The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 8, 1897.

Subscription by Mail Post-Paid.

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

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

PARIS—Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

Secretary Gage's Report.

The Secretary of the Treasury, the Hon. LYMAN J. GAGE, has sent to the Speaker of the House of Representatives the usual annual report of the nation's finances. For the year ending June 30 last he shows a deficit of $18,052,454; for the current fiscal year, he estimates one of $28,000,000; and for the fiscal year 1899 one of $21,647,885. The last two items are mere guesses, and may or not prove to be correct. Certainly, unless all signs fail, the deficit for the current fiscal year, even after crediting up the extraordinary receipts from the sale of the Union Pacific Railway, will considerably exceed $28,000,000.

The interest of the report centres upon the Secretary's plan of currency reform, with which it closes. This plan is substantially the same as that which was given out by Mr. GAGE, a month ago. It involves the funding of $200,000,000 Government notes into 2½ per cent. bonds, specifically payable in gold, and an enlargement of the note-issuing powers of the national banks to the par of the Government bonds deposited to secure it, and, besides, to 25 per cent. without security of the par of the refunding bonds deposited. The entire issue, secured and unsecured, is to be guaranteed by the Government, and to protect the Government against loss from its guarantee, a tax of 2 per cent. per annum is to be laid on the unsecured notes to create a safety fund. No bank notes are to be issued of a less denomination than $10; all of them are to be redeemed at the Government subtreasuries, and for redemption a fund of 10 per cent. is to be furnished by the banks.

It will be time enough to discuss the details of the plan when it is embodied in a bill and comes up for debate in Congress. To its fundamental principle, the substitution of bank currency for notes issued directly by the Government, THE SUN is and will be opposed. One point, however, is worth mentioning now. The Secretary shows that, on Oct. 6, 1896, the national banks of the South, having an aggregate capital of $68,680,000, borrowed from banks in the East, to assist in handling the cotton crop, $13,548,000, in addition to their own note issues of $18,950,000. Under his plan, the Secretary says, these banks would be able to issue notes equal to the full amount of their capitals and 25 per cent. more. What would become of the additional issues, when the crop-moving season was over, he does not explain. Apparently, they would go into general circulation, and at the next crop season, they would have to be called in to supply the demand for them.

The Kaiser and Hayti.

The arrival of the two schoolships at Port au Prince to sustain Germany's claim in the Lueders affair was perhaps a natural sequence of the official declaration made the other day in the Reichstag.

Minister VON BÜLOW said that the mere release of LUEDERS could not satisfy the Government, because his imprisonment had been unlawful, and hence was a proper subject for that indemnity which would certainly be secured. There is some ground for surmising that, at the time this announcement was made, Germany had assurances that Hayti would accede to her demands, a despatch from Washington to that effect having appeared that day in one or more of the German newspapers. At all events, as Germany did not propose any annexation or permanent occupation of Haytian territory, which would have been a violation of the Monroe doctrine, she had no reason to fear complication with the United States in dealing with Hayti.

The detailed merits of the dispute it is perhaps not worth while again to discuss, since Hayti has concluded, it is said, to accede to Germany's terms. The city of Port au Prince is perfectly open to the sea, and there would be no difficulty in its bombardment even by the German schoolships, which are of course not primarily intended for such work. It would appear from the despatches that the possibility of employing force had caused the German residents to take refuge on foreign steamers in the harbor, and that the French Minister had also caused a steamer to be brought to the port for the use of French residents. These precautions were further justified by the chance that the Government's yielding to Germany's demands might provoke a revolution.

Spain's Policy Still on Trial.

The variety of the comments made, both in this country and in Europe, upon the President's discussion of the Cuban question is remarkable, yet the message itself is lucid and unequivocal.

While the President holds that the change of policy introduced by the Sagasta Government is so great that we ought to await its results, yet this very statement of the case is most suggestive. To say that Spain deserves to have "a reasonable chance to realize her expectations" in Cuba, implies that it is for our Government to accord or withhold this chance. Indeed the message throughout assumes that our relations with Cuba are so intimate and important that we have rights in the determination of its future as well as Spain.

Thus Gen. WOODFORD was instructed, it now appears, to say to Spain that "we could be required to wait only a reasonable time for the mother country to establish its authority and restore peace and order within the borders of the island; that we could not contemplate an indefinite period for the accomplishment of this result." Our right to intervene to end the war is thus clearly implied, and even our right to intervene soon, since the President suggests "further and other action," unless it shall be shown in "the near future" that "a righteous peace is likely to be attained."

