The Sun.

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In Kentucky.

To the Republicans of Kentucky there goes the gratitude and admiration of every genuine believer in the preservation of the national standard of money, and of every opponent of the fraud and dishonor and disorder planted in the Chicago platform. The Kentucky Republicans have refused to strike the colors of the party in which opposition to Bryanism is centred, and to indorse the ticket nominated by the National Democrats. They have refused to give way to the specious importunities of a lot of minor facticuists calling themselves gold men while refusing to support the great gold party, and calling themselves Democrats, although in rebellion against the Democratic party.

The name of the honest money party which has been stamped upon Kentucky is not to be blotted out merely to strengthen sentimentally a small group of politicians tottering between the income tax and the third term of CLEVELAND on one hand and full-fledged Bryanism on the other.

Either the Republicans will carry Kentucky again and make the ultimate suppression of Bryanism more sure and more rapid, or Kentucky will be carried for free silver, and give to the narrow-minded and insubordinate the necessary lesson that when two masters are competing for the mastery in a radical issue a man must serve one or be out of the fight.

Nearing the Million Mark.

A statement drawn up at the Pension Office shows that the number of pensioners on the roll for June 30, the end of the last fiscal year, was 983,528. This prodigious total breaks all records, the surprising fact being that now, thirty-two years after the close of the civil war, the number of pensioners is larger than at any preceding time, although the ravages of death among the survivors of the war are now becoming so great. In other words, the influx to the list still exceeds the increasing outflow.

In 1865, the last year of hostilities, the number of pensioners on June 30 was set down at 85,986. A year later it got into six figures, with 126,722. The increase thenceforward was steady, yet moderate, until 207,495 was reached in 1871. Two years later, in 1873, what then appeared to be its maximum was attained, June 30 showing 238,411; for the following year it fell to 236,241, this being the first decrease in a dozen years. The next June there was a falling off to 234,821; the next, to 232,137; the next, to 232,104; the next, to 223,998.

But then, just as a continuing ebb, with these five successive years, seemed assured, the tide turned. The Arrears and other pension acts made a vast difference. In 1879 the record for June 30 rose to 242,755, and each succeeding June from that time has shown an increase, larger or smaller, up to the one just past. In 1883 the number had grown to 303,658; in 1887, to 406,007, while in 1890 it passed the half-million mark, June 30 of that year showing 537,944.

Thereafter it took prodigious bounds, influenced largely by the Disability Pension act. The first year's jump was nearly 140,000, to 676,160 in 1891; while even that was outdone by an increase of nearly 200,000 in the following twelve months, to 876,068. A third increase brought the number to 966,012 on June 30, 1893.

Just there, however, when there was a general expectation of reaching the million mark the following June, since fewer than 34,000 net additions were required to do it, the annual gain dwindled to a few thousand, the number reached being 969,544. The next year the gain was smaller yet, not quite a thousand, the total being 970,524. When, therefore, last year, the gain fell off to only 154, the total being 970,678, it seemed an easy prediction that this year there would be an actual loss, and that the ebb would again set in.

But, on the contrary, the gain is the striking one of 12,850, or the biggest in four years; and with only 16,472 more to be made up, the million mark may soon be reached.

The Clover Leaf Emblem.

The section of the Electoral Code regulating nominations for public office in New York says that party nominations are to be made by a convention or by a duly authorized committee of a convention of a political party which, "at the last preceding general election, before the holding of such convention, at which a Governor is elected, cast ten thousand votes in the State for such officers." The implication to be drawn from this vague language is that a political party in New York which cast ten thousand votes for State officers in a year in which a Governor was voted for, though not necessarily for the Governor specifically, is entitled to the privilege which the law gives to regular parties, that is, the use of symbols on a ticket, the right to put a full ticket in the field without the formality of nomination by petition, and other political rights as to "watchers" and the filling of vacancies.

The question has arisen, and the determination of it is now a matter of some controversy, whether this year the People's party, so called, is entitled to nominate candidates for the municipal and county officers, in the territory of the enlarged New York; and this right, if it exists, may be found to be important, because the affiliated Populists of this city and Brooklyn show signs of a disposition to nominate their own candidates.

The People's party, or Populist party, was organized at Omaha, in Nebraska, in July, 1892, and in the first contest in which it engaged in New York State it polled 16,400 votes. The next year it polled 16,800, not a very large increase, and in 1894, 11,000, a decided falling off. In the election of 1895, when the system of symbols and emblems was first incorporated into New York's electoral system, the Populist party, with the clover leaf as its distinguishing characteristic, polled less than 7,000 votes, and fell, therefore, below the statutory total of 10,000. Last year it fused with the Democratic party, having the same electoral ticket. Some of the Populists contend that, as their convention indorsed the Democratic electoral and State ticket, and the Populistic votes were merged with those of the Democrats in support of BRYAN for President and PORTER for Governor, the rights of the clover leaf men under the law were, if not technically preserved, at least only suspended, and that they may be utilized this year. The Populists declare, as a proposition which is not to be gainsaid, that if they didn't poll as many as 20,000 votes last year for BRYAN and for PORTER, they polled nearly that number, and more than 10,000, and are entitled, therefore, to the right of nomination this year as a regular organization.

Unfortunately for this view of the case, it is a fact that the leaders of the Populist party, desirous of showing the full measure of their strength and of clearly defining the nature and extent of their following, withheld their indorsement from one candidate upon the Democratic State ticket last year, the nominee for Judge of the Court of Appeals, and put up their own man for that office. This was the result:

VOTE FOR COURT OF APPEALS JUDGE, 1896.

