# The Sun.

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## The New Democratic Tariff Plank.

The speech with which the Hon. JOSEPH W. BAILEY of Texas, the new Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, followed the address of the Chairman of the Ways and Means Committee on the recent introduction of the Tariff bill, possessed important features that were all its own. In the first place, Mr. BAILEY renounced the crank and arbitrary doctrine of free raw materials, with which the Cleveland element struck its first blow at the platform on which it had obtained power. The idea of a tariff for "revenue only," the Democratic principle of 1892, forbids a discrimination which would make anything free. But with this step toward the reassertion of that principle, Mr. BAILEY stopped. His speech contained no reaffirmation, nor even a suggestion, of the constitutional proposition that the tariff must be for revenue only. On the contrary, it was conceived in agreement with the Democratic tariff plank of 1896, which holds that "tariff duties should be levied for purposes of revenue, such duties to be so adjusted as to operate equally throughout the country, and not discriminate between class or section."

This practical repudiation of the tariff plank of 1892, on the high authority of the Democratic leader in the House of Representatives, reduces the conflict over the Tariff bill, at least as far as concerns that branch of Congress, to a mere question of differing judgments as to how the schedules shall be adjusted for the raising of revenue, and for the promotion of our industrial welfare in general.

The history of the "revenue only" plank describes what might be called a tragedy in politics. No single beneficiary of it raised his voice for it after CLEVELAND took office in 1893. Nobody cares much for it now.

## From October to April.

In October last Minister DUPUY DE LOME, commenting on WEYLER's campaign, then about to begin, said that Spain only wanted three or four days of north wind in order to start operations that would sweep every vestige of rebellion from Cuba.

He said that the Government had been forced to wait until the rainy season was over, because in the mountainous districts streams became deep torrents in a few days, and to dislodge and disperse the rebels under such conditions was hopeless. After the rainy season had followed the tornado season; but all would be ready, when the north winds should clear away the cyclones, to drive the rebels from the interior to the coast, where a cordon of gunboats and launches would prevent their escape from the island.

The campaign thus heralded has been fought, and what is the result? Can anybody say that with all the prodigious and costly efforts put forth by Spain, the rebellion is less strong and defiant than it was in October last? The patriot cause is even encouraged by finding that it has been able to make head against the tremendous armies brought forward to subdue it. It can fairly expect never again to find a force employed which it cannot withstand.

In a short time those conditions unfavorable to campaigning, of which Minister DE LOME spoke, will return, and the campaign which was to have crushed the revolt will be in the list of confessed failures.

## Swan Island.

The proposal to expend $30,000 under the authority of Congress, to establish a lighthouse on Swan Island, in the Caribbean Sea, brings into prominence the fact that, whatever the policy adopted about annexing other islands lying south of us, we already have some under our jurisdiction.

Navassa is a well-known possession of this sort, and there are other guano islands which have been declared officially to belong to the United States, and concerning which laws have been passed. Swan Island is about a hundred miles from Honduras. It is said to be about three miles long, and there is a smaller island close by, the couplet, however, being known, we believe, by the single name, Swan Island.

The proposal to build a lighthouse on this southern possession of ours is due to the needs of the coasting trade, emphasized by the wreck of some vessels for the want of a light there. The obligation in the matter, therefore, seems to be ours, or, at all events, it is considered expedient for us to establish a lighthouse there. It has been pointed out by the Lighthouse Board that such a structure would become even a necessity after the completion of the Nicaragua Canal.

Perhaps, also, Swan Island could serve other purposes. A breakwater might have to be constructed in order to afford good anchorage, but with that it could perhaps be made a temporary coaling station. It is spoken of as healthy, rather fertile, and occupied a part of each year by negroes taken thither for work, and by the families of those who superintend. But we may hope to have before long a better Gulf naval station than Swan Island could furnish.

## Has Mr. Gladstone Triumphed?

It is less than a week since Mr. GLADSTONE put forth his eloquent manifesto on behalf of the Cretans and of Greece, yet already reports are current that the precise solution of the problem recommended by him is likely to be adopted. Two London newspapers have published, under reserve, it is true, a telegram from Paris, according to which the Sultan himself, fearful of the effect of the appeal on public opinion in England, France, and Italy, has suggested that King GEORGE of Greece, through a commissioner nominated by him, shall occupy and administer the Government of Crete, Turkey simply reserving her imperial rights in the island. What is this but the very arrangement advocated by Mr. GLADSTONE in his memorable letter to the Duke of WESTMINSTER?