It is perhaps even more noticeable that while the President mentions "the widespread losses the war entails, the burdens and interests it imposes upon us, with constant disturbance of national interests," he does not put our right to intervene wholly on such grounds. He says that "intervention upon humanitarian grounds" has had his "most anxious and earnest consideration," although he would not recommend it at this time, because of the "hopeful change" in Spain's policy, including her abandonment of a method of warfare "that so long shocked the universal sentiment of humanity." The President says that he protested against WEYLER's policy of herding the rural population of Cuba in and about the garrison towns, believing it to be not civilized warfare. And finally the President shows that it may "hereafter appear to be a duty imposed by our obligations to ourselves, to civilization and humanity, to intervene with force."

It seems to us plain that the general effect of this message upon Spain will be to convince her that her cause in Cuba is still simply on trial, and that at no very distant time there may be an adverse verdict on that cause from the United States. She may feel somewhat relieved by the message from immediate fears of the recognition of Cuban belligerency, yet she will suspect that, if she fails in another campaign, recognition both of belligerency and independence must come. She may be gratified at the praise given to the Sagasta policy, but she cannot fail to note the assumption that our country is now sitting in judgment on that policy, and that it will be judged by its results.

As for the patriots, in the President's closing intimation of a coming duty that "will be faced without misgiving or hesitancy," they read a promise that will assuredly be redeemed when the world, in the near future, finds that Cuba has not been conquered or pacified.

Bucolic Ideas of New York Banking.

Representative J. H. WALKER of Massachusetts, Chairman of the House Committee on Banking and Currency, entertains a very simple and bucolic conception of the way in which banking business is transacted in New York. Commenting upon that part of President MCKINLEY's message which relates to the locking up of redeemed Government notes, he says:

"The recommendation that greenbacks be not paid out except for gold when only redeemed in gold, if enacted into law, would enable one man with $1,000,000 of greenbacks demanding gold of the Treasury and then depositing the gold in the bank for greenbacks, and repeating the process 346 times, to retire the whole $346,000,000 of greenbacks in the time it would take him to oscillate between the Sub-Treasury in New York and his confederate foreign broker."

Mr. WALKER evidently thinks that a million of dollars in gold can be handled as easily as a dozen of eggs or a barrel of flour. He has never seen that amount, either of greenbacks or of gold, and does not consider that, even if a million in greenbacks could be had from any bank for the asking, a million in gold coin consists of not less than 50,000 pieces and weighs 25,800,000 grains, which, at 7,000 grains to the pound, makes 3,714 pounds avoirdupois, or nearly two tons. To count in the greenbacks and then to count out the gold for it, is an operation which requires much time and labor, and the Treasury officials, if they were so disposed, could easily make it consume the best part of a day. To repeat it 346 times might require nearly a year.

Supposing, however, the gold absorbing operator and his confederate foreign broker to persevere for a year in their nefarious efforts to deplete the Treasury, they would have to find storage somewhere for the $346,000,000 in gold which they would amass. They would have either to build special vaults here to receive it, or else ship it abroad. Either expedient would be costly, and no possible profit would compensate them for the outlay involved in it.

Then, does Mr. WALKER fancy that anything like $346,000,000 in greenbacks could be withdrawn from the New York banks or from circulation and locked up in the Treasury, without opposition from any quarter? If he does, he does not know our New York bank Presidents. As soon as they found out what was going on they would shut down on the conspirators, and defeat their plot. Even without other action, the locking up of only a few millions of gold would produce a financial convulsion which would effectually stop further movement in the same direction.

This is not the first time Mr. WALKER has made an exhibition of his ignorance of practical finance. About a year ago he wrote a letter which was published in the Boston *Herald*, in which he asserted that the circulating notes of the Bank of England have no special lien on the gold held in the issue department for their redemption, but stand on the same footing as the claims of the bank's depositors. Even the *Evening Post* of this city, which approves Mr. WALKER's views in other respects, had to contradict him in this one, his error being so palpable that no defence could be made for it.

Yet Mr. WALKER is Chairman of a Committee on Banking and Currency!

The British Army on the Indian Frontier in Danger.

According to the latest and most trustworthy reports from India, the expectation that the subjugation of the Orakzais and Afridis would be effected by the English, and the army back in its usual quarters before the winter set in on the Afghan mountains, has been abandoned.

