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LOCAL NEWS.—The City and Suburban News Bureau of the UNITED PRESS and NEW YORK ASSOCIATED PRESS is at 21 to 29 Ann street. All information and documents for public use instantly disseminated to the press of the whole country.

In Crete.

The order of the military and naval commanders in Crete that foreign correspondents shall henceforth submit all despatches to the censorship of their Consuls is sufficient indication that a course is about to be taken in that island that will not stand the test of free criticism. The conduct of certain Governments in placing the control of affairs in Crete in the hands of the men of action is an indication that some among them are desirous of forcing events. When the Italian Admiral speaks of the Cretans as "rebels," against whom he proposes to use severe measures, it seems hardly necessary to make further comment on the situation as regards the Cretans if the coercing powers are to dominate it. The French Government and people are to be congratulated if they refuse to share in the business.

The reports that the English Ambassador at Constantinople has called the attention of the Porte to the state of affairs in Asia Minor is of bad import for the Turk, for it means that the diplomatic pressure of last summer is to be again taken up with the return of spring, and backed up by a formidable display of naval force with military expeditions to follow. No one can pretend to believe that the assemblage of every English and Italian ship of war that can be spared in the waters of Crete and the Ægean, with the English Channel squadron in support at Gibraltar, is necessitated by the presence of four thousand Greek troops in Crete, or the rebellion of the Cretans against Turkish misrule. Neither are the military preparations in England, Italy, and Austria. There is more going on behind the scenes than the outside world is permitted to know of, and the censorship of press telegrams in Crete is a symptom of the intention to keep the European public in the dark.

We Have No Ships for the Porte.

The Constantinople despatch that the Sultan will try to buy of our Government two or three armorclads is somewhat of a surprise. It cannot strictly be called absurd, because there is nothing to prevent the Porte from proposing such a trade; but that we should sell any of our warships is indeed preposterous.

To begin with, we have no armored ships to spare. Are we to give up the Iowa, Indiana, Massachusetts, Oregon, Maine, or Texas? We need all those battle ships, and also the Kearsarge, the Kentucky, and the three latest ones, which, indeed, are not advanced enough for the Sultan's present needs. Should we give up the armored cruisers Brooklyn and New York, or the monitors Puritan, Monterey, Miantonomoh, Monadnock, Amphitrite, and Terror? We cannot part with any of them, and would gladly have more.

Our Government has never been in the business of selling armorclads to foreign powers, and would certainly not begin by equipping the Porte in its present stress.

It May Be.

The Russian army of the Caucasus is concentrating at various points on the frontier of Armenia from Batoum to Mount Ararat. The main point of the concentration, however, is Sarikamysh, between the frontier and the fortress of Kars, the works of which were completed and armed a few years ago. Sarikamysh in the time of the Turkish occupation was an insignificant village, but since 1890 has become a military station of the first importance, permanent barracks for a division of infantry and a strong force of cavalry and artillery having been completed in that year. It is also the headquarters of the annual camp for manœuvres of the army of the trans-Caucasus. From this station there are two roads leading to the Turkish frontier, one across the Soghanly Dagh to Zevin, where the Turkish and Russian posts face each other, on either side of a small stream running through a basin surrounded by high hills.

Zevin is noted as one of the points where the Russians suffered a severe defeat at the hands of the Turks, through the temerity of the Russian commander, who threw his men against a formidable position without sufficient reconnaissance or information as to the strength of the Turkish force. From Zevin a road, which is indifferent, leads to Erzeroum, the Garin of the Armenians; but the one by which the advance of a Russian army would more probably be made, is that from Sarikamysh to Malazgerd, opening directly on the great plain of Passin, over which a road leads directly to Erzeroum by the village of Köprikeui and the old castle of Hassan Kaleh. An advanced guard of cavalry and light artillery could be before Erzeroum in eighteen hours or less from the time of starting from Malazgerd. The roads on the Russian side are in good order. Sarikamysh is connected with Kars by a road of double width, admitting of artillery moving two guns abreast. The movement of troops is thus greatly accelerated. Kars, it is calculated by the Russian military authorities, would require an army of at least 120,000 to invest it effectively. Back from Kars a road goes to Alexandropol, the old Gumri of the Georgians and Turks, a city of considerable size, and an important military station connected with the Tiflis-Baku Railway line at Akstaffa by an excellent road through the Delijan defile.

Another important point on the frontier, from which an advance would be made in the direction of Erzeroum from the north, is Olti, which is connected with Ardaghan, which was lost to the Turks early in the last war through the treachery of its commander. The next point from which troops would be pushed into Turkish territory is from Batoum, on the Black Sea, up the valley of the Tchoruk-Su to Baibourt, a pretty town on the Tchoruk River, dominated by a high, precipitous, rocky ridge on the right bank of the stream, crowned by the ruins of fortifications of ancient date. Baibourt was the scene of one of the worst of the Armenian massacres, the ferocious Lazes of the neighboring mountains having been called in to participate in it. Here the road between Erzeroum and Trebizond would be occupied, and a force pushed on a short distance would hold the junction of the Erzingian road with that to Trebizond, over the Kop and Zigana chains of mountains, the same by which tradition says the celebrated retreat of the Ten Thousand Greeks from Persia to the sea, described by XENOPHON, was made.

