

Is it conceivable that I could return from Europe, interest here in that affair my friends, sail again for Europe, telling the same friends that I was going to see Casa-Miranda and Canovas, and spend all the money which such movements indicate only for the purpose of publishing some months afterward in New York a pamphlet in Spanish and mentioning in it the name of the Count of Casa-Miranda?

The meaning of all this, in my opinion, is that the Spanish Premier would like to efface the impression produced by what he said to me against the United States. He considers now that to talk with haughtiness about a "nation of shopkeepers" and a new battle of Trafalgar off Havana between the Spanish and American fleets was an easy task when he was seated in his own office at Madrid with a defenceless Cuban revolutionist, but that these words are more grave now that they have been published in all the newspapers of America. So, to discredit me, Señor Canovas has employed, as when he arranged to see me, his own "confidential man," a new proof of what I qualify in my pamphlet as Spanish perfidy, and of the old well-known saying, "Spain sells to have the trouble of washing afterward."

JOSE DE ARMAS-CARDENAS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 1, 1896.

Pretty When She Didn't Sing.

From the Chicago Daily Tribune.

She was visiting in the city, and she was the prettiest girl in the room. When she stood up to sing the other girls regarded her enviously. A pretty girl who can sing is doubly dangerous, and they considered that the visitor had already received more than her proper share of masculine attention.

While she was arranging her music and whispering to the accompanist the two girls just behind the piano were exchanging confidences.

"I do think it's a shame," said the first girl, vexedly. "She's captured all the men already with her airs and graces, and if she sings well—and I just know she does—we won't have a bit of fun to-night."

"O, yes, we will," answered the second girl, smiling happily. "We'll be all right."

But the other was not to be so easily consoled.

"I wonder who asked her to sing?" she fretted. "It must have been some one who knows all about her little tricks, too, for all the girls in the club are talking about it."

"I asked her," said the second girl, calmly. "You'll know why in a minute. Just wait a bit."

Two minutes later the first girl leaned over the other and touched her arm.

"Why, she makes awful faces," she whispered, delightedly. "She's positively ugly when she opens her mouth that way."

"I know it," responded the second girl, with a satisfied smile. "That's why I asked her to sing."

"You clever darling!" exclaimed the first girl; and only the fact that there were others present kept them from hugging each other as they urged the visitor to sing again.

A Free-Silver Stronghold.

From the Galveston Daily News.

One of the most interesting features of the election was this, that while El Paso went for sound money, the smelter district voted solidly for free silver. Here is food for thought. The city of El Paso is a widenawake town. Her people have the energy and progressive spirit characteristic of the white race. The smelter district is situated up the Rio Grande, three miles from town. The entire settlement is made up of mud houses occupied by peons. With the exception of a few white bosses the smelter employs Mexicans.

It is safe to say that none of these Mexican laborers can read or write, yet they piled up a vote for free silver that communities peopled by intelligent whites did not give. The word "peon" is here used in its Anglicized sense. The term really means one who loans labor is hounded for debt, but it is used now to cover all the lower caste Mexicans, whose Indian mothers of Montezuma's day did not receive proper attention from the Spanish cavaliers who followed the adventurous Cortez. The peon, ranging from the straight Indian of the Yaqui and Cholo types up to the semi-intelligent ones who have a splash of Spanish blood in them, is the element that piled up the silver vote in the smelter district.

Puzzled, But Not Complaining.

From the Louisville Commercial.

The old man is a great favorite on Newspaper row; his only failing is that he has asthmas which he has to drown out occasionally.

Last week he started out to drown his hay fever on pay day. When he left the office he counted among his possessions $20, his week's salary. Just what happened to him is a mystery, because he never gained consciousness until he woke up in the station house the next morning. He searched his pockets—they were empty.

Eight o'clock came, and the station keeper came to let him out. There was no charge against him; he had only been locked up to sleep it off. Station Keeper Collins called out Bob's name and then began to hand out things that had been taken away from him when he was locked up, of which Bob had no knowledge. First, his watch, then $37.50, half as much again as Bob had when he started out; then a new suit of clothes, an umbrella, a box of paper collars, and a basket of grapes.

Bob is still wondering where they came from. But he entertains the highest opinion of the Police Department and the Board of Public Safety.

Helen Keller Riding Awheel.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

CAMBRIDGE, Mass., Nov. 28.—During a sunshiny streak in the weather yesterday afternoon a tandem bicycle sped down Massachusetts avenue. A red ribbon fluttered gayly from the handle bar, and the two young women who propelled the machine laughed aloud. On the front seat, steering, sat Miss Amy Sutter of Cambridge. On the rear seat was perched Helen Keller, the deaf, dumb, and blind girl, who is studying at Radcliffe College. Her yellow hair crowned in the wind and her face was wreathed with smiles. No one who did not know her could have perceived that she was sightless.

An Historical Discussion.

From Harper's Round Table.

"What are the Dark Ages?" asked the governess at the morning lessons.

"That must have been before spectacles were invented," guessed May.

"Oh, no," interrupted Cedric; "I know why they were called the Dark Ages. Because there were more knights then."

Religious Standing of Christian Scientists.

From the Boston Evening Transcript.

A lady member of a Congregational church in Fairhaven, Mass., having become interested in Christian Science, wished to join the church of that name in this city. The church refused to give her the usual letter of admission and recommendation, in the belief that the Christian Scientist Church was not sound on the fundamental doctrines commonly accepted by the evangelical Congregational denomination. The pastor submitted the matter at issue to the Rev. Dr. Quint for his opinion. Being familiar with the creeds and doctrines held and taught by Christian Scientists, Dr. Quint promptly gave his decision in favor of granting the let