The object of the expedition into their country was to show these clans that the military power of the British was strong enough to penetrate into the inmost recesses of their valleys, and so assure their submission; and it was thought by those responsible for the plan of campaign that this end would be attained when the Maidan Valley had been penetrated. The point aimed at has been reached and Gen. LOCKHART's camp has been established three weeks in the valley, but the clans have not come in, nor, at last accounts, were there any signs that their offers of submission were anything but devices to gain time. They refuse to give up the rifles stolen during the past two years from the British depots, having tested their value in the recent fighting; and the most powerful of the clans, the Zakka Khels, manifest no intention whatever to submit. Added to the indisposition of the tribes to accept the terms offered by the British Commander, which cannot be said to be excessive from the military point of view, the coming on of the winter, when the passes and defiles may be blocked at any moment by snowfalls, is causing disquiet to the authorities. It is even said that the invading force may have to be withdrawn to the lower country or possibly back into India itself before the setting in of winter makes such a retreat dangerous, if not impossible. What this would mean in the face of such enterprising enemies as the Afridis, inflamed by the desire for vengeance for their burnt homes and destroyed crops, and familiar with every ravine and rock on their mountains, is too obvious to need comment.

There are other reasons also why the withdrawal of the British forces without the submission of the mountaineers may have to be decided on at any moment. It is the physical incapacity of a large part of the British troops engaged to bear up against the fatigues and hardships of the campaign. It is true that we hear of a creditable feat of arms by some small body of men, such as that reported at Dargai, north of Peshawur, in the Swat country, but, according to the *Bombay Gazette*, the general behavior of the British troops has not been invariably equal to their reputation. For the English public it cannot have been pleasant to read "that one regiment with a fine fighting tradition" was unable or unwilling, after several hours' difficult march, to make a final effort that would have brought the day's work to a successful close; that, owing to fatigue and the want of water, they refused to go forward with the rest of the column; that other regiments or detachments refused to bring in their wounded, and that a native regiment performed that duty for one of the British regiments which was admittedly dead beat. The men of another regiment took possession of the hospital supplies and equipment for their own use, refusing to give them up when ordered. The *Civil and Military Gazette*, another Indian paper, attributes what can only be described as the complete breakdown of the British troops in the field to their extreme youth and diseased condition. Several corps, says this paper, "have been so decimated by sickness that they have had to be sent back to the base."

There was abundant ground, then, for the orders which were sent from England some time since for the speedy termination of the campaign. The bad impression, too, that would be produced by all the above detailed circumstances on the Sikh and Gurkha regiments would be another reason. It is rational to suppose that the Afridis and the other tribes are not ignorant of these difficulties of the British Government, and that their Fabian tactics are the result. How far they may be successful remains to be seen, but it is clear that Gen. LOCKHART and his troops are in a serious dilemma. If a disaster should overtake them similar to that which overwhelmed the army on its retreat from Cabul through the Khyber Pass in 1842, the British people would surely make an example of the Government whose policy was responsible for it.

The Unity of New York Republicans.

It is probable that few people have paid much attention to the intrigues and manœuvres of the clique of Republicans who are seeking to disorganize their party in this city, with a view to proceeding thence to its disorganization in the State generally. The great mass of the Republicans of New York take no interest in the malicious scheming, except so far as to reprobate the attempt of the plotters to foment and perpetuate discord in the party.

Every fair-minded man who has watched the course of these would-be mischief makers since the election must have seen very clearly that they are simply repeating the tactics adopted by them to prevent Republican unity in the late campaign. The sincerity of the desire of the Republican organization to harmonize and consolidate the party strength is obvious now, as it was then. The determination of the clique of malcontents and disorganizers to prevent such unity is again apparent. The disposition of the organization to go to any extreme within the bounds of reason in order to conciliate the opposition has been made not less patent. The disposition of the kickers to kick the more viciously the more considerately they are treated is also manifest.

An earnest Republican of the West writes to us suggesting that we "let up a little" on this cantankerous clique, his theory being that in the interest of party harmony they should be humored as spoilt children. But it is of no use to try to placate them. The more kindly they are treated the worse they behave. They do not want peace; they will not have peace; they want to advertise themselves by kicking up a row. The more they are offered the more they demand, for WHITELAW REID and his confederates are bent simply on making mischief for the Republican party. The prospect of restoring unity to it only exasperates them, for they are scheming to divide it permanently and defeat it in next year's election.

Fortunately, as we have said, they are receiving no countenance and support from the great body of New York Republicans. They represent no general discontent and rebellion, but only their own malicious cantankerousness. In the natural course of things the Republicans of New York will come together in hearty accord. There is no difference of principle or of purpose among them, and the antics of the Reid-Milholland clique only annoy them, so far as they attract their attention at all. The Republican party will have to go ahead in its appointed course without reference to these scheming enemies, whose only support comes from the malicious Mugwumps with whom they are allied.