On the Ararat side of the frontier a movement would be made from Erivan by Etchmiadzin, the seat of the Armenian Catholicos, the head of the Gregorian Church, across the Araxes and the spurs of Ararat to Bayazid, and thence on to Van, on the east end of the lake of the same name, and by Bitlis and Moush on through gloomy defiles to Diarbekir. Minor movements would take place from points along the frontier between Ararat and Malazgerd into the plain of Passin to overawe and control the lawless Kurdish tribes that inhabit between the frontier and Lake Van and the Bitlis and Moush districts.

In what capacity a Russian army would enter Armenia is as yet uncertain. It would depend on events in the Balkans and the neighborhood of the Dardanelles. It might be as an invader, as a mandatory of the European powers, or as the ally of the Turk against a European attack. In any case it would be for the protection and advancement of Russian interests.

Wise Words of Washington and Jefferson.

WASHINGTON in his Farewell Address gives this warning to his countrymen:

"Against the insidious wiles of foreign influence I conjure you to believe me, fellow citizens, the jealousy of a free people ought to be constantly awake; since history and experience prove that foreign influence is one of the most baneful foes of republican Government. There can be no greater error than to expect or calculate upon real favors from nation to nation. It is an illusion which experience must cure, which a just pride ought to discard."

These words were written one century and six months ago, and as a postscript to them we quote an extract from the letters of THOMAS JEFFERSON some years later on:

"I fear nothing from force, but I have felt much and fear more from English books, English prejudices, English manners and the apes, the dupes, and designers among our own professional classes."

Shall this generation of Americans heed the wise counsel of WASHINGTON, or allow itself to be cajoled by the successors of the "apes, dupes, and designers" whom THOMAS JEFFERSON put in the pillory of history as enemies of their country?

The "Fanatics" in Brazil.

The existence of the young republic of Brazil is again menaced, and the danger to it at this time comes from the revolt of a body of people in the north who are vaguely described as "religious fanatics" and as "monarchical revolutionists." Until recently there were only small and scattered bands of these riotous "fanatics" in the province of Bahia; but their number has increased until they now have an organized force that may not fall short of 18,000 armed men. The Government, which had at first thought they could be subdued by a few regiments, has been compelled to send more and more troops against them, and at this time the best part of the army is in the field. A number of desultory combats have been followed by a battle that was fought last Sunday, in which the Government troops met with a serious defeat, and had to take to flight. The situation is an unhappy one for the country, but the probabilities are that the revolt will yet be crushed by the very efficient army of Brazil.

The purpose of the fanatics, so far as it can be ascertained, is to overthrow the republic, which is not very firmly established, and to set up in its stead a monarchy like that of the late Dom PEDRO II., or a military dictatorship like that which came after the fall of the Empire. We suppose that the revolt is called "religious" because its leader desires the reëstablishment of the former relations between Church and State, which were broken a few years ago. The name of this leader is ANTONIO CONSELHEIRO, and he is described as an adventurer inflamed with fanaticism. We print some account of his recent performances in another column.

The revolt has occurred at a most inopportune time for the republic of Brazil. Its able and peacefully disposed President has been prostrated with illness for months past, so that the duties of his office have devolved upon the Vice-President. The financial condition of the Brazilian Treasury is so unfavorable that it has been found difficult to negotiate a loan in Europe. The rebellious elements in two other provinces besides Bahia are awaiting their opportunity. The relations of Brazil with Uruguay and also with Peru are unsatisfactory. The project of forming a commercial union between Brazil and a number of other South American countries has been interfered with. In yet other respects Brazil is at a disadvantage.

It is nevertheless to be said that the demonstrations of loyalty to the republic ever since the fanatics or monarchists began to disturb the public peace have been such as to strengthen and encourage the Government. It has become manifest that an overwhelming majority of the Brazilians will stand by President PRUDENTE DE MORAES BARROS against all enemies of his administration.

We honor Brazil, the youngest republic in the world. We believe it will be victorious. It is a good and a strong republic.

The Indian Famine.

While the attention of the whole world is centred on an island with a quarter of a million of inhabitants in the Mediterranean, millions of people in India are lingering in the agonies of death by starvation under the alleged best Government on earth. The subject is so disagreeable that the English papers refer to it as little as possible, and the Cretan question and the preparations for the celebration of the sixtieth year of the Queen's reign absorb public attention. In their solicitude about the lives of a few hundred Mussulman ruffians in Crete, they forget or ignore the mute appeals of the famishing millions of their fellow subjects in India. The Lord Mayor's fund for the relief of the distress is far from being successful, and it is asked whether this is so because people fear that the money will be wasted or stolen, as so much of what went out in 1877 was. It is stated that subscribers can obtain absolutely no information as to how the fund is administered, and but for one solitary correspondent in India no one outside official circles would have any knowledge at all of what is going on there. What makes this callousness of the British public so hard to understand is that the present famine far surpasses that of 1877 in horror; it extends over a wider area and finds the Government wholly without the means of meeting it in its full extent.