It will be remembered that in his magnificent deliverance, which was as remarkable for close reasoning and sober sense as for its mastery of the emotions, Mr. GLADSTONE points out that the Greeks had placed themselves upon a ground of indestructible strength by declining to stand on an abstract objection to the nominal suzerainty of Turkey, should this be insisted on by the powers. With that abstract objection waived he thought that an accommodation of conflicting views and claims would be entirely possible. Why should not Crete, he asked, be autonomously united with Greece and yet not detached in theory from the body of the Ottoman Empire? Such an arrangement, as he reminded us, would be by no means without example. It is well known that, ever since the Congress of Berlin, Bosnia and Herzegovina have been administered by Austria, yet they have never been formally severed from the overlordship of the Sultan. The same thing is true of Eastern Roumania; it has been incorporated with Bulgaria, so far as administration is concerned, yet it still pays a tribute to the Porte. Cyprus is similarly administered by Great Britain; indeed, European history is full of cases in which, while paramount sovereignty over a given territory was vested in one State, the secondary or subordinate lordship over the same tract has been exercised by another. Mr. GLADSTONE not only quoted the case of Cyprus as a precedent for the method of dealing with Crete, but he also gave expression to the satisfaction he should feel, were it granted him, before the close of his long life, to see the population of that Hellenic island placed by friendly arrangement in organic relations with their brethren of the Greek kingdom and of Crete. That is just the sort of aspiration that we should expect from a Philhellenist, who, at a much earlier stage of his career, brought about the annexation of the Ionian Islands to Greece.

Should such a solution of the problem troubling the great powers be eventually accepted, we shall witness an impressive vindication of Mr. GLADSTONE's assertion, that Greece, which some have seemed disposed to treat as a criminal and a disturber of the peace, did, in truth, confer by her bold action a great service upon Europe. She it was who made it impossible to palter with this question of Crete as the great powers to their shame have paltered with the blood-stained question of Armenia. It was the little kingdom of Greece which extricated the Cretan question from the meshes of diplomacy and placed it in the order of the day for definite solution.

## The Constitutionality of the Rapid Transit Act.

It is a public benefit to have the law settled. Such a benefit has resulted from the suit instituted by THE SUN Printing and Publishing Association against the Mayor, Aldermen, and Commonalty of the city of New York attacking the Rapid Transit legislation of 1891, 1892, and 1895, on the ground that it was unconstitutional. This action was brought under that wise provision of our law which permits a taxpayer to invoke the aid of the courts in order to prevent a waste of the public funds.

Two of the five Supreme Court Justices, who heard the case in the Appellate Division in this city, agreed with us that the Rapid Transit legislation was invalid. There are no abler men on the bench in this town than Judges INGRAHAM and RUMSEY. Judge INGRAHAM is a Democrat and Judge RUMSEY is a Republican. It was the opinion of Judge INGRAHAM that "this whole scheme of the building by the city of a railway to be used by private individuals or corporations for their own benefit is not a city purpose, and was beyond the power of the Legislature to authorize." In concurring with this view, Mr. Justice RUMSEY said: "I believe that the purpose to be accomplished by this act is entirely outside the ordinary range of municipal purposes and cannot be said to be a city purpose; and no city can be permitted to contract an indebtedness under it."

These opinions suffice to show that it was upon no fanciful point or unsubstantial ground that the Court of Appeals was asked to condemn the Rapid Transit act. The Judges of that tribunal, acting doubtless upon the maxim that, wherever possible, a statute should be upheld rather than pronounced unconstitutional, have sustained the validity of the legislation; and when the court of last resort has passed upon a question of law, further argument thereon is generally useless.

The decision, however, is of advantage in the respect already suggested. It removes the constitutional cloud which would otherwise envelope the enterprise, whatever particular plan might be adopted. The fact should also be noted that it in no wise affects the prior determination of the Appellate Division refusing to confirm the report of the Rapid Transit Commissioners in favor of the construction of an underground railroad from the Battery through Broadway to Fourteenth street, and thence by branches extending on the east and west sides of the city toward the Harlem River. The confirmation of that report was opposed in behalf of THE SUN and other taxpayers, and the Appellate Division unanimously rejected the scheme on the ground that it was impossible to determine what would be the cost. Judges BARRETT, RUMSEY, INGRAHAM, and WILLIAMS concurred with Presiding Justice VAN BRUNT, whose opinion concluded with these words: "The probabilities indicate that after sinking $51,000,000 in it without being able to complete it, the enterprise would have to be abandoned, since no legislation could afford any relief. All that beheld it would begin to mock, saying, 'This city began to build and was not able to finish.'"

That calamity, at all events, has been averted, at least for the present.