Envoys and Camels.

The progress of Mr. JAMES GORDON BENNETT's special envoys to Asia Minor continues to attract the sympathy of philanthropists. A despatch from Dr. GEORGE H. HEPWORTH, the chief envoy, was printed by the *Herald* on Monday. It was dated at Erzeroum, and this was its essential information:

"We shall start on Monday for Bitlis. There is no house on the road, and for ten or twelve nights we shall rest in open stables, with our companions the cows and camels. Both the *Herald's* correspondents are in splendid condition."

For more than a week to come, then, Dr. HEPWORTH and his companion in mission will sleep, if a sense of the importance of their travels will permit them to sleep, among cows and camels and practically in the open air. They have already been half frozen. Now every night they are to be exposed not only to the inclemency of the air, but to the rudenesses of cows and camels. They are liable to be kicked, to be trampled on. Many of the Kurdish cows are known to be unruly, and every camel has a bad eye and an uncertain disposition. Ten nights in a stable; twelve nights in a stable, among vicious camels and unruly cows. The position is not dignified for an envoy; it is not tranquillizing for an observer. How can men who are kept busy dodging camels have their minds open to receive those impartial impressions to collect which Mr. BENNETT's envoys have braved cold feet and malicious camels?

Mr. BENNETT's missionaries are "in splendid condition," or so reported themselves to be on Sunday. But how long will this splendid condition last? How long can a philosopher and author endure cold feet and lodge with cows and camels without injurious results, if not to his physical constitution, at least to the accuracy and delicacy of his apprehension? If Mr. BENNETT had cold feet, could he write those clear and brilliant leading articles with which he illuminates the *Herald* and delights the world? Could he compose with such spirits if he had to sleep in an open stable, in the dead of winter, with camels treading on his toes and cows munching around him?

As Mr. BENNETT lies, warm and soft, to-night, and plans new premiums and funds, will no thought visit him of his envoys, exposing their constitutions among Kurds, cows, and camels?

Surely some of the balances, unexpended and unaccounted for, of his ice fund might be used for the purpose of fitting up convenient hospices, with folding beds and state-rooms securely partitioned against cow and camel, on the road to Bitlis.

"Tiddledywink" Stenographers.

The impression seems to prevail among some women stenographers that the subject of their occupation is not being treated with proper seriousness. They would like to abandon all discussion of the so-called pretty and frivolous members of their craft and to see the unscrupulous owners of short-term, lightning-method schools handled with "bare knuckles to a finish."

That desire is entirely creditable, but unless attention is drawn to the complete stenographic incompetence of the graduates of such schools, how is their deception to be proved and made clear to the public? Investigation will show that nine pupils out of ten who have taken a course of lessons in those institutions belong to the "chewing gum" or "tiddledywink" variety. A great many employers are aware of that fact and refuse to engage a stenographer who, in actual work, is found to be incompetent. One of the best ways, therefore, to discourage and uproot the humbug shorthand colleges of the country is to emphasize the exasperating worthlessness of their graduates.

The "tiddledywink" stenographer, so-called, is, for the most part, a product of the last ten years; and there are several explanations of his and her appearance. One is that in recent years, a hundred, more or less, mongrel "systems" of shorthand writing have sprung up, and the advocates of those methods have tried to outdo each other in an attempt to popularize their respective methods. As a result, schools were started, and those that advertised to teach the art of making pothooks in the shortest time were naturally supposed to have the best systems of shorthand. The victims of those institutions did not discover the fraud until it was too late.

It is curious to find that a majority of the short-term graduates are blissfully ignorant of their own incapacity. If they fail to obtain work or get only low wages, they complain that the shorthand field is overcrowded or that business men have too low an estimation of stenography.

As regards "plug" stenographers, it is fair to say that they have never been underpaid. In their case, no wages are too low. The less pay they receive, the sooner they will be made to see their error and will give their time to other things. And only so far as concerns stenographers of that sort is the shorthand field overcrowded. The managers of employment bureaus declare that there is a constant demand for first-class stenographers, and that there are not half enough applicants who can fill the places.

Stenography, as it is practiced by the competent reporter or by the skilful office amanuensis, is not an easy thing to master, and many who once thought differently have lived to change their minds. It would doubtless be a good thing for members of the fraternity who are thoroughly capable and experienced if every stenographic applicant were obliged, before taking a position, to pass a satisfactory examination before a board of shorthand experts.

Time rights all things, and it will probably not be long before the difference between a competent and incompetent stenographer will be more generally understood. Then good-by to the "tiddledywinks!"