The famine fund, for which after 1881, 15,000,000 rupees were set aside annually out of the revenue, is found to have been applied to other purposes entirely alien to its object. Although from 1891 to 1894 there figure certain sums in the Indian accounts as having been set aside for famine relief purposes, the fund is practically nonexistent. In sixteen years fewer than four million rupees, a competent writer says, out of nearly one hundred and ninety millions alleged to have been set aside for this famine fund, have been spent directly in relieving hunger. The rest, according to an official memorandum, has been spent on railways and other works.

It appears that the inhabitants of southern India have not yet paid off the debts they incurred in staving off starvation in 1877, yet the tax-gatherer comes around with inexorable regularity. Evictions for non-payment of the land tax have increased enormously of recent years. In 1892-93 the number for the whole of India was 1,730,000, an increase of 128 per cent. on the total for 1882. The land by this process is passing gradually into the possession of the usurers, who hardly ever lend at less than 50 per cent. interest; and the peasant proprietor, the basis on which English power in India rested, is disappearing rapidly. Thoughtful men in England are becoming seriously anxious over the situation in her great dependency, and are alarmed at the tone of Parliament and the press in relation to the motion of Sir WILLIAM WEDDERBURN, an old Indian official, for an inquiry into the condition of India. The rejection of the motion was not a symptom of indifference, but rather of fear, the fear of hurrying on the catastrophe. As a writer in the London *Investors' Review* puts it, "Some day we shall have, not a committee of inquiry, but an inquest, and where will the 500 millions sterling we have sunk in the Peninsula be then?" In the present temper of the English people, rioting in dreams of imperial greatness and world-wide aggrandizement, it is evident that any call to reason over such a disaster as has overtaken their Indian fellow subjects would be as a voice crying in the desert.

Men Needed for the Navy.

The Fifty-fourth Congress was exceedingly liberal to the navy, not only in its provisions for ships and guns, but in its additions of enlisted men. If we do not mistake, it broke all precedents for liberality since the civil war period, and it certainly did in the increase of the personnel.

And yet still more men are needed for the navy to-day. Nearly all that are in the service have been absorbed by the ships in commission and by other duties, while two new gunboats, the Helena and Montgomery, are to have their trial runs within ten days, and the biggest of our armor-clads thus far launched, the Iowa, within four weeks. The Nashville is also coming along well, and six composite gunboats should follow from time to time before the autumn, in addition to many torpedo boats. A battle ship, nine gunboats, and many torpedo craft, in short, should be in commission before the regular session of Congress to be held next December.

This is the situation that may be laid before the coming session. When the present number of enlisted men was fixed, it was intended to establish a reserve system, under which well-tried ships could be taken out of commission and their crews utilized for running the newer ones. But our transatlantic friends, with their performances on this continent, will not allow us yet to do this. It cannot fairly be said that we are keeping too many vessels in commission, or will have too many with the new ones now coming along. It is quite certain, however, that some ships will be withdrawn, either for repairs or other purposes, and the Newark, Cincinnati, and Detroit have been suggested as among these.

But it might be safer to authorize the Navy Department to enlist more men, if found to be required, under a temporary provision, which need not hold good another year unless specifically renewed by Congress.

On the Bowery.

The proposition to change the ancient and honored name of the Bowery to that of Piccadilly, which is to be presented by a committee of petitioners to the Board of Aldermen on Tuesday next, is intolerable. The Bowery merchants who join in the petition are a small fraction only of the total number in business in that thoroughfare. They aver that the trade of the Bowery has languished, and is languishing; that rents have declined; that many buildings are untenanted, and others occupied only transiently, and that profitable shops have been moved away, to make place for museums, mock auction stores, cheap lodging houses, pawnbrokers' shops, and saloons of the cheaper variety known technically as "panhandlers' resorts."

The "panhandler," by the way, is an east-side tramp, reared if not born in the city of New York, and uniting the maximum percentage of thirst with the minimum percentage of willingness to toil. The west-side tramp is an itinerant. He goes from place to place. He is the gypsy of the industrial world, and he accords the favor of his presence to this or that part of town as his preference may incline or his necessity dictate. But the lower east-side "panhandler" is loyal to the region in which he may be said to belong. He goes nowhere else. It is this which makes the "panhandler" a distinctive feature of life in New York. He will never desert the lower Bowery.