## Wicked Trusts and Good Trusts.

Last week the Missouri House of Representatives passed unanimously State Senator VANDIVER's bill against trusts. The measure is of the distinctly humorous sort to which most measures against trusts are now admitted to belong. It is very "stringent." All bills against trusts have to be very "stringent." It is also kind, although a trifle less kind than the noble Texas statute in restraint of trusts, a statute smashed by the courts, which are prosaic institutions, yet a statute dear to the friends of humor. The bill which the Missouri House approves so heartily provides that "all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts, or combinations between persons or corporations made with a view to lessen, or which tend to lessen, full and free competition in the importation or sale of articles imported in [into] this State, or in the manufacture or sale of articles of domestic growth or of domestic raw material, and all arrangements, contracts, agreements, trusts, or combinations between persons or corporations, designed or which tend to advance, reduce, or control the price or cost to the producer or to the consumer of any such product or article, are hereby declared to be against public policy, unlawful and void." Observe here the heroic attitude of the consumers as represented by the Missouri Legislature. "Even," say they, "if the infamous trusts want to reduce the price of things and allow us to live more cheaply, we will not allow them to do so. Whatever a trust does must be bad. If the scoundrels try to save us money, we will fine and imprison them." The heroism and the self-renunciation here displayed are indescribably affecting.

To violate the provisions quoted above is to be guilty of a conspiracy against trade, and to incur a fine of not less than $100 or more than $5,000, and imprisonment in the penitentiary for not less than two or more than ten years; but the court, in its mercy, may punish in either way.

Thus far stringency has ruled. Now begins the work of mercy. "Section IV. provides that the act shall not apply to agricultural products, lead and zinc products, or live stock while in the possession of the producer or raiser." These kinds of trusts are not wicked. This is the Texas principle, but in carrying it out a strange omission has been made. The Texas law against trusts exempts the farmers and the laborers from the operation of its provisions. It is a sad fact that the bill passed without opposition by the Missouri House forgot the labor trusts. An agreement to strike for higher wages would be punishable by a fine of not more than $5,000 or confinement for not more than ten years, or both. In the words of Ancient PISTOL, whose style of language shows that he would have made a mighty barker against trusts, "and that's the humor of it."

## Queen Lil's Predicament.

It is natural that Gen. HARTWELL should improve the occasion of his present visit to Washington to explain the circumstances under which he prepared the document of abdication which ex-Queen LIL signed.

Some time after Mrs. DOMINIS arrived here, her secretary, Mr. PALMER, announced that her abdication was not binding, because made under duress. But Gen. HARTWELL says that he drew up the paper at the request of NEUMANN, her lawyer, PARKER, her former Prime Minister, and WILSON, her Marshal, who told him that her object was to avoid further trouble by resigning all pretensions to the throne. They and Gen. HARTWELL were present, when she said that she understood the contents of the paper, and desired to sign and acknowledge it, as she did.

While this explanation has a certain historical interest and is entirely credible, the matter is one of minor practical importance, as Mrs. DOMINIS has not the ghost of a chance of ever ruling over Hawaii, or of seeing the throne restored there. The main question that suggests itself is whether, with the facts as they are, she expects ever to return to the islands. For, in repudiating her abdication, she apparently burns her bridges behind her.

## Women's Degrees at Cambridge.

Woman's equality with man in education has been advanced a step in England by the report recently made to the University of Cambridge by the syndicate appointed last year to consider the question of degrees for women. Though only five of the fourteen members appointed on the committee were believed to be in favor of the university's granting degrees to women, the report is unanimous on the main point, the only difference of opinion being as to the form of degree to be bestowed.

The syndicate admits that women studying at Cambridge labor under disabilities that should be removed; it admits that the inconveniences of co-education are not serious, as it is carried on at present, and it takes the ground that Cambridge should act at once regardless of what Oxford may do. Nine of the fourteen members, including the Vice-Chancellor of the university, propose that titular degrees of Bachelor of Arts, Master of Arts and Doctor of Science and Literature be given to women on passing the same examinations that men pass. This would confer on them all the mysterious rights conferred by these degrees, save those of membership of the university and of sharing in its government. It would give them the substance that they ask for, the stamp of the university on the work they have done, and what commercial advantages attach to a university degree.

The minority would substitute a fancy degree like Mistress of Letters or of Science for the degrees hitherto conferred only upon men. But it agrees that degrees of some kind should be granted to women.

The syndicate's report must still be acted upon by the Senate, that is, the body of the graduates, and possibly may be rejected by that body. The substantially unanimous conclusion reached by a committee, many of whose members when appointed were known to be opposed to any concessions to women, must carry weight. It is evident that the "sweet girl graduate" will soon be a reality at the English Cambridge.

## The Most Malodorous of Rivers.

A naturally beautiful stream, draining the most populous region of New Jersey, passing three busy cities and exhibiting elsewhere on its banks the decaying mansions of former luxury and magnificence, has become from sheer lack of scientific treatment one of the worst pests in the whole metropolitan district. The bad eminence of the Passaic River is the result of avoidable conditions. If its waters in its lower course look like ink and smell like sheol, and carry along to the sea the rainbow scum of multitudinous oleaginous and chemical contaminations, it is not because the Creator did not make them as limpid as those that anywhere flow. It is simply because Jerseymen, in their hurry and hustle and indifference to to-morrow, have permitted them to become what they are, a horror to the sight, a stench to the nostrils, and a constant and increasing menace to the health of a million people.