The platform of the Boston Socialists contains a great thought which is hereby submitted to the consideration of Democratic platform makers. The great thought is that strikers should be supported by the city. When the anti-plutocratic ideal takes form there will be a community in which nobody works and everybody lives at the expense of the city; and the city will duly mulct plutocrats for the necessary funds. It may be said that there are practical difficulties in the way, but practical difficulties cannot be considered. Get a sublime theory and stick to it; and if the theory that strikers should get wages from the city for consenting to do nothing is not sublime, then there is no sublimity left.

It cost the Citizens' Union a little more than a dollar a vote. Good government seems to come high.

Chicago clasps affectionately the rumor that the Hon. BUCK HINRICHSEN, who is known to be a statesman, every pound of him, is resolved to succeed the Hon. CHARLES JAMES FAULKNER of West Virginia as Chairman of the Democratic Congress Committee. Mr. HINRICHSEN may be more active than Mr. FAULKNER, but has he the latter's valuable prophetic gifts? Mr. FAULKNER can sweep the country with his pen and carry every State in the Union with an interview. Hope may be more useful than dexterity, and Mr. FAULKNER has all the hope there is and a good deal more there isn't.

In the view of the Hon. WILLIAM BROOKFIELD and his brethren a "purged" enrollment is one that will give them a majority. It will take a good many series of purgings to bring that about.

The Hon. LON V. STEPHENS, Governor of Missouri, hurls as far as Detroit the tale that he borrowed his Thanksgiving proclamation from ex-Governor RICH of Michigan. He calls upon the Secretary of State of Michigan to produce the Rich proclamation or be forever fallen. Finally he cries with a rich, but stern voice:

"I want to assure my constituents that I have not gone to the Republican Governor of Michigan for a Thanksgiving proclamation, and, more than that, I never will."

Does the Hon. LON V. STEPHENS mean to imply that he would scorn to borrow a Thanksgiving proclamation from any other than a Democratic Governor?

Already you can hear the Hon. JERRY SIMPSON simmering. Wait till he boils. Then the Capitol will quake and TOM REED will regret the past.

The Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN "delivered his famous lecture on bimetallism" at Guthrie the other afternoon "to an audience which filled less than two-thirds of the house and which was composed largely of Republicans. Hundreds of Populists and farmers who had come to town to hear BRYAN went home 'mad' when informed of 50 cents admission." Probably these same Populists and farmers would cheerfully pay a dollar to see a poor strolling theatrical company. Yet they were not willing to pay half a dollar for the privilege of hearing the leading juvenile in the thrilling melodrama of "The Crime of 1873." Evidently there is not so much craving for excitement in Oklahoma as some of the performances of its Legislature have seemed to indicate.

CANE SUGAR AND BEET SUGAR.

The Ability of This Country to Produce All the Beet Sugar It Requires.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of the most important industrial topics of the day, involving also the questions of tariff, revenue, consumption, and home production, is that of sugar, and its relation to these questions is complicated by the discussion as to the comparative merits of beet and cane sugars. Each has its advocates, and unfortunately there is something of a conflict between the advocates of beet sugar and cane sugar. Without entering into the question of statistics, a few remarks upon the subject seem pertinent.

Those writers who are taking the ground that the production of cane sugar is in its decadence because beet sugar is now produced in much greater quantity than cane sugar, cannot have gone very deeply into the question of the normal capacity of tropical countries to produce cane sugar or sugar cane. The enormous progress in the production of beet sugar in Europe and the present satisfactory progress in this country in the same direction are too well known to require rehearsal here; but the reason of the great success attained is to be found in the practically prohibitive tariff protection and system of export bounties that obtain in Europe, as also the tariff protection and bounty accorded to the beet sugar industry in this country. Take away these bolsters and the beet sugar industries of Europe would soon be wiped out, and without ample protection in this country the beet sugar industry cannot presently exist; neither can the production of cane sugar in this country progress without protection.

Prof. Wiley of the United States Agricultural Department has several times put the actual average cost of producing sugar in this country at about four cents per pound; under continued improvements in machinery and methods the cost has been reduced within the past two or three years, and may now be fairly set down as not far from three cents per pound for raw and three and a half cents for refined beet sugar, to which must always be added the cost of marketing and shrinkage. Home-produced sugar must be sold in competition with imported sugars, the price of which to consumers is maintained at the lowest point consistent with the foreign cost, with duty, freight, refining, and handling added. Hence German granulated sugars have been sold in this market as low as the actual cost of producing beet sugars in this country, and are constantly imported at rates pro rata to the actual cost of production in Europe or even less, which can be done under the export bounty system of Europe. It will be seen that the production of beet sugar in the United States is dependent for existence upon tariff protection, or other protection in the form of Government or State bounty.