The alleged commercial decadence of the Bowery is attributed largely to its name, upon which song writers and newspaper paragraphers have cast a reproach leading ignorant and innocent people throughout the Union to imagine it to be "a place entirely given up to dives, thugs, thieves, and bunco steerers." Hence the petitioners pray the Aldermen to change the name of the Bowery to Piccadilly, and thus restore the famous street to its old-time glory.

The name Bowery is Dutch. Originally, in the days of New Amsterdam, the lesser New York, the present Bowery was a lane running along the farms, or "boweries," which faced it. With the growth of the city in other directions, particularly on the upper west side, and the enormous expansion of Brooklyn and the Jersey towns, the importance of the Bowery declined, so that now it is no longer the great thoroughfare it was. But its present industrial decadence is not due to that cause alone. The improved means of transportation, cheap and pleasant, furnished by the elevated and cable railroads, and the opening of the Brooklyn Bridge in 1883, brought about a gradual exodus of well-to-do people whose patronage made prosperous the business of the now complaining shopkeepers. To use an expression not unfamiliar among the former German-American residents of the neighborhood, they have "out gone." They are no more there. They have departed, and in their places have come the very poorest of the immigrant throng, those whose resources are even more slender than their wants, and whose purchases are often limited to the barest necessities of life.

The same sort of decadence, and for the same reason exactly, has been observed in the once profitable, thrifty, and throbbing thoroughfare of Grand street; but no committee has proposed to revive its former fame by changing its name to the Strand or Charing Cross in the hope that people in other parts of the United States will resume trading in Grand street on that account. A few years ago the residents and dealers in what then bore the name of Chatham street made a similar petition to the Aldermen, on the ground that the name Chatham, which all patriotic Americans have so much reason to extol, had become of evil repute so far as trade was concerned. Accordingly, they begged that the inaccurate designation of Park Row should be substituted for it. Their prayer was granted, but if there has been any improvement in the trade of the street as a consequence, it does not appear to the ordinary observer.

Piccadilly is an essentially English Cockney name, and it will never do for the important New York street so long honored with the Dutch title of the Bowery. It will never do, never! The inexorable laws of trade cannot be altered or the march of progress stayed by ordinances adopted by the New York Board of Aldermen. Under whatever name it may be, the Bowery will always be the Bowery to New Yorkers, and business in it is not likely to improve materially until the character of the population radically changes.

Long live the Bowery! No Piccadilly!

A Wicked Attempt to Wring the Neck of Mother Goose.

Mr. WILLIAM H. WHITMORE, an antiquarian and a genealogist of Boston, sends to the *Boston Transcript* an earnest communication in which he allows himself to speak of the most venerated and perhaps the most famous of the literary characters of Massachusetts as the "Mother Goose myth." He also declares that "there is no Mother Goose myth outside of Boston." This assertion goes too far. In the "Dictionary of Phrase and Fable" compiled by Dr. E. COBHAM BREWER, who died at a great age only last week, and may have had traditionary information at not more than second hand as to the author of the "Melodies," occurs this entry:

"**Mother Goose**—A name associated with nursery rhymes. She was born in Boston, and her eldest daughter, ELIZABETH, married THOMAS FLEET, the printer. Mrs. GOOSE used to sing the rhymes to her grandson, and THOMAS FLEET printed the first edition in 1719."

This shows that the Mother Goose myth, if it is a myth, has a circulation which extends far beyond Boston. Mr. WILLIAM W. NEWELL, the folk-lorist, and other investigators agree with Mr. WHITMORE that Mother GOOSE is a myth which was not introduced into English until after the translation of PERRAULT'S "Contes de Ma Mère l'Oie," which appeared in 1697. "The name Mother Goose," writes Mr. WHITMORE, "came into the English language in 1729 as a translation from the French, when PERRAULT'S beautiful 'Fairy Tales' was first printed in London. As to Mother Goose's 'Melodies,' no one has seen a copy earlier than 1780." Well, nobody has seen any of the mutton bones on which MAHOMET is said to have written the Koran. Is MAHOMET therefore a myth? Because CHARLES PERRAULT, borrowing an old French name for a grandam, or what not, brought the words "Mother Goose" into some note, is the existence of an actual Mother GOOSE to be denied? Because OVID wrote a book of "Amores," is that numerous and distinguished Boston family, the AMORYS, disproved? This is a point of etymology, by the way, which was first raised by *George Warrington* in "Pendennis" in regard to *Miss Blanche Amory*, "Amory-Amori." Take an exact parallel to the *l'Oie* and Mother Goose case. *Cabot* is the French name of a fish. CABOT is the name of one of the most ancient of the Boston *gentes*. Are there then no CABOTS in Massachusetts? Are they myths? Or take the French word *minot*, the name of a measure, as who should say in English, for instance, PECK. Are the illustrious MINOTS of Boston only myths?