Republican	799,122
Democratic	555,942
National-Democratic	23,585
Socialist	18,710
Prohibitionist	17,205
Populist	8,344

Should the occasion arise for independent nominations this year, the opportunities for such nomination by petition, under the existing law, are excellent.

The Attempt to Disgrace Mr. Low.

It is notable that the hottest support of the petition for the nomination of Mr. SETH LOW, to which a regiment of hired canvassers is now seeking signatures, comes from the two newspapers which are notorious as the originators of the yellow school of journalism. Both of those papers have been excluded from all decent clubs, libraries, reading rooms, and families as immoral, nasty, vulgar, and wholly pernicious. One of them is an open Bryanite organ, and the other is using daily coarse pictures and seditious letter press to inflame social discontent and excite the poor to envy and hatred of the rich.

These two papers are bitter rivals. Each is trying to cut the other's throat, for neither has any competitor except the other, and each is struggling to make the more provocative and more seductive appeal to the same audience. They stand by themselves, actually and in public estimation, wholly outside of the field of decent and self-respecting journalism. In all sinister and subtle ways, with pen and pencil, they are pursuing industriously their feverish competition to monopolize the forbidden field in which they are rivals. If the one can kill off the other the survivor will be in exclusive possession of that domain. The combat between them, accordingly, is mortal, and undoubtedly it will not end until one or the other is destroyed, or both expire because of the exhaustion of the resources on which they are drawing so lavishly in the ferocity of their competition.

It is remarkable, therefore, that these two infuriated journalistic combatants, each struggling to get down the lower with its incentives to social disorder, should now agree in scenting an opportunity for profit in the Low movement. Each of them welcomes its appearance as a valuable contribution to its stock of sensations, and as a means of producing political disorganization and consequent social disturbance conducive to the ends for which both are striving with a common lust of gain.

Yesterday, for instance, these two papers, the *World* and the *Journal*, were alone among New York journals in declaring with joyful scare heads that Mr. LOW had actually accepted the Citizens' Union nomination and was busily preparing to return to New York from Northeast Harbor to make a rough-and-tumble canvass in his own behalf. Curiously enough, too, the story in each was substantially the same, even in its typographical form. Both, too, egged on the candidate with the same artifices and they gloated over the trouble they expected to make for the Republicans in consequence of his ambitions. Of course, neither of them is in favor of the election of Mr. LOW as Mayor, yet both are eager to have him become a candidate, for they want him as an ally in fomenting social and political disturbance.

This remarkable concert of the fiercely competing yellow journals suggests that the petition for the Low candidacy, to which the paid canvassers have been getting signatures, may have been filled up with names written with equally sinister and baleful motives. Undoubtedly, it is for the interest of the Bryanites to do whatever lies in their power to divide the forces of conservatism, and such would be the tendency of Mr. LOW's entry into the field as a hustling aspirant for election as Mayor in advance of the regular nominations. Accordingly, the *Journal*, which is the frank Bryanite organ in New York, is laboring daily to inflate the Low boom, and the *World*, appealing frantically to the same constituency, is vociferously cheering on the paid Low canvassers.

Hence it is that Mr. LOW, the President of Columbia University, is getting his most zealous backing from sources so disreputable; from the vilest examples of journalism which have appeared in American history! Of course, it is insulting to him that they should be using his respectability as a stalking horse for their vile and incendiary purposes. Never before has a President of a great American college been lugged into an association so defiling.

Outside of these two disreputable and incendiary journals, Mr. LOW has no active support from the newspapers of New York, except the Mugwump papers, whose advocacy of his candidacy is obviously for the sinister purpose of worrying the Republicans, whom they hate so bitterly. They cannot conceal that their game is the same as that of the yellow journals. They want to force the running of Mr. LOW against the Republican party, without whose cordial and united support it is obvious that no candidate can be elected in opposition to the Bryanite Tammany Hall. The yellow journals and the Mugwump journals are in close accord on the Low question. They want to use him to beat the Republican party, and consequently to assure a Tammany triumph next November. Pretentious social and political virtue and blatant and shameless social and political vice are bound together by a common malignity.

Thus it happens that even the name of the President of an American university is used for ends so flagrantly incongruous with everything for which a school of learning and enlightenment is the impressive symbol. At a time of the gravest social and political agitation in American history, and when all the vast interests of the greatest of American capitals are at stake in an election, social corruption and incendiarism are in league with vainglorious spite and malice to deliver New York over to the enemies of civilization under the lead of the President of a great New York university!

Mr. LOW's candidacy has been made impossible. It will speedily pass from consideration in any quarter.

A Democratic Chairman.

Mr. ALEXANDER TROUP of New Haven, Chairman of the Connecticut Democratic State Committee, has been talking politics to a reporter of the *Waterbury Republican*; and some of his remarks are profitable for instruction and reproof in this State as well as in his own. "There is no such thing as a gold Democrat," said Mr. TROUP. "A man who believes in the gold standard is no more a gold Democrat than a blackbird is white." He declared that "a man who believes in the single gold standard should find his proper place in the Republican party." "I see no reason," he continued, "why they should be masquerading under the guise of Democracy. They are not Democrats. They do not believe in the principles of the Democratic party."

Evidently this Mr. TROUP, though once an officeholder under Mr. CLEVELAND, has no illusions. He is a logical and plain spoken man. He is talking facts. There can be but one Democratic party, and that swears by silver and the rest of the Chicago platform. A gold Democrat is an anomaly and an absurdity. The place for him at present is the Republican party.