That cane sugar can be produced in tropical climates at much less cost than beet sugar can be produced in either Europe or this country is a fact beyond question. Cane sugar, too, has always this advantage over beet sugar, that it is fit for consumption as food at any stage of its making, from low grade yellows to the highest refined granulated or hard crystals, while beet sugar must be refined from the alkaline impurities of the lower grades in order to make it suitable for food. Hence it is not likely that the production of cane sugar will be superseded wholly by beet sugar; neither can the present export bounty system of Europe continue without detriment and loss of revenue to the sugar bounty paying countries.

There is another side to this question deeply interesting to the people of this country. The production of beet sugar here is a necessity if we are to be delivered from foreign producers of this article of food, whether from the cane or beet sugar producing countries. It is, therefore, imperative upon us to protect the industry sufficiently to enable the people to produce their own sugar. Most of the States in our Union are suited for the production of sugar beets, though only a small part of them can produce cane sugar. Hence the beet sugar industry is a necessity to us. We cannot produce enough cane sugar, but we can produce beet sugar in any quantity required for home consumption, in addition to our cane sugar.

The talk about the dangers of producing beet sugar in excess of our home consumption, and consequent loss of revenue from sugar, is not only counting chickens before they are hatched, but is also misleading. The Cuban sugar planter, Mr. E. F. Atkins, of Boston, asks where we are to get the $50,000,000 of revenue from sugar to be collected if we produce our own sugar? When we produce all the sugar required for home consumption the $80,000,000 or more now paid annually for imported sugars will be in the pockets of the American people, who can then well afford to pay a small internal tax, say of a cent per pound, in lieu of the duty now levied on imported sugar, and have some of the $80,000,000 remaining to their credit. Thus would the Government get all the revenue required from sugar, while the consumer would have the money from the acquired home industry without dependence upon foreign producers; and thousands of industries would get a share of the trade and thousands find employment in it.

Another bugbear presented by opponents of our progress as beet sugar producers is that the extensive production of beet sugar will deprive us of land for the growth of wheat and other cereals, and so reduce or destroy our capacity for their production and deprive us of the money now received from exports of wheat and other food products, which, it is said, would be grown in foreign countries. This point is simply bosh, inasmuch as neither Mr. Atkins nor this writer, and not any child now living, is likely to see the day in this country when we cannot produce all the wheat and other products for which we have a foreign market, and at the same time be able to employ all the land and many times more that would be required for the production of the 2,000,000 or so tons of sugar required annually for home consumption in this country. The assertion that "we shall not produce the 2,000,000 tons of sugar here and produce the things we are now producing" is nonsense. We can not only produce all the sugar we require for home consumption, but we can also produce simultaneously many times the amount of wheat and other cereals now produced. It is wonderful how at one time some people will argue the immensity of this country for one purpose and its limitation for another purpose; it is also strange that the moment the beet sugar industry of the United States has become a fact, and its progress a substantial evidence of the normal capacity of this country to produce all the sugar required for home consumption, fears for future preponderance of the beet sugar industry here should worry the minds of Cuban sugar planters and their coadjutors in this country. The advantage that will accrue to the people and industries of this country by fostering and protecting our sugar producing industries will more than offset any dangers likely to arise from a future overproduction of sugar, dangers that are too remote to demand any attention from the American people for generations to come.

Another fact may well be considered; there are three countries practically within arm's length of the United States having ample capacity of sugar production not only to supply this country with cane sugar, but actually to supply the entire consumption of sugar in this and all other countries, viz.: the Hawaiian Islands, where eighteen months are required to mature the cane that produces four to six tons of sugar to the acre or more, with a growth of sixty to ninety tons of cane to the acre; Mexico, with its unlimited capacity for sugar production, estimated at from 6,000,000 to 10,000,000 tons per annum, and Cuba, with a capacity of production from two to five times greater than that island has hitherto developed. Let us not borrow trouble about overproduction of beet sugar in this country with competition at our gates that should be prevented rather than awaited by home production fostered by protection.

HENRY A. BROWN.

WESTPORT POINT, Mass., Dec. 6.

The Hotel Idea in a Police Court.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Magistrate—You were drunk, of course, when the hold-up men went through you?

Battered-up Prisoner—I was, your Honor.

Magistrate—They got everything you had, I suppose?

Prisoner—Everything, your Honor, except a $2 bill I had in my watch pocket.

Magistrate—The fine will be $2. Call the next case!

ART NOTES.