Mr. WHITMORE has written a book in which he bastes Mother GOOSE. Several able antiquarians have showed, or think they have, that Capt. JOHN SMITH'S story of his little adventure with POCAHONTAS was a good lie. When once you write a book and demonstrate a thing, you feel an interest in the book and almost a hostility to the mythus demonstrated. "In my view," writes Mr. WHITMORE, "Boston is disgraced by the repetition of these fables, which lead strangers to think we are in earnest."

If the Bostonians are not in earnest, where are they? And if they are in earnest they will not permit their most illustrious literary name to be taken from them. "The whole fable," continues Mr. WHITMORE, "is less than forty years old. It is a ridiculous provincialism." We are prepared to show at the proper time that there are men considerably more than forty whose first impression of Fleet street, London, was that it was named after the son-in-law of Mother GOOSE. We shall establish at the same time by internal evidence that the Mother Goose "Melodies" were written and could have been written nowhere else than in Boston. As to the existence of Mother GOOSE, it can be proved at any time by putting it to the vote of all unsophisticated children; and as to "ridiculous provincialism," what is there ridiculous or provincial in Mother GOOSE or her "Melodies"? The hand that wrote "The cow jumped over the moon" wrote the history of transcendentalism and the philosophy thereof.

The Removal of Fonsdeviela.

The Havana report that, in response to an official request from Madrid, Col. FONSDEVIELA has been removed from the command of Guanabacoa, and Col. TEJERIZO appointed to succeed him, has a special interest for our own country.

It was in the Guanabacoa jail that Dr. RUIZ met that terrible fate, of which a sequence is that his widow, with her children, visited the President and Secretary SHERMAN, last Friday, to ask for relief and indemnity. FONSDEVIELA has been accused of burning the plantation of an American citizen, at Joaquin, and of atrocities in taking the lives of Cubans. Whatever the truth may be regarding these accusations, he was certainly in command at Guanabacoa when RUIZ perished there, so that his reported removal may be significant.

Of course, however, the inquiry into the circumstances of Dr. RUIZ'S death must go on. Spain has pledged herself to make it, and our Government is under obligation to see that it is carried out in good faith and thoroughly.

It is possible that the Hon. JOHN SHERMAN of Ohio and the United States, recently Senator in Washington, previously Secretary of the Treasury, and at one time member of the House of Representatives, may do very well in the office of Secretary of State in the Administration of President MCKINLEY. These Buckeye statesmen sometimes turn out better than some other people thought they would. In the State Department Secretary SHERMAN has the greatest opportunity in his life to win a lasting renown.

We accept the statement of a Mugwump organ that it is the duty of the new Administration to enforce the strictest neutrality in the Spanish-Cuban war. Such a policy, however, would be unlike that of the last Administration. Moreover, it would satisfy the Cubans, in so far as their desires were expressed by the General-in-Chief of the Revolution, when recently interviewed by a correspondent of THE SUN. "All we desire from the United States," said GOMEZ, "is fair neutrality." We can say that this is a desire which has been entertained for a long time by the American people also. It ought to be carried out by President MCKINLEY, for the sake of the country's honor and the American flag.

The Kansas Legislature seems resolved to disappoint the high hopes of the Populists. It has beaten the measures which provided for the initiative and referendum. Now, next to the worst kind of money there is or can be, nothing is half so dear to the Populist heart as the initiative and referendum. There is a wealth of sound about the combination. There seems to be a spell, something of magic and incantation about it. It is a sort of charm and word of gramarye. *Abracadabra;* now you see it, and now you don't. Thousands of thoughtful citizens have derived as much comfort from the mere mention of the initiative and referendum as they would get from a square meal. There is little doubt that the constant repetition of the words "initiative and referendum" soothes the nerves, promotes digestion, helps stammering, relieves jumping toothache, removes dandruff, makes warts disappear without pain, and hair grow on the smoothest face, prevents chilblains, takes the squeak out of shoes, strengthens the memory, is an infallible cure for coughs and colds, when taken in time, and in the full of the moon is a sure remedy for moths, grease spots, and insomnia. Swarms of locusts have been frightened out of Kansas by the constant invocation of the sacred words. When the days are long enough, cows, pigs, and hens may be best called home by this impressive and favorite Populist cry. In short and in long, with initiative and referendum all wonders may be achieved and all impossibilities be made easy. Yet the Legislature of Kansas turns the initiative and referendum out of doors. There will be tears and breaking hearts for this.

About sixty members of the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company enjoyed an elaborate banquet at the Old Dorchester Club last evening.—*Boston Herald.*

They had a big dinner, which is the plain English for the elaborate Bostonese expression "an elaborate banquet." They had a big dinner, but how does the *Boston Herald* know that they enjoyed it? Do or can the Ancients enjoy eating? They are eating all the time. Apparently they do nothing else. There is no hour of day or night when some relay of that bellipotent band is not eating somewhere. The drumbeat of England is nothing, as a continuous performance, compared with the Ancient appetite. At this moment some Ancients are just getting through dinner, and other Ancients are beginning an elaborate banquet commonly called breakfast. In the hands of men entirely great the corkscrew is mightier than the sword. But do the Ancients never get nervous prostration or indigestion? Is it their gift to eat forever without overeating? Are they incapable of satiety and able to rise fresh from the table and go fresh to another one? They are the most wonderful set of warriors in the world. The only greater wonder is that they leave any food and drink for the rest of mankind.