Mr. TROUP does not expect that the Democrats will be successful in the East and North. Democratic hopes rest upon the West and South. Not on that account will the Nutmeg Democrats resort to a sneak policy of the Maryland variety and try to conciliate the enemies of the Chicago platform. "Silver," says Mr. TROUP, "will be put forward as the issue in the State campaign of 1898, and we will make as strong a fight as we are able." They will keep in line with the Democratic policy, and do the best they can. And they are not proposing any sort of compromise for the sake of winning back the wanderers of last year.

"As far as the idea of the Democratic party making overtures to these men who have deserted it is concerned, it is ridiculous and nonsensical to talk of it. Do you think the 10,000 or more Democrats in New Haven will make overtures to the 500 men that deserted the party and, practically if not nominally, went over to our opponents? We have nothing to ask of them. They can stay away if they want to. But I reiterate: The door is open. They can come back at any time that they are ready to embrace the principles of the Democratic party, and we will receive them with open arms. If they do not come back to us, that is, if they find themselves unable to accept the platform of the Democratic party, I should think that they ought to join with the Republicans and be done with it."

In other words, the Democratic party of Connecticut will continue to be Democratic, and will make no concessions to former members. Why should it? If they believe in its principles, they can come in; and if they don't, they must stay out. They can be admitted on the same terms as other candidates. All this is plain as a pikestaff, but there has been an intolerable deal of nonsense talked about it. A few of the men who used to belong to the Democratic party, but left it last fall, are lonely, and seem to think that the Democratic party wants them badly enough to smother its convictions on their account. Here and there a Democratic trimmer in a Republican State thinks he can save his political bacon by dodging the Chicago platform. Both the lonely ex-Democrats and the shifty Democratic trimmers will be disappointed. The Democratic party stands by the principles of 1896. Even if it wished to change them it couldn't change them until 1900.

Wheels of 1898.

Views on bicycles of next year's model are numerous. In 1897 the price attracted more attention than the wheel, but in 1898 the money question will be subordinate. Cyclists look upon the $100 bicycle as gone. The standard price will be somewhere, we suppose, between $75 and $50. Chainless wheels will surely be prominent next spring, promising to put the greasy chain wheels completely out of mind. Tubing next year will be about the same as it is now. Gears of high, low, and medium size will be on the market for choice, but during this season the liking for high gears has developed greatly, probably as the result of the greater strength which practice has brought to the average leg.

The radical genius, who is being heard from, asserts that the 1898 bicycle will be operated by either the arms or legs. This sounds more cranky than interesting.

The wheel's most vulnerable point, its tire, is being studied and experimented with, with ardent desire for its improvement and with no little hope. It must be possible to put into the rubber some element that would lessen its slipping on wet pavements; and it seems absurd that wheels destined to pass over jagged roads should be left so puncturable. A less puncturable tire and a tire which when inflated will remain full indefinitely, is greatly needed.

In spite of the promise of 1898, however, owners of good bicycles needn't worry. A good bicycle to-day will be good next year.

The New Lobster Troubles.

The west coast of Newfoundland, known as the French shore, is once more the scene of popular excitement, due to the closing, by British warships, of such lobster canning factories there as have been built in violation of treaty rights.

The cruisers seem to be acting in accordance with their instructions, and these last are based on the *modus vivendi* reached by France and England on the subject. But the grievance is the chronic one of the existence of the rights that have given the shore its name. When the treaty of Utrecht in 1713 ceded Newfoundland to England, the reservation to the French fishermen of the privilege of fishing and drying their fish on the northern and western coasts was a concession to a worthy and important industry. France valued highly her American fisheries, as she does to this day, and it was then deemed wise to grant this favor to those engaged in them; but it has proved a prolific source of trouble, in one way or another, ever since.

The lobster canning industry has sprung up on that shore in the last fifteen or twenty years. The British colonists, besides insisting broadly that the treaty privilege of fishing and drying fish there is not exclusive, but concurrent with rights to be enjoyed by others than French subjects, also urged, in particular, that a lobster is not a fish, in the treaty sense, and that canning lobsters is not drying fish. The Governments at London and Paris intervened, and the result was an agreement legalizing only the lobster canning factories erected up to a certain time, and providing for the issue of permits for new ones alternately by the English and the French naval commanders on the station, with a view to making the privileges equal.

The first result was the closing of some British factories, in the midst of great indignation among the colonists. However, the British naval patrol held to their instructions, and the regulations have been continued ever since. The current troubles undoubtedly arise from a renewed attempt to violate these regulations.

Meanwhile, as the case stands, the local feeling is that the interests of the colonies are subordinated to the good understanding between France and England in Old World affairs. And this feeling is freshened from time to time by such incidents as those that have just occurred.

A Lawless Chief Magistrate.

Mr. GEORGE W. ATKINSON, the Governor of West Virginia, has the power under the Constitution of that Commonwealth to remit fines and penalties, to commute capital punishment, and to grant reprieves and pardons after conviction.

In the exercise of his constitutional authority in this respect, he has just determined to remit a fine of $100 which was imposed last year upon a man named W. S. KIMES, who was convicted of the crime of assault for having shot and attempted to kill one BENJAMIN HALL, at Parkersburg. HALL, it seems, had succeeded in alienating the affections of Mrs. KIMES from her husband, and for this KIMES shot him. He pleaded guilty, at the same time expressing his sorrow that he had not killed HALL instead of only wounding him. The penalty was twenty-four hours' imprisonment and the fine from which Gov. ATKINSON has now decided to relieve the injured husband.