M. Boldini's Potraits—Water Colors by Mr. Palmer at Avery's.

To American amateurs in general Jean Boldini is known as a painter of small pictures with no particular subject, but presenting a corner of a salon or of a boudoir, with two or three pretty women. These pictures long ago made him famous and caused him to be ranked with the very best artists in his field in the world. The best private collections, both here and abroad, contain one or more examples of his art in this style, and their cleverness, their genuine artistic merit and, above all, their quality of being fine pieces of painting technically considered is generally recognized. To our artists, to those at least who keep in touch with the exhibitions in Paris, and to the many Americans who make the annual trip to Europe and take a look at the picture shows while there, M. Boldini has been for some years known as a painter of portraits. He has painted many more women than men, and has made some of his chief successes with portraits of children. His style is individual and his portraits are invariably distinctive. At one time a highbred lady's grace is sympathetically interpreted, at another the *diablerie* of a fashionable woman is given with rare charm and fascination, at another the budding coquetry of a little girl with long, graceful legs covered with black silk stockings and a head capped with an infantile but nevertheless fetching bonnet is ingenuously suggested, and at another the "form" and chic of a Parisian man of the world, or the characteristic expression in face and figure of a painter or composer, are rendered on the canvas with truthfulness and an air of impressive personality. In his small pictures a colorist of distinction with a taste as catholic as anybody's Mr. Boldini is found to be in his portraits a rigorous exponent of the beauty of black and white. When pinks or mauves are introduced they are subtly qualified with gray. Everything in the simple color schemes is subdued and quiet in actual tint, but the portrait in general effect rarely fails to be brilliant. It is the art of a sensitive painter, with full knowledge of the value of style and refined appreciation of "aspect."

M. Boldini came to New York a couple of weeks ago intending to remain for a time and paint portraits, as other well-known Parisian painters have done. Everybody at all familiar with the present state of art and fashion abroad knows that he occupies a place among the half dozen or so most noted portrait painters in Europe. In one of the galleries of Boussod, Valadon & Co., Fifth avenue and Thirty-first street, four of his portraits are on exhibition, together with a small picture of a beautiful American lady, a pastel head of Verdi, and several photographs of other portraits, among which are those of Count Robert de Montesquion contemplating the *lapis-lazuli* head of his walking stick, Menzel, the German painter, and two of children. The most striking canvas is the portrait of "Comtesse P.," a full-length figure, life size, in which the sitter is shown in the pose so much liked by the artist, seated on the edge of a sofa and with one elbow resting on the arm at the end. The gown is black, the hair and eyes are black, the stocking and slipper are black. You do not notice what color the sofa is. It is something in gray. The background is absolutely unobtrusive. The lady's head is bent forward so that a good part of the top of her hair is seen, the eyes look out from under the brows, there is a smile about the mouth, and the delicate, pointed chin recedes into the shadow on the neck. Below the head there is a wide and full expanse of white skin, for the gown is cut very low, the left arm lies carelessly at the side, and the right rests on the sofa, showing the elbow prominently and foreshortening the rest. The hand, delicate and long, is in the hair, and the lady is *avenante* from head to toe. The head is skilfully modelled, the arms and chest are brilliant but reserved in color, and the satin skirt of the gown, through which the figure is admirably felt, is splendidly painted.

Another portrait of a lady, that of the Princess Poniatowska, has a different sort of charm. The type is more hardy, but is not robust, and the favorite scheme of blacks and whites here gives way to pink. The face is in profile, the head is lifted with an expectant expression, and the figure, shown in half length, is seated on a sofa. Grays and blacks are introduced to qualify the broad note of pink, and the general effect is distinguished. A third portrait is of Mlle. Concha, a South American lady, and is painted in pastel. The chief color notes are gray, black, and pink again, but there is no decided mass of any of the three. The figure is less precisely felt than in the other two pictures, and the background shows a curtain slightly indicated. The face is seen in full view with a mantle of lace about the head, and the expression is gracious and attractive. There is skill in this portrait in the way that some things are done and others are not insisted upon, and the general aspect is perhaps the most engaging of the three. A fourth portrait shows Mr. Whistler all in black, in a characteristic attitude, his flat brimmed high hat on his knees, his cloak over his arm and his umbrella in his hand. It is broadly treated and has a most life-like, look while his friends here say that it is the man to a tee. The head of Verdi is very interesting. It is painted in pastel and shows the venerable composer with his hat on his head and a white muffler about his neck. It is vigorous, self-contained and convincing.