What peculiarity of temperament or humor of fate forces the Hon. MARION BUTLER, Populist and Senator in Congress from North Carolina, to receive letters which give him no joy and which he refuses to publish? Once the Hon. TOM WATSON sent him a letter of which he was only too willing to deprive the world, but of which Mr. WATSON was anxious that the world should not be deprived. Now the Hon. MILTON PARK of Dallas and the National Reform Press Association has sent to Mr. BUTLER, who is still Chairman of the Populist National Committee, a letter insisting that there shall be a meeting of the Executive Committee not later than May 1. Mr. PARK observes, not without modest self-satisfaction, that this letter is "respectful in tone, but positive in statement," and he adds that Mr. BUTLER "cannot fail to comprehend its meaning." With which somewhat ambiguous compliment to Mr. BUTLER'S intelligence that gentleman must content himself. Trouble may be in store for him, however, for "if Mr. BUTLER does not heed its [the letter's] requests, we shall publish it broadcast." Mr. BUTLER ought to find some means of protecting himself from these letter writers. He might publish a notice saying that on and after date he will refuse to receive any letters which do not contain a stamp and distinctly declare in print on the envelope or in the shape of a letter head that the receiver is not expected to publish them unless he wants to.

We have not any doubt that Japan would give the Philippine Islands a far better government than Spain has ever given them. The island of Formosa was ceded to Japan by China two years ago, after the termination of the war between the two countries, and there has been a marked improvement in its condition since that time. Japanese statesmanship is exceedingly systematic.

The Indignation of an Episcopal Rector.

The Rev. Dr. D. H. Greer in the Commercial Advertiser.

The "new journalism" is a pander to morbid pruriency. If it becomes any more flagrant or exaggerated, public sentiment should become public action against the proprietors of these newspapers. It is cowardly on the part of these men to say, under the cover of so-called journalism, the vile, disgusting, and nasty things against individual citizens which they would not dare to state were they face to face. None but cowards would so act. Not only is there in the "new journalism" no virtue; there is no manhood.

And I almost think that if statements were to be printed about my family such as have been of other men's I would not wait for the law. I might have to go to jail for it, but I don't think I would."

A Congregational Minister's Remedy.

The Rev. Samuel H. Virgin in the Commercial Advertiser.

The action of some libraries and clubs in excluding offensive papers from their rooms is commendable, but the number should be increased. Churches should not advertise their services in these sheets, and Christian and self-respecting men should withhold their advertisements from their pages. Let the clean-spirited people refrain from buying a single copy or be seen reading one till these great sums of money now turned to the public injury are made to do service for the public weal.

Congratulations from Georgia.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

For two years now the White House has been guarded by twenty-four officers divided in squads of eight men each. It is said that Mr. McKinley will do away with this force, and also cause the removal of the sentry boxes on the White House grounds.

We congratulate the new President. A man who is afraid of the American people has no business to be President.

Not One of the Patients.

From the Lewiston Evening Journal.

"I love you as I never loved a girl before," said a gay lawmaker from the Augusta House at a dance over at the insane asylum the other evening, thinking he was humoring one of the patients. Later he discovered he was talking to one of the Senators' wives.

NOTES OF LEGAL EVENTS.

It is seldom safe to assert that a litigation is certainly ended, except perhaps in the case of a conviction of murder in the first degree, where the defendant has suffered the death penalty. In the Fayerweather will case, however, it may prudently be said that the action of the Court of Appeals on Tuesday in denying the motion to send the suit back to the trial Judge increases the probability that the bequeses which the testator intended to benefit will eventually get the money. The object of the application was to reopen the question of the validity and sufficiency of the instrument by which the widow and next of kin released their rights to the executors.

The decision of the Supreme Court of the United States in the case of the steam yacht Conqueror, belonging to Mr. Frederick W. Vanderbilt, is favorable to the owner so far as the principal question involved in the litigation is concerned. The judgment of the District Court that the yacht was not liable to duty under the customs laws has been affirmed. The Supreme Court, however, is of the opinion that the District Judge was too liberal to Mr. Vanderbilt in the matter of damages. The Conqueror was seized in this port for non-payment of duties, in August, and remained in the custody of the United States Marshal until the following February. The District Court awarded $15,000 damages, as representing the loss which her owner incurred by reason of his inability to use the vessel during that period. Mr. Justice Henry B. Brown, writing the opinion of the Supreme Court, suggests that the evidence on which this allowance was based must have come from persons friendly to the owner, and says that in any event it should have been rejected. It was putting too great a strain on credulity to ask any one to believe that a craft which itself was worth only $75,000 had an earning capacity which would net $15,000 to her owner during the autumn and winter. The case has been sent back to the District Court for a new assessment of damages. We suppose the damages were fixed upon proof that the yacht could have been employed for cruising in tropical waters during our cold season.