Last Monday Governor GRIGGS sent an urgent message to the Legislature at Trenton calling attention to the report of the special commission on the pollution of the Passaic River. The Governor recommends that if it is impossible to deal with the subject at the present session, now in a few days to end, the question of establishing a system of trunk sewers to relieve the river of its forced burden of filth and disease germs, be referred to a joint committee to sit during the recess and consider and report a proper remedial bill.

A year ago last February the Legislature directed the Governor to appoint a commission to investigate the subject of Passaic Valley sewerage. The gentlemen appointed happen to be men of breadth of view and common sense. Two of them are physicians of distinction. They went into the question thoroughly, employing the best engineering ability available. Their report, which the Governor now urges the Legislature to consider, is not only a revelation as to what evil man's unwisdom may wreak upon a once inviting stream, but also a clear indication of the means of relief.

From Paterson, Passaic, the Oranges, Newark, and some of the townships of Essex and Bergen counties, the unfortunate river takes up and struggles to assimilate not less than seventy millions of gallons of sewage every day in the year. The effect of this wholesale pollution can best be understood when we say that fish-life, with the exception of one or two uncommonly hardy kinds, has entirely disappeared from the river. The shad were driven out fifteen years ago. The water is actually so charged with chemical refuse from the countless factories of the upper cities that it is unsafe for manufacturers to use it even in the boilers of their steam engines. As a resort for pleasure seekers, and a beauty in the landscape, the value of the Passaic was utterly destroyed long ago. The injury to property at all points below Paterson has been tremendous. The bacteriologist employed by the commission makes a report which is a perfect museum of micro-organic horrors. From a single gramme of the inky-black, foul-smelling mud deposited at one point by the Passaic he obtained 22,370,000 bacteria. He found in the Passaic, among other disease-producing organisms, the bacilli of typhoid and the bacilli of lockjaw. His general conclusion, moderately stated, is that "the water of the river is as foul as it possibly can be, while the deposit precipitated along the course of the stream is of such a nature that, whether in a moist or dried state, it contains elements which, when introduced into the body, are absolutely dangerous to life." Of course, that means danger to health and life, not only in New Jersey, but also in New York, for the murderous bacillus knows no State lines.

The remedy recommended is a system of trunk sewers extending all the way from the falls at Paterson to the south end of Newark Bay, intercepting the outlets of the various local systems. The estimated cost is $6,500,000, and the annual cost of maintenance $127,000 at the beginning. As the district to be relieved includes parts of four counties and not less than twenty-seven municipalities, the commission propose that the work be undertaken by the State, funds to be obtained by the issue of State bonds, and benefits to be assessed upon the communities concerned.

Such, in brief, is the outline of a great and necessary undertaking which requires immediate attention; for the conditions, intolerable as they are at present, are constantly becoming worse by the rapid increase of population in this part of New Jersey. The able counsel of the commission has prepared a general act covering the project of State control of important drainage problems under the title of "An act providing for the purification of the rivers and streams of water within this State, and to prevent the pollution of the same;" and the Legislature cannot too speedily or too earnestly devote its attention to the subject, as the Governor recommends.

Passaic River must be deodorized and disinfected and redeemed.

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The leaders of the Citizens' Union movement deserve credit for discernment in keeping it from the contamination of Parkhurstism, and PARKHURST has been driven into adopting the *World* as his organ.

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Why not replace the annual cattle show and fair with a certain number of farmers' institutes?—*Springfield Republican.*

Why not replace everything good and old with something more experimental and improving? What would be the object of farming, in Massachusetts, if there were to be no cattle shows? What would pumpkins have left to grow for and to what end would oxen consent to groan beneath an extra load of fat? Would any man or boy with a heart in his bosom give up cattle show for a hundred farmers' institutes? Not much. Only the etiolated Mugwump temperament would be content to have cattle show and all its golden joys and side shows abolished. Why, if cattle show were to be shown no more, not a thing in Massachusetts would care to grow, and sheep would hunt dogs in pure desperation.

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The oyster question is not an issue.—*Norfolk Landmark.*

Then everything may be considered as settled, and even the silver clubs, even the Plato Archers of Indiana and the G. F. Williams Club of Toad Hill, Mass., can dissolve. The oyster question involves most other questions; and if, after nobody knows how many millions of years, it has been settled in a manner satisfactory to oysters and men, Virginia and Maryland, oyster pirates and oyster navies, justice is satisfied, and there is no reason to worry about trifles or to omit the daily run on the bicycle.