In expressing his resolve to do this the Governor uttered some very remarkable sentiments. He declared that the only cause for regret was that KIMES did not kill HALL. Then, putting the case somewhat more mildly, he said that HALL ought to be imprisoned for life. And finally, becoming excited again, he repeated that a villain like HALL was unfit to live in a civilized community. "KIMES," he exclaimed, "should have practised with a revolver or double-barrelled shotgun, so that when he made the attempt he would have brought HALL down."

If Gov. ATKINSON entertains such views as these, he should lose no time in advising the Legislature of West Virginia to change the laws of that State in respect to offences tending to disturb the marital relation and in regard to justifiable homicide. The alienation of a wife's affections is a grave private wrong, and may properly be declared by statute to be a serious criminal offence; but nowhere in any civilized country that we know of has it yet been made a capital crime or one punishable by imprisonment for life. Gov. ATKINSON's reported remarks concerning the Kimes case could only be justified or excused if the laws of West Virginia prescribed death or lifelong incarceration as a penalty for the misconduct of the man whom KIMES tried to kill.

Under existing legislation, however, Gov. ATKINSON's extraordinary outburst is simply an invitation and incitement to lawlessness and disorder, which would be discreditable to any one, and merits special censure in the Chief Magistrate of a State of the American Union.

A Plague of Bagpipers.

During the early summer months there was a plague of woodticks on Staten Island, especially on the south shore. Dogs were the chief sufferers, and many of them were greatly reduced in weight and energy by the appetites of those strange visitors.

But woodticks, unlike mosquitoes, don't travel about in the night time playing Scotch bagpipes and disturbing peaceably disposed citizens who want to go to sleep. Never before in the history of Aquahonga was there such a plague of mosquitoes as the one that is raging there at present. Big black mosquitoes, medium-sized brown mosquitoes, and, worst of all, little white-winged mosquitoes appear in swarms. The bites of the latter are venemous and cause the fiercest kind of itching. Against these invaders nets are of little or no avail. The white wings never get weary, and do most of the biting, while the other fellows fill their pipes and play, "Among the Reeds wi' Anna," their favorite tune.

The recent northeast storm, it was hoped, would drive the pests away, but evidently it did not blow hard enough. During its progress the enemy simply lay low, and when it was over they rose up in full force and started on the warpath fiercer than ever. When the cruel rains are over the Aquahonghese hope for relief; but some of them affect to believe that, as mosquitoes are not allowed to appear on the streets of New York, the different tribes have assembled now for the last time on the island before it becomes a part of the great city whose mighty gates will bar them out forever.

Just now Staten Islanders are strongly in favor of annexation, with its promised deliverance and peace.

The most indecent exhibition we remember in even Mugwump journalism is its present attempt to make out Secretary SHERMAN a hopeless imbecile, requiring restraint upon his freedom of movement. There seems to be no limit to its coarse and savage malignity.

They have never known anything like this Low movement before, and they find it harder to understand the further it is carried.—*Evening Post.*

The reference is to the "professional politicians" who are not in the "Low movement," and it is true that "they find it harder to understand the further it is carried." Sensible people generally are puzzled in the same way. They cannot understand how a President of a college can permit a hustling crowd to make him their political catspaw, and to make him ridiculous. They have "never known anything like this Low movement before," and they hope never to know anything like it again.

Cases against GEORGE WASHINGTON appear here and there in the civil docket recently unearthed in the Court House at Greensburg, Pa. No less than three claims were entered against him during the year 1787 to compel him to pay taxes. The humorous clerk, commenting on these actions, remarked: "GEORGE WASHINGTON, Esq., appeareth not to like taxes."—*Rochester Herald.*

Perhaps the township assessors and the fellow citizens of Mr. WASHINGTON were trying to get even with him for being a plutocrat.

If there is gold enough in existence to-day, why this delight in the prospect of more gold?—*Chicago Dispatch.*

Who is delighted, anyway? The finders of the gold are, of course, pleased beyond words, but the rest of the delight is human nature's sympathetic and irrepressible enthusiasm for wealth.

A reporter of the *Commercial Appeal* of Memphis has had the happiness to converse with the Hon. JOE BAILEY of Texas, who has been in that city on his way home from a visit to a famous plutocrat and foe of plutocrats, the Hon. JOE SIBLEY of Pennsylvania. Mr. BAILEY admires Mr. SIBLEY, and describes him as "one of the brainiest men of the country." Mr. BAILEY is considered by his friends to be tolerably "brainy" himself. The reporter found Mr. BAILEY without the customary suit of solemn black and unequalled acreage of shirt bosom. He was "clad in a cool suit of linen." Cool to look at, not cool in reality. How can a "brainy" man be cool? The swift motion of his intellectuals generates intolerable heat.

Although the Hon. JOSEPH R. HAWLEY has disclaimed his editorship of the *Hartford Courant*, we suggest to him to sit upon the fool who, in that paper, remarks that "the savings banks' accumulations are honestly got," but "if the great individual fortunes of the country had been got by honest industry, there would be no call for apologies and defences."

PUBLIC OFFICE A PUBLIC TRUST.

The Famous Maxim Appeared in Jefferson Davis's Writings.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Somehow I overlooked your recent publications in respect to the quotation, "Public Office Is a Public Trust," until this morning. Referring to a second publication in your issue of July 22 as to Col. Daniel Lamont's agency, &c., I beg leave to call your attention to a very interesting paragraph on this subject from which it will appear that Mr. Cleveland undoubtedly obtained the idea, not from a perusal of the Democratic platform of 1876, nor from Lord Chancellor Loughborough's writings, but from the inaugural address of Mr. Jefferson Davis as provisional President of the Southern Confederacy.