Employers and workingmen throughout the country will be much interested in the decision of the Court of Appeals of this State in the case of Curran vs. Galen, involving the legality of an agreement between a brewery association and an assembly of the Knights of Labor, whereby no brewery belonging to the association was to employ any person who did not belong to that particular assembly or to retain any one for more than four weeks in its service who should decline to join that labor organization. Such an agreement has been pronounced unlawful in all the courts. The case was originally heard in March, 1893, at Special Term in Monroe county, by Judge William H. Adams. The complainant was Charles Curran, who charged the Ale Brewers' Association of Rochester and the Brewery Workingmen's Local Assembly of the Knights of Labor there with conspiracy to prevent his obtaining employment. It appeared that Curran had been employed by a brewery belonging to the association, that he declined to join the Knights of Labor, and that he was consequently discharged by reason of the agreement already mentioned. Mr. Justice Adams held that the defendants had no right to combine for the purpose of depriving a person of his right to labor simply because he did not consent to join a specified labor union. His judgment was affirmed, upon the opinion written by him, by the General Term of the Fifth Department, in March, 1894; and that affirmance has now been upheld by the Court of Appeals.

The statute of this State for the protection of veteran soldiers, sailors, and firemen from dismissal from office without notice and an opportunity to be heard contains an exception comprising private secretaries, chief clerks, or deputies of an official or department, and any other persons holding a confidential relation to the appointing power. In other words, a veteran whose office brings him into a confidential relation with the officer who appoints him may be removed at will and without the assignment of any cause for his removal. In October last the Appellate Division of the Supreme Court in the Second Judicial Department held that an assistant warrant clerk in the office of the Comptroller of the city of Brooklyn did not occupy a confidential relation to the Comptroller. On Tuesday the Court of Appeals reversed the decision of the Supreme Court to this effect, and declared that the position was one requiring trust and confidence, and therefore within the exception of the statute. Two members of the Court of Appeals, however, dissented, so that we have the curious fact that five Judges of the Appellate Division are reversed by five Judges of the Court of Appeals.

The vacancy in the office of Circuit Judge of the United States for the Ninth circuit, caused by the appointment of Judge Joseph McKenna of California to be Attorney-General of the United States, will call upon President McKinley for his first important nomination in the judicial branch of the public service. The candidates are numerous. Among the names mentioned are those of William W. Morrow, District Judge for the Northern district of California, and Cornelius H. Hanford, District Judge of the District of Washington. Judge Hanford has figured prominently in the Northern Pacific Railroad litigations. The Ninth circuit comprises the States on the Pacific coast, together with Nevada, Idaho, and Montana. It seems not improbable that in the event of the retirement of Mr. Justice Field during the Administration of President McKinley, Attorney-General McKenna would be appointed his successor in the Supreme Court of the United States, as the appointment would naturally go to the Pacific slope.

The decision of Judge Addison Brown of the United States District Court in the case of the Turkish Consul-General at Boston is simply a refusal to order the discharge of the defendant from custody under the order of a city magistrate directing his detention as a fugitive from justice from the State of Massachusetts, where he has been indicted for embezzlement. The Judge expressly refused to determine whether under the law as it now stands the State courts and the Federal courts have concurrent jurisdiction over offences by Consuls or whether the Federal jurisdiction is exclusive, saying that all questions as to the proper tribunal for the trial of the cause could more appropriately be heard and decided in Boston.

On Friday Vice-Chancellor Reed of New Jersey, at Trenton, dismissed the bill of complaint in the suit brought by the Attorney-General against the American Tobacco Company, commonly known as the Tobacco Trust. The principal grievance charged against the defendant was its refusal to sell to purchasers who would not agree not to buy of other manufacturers. The Vice-Chancellor holds that such refusal would be perfectly lawful on the part of an individual, and hence is equally lawful on the part of a corporation. A question was raised as to the regularity of the proceedings by which the American Tobacco Company was incorporated, but the Vice-Chancellor declares that this cannot be determined in his court.

The announcement comes from Albany that a bill relating to court calendars has been introduced in the Assembly at the request of Mr. Justice Gaynor of Brooklyn. It provides that the trial Judges of the Supreme Court may cause a new calendar of cases to be made up whenever in their discretion they think that a new one should be prepared. A fee of $1 is to be charged for placing a case upon the calendar. It is hoped that these changes will enable the Judges to free the calendar from cases which are practically dead and which the attorneys never mean to try, but which pad the docket and interfere with the speedy disposition of live lawsuits. Under the existing law, a case once on the calendar in New York or Brooklyn remains there until tried or dismissed.

WHAT IS GOING ON IN SOCIETY.