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Although it seems to have escaped detection successfully, the fact may be mentioned here that a so-called Democratic State ticket was nominated in Rhode Island some days ago, for what reason does not appear. From some remarks in the platform about "certain quasi-public corporations and the fame and glory of the favored few" and "bills in the interest of the monopolistic corporations and inimical to the rights of the people," it seems safe to infer that some Rhode Island mind was full of worthy cogitations and could find no means of getting rid of them except to dump them into a platform. This platform was addressed "to the citizens of the State of Rhode Island," but they do not seem to be passing a great deal of their time in reading it. This indifference to the wrongs which monopolistic corporations are inflicting upon them is one of the most marked and unhappy peculiarities of the Rhode Island folks, and it is depressing to the scourges of monopoly. "Don't spear me, madam," said Mr. ARTEMUS WARD to the lady who poked him in the ribs with her umbrella for the purpose of emphasizing her observations about woman's sphere and "domineering man."

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The preparations for the Tennessee Centennial Exhibition at Nashville are getting along finely. It is now safe to say that it will be a great affair. From the pictures we have seen, we are able to speak highly of the Exhibition buildings in Centennial Park. We learn from the Nashville papers that exhibits from the various States reach the city by every railroad train. It is gratifying to hear that those from this State are of a highly creditable character.

Tennessee is already manifesting a very great deal of pride in the forthcoming Exhibition. The State is determined to get up an industrial show that will be an honor to it, and that will demonstrate the greatness of its growth during the hundred years during which it has been a member of the Union. The Nashville Exhibition is bound to be a success.

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No system of taxation is popular, and probably never will be.—*Indianapolis Journal.*

Such is the weakness of human nature. High taxes have been tried and low taxes have been tried, but the ungrateful generations continue to object to paying any taxes whatever. Yet in this night of time one light is radiant. In this heartless world one true feeling heart can be heard beating loud and true. The man has been found who loves to pay taxes, who pines for higher taxes, who begs for them with tears in his eyes and the capillary miracles upon his benevolent lineaments quivering and soughing with emotion. He is the Hon. WASH HESING of Chicago. At a meeting in support of himself the other night Mr. HESING declared that the assessment upon the building occupied by his newspaper was "infamously low." "I have gone," he said, "year after year to the South Town Assessors, with my hat in my hand, begging them to raise this assessment, but they refused to do so. I believe I am the only man in Chicago who ever demanded that his assessment be raised." Not merely the only man in Chicago, but the only man in the world. Of course the Assessors, whose unfeeling conduct in refusing to make Mr. HESING happy by increasing his tax bill has at last come to light, persist in denying and forgetting that this instance of his heroic self-sacrifice ever occurred. They "laughed uproariously at the suggestion." What but scorn should be the reward of virtue in South Town? "Every occupant of the South Town Assessor's office for the last fifteen years was seen and asked if Mr. HESING had ever spoken to him about such a subject. Mr. HESING's statement was regarded with derision." Why derision? Even if Mr. HESING's memory is at fault about the matter, a supposition no good man will admit for a moment, the Assessors ought to have seen from his appealing looks that he was mutely asking to have the assessment increased. To be sure, the present Assessor asserts that "the business manager of the *Staats Zeitung*, [Mr. HESING's paper] called on me [him] some time ago, and begged that the assessment of the newspaper property be reduced, on the ground that it was too high. I did not want to be severe, and knocked off $1,000." What have business and business managers to do with the case? Mr. HESING, hat in hand, and poetry dripping from every pore of his nature, asks to have his taxes raised; and the brutal Assessor hates poetry, refuses to see or hear Mr. HESING, and leaves Mr. HESING heartbroken because his tax bill is too small. The devices of malice will be frustrated. The Hon. WASH HESING, unique and sublime, will not cease to illuminate the world. He is the one chap with whom taxation is popular.

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The Hon. BENTON MCMILLIN of Tennessee, who has been exhibiting himself by appearing as a sort of "leader" of the opposition in the House of Representatives by courtesy of the Hon. JOS BAILEY of Texas, seems to have convinced himself that he really is a leader and large chief. "I have never seen the Democrats in better fighting trim," he tells the awe-struck correspondent of our esteemed contemporary, the *Nashville Banner*. "The methods I inaugurated this morning, if pursued, will unite the old Democratic party once more into a fighting unit. They rallied as one man to-day to fight the policy of pillage and protection. On this line we will keep up the fight." A fight led at second or third hand by Mr. MCMILLIN must be a fine spectacle, as persons who remember what an intrepid champion of the income tax he was in 1893 will believe. The income tax is his favorite form and policy of pillage; and he can howl about robber barons just as remorselessly as if the Wilson protective non-revenue tariff had never been made.

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Congressman FITZPATRICK is the tallest man in the House, if one could judge when the members stood up to be counted to-day.—*Louisville Courier Journal.*

Lay not that flattering unction to your soul. The Hon. THOMAS Y. FITZPATRICK is a fine, growing Kentuckian, but he is still several sizes shorter than the Washington Monument, and by the side of the Hon. CY SULLOWAY of New Hampshire he is as a pair of stilts to the pillars of the heavens.