In support of this suggestion I quote the following from a pamphlet, entitled "Third Term, Presidential," by ex-Senator and ex-Attorney-General Garland of Arkansas. In that pamphlet, published nearly two years since, in which the pernicious doctrine of a third term was ably combatted, Mr. Garland says:

There are public offices and there are private offices, and, as their names import, one sort is for public interest alone and the other for private interest, and the two must not be mingled or confounded. "A public office is a public trust," said Mr. Burke many years ago, and Mr. Jefferson reiterated it with sharp emphasis (Rayner's "Life of Jefferson," p. 356), and so did Mr. Calhoun, July 13, 1835, and Mr. Charles Sumner, on May 31, 1872, said this phrase had of late become common property. Looking over some old, musty papers historical of the "lost cause," I find Mr. Jefferson Davis, in his inaugural address as the provisional President of the Southern Confederacy, April 26, 1861, says "all public offices are but public trusts," thus, in his first bow to the public in this experiment of government, in an address couched in that pure and undefiled English of which he was perfect master, placing before his people the great value and importance of seeing and understanding this distinction.

I think Judge Cooley, in his "Principles of Constitutional Law" (second edition, 1891), says that "a public office is a public trust," and Gen. Garland calls attention to the fact that, in the campaign of 1884, Mr. Cleveland recalled this maxim (of Jefferson Davis) to the attention of the American people, and urged them not to forget it. The General very aptly says that "it was the motto of the campaign pamphlet of 1884; it blazed and glittered upon the transparencies in the torchlight processions; it gleamed upon all the party flags and it appealed to the voters of the country at all times and in all ways, and the party went to victory with that criterion as its chief prop and support."

HENRY H. SMITH.

FRONT ROYAL, Va., Aug. 10.

FREEDOM OF SPEECH.

The Limitations Imposed by Public Trusts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The unfortunate incident recently discussed by you, which has deprived Brown University of an able and valued President, is not the first of its kind, and it raises a general question.

There is an obvious distinction between general freedom of speech and freedom of speech on the part of a teacher, or one who regulates the teaching, in a public institution. To the first there is, in a free country, no limit, saving that of conscience, so long as nothing is said which can incite to a breach of the law. The second is limited by the character and interests of the institution. What a man might be at liberty to say of his own authority and on his own responsibility, he may not be at liberty to say as a college President or professor, with the authority and on the responsibility of the college.

In this, as in all practical cases, it is difficult to draw a line, but a line will be drawn by common discretion and good taste, which will lead a professor of political science, history, or economy to avoid the angry questions of the day. The general principles by which such questions are to be settled he may teach; but the questions themselves or any direct or palpable allusion to them he will shun. In a word, he will studiously keep clear of party. And to see that he does keep clear of party is a duty incumbent on the governing body of the institution.

The case of the President of Brown University is one of public but unofficial speech. To draw the line here may be more difficult; yet even here there is a line to be drawn. The holder of a public office can never entirely divert himself of his official character; his utterances must in some degree affect the institution, the reputation of which he is bound to respect and guard. The case of a college President or professor is something like that of a judge, who never says or ought never to say in public anything which can compromise the impartiality of his court. Conjectures as to the possible effect of President Andrews's utterances on donations or bequests appear to be hardly relevant.

The political neutrality of the universities is an indispensable condition of the salutary influence which, as organs of high principles and a scientific spirit, they may exercise, and are visibly exercising, on political discussion and public life.

AN EMERITUS PROFESSOR.

The Socialist Labor Party.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Socialist Labor party is not split. Three Assembly districts of this city and one branch of Brooklyn city were disciplined by the majority (by ballot) of the whole party for dirty work. The party is not controlled by Russians or Germans, but by the majority, which comprises women and men of all nationalities, creeds, and colors—people who see the necessity, and who have organized (with an unselfish view) to educate themselves and the masses in social, industrial, and political economics, which will enable them to use their American citizenship, the greatest suffrage, judiciously; people who recognize that civilization hinges on politics, hence their education in political economy.

CHARLES SPERLE, 903 East 149th street, city.

P. S.—I am a member of the General Committee of the Socialist Labor party, Thirty-fourth and Thirty-fifth Assembly districts, was born in this great city, and have become a Socialist because that party stands on the only true principle that will eventually solve the great question of the age—the question that is divorcing labor from the means of production and distribution—land, capital, and labor.

Where the Pension Money Is Spent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I fully agree with THE SUN as to pensions, but we must not forget that of the $581,000,000 paid out from 1893 to 1896 more than $500,000,000 is spent right here at home, and mainly for goods of home manufacture. But for this enormous amount of cash trade the Administration of the Stuffed Prophet would have totally "busted" a majority of our wholesale and retail merchants and manufacturers.

Practically the Government is a consumer, just as it was during the war.

VAN.

NEW YORK, Aug. 9.

High Riding by a Kentucky Girl.

From the Nicholasville Democrat.

A daring but graceful act at High Bridge was performed by our expert bicyclist, Miss Motie Coffman, one of our prettiest girls. She rode to High Bridge on her bike, and feeling the bicycle thrill upon her she rode across the great structure without making a bobble. Hundreds of eyes witnessed the feat, the first time it was ever attempted. When one thinks of the bridge 276 feet high and the possibility of a cannon-ball train thundering in sight and a girl pedalling across it one shudders, but she only gave a ringing laugh to danger and won the applause of the crowd.