Mr. Boedini was born at Ferrara, but has so long lived in Paris that he is identified with the French school. He has not been a regular exhibitor at the Salon, though he not unfrequently exhibits there. His art is highly esteemed by his fellow painters, and his artistic honors are many.

The annual exhibition of water colors by Walter L. Palmer has begun at Avery's gallery, 368 Fifth avenue, and will last till Dec. 18. The pictures are for the most part studies of snow and winter landscapes, new examples of the work with which Mr. Palmer's name is identified, bnt there are also summer landscapes and some Venetian scenes. Of the twenty-four pictures in the collection fifteen are winter subjects, six are effects in spring and summer, three show boats with bright colored sails on the canals of Venice, and one is a fine representation of a white yacht running up the Sound before the wind with mainsail and spinnaker in full bloom under an effect of sunlight which makes the water sparkle. The average of the work is quite as good as it was last year, which is saying a great deal. Difficult effects, such as the snow-covered trees, with a frosty haze in the air, in "An Adirondack Road," No. 18, or the sharp atmosphere of a winter day at noon, with a blue sky and white clouds, and shadows cast by a rail fence and bushes on virgin snow, as shown in "White Snow and Blue Sky," No. 21, are rendered with truth and artistic charm. Wide stretches of country, with mountains in the distance and afternoon sunlight playing over the snow-clad plains and hills, are picturesquely composed and delicately interpreted in such sheets as "The Upper Hudson," No. 6, and "Across the Cornfield," No. 10, "Moonrise at Sundown," No. 13; "Sunrise in the Mountains," No. 12, and "Winter Sundown," No. 7, are others that give faithful and at the same time beautiful transcripts of winter's varying moods. The running water bounding over rocks and slipping into deep pools in "A Mountain Stream," No. 22, is excellently rendered, and in "Cherry Blossoms," No. 15, there is a delicately painted effect of spring atmosphere. Good choice of subjects, much truth of observation, and a cleverness in handling the water color medium that comes from long practice, combine to make Mr. Palmer's pictures attractive to the amateur as well as to the artist. The qualities that have made his reputation as a sympathetic painter of nature out-of-doors, shown in his pictures on previous occasions, will be found to be present in those now at the Avery Gallery, and it is interesting to see a painter making so much of familiar scences in the country not far from town; effects that anybody can see, but that none to many appreciate.

No. 2 Took No Chances.

From the Kansas City Times.

The day that Lenora McMahan was married at St. Joseph she ordered the dead body of her first husband sent to her from Wichita. This was done, and she forwarded it to Wisconsin for final burial.

FOR OUR PART AT PARIS.

The President Indorses the Recommendation for an Appropriation of $919,600.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 7.—A message from the President transmitting the report of Major Moses P. Handy, the special Commissioner to arrange for the exhibit of the United States Government at the Paris Exposition, was transmitted to Congress to-day. The President says that Major Handy's report is a comprehensive and clear presentation of the matter. Major Handy recommends that an appropriation of $919,600 be made, so that a creditable exhibit on behalf of the United States may be made. Besides securing a much larger amount of space than had been reserved, Major Handy obtained the assurance that the United States will be placed on a footing with the most favored nations, and "tha in the installation of every important department the United States will have a location commensurate with the dignity and importance of the country, and adjoining in every case countries of the first rank."

The President commends the report to the consideration of Congress and concludes as follows:

"Moreover, the magnificent exhibit of the French Republic at Chicago in 1893 on which a million dollars were expended should be a strong incentive to the reciprocal liberality on the part of the Government of the United States, and suggest to our citizens the necessity as well as the propriety of installing at the Paris Exposition an exhibit on a par with that of the Government and the people of France at Chicago, in keeping with the scope and extent of the preparations which are being made by nearly all the important nations of the earth for their proposed exhibits in that exposition. I suggest that the subject be given timely and favorable consideration."

Lawyers and Bankruptcies.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In order to understand the opposition to the Torrey Bankruptcy bill, the source and cause of the strong pressure which is exercised by some prominent business firms against it must be laid bare. These merchants manage to be frequently preferred as creditors under the present law. It is well known that under the existing condition a system has been developed by some legal firms for arranging business failures and establishing a clientele among merchants by giving them benefits for a consideration fixed by regular contract with those wrecking attorneys.

Law firms cultivating this branch of business have an agreement with several leading houses, especially among the dry goods commission merchants, by which they receive a percentage on all failures in which these houses are interested in this city, whether they render any service or not. In consideration of this these merchants are made preferred creditors, and guaranteed against loss in all cases in which the bankruptcy passes through the management of these attorneys. Thus the remaining creditors are defrauded for the benefit of a