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It is reported from Texas sources and certain observers in the Indian Territory that many members of the Five Nations want those nations to be annexed to Texas whenever the time comes. According to the Texas sources, which may be suspected of no excessive impartiality, the Indians do not want a Territorial government of their own and "abhor an alliance with Oklahoma." Gayety and vividness of temperament and expression seem to belong to Oklahoma, and may not be consonant with the sober Indian mind. Moreover, these Indians, who are thrifty persons, declare that in many parts of Oklahoma the taxes amount to one-third of the value of the property taxed. If this be true, it is another evidence of the rollicking character of Oklahoma. The addition of the Five Nations to Texas would, of course, be advantageous to Texas, which is notoriously cramped for room.

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The question, "Who fears to speak of '98?" is likely soon at last to get a negative answer, for arrangements are in progress in Ireland to have a patriotic celebration next year of the famous uprising against the power and authority of the English Government in Ireland. No longer need the question be asked, "Who fears to speak of '98?" for there will be found in all Ireland, from Kerry to Ulster and from Donegal to Waterford no Irishman who will be afraid not only to speak of '98, but to recall the memories of daring and heroism connected with the history of that year. It is designed to make the celebration national, and to secure the coöperation of Irishmen throughout the world.

## A CONGRESS OF RELIGIONS.

### To Meet at Delhi in India and All Religions of the World to Be Represented.

*From the Pittsburgh Dispatch.*

A call has gone forth for a great Congress of Religions, in which every nation of the earth shall be represented, to meet at Delhi in 1898, and discuss the question of the true way of salvation according to the teachings of wise men of every race.

The call emanates from a Hindoo of illustrious descent, Maulana Syed Nusrat Ali Saheb, the editor and proprietor of the *Moslem Chronicle*, a Delhi paper that is printed in both native and foreign languages and has a wide circulation in India. In the office of the paper there are no less than 800 varieties of type, representing the printed characters of almost every known tongue in the civilized world, and the call for the great religious congress has been printed in various languages and scattered broadcast over the face of the earth.

The call has been sent to every minister and priest of any prominence in America. Many have replied that they will be there.

The object of the congress is explained by the call to be:

1. To bring together the eminent and leading representatives of all religions of the world with a view to enabling them to expound the merits of their respective creeds.

2. To give these representatives an opportunity of acquainting themselves with the main principles of every religion, and thereby enabling them to judge how far each religion is based on true and unimpeachable principles.

3. To ascertain what practical social and moral effects each religion has produced upon the community professing it.

4. To set forth how far the doctrines of each religion are in conformity with reason, science, and the laws of nature.

5. To trace the origin of each religion and to scrutinize the system followed in the preservation of its traditions.

6. To show, in an exhaustive manner, the various religious teachings common to each religion.

7. To enable the representatives of the various religions to draw conclusions as to the merits or demerits of the various religions, not in an antagonistic, but in a truth-seeking spirit.

### Two Opinions from Colorado.

*From the Denver Times.*

Colorado is out of the ditch. Mercantile collections are again prompt for the first time in nearly four years. General trade is proceeding toward expansion rather than contraction. Construction has set in anew in Denver, and there are indications that speculation will shortly be started.

*From the Denver Republican.*

It is hard to discover the true cause of the recent decline in the price of silver bullion.

### A Georgia View of the Tariff.

*From the Augusta Chronicle.*

Mr. Bailey takes the proper view. The Democrats cannot prevent the final passage of the Republican tariff, and there is nothing to be gained by filibustering tactics. If it will bring prosperity, the Democrats do not wish to keep the people from having it, and if it will not, then the sooner it becomes effective the sooner this will be demonstrated.

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*Scribner's Magazine* for April is just what one expects *Scribner's* to be. It opens with Mr. William Hole's "scene from a great novel," the transformation scene in "Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde;" and it continues with articles by Cosmo Monkhouse, Robert W. Chambers, Lewis Iddings, Richard Harding Davis, C. D. Lanier, W. D. Howells, and others. Poems by Bunner, Henry Van Dyke, Clinton Scollard, and others; an article on Trelawney by F. H. Sanborn, and illustrations without text by Auguste Gorguet and W. E. D. Scott, all contribute to the interest of the number.

## POLITICAL EQUALITY.

### Bishop Farley and the Declaration of Independence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I observe that in replying to Bishop Farley's observation that "men are not born equal, the Constitution of the United States notwithstanding," one of your correspondents says that the Declaration of Independence is a political document and that the equality there spoken of is political. This is correct.

The point is not well taken by Bishop Farley. The reverend gentleman should know that all are, for instance, born equal to the right, among many other rights, to participate in the government of the nation. This equality among men, civilly and politically, is, as everybody knows, abstract and precinds from the immediate consideration of those facts by which these rights pass into the concrete state and establish that visible and limited hierarchy of men required for the government of society.