The production of "Die Walküre" at the Metropolitan Opera House on Monday evening was a most satisfactory opening of Mr. Walter Damrosch's German season. The superlative attraction was, of course, Frau Lilli Lehman, and it was not until the curtain had risen for the second act, and her voice was heard from the rocks above *Wotan's* head in the cry "Ho-yo-to-ho!" that the audience, feeling satisfied that her voice owned all its old power and melody, broke out into tumultuous applause. From that moment absolute contentment reigned, and whatever deficiencies may have appeared in other members of the troupe, not a note was lost up to the end of the somewhat tedious opera. Through the closing scenes Lehman's and Fischer's perfection of voice and art were well displayed, and even the stolid, immovable German critics departed with some slight approach to enthusiasm.

The audience was distinctly cosmopolitan throughout the week, and the grand and parterre boxes, although well filled, looked with a little surprise at the somewhat motley crowd about them. A round hat here and a bonnet there took the place of tiaras and aigrettes, and it must be admitted that among the array very little youth or beauty was observable. Mr. and Mrs. William C. Whitney have been the most steady in their attendance. Mr. and Mrs. August Belmont and Mr. and Mrs. Ogden Mills were present once or twice. Mrs. Levi P. Morton and her daughters, Mr. and Mrs. W. Bayard Cutting, Mrs. Pierpont Morgan and Miss Morgan, Commodore Gerry's family, Mr. Perry Belmont, Mr. J. G. Haven, and other habitués of the opera, of whom it may be said that "it is not that they love society less, but that they love music more," have been faithful in their attendance, and as the Lenten days wear on the audiences will probably become more fashionable.

The social programme for Lent is in the highest degree charitable, athletic, and improving. Theatre clubs have been abandoned this year, and scientific, literary, and stereopticon lectures have taken their place. Scarcely an hour during the six working days of the week but is utilized for the educational benefit of the smart set. There are musical, historical, political, stereopticon, and artistic lectures, lectures by men and lectures by women—the former mainly on X rays and their appalling though beneficent revelations, and the latter on the well-worn topic of woman's rights and municipal reform. In the midst of all this intellectual grind, riding and bowling clubs, Badminton and skating come in with a breezy, bracing effect, and even sewing classes, though robbed of their old social attractions, are refreshing.

The old sewing clubs are still in existence, and do their regulation work faithfully as of yore, but as champagne luncheons, or young men to 5 o'clock tea, have been eliminated from their sphere of usefulness, very little is heard of their meetings. A new one has, however, been organized this winter, of which Mrs. Frederick Bronson, Mrs. F. W. Vanderbilt, Mrs. William C. Whitney, Mrs. L. P. Morton, and Mrs. Adrian Iselin, Jr., are the moving spirits, and their work is to be for the benefit of the Maternity Hospital, now established at the old Fish mansion in East Seventeenth street. These charitable ladies, who may justly be called the Wealthy Sisters of the Poor, have put their subscription price at $10, and are to have two meetings each week at different houses on the same day. As the subscription price will limit membership to those whose purses are as long as their hearts are big, the benefit to the charity will be of course much greater than if nimble fingers only were at work.

The ice skating carnival at the St. Nicholas Club on Thursday night was a jolly affair and as picturesque as ice grottoes, polar bears, and very good skating could make it. But socially it was rather a poor imitation of the fête given lately at the Princes Club in London, where royalty looked on from the boxes, and such up-to-date beauties as Lady De Grey, Lady Randolph Churchill, Mrs. Arthur Paget, and Lady Terence Blackwood, all robed in metropolitan scarlet, while the men were severe in black broadcloth and white ties, mingled with the crowd on the ice and glided about in real or affected ignorance of their surroundings. To be sure, the admission fee was placed at a guinea, which excluded many who in England look twice at a guinea before they spend it for the privilege of moving elbow to elbow with members of the aristocracy, and it was feared at one time that there would not be people enough on the ice and the fête would prove a failure. Here the price of admission was moderate enough to be no drawback, and if hot-air pipes could have been surreptitiously introduced the ladies and gentlemen in the boxes, who included Mr. and Mrs. James L. Breese, Mrs. and Miss Neilson, Mrs. and Miss Hoffman, Mrs. and Miss Whittier, Mr. and Mrs. E. L. Winthrop, Jr., Miss Katherine Duer, Mrs. George De Forest, Mr. Alan Arthur, Mr. Gordon Paddock, and other men of the sporting and athletic set, might have found the atmosphere more comfortable for lookers-on.

A farewell dinner to Mr. and Mrs. Bradley Martin given at the Carbon Studio on Tuesday night by Mr. and Mrs. James L. Breese was a kind of oasis in the desert to famished diners out, and it is devoutly hoped that other friends of these lavish entertainers may be moved to similar expressions of gratitude and good will before they sail away on the 27th.

Of a similar nature were the cards of invitation from Mrs. Charles Robert Coster to the marriage of her daughter and Mr