Hy Feig and the Supreme Court.

From the Atwater Press.

It shocks us inexpressibly to learn that the Supreme Court has had the audacity to declare unconstitutional the law passed through the untiring efforts of our illustrious citizen, Hy Feig, licensing peddlers.

The Rising Tide.

From the Jewellers' Weekly.

Nothing serves a better purpose in estimating the business situation than to have our views confirmed by those of others. Confidence is widespread, deep-seated, and genuine. "All's well!"

Victims of a Mexican Drug.

From the Mexican Herald.

Marihuana, our local hasheesh, continues to impel people of the lower orders to wild and desperate deeds. A great deal of crime here can safely be attributed to this nerve exciter.

HEAVY INCREASES IN EXPORTS.

The Heaviest Are of Corn and Cotton—Temporary Decrease in Exports of Wheat.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—Heavy increases are shown in a bulletin issued to-day by the Bureau of Statistics of the Treasury Department concerning the principal articles of domestic exports for July, 1897. The total value of the month's exports amount to $36,945,278, as against $35,645,849 for the same month of 1896 and $29,445,340 for the same month of 1895. Exports for the seven months ending July, 1897, were valued at $320,987,075, against $309,811,297 for the same period of 1896 and $277,675,335 for the first seven months of 1895.

The value of breadstuffs exported during the month was $13,914,487; cotton, $2,438,516; mineral oils, $5,132,815; provisions, including cattle and hogs, $15,459,460. A heavy increase in the export of corn is shown, which was 12,405,466 bushels for July last, an increase of almost 7,000,000 bushels over July, 1896, while the increase for the seven months ending July 30 is from 84,056,612 bushels in 1896 to 115,600,159 bushels for the same period in 1897. Another heavy increase is shown in the exportation of rye, which for the seven months ending July, 1896, amounted to 1,251,158 bushels, and for the same period this year 4,893,779 bushels. There has been a decrease in the number of bushels of wheat exported during the first seven months of 1897, compared with the same period of 1896, from 34,432,619 bushels to 23,126,395 bushels. This decrease is more than offset, however, by the increased value of wheat exports for this year.

The value of the lesser export of 1897 exceeded the greater export of the same period of 1896 by $47,879, all of which is due to the rise in the price of wheat, the effect of which has been to temporarily check the exportation of that grain during the month of July.

Reports from almost every section indicate, however, that the falling off of wheat exports during the last month was but temporary, and that the new crop now being engaged for exportation will raise the item of wheat exports beyond any figures heretofore reported by the Bureau of Statistics. The exportation of wheat during July, 1896, amounted to 6,062,096 bushels, of the value of $3,824,031, and during July, 1897, to 3,987,492 bushels of the value of $3,136,808. It will be noticed that the value of the same quantity of wheat exported during July of this year is almost 50 per cent. greater than that of July, 1896.

Philadelphia has become a port of considerable export for corn, the increase in the number of bushels exported from that port having been from 4,032,107 bushels in July, 1896, to 15,060,256 bushels in July, 1897. Other ports have also greatly increased in the exportation of corn, but none to such a large degree as Philadelphia.

The cotton year is regarded as beginning Sept. 1. The figures given by the Bureau of Statistics for the eleven months ending July, 1896, show the exportation of 2,334,610,087 pounds, and for the same period of this year 3,037,675,291 pounds. The increase in the value of the export is from $190,437,930 to $226,024,641. Heavy increases in the export of cotton have been made at all the Southern ports, notably Galveston, Tex., from which was exported during the period of eleven months, ending July, 1896, cotton to the value of $31,742,521, and during the same period of this year, $47,173,689. The average price per pound of cotton during July was 7.8 cents, as against 7.4 cents for July, 1896. The rise in cotton, however, is comparatively recent, the average price for the eleven months period of 1896 having been ⅛ of a cent higher than for the same period of this year. The average price of cotton per pound during the cotton year ending August, 1896, was 8.1 cents, and of 1895, 5.7 cents. It may not be that the average price per pound for the year 1896 will be exceeded, but the total value of the product will be many millions more than that of last year. Exports of cotton have increased to all countries except Spain and Mexico, in which a small decrease is noted. There is a growing demand for the product in Japan, the increase for that country having been from 19,855,252 pounds in 1896 (eleven months ending July) to 31,624,876 pounds in 1897.

IMMIGRATION DECREASING.

It Reached Its Lowest Point in the Last Fiscal Year, When Arrivals Numbered 230,832.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The following statement, prepared at the Treasury Department, was given to THE SUN to-day:

"The tide of immigration is at the lowest point since the general Government assumed jurisdiction of the subject, in 1882. The number of arrivals from all countries, according to Treasury statistics, during the last fiscal year was 230,832, a decrease as compared with the previous year of 112,435. The lightest immigration of any previous year was in 1895, when the number from all countries was 279,948. The year of heaviest immigration was the first of the period beginning with 1882, when arrivals numbered 788,992. During the entire period of Federal supervision 7,432,016 have entered the United States. A better condition appertaining to the Russian Jew seems to be shown in a heavy decrease of immigration, the arrivals from that country for the past year having numbered 22,750, as against 45,137 for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1896. Italy furnished the greatest number, 54,431, a decrease of 8,629 from last year. The cause of the heavy Italian immigration of 1896 was assigned to the war of Italy with Abyssinia, but the figures for the last year are not abnormal, having been exceeded by several years of the period. Since 1882 there has been a large and steady decrease in German immigration. In 1882 250,630 entered the United States from that country, while in 1896 only 22,533 arrived. It will be seen that the number of German immigrants during the first year of Government supervision exceeded the immigration from all countries during the last year. Immigration from Austria-Hungary decreased from 55,103 in 1895 to 33,031 in 1897. The decrease from other countries is as follows: England, 19,492 in 1896 to 9,974 in 1897; Sweden, 21,137 to 13,144; Norway, 8,155 to 5,842; Ireland, 40,262 to 28,421."

FOR A PRISON EXHIBITION.

Products of Prison Labor and Punitive Apparatus to Be Shown.

The New York Prison Association will hold an exhibition of articles made by convicts and of prison appliances in its rooms at 135 East Fifteenth street on Oct. 7, 8, and 9. The exhibition will be divided into groups. In the historical section will be shown pictures and plans of prisons, relics of famous jails and of criminals and crimes. The gallery of portraits of prison keepers and reformers will form part of this section. In another group will be shown models of cells, apparatus used in punishments and executions, police appliances, and forms and blanks showing the organization of prisons. The other sections will be made up of drawings and charts representing criminal types and peculiarities, publications on penology, instruments used in making identifications, literary and artistic work of convicts, and articles made by prisoners.

There will be a series of conferences between prison workers while the exhibition is open. Dr. H. E. Allen, the Superintendent of the Asylum for the Criminal Insane at Matteawan, will read a paper on insane criminals.

New Theory of Education.

From the Rochester Herald.

President Hall of Clark University has come to the conclusion that the present method of teaching science to children is all wrong. "Current methods," says the *Boston Transcript*, giving a summary of his views, "have said that the child must commence the facts, the facts of observation in detail, and work upward until by gradual combining the grown child reaches the poetic, the religious, the sentimental aspects and feelings for nature and the world about us. Dr. Hall says this should all be reversed. We should commence with these feelings first, for psychologically these poetic, religious, and sentimental feelings are the child's first heritage. Out of them, and not the reverse, the knowledge and details of science grow. Hence his presentation of a mass of researches made by himself and his students, showing the child's wonderful sentimental, poetic, and religious attitude toward the moon, the sun and the stars. Children love the moon and the sun and the stars in a way we unthinkingly do not dream of, though the facts are just under our noses every day. They have all sorts of quaint notions concerning them. A little girl wants to kiss the moon; another tells it all her secrets; another finds it always laughing and smiling to her, and she is sure it understands her when she confides to it. Dr. Hall reads scores of these evidences of the child's feeling for these heavenly bodies, and then he jumps to the anthropological field and pours in a perfect avalanche of facts showing that in the development of the race the same feelings have animated primitive peoples." He concludes, therefore, that children should be taught the myths of science, religion, and art first, and afterward the facts grouped under these heads.

The Rapidity of Decay.

With the usual air of the man who is positively sure he is a superior being when he is talking to his wife, he was telling her of the earth's population and the rapidity with which people died.

"Did you know, my dear," he remarked most impressively, "that one person dies every time you breathe?"

"Yes," she responded, "and one would die every time you didn't breathe if you tried it very long."

Somehow after that his interest in the subject seemed to languish.

A FENCE WAR IN FLATBUSH.

McCanna's Neighbors Build Two Twenty-five-Foot Fences Around His Stable.

Several years ago John Reis of Caton avenue, Flatbush, built a twenty-five-foot board fence close to the rear of Patrick McCanna's stable on Flatbush avenue to hide the stable yard from his windows. McCanna, who is Hugh McLaughlin's lieutenant in Flatbush, decided to get light and air by making windows in the side of the stable. Joseph Wurzler owns a $60,000 apartment house at Caton and Flatbush avenues, the rear windows of which overlook McCanna's stable. Yesterday Mr. Wurzler began to build a heavy brick wall close to the side of the stable. It is to be forty feet long, twenty-five feet high, and sixteen inches thick, and will shut out all the light and air from McCanna's stable.

Mr. McCanna notified the Building Department and asked whether Mr. Wurzler was breaking the law. He was told that a permit for the building of the fence had been issued.

Mr. McCanna said he thought Mr. Wurzler was trying to get even with him for renting a store to a grocer who is a rival to a tenant of Mr. Wurzler.

"There is no feeling in the matter," said Mr. Wurzler yesterday. "Mr. McCanna and I are friends. My tenants don't like to look at the stable or to see the clothes of McCanna's tenants. I am simply trying to hide the stable from their view and to improve my property. This is not to be a 'spite wall.' It is costing me considerable. I am not the man to spend good money to injure anybody."

MAIL ROUTE TO THE KLONDIKE.

Post Office Officials Trying to Arrange with Canada for Its Interchange of Mail.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The Post Office officials here entered into correspondence with the Canadian Post Office Department with a view of establishing an office at Dawson City, Alaska, for the interchange of mail. When the Yukon closes up it will be necessary to send the mail for Circle City and other points in American territory via Juneau, Dyea, and Dawson City by means of dog sledges. The idea is that the mail shall be carried from Circle City and adjoining places to Dawson City, and that mail shall go up from Juneau to Dawson City, the carriers exchanging at that place. This would necessitate the making of Dawson City an international exchange office.

The department has given permission to the steamers carrying the mail up the Yukon to leave mail at the mission posts en route, and as rapidly as possible Postmasters are being appointed for these places. With the increase of trade and the influx of miners it is expected that posts will be established about a hundred miles apart, where relays of dogs and sledges will be provided, and where a stock of provisions will be kept. When this is done the department anticipates no difficulty in opening up a line of communication with even the most remote camps, and despatches of mails will be much more frequent. At present the mail to this country is carried at a heavy loss.

HIS RING IN HIS MELON.

A Seasonable Tale Which Is Solemnly Vouched For by the Teller.

From the Memphis Commercial Appeal.

Walter L. Herron, general delivery clerk at the Post Office, has enjoyed a good reputation for veracity among his friends, but the story that he told to them yesterday was all that the most credulous of his friends could stand, and too much for the majority of them. It was late in the afternoon when Mr. Herron called a reporter off to one side of the building and prefaced his remarks with the following:

"Now, I would not be the least bit surprised if you did not believe the story that I am going to tell you, but it is a fact, nevertheless.

"During the early portion of the spring I was down in the vicinity of White Haven, and one Sunday was strolling in the patch which my father-in-law, Dr. B. A. Shaw, had planted in melons. Some time during the afternoon I lost a heavy gold ring that I had been wearing upon my watch chain. The chain broke and I spent an hour looking for the ring, but it was all in vain. Nothing more could I see of the ring until yesterday. Dr. Shaw had sent us a fine watermelon for a Sunday dinner, and down in the centre of it I cut into something that looked strange. Imbedded right in the centre of the red fruit there was a white substance like the inner portion of the rind. Into this I cut, and there was the ring that I had lost several months ago."

Here Mr. Herron saw that the reporter was seriously embarrassed, and he protested that the story was as true as anything that he had ever told in his life.

"You can prove it by Dr. Shaw," continued the clerk, "and several of the others at the house that saw it. Now I have not the slightest idea how the ring got in there, but it evidently must have done so when the melon was quite small and then the melon grew up around it. I fully intended preserving the piece of the rind in which the ring was found, but the cook let it get destroyed."

Mr. Herron was wearing the ring that he said remained for several months in a position in a melon corresponding to that which Jonah occupied for a short time in the whale. It was a large heavy ring, not very thick, but nearly half an inch broad.

Jealousy of a Hungry Elephant.

From the Springfield Republican.

The herd of elephants which came through from Pittsfield Friday with the circus caused a broken arm to an unfortunate tramp. He had stolen a ride on the menagerie train, and when it stopped at the West Springfield stock yard he jumped off and pulled some grass, which he gave through the car to one of the elephants. He was about to repeat the process on another elephant when the first animal, either through hunger or jealousy, grabbed his right arm with his trunk and broke the bone near the elbow. The man finally broke loose and fell by the fence which borders the road at that point. James Emory, a brakeman, saw him and having secured assistance from the lobby, was going to take him to a physician, but the man, who was evidently under the influence of liquor, feared they were going to arrest him and broke away and disappeared down the Agawam road.

Scotty's Remarkable Apple Tree.

From the Oil City Blizzard.

"Scotty," of the Oil Well Supply Company, who resides on a farm in close proximity to the fair grounds, owns an apple tree which can be considered a sort of novelty. A few years ago it was known as a "wild" apple tree, but Mr. Scott had it grafted and it now produces seven different kinds of apples, some of which grow to an immense size and have a delicious taste.

SUNBEAMS.

—From Horton, Kan., a man went to the Klondike, leaving behind him his bride of six months.

—For stealing a dozen potatoes a Virginia negro was sentenced to one year in the Portsmouth jail.

—Hail broke forty panes of glass in the Sandown, N. H., meeting house windows in one afternoon storm.

—A yellow dog derailed a hand car near Reno, Kan., and the car went over a twenty-foot embankment, injuring three men. The dog, after the accident, just got up and barked.

—Prosperity has reached North Carolina. Gen. William R. Cox, speaking for the eastern part of the State recently, said that the crops excelled any since 1889, which was a record year.

—After a barn had been set afire by lightning at Chambersburg, Pa., Williamson Leisher, 12 years old, entered it and cut loose three of his father's seven horses and led them safely out.

—There is a low but distinct growl in Laconia, N. H., over the fact that the city pays $450 a year in car fares for students at the high school. "As well send hacks for those who don't live on a car line," cries one local paper.

—Mrs. Minnie Pendleton of Ottawa, Kan., through correspondence with the Pension Bureau at Washington, has established communication with her father, now a rich farmer of Oregon, who left his old home for the war when his daughter was 4 years old.

—Northampton county, Va., for its report on the advent of prosperity sends word that whereas last year the county folk raised and shipped 284,660 barrels of potatoes, they have this year shipped only 160,000 barrels, but have received several times as much money for the shipments as they got for last year's crop.

—Along with the signs of prosperity from other sections comes the report from Carthage, Mo., that lead deposits of sufficient richness have been found there to give employment to quite a number of men. Then, too, according to estimates made at Carthage, early apples alone will bring in $10,000 to the farmers of that section.

—Contrary to a pretty well-diffused notion, farm labor, in some instances at least, pays better than some not by any means undesirable city labor. The Consolidated Iron Mines of Duluth the other day wanted seventy-five men to go to Hibbing, but could not get them because the farmers were paying higher wages for workers in the wheat fields than were offered at the mines or were being paid in Duluth.

—One of the family of the "fighting Bells" of Augusta county, Va., has died at the homestead at Long Glade at the age of 80. He was Alexander R. Bell, one of five brothers who together had nineteen sons that fought in Capt. Cushing's company of the Fifth Virginia Regiment, Stonewall Brigade, and were nearly all killed in battle or died of wounds. A. R. Bell had been for nearly sixty years an elder in the Presbyterian Church.