The Declaration of Independence does not say that the officers of the State, by a contradiction of terms, shall, in the discharge of their functions, be subject to the orders of the governed; but that the suffrages of the people shall appoint those officers in whom, as well as in the entire people, they recognize an absolute equality of abstract rights in regard to the government of society.

Once the election takes place we are in presence of a fact which gives a tangible body to the above rights, modifies them by bringing them into actual contact with other rights, and creates an inequality among men originally and abstractedly equal. The Constitution says no more, no less, than this.

Bishop Farley imagines to himself that the framers of the Constitution, holding office at the very time, were silly enough to declare themselves, in this very capacity, all equal, and that one man had as much power as the other, that is, that they were men of both order and anarchy at the same time.

The words "created equal" mean politically equal, and before the inequality begins by the fact of election.

The reverend gentlemen perhaps can be made to understand these distinctions by reflecting upon the metaphysical essence of man, animality and rationality. So far one man is equal to another; all men are alike. But just as soon as this metaphysical abstract man is realized in nature then the inequality begins. Morally, intellectually, physically, men are different in this sense. There are some rights, however, that originate in man's nature, are born with him, remain with him under all circumstances; rights of which he cannot divest himself even if he would, namely, his right to justice and his equality before the law. In this sense, we are all created equal, and the Constitution secures to us the exercise of this right.

The same distinction is to be made in speaking about independence. Human nature possesses a right, considered in the abstract order, to regulate itself according to the light of reason. This is abstract. But when this human nature becomes individualized in a man he finds himself born in a condition of a subject owing allegiance to his parent and to the State. Yet it is by these abstract principles that the limits of subjection and authority will be determined.

The Constitution makes these proper distinctions and speaks of the equality of man as perfectly compatible with his subjection to just laws, laying stress all the while upon his inalienable rights and his true dignity.

This is all the equality the Constitution calls for and this is all we want politically.

Cardinal Bellarmin, not to speak of others, treating of the origin of political authority, writes: "Looking to nature alone, there is no reason why one man among his equals should rule rather than another." This is the fundamental principle of the Constitution, and it runs like a golden thread through all its parts.

The Constitution is all right. It is a sound, practical, and everlasting document, Bishop Farley's observation to the contrary notwithstanding. CRITIC NO. 2.

MARCH 20.

### Mr. Gladstone's Eighteen Millions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The enterprise of the great luminary of the newspaper world in giving to its readers Friday of last week, in a special cable despatch, the full text of Mr. Gladstone's arraignment of his own country, as well as the other great countries of Europe, for their base attempt to coerce the Greeks, enables me to point out a capital "bull" which the great Englishman made. Here it is:

What is the upshot of all this? That 18,000,000 of human beings who *a century ago*, peopling a large part of the Turkish empire, were subject to its at once paralyzing and degrading yoke, *are now* as free from it as if they were inhabitants of these islands.

The author of this interesting statement has more than once spoken of himself as being "pure Scotch," but after this it would seem as if he were pure Irish. I know his capacity to explain things is great. Isn't it related of him that when told a certain man of note could not marry a certain lady of title because he already had "a wife in America," the right honorable gentleman inquired in the simplest manner if it were not possible to "explain her away"? Unless Mr. Gladstone explains it away, there remains his remarkable discovery that to-day there may be found in Southeastern Europe actually 18,000,000 centenarians—despite, too, mind you, the fact that most people in that quarter of the globe are confirmed users of tobacco.

Mr. W. Bourke Cockran deserves a seat alongside of Mr. Gladstone, or at least deserves to be quoted alongside of him. In a brilliant speech made some time ago in the Criminal Court building, at a meeting in memory of the dead Col. Fellows, I heard him say: "Those who are remembered for a year are not many; those who are remembered for a hundred or a thousand years you could almost count on the fingers of both hands; and the man who is remembered for three thousand years does not exist!"

After this I don't see why adverse criticism should be reserved for the village Hampden, who at a meeting in Tipperary exclaimed: "Fellow countrymen! The round towers of Ireland have now so completely disappeared that it is doubtful if any such buildings were ever found on the surface of our native land!"

NEW YORK, March 22. J. M. WALL.

Mr. Gladstone could easily "explain it away." He used the term "human beings" in the sense of units of population, not individuals.

### Explanation of "Faces."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In an article on "The Hidden Dangers of Cycling" in to-day's SUN, you say: "Some time ago Dr. Shadwell drew attention to the peculiar, strained, set look so often associated with this pastime, and called it the 'bicycle face.' 'Has anybody,' asks Dr. Shadwell, 'ever seen persons on bicycles talking, laughing, looking jolly, like persons engaged in any other amusement?'"

The implication that the "bicycle face" indicates a painful and anxious condition of mind on the part of the rider simply proves that Dr. Shadwell is not himself a wheelman or that he has never had revealed to his duller senses the peculiar and characteristic joys of that pastime. That "face" is not at all the result of nervous worriment, as the doctor imagines. It is the rapt look of pure enjoyment, such as you see in the audience when a noble tragedy or other great play is being acted, or a fine musical composition is being rendered, or a soul-stirring oration is being delivered. There you see the same strained and serious expression. You see the "dramatic face," the "musical face," the "oratorical face," &c. Has anybody ever seen persons on such occasions talking and laughing and looking jolly? And did the doctor ever see ten or fifteen thousand people watching a great horse race, and note the strained and serious expression of their faces? Was it a painful and health-depressing anxiety that produced that absorbed attention and that wonderful stillness, or was it rapt delight in a soul-stirring amusement?

No, doctor, it is the seriousness of pure exhilaration, a delicious concentration of enjoyment, that is the secret of the "bicycle face." When the party of bicyclists dismounts for luncheon under the trees, by the brookside, and the intense delight of riding is for the time suspended, the noise and jollity breaks forth. WILLIAM CLOKE.

TRENTON, N. J., March 21, 1897.

### Christian Endeavorers and the Governor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I see by to-day's SUN that a company of Christian Endeavorers of this city has forwarded a resolution to Gov. Black requesting him to approve of the removal of Police Commissioner Parker. I should be glad to see him removed, but the gross impropriety and impertinence of these young people deserve rebuke. In this matter Gov. Black is called to exercise judicial functions. If in any case before a Judge a request was sent to him by Christian Endeavorers or any other society as to his decision, some of those who participated in it would probably find themselves called to answer for contempt of court. These young people need to understand that in trying to influence the Governor they show themselves very callow, foolish, and impudent. A CLERGYMAN.

BROOKLYN, March 23.

### Where Is the National Democratic Party?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What has become of the National Democratic party? I understood that its leaders intended perfecting an organization in the Greater New York. It would seem, however, that this intention has been abandoned. If this be so, it will prove a disappointment to many Democrats who hoped for a permanent and organized opposition to Bryanism within the party in the new city.

NEW YORK, March 24. JOHN WHITE.

## NO INTEREST IN THE DETAILS.

### The Judge and the Bank President Got the Fight Returns Entirely by Accident.

*From the Chicago Tribune.*

"I am not particularly interested in that fight," remarked the bank President, who had dropped in at a newspaper office. "Still I have a little curiosity to know which of the two brutes whipped."

"The report has just come over the wire," replied the Circuit Judge, who had happened in a few minutes before him, "that Fitz—Fitz—what is the rest of his name?"

"I think his name is Fitzsimmons."

"It sounds like it. At any rate, the despatch is to the effect that he has whipped. I don't take much interest in this sort of thing, but I was passing the office and stepped inside to see what was drawing all this crowd."

"How many—what do you call them—did they fight?"

"I think they call them rounds. They fought fourteen."

"Rounds, if I remember, is the word. And Fitzsimmons knocked the other man out in the fourteenth round?"

"Yes. The other man's name, they say, is Corbett."

"Corbett? He's the man who fought Sullivan some years ago, isn't he?"

"The same man. He would have won this fight, too, I judge from the bulletins, if he had not been too confident."

"Wasn't he overtrained?"

"Not a bit of it. He was in the pink of condition."

"He must have weighed at least fifteen pounds more than Fitzsimmons."

"Yes, but Fitzsimmons's enormous chest and shoulders offset this difference. He had taken better care of himself, too."

"I know, but if Corbett had been the fighter he claims to be he would have knocked him out inside of ten rounds."

"Corbett had him whipped, didn't he, up to the tenth round?"

"Not by a houseful. Fitz was getting stronger all the time."

"The bulletins show that Corbett landed three times to his once."

"Yes, but his blows lacked steam. Fitz was waiting for a chance to hit him once, good and hard, and when the chance did come he was ready. He never lost his head a single time during the whole fight. He's the gamest man and the best fighter in the world to-day, and I'll bet money on it!"

"He's game enough, but if ever the two fight again my money will be put up on Corbett. He's the most scientific boxer and the greatest pugilistic general that ever stepped inside a prize ring. It was a chance blow that knocked him out."

"No, it wasn't. He had waited for that blow. He ——"

"Why, look at that sixth round! Corbett had fought him to his knees, and ——"

"He wasn't half as badly done up as he appeared to be. You can bet on that. He wanted Corbett to rush him, and he would have been ready ——"

"Hot! Anybody that knows a boxing glove from a baked turkey knows that ——"

"A man who couldn't tell the difference between a prize fight and a Quaker meeting has no business to talk about pugilism!"

The Judge recovered himself first.

"As I remarked when you came in," he said, "I don't take any interest in this sort of thing. The whole business is distasteful to me. I only stepped in here by accident. Good afternoon."

## SUNBEAMS.

—Good iron ore has been found on Red Mountain, near Oneonta, Ala., and preparations are making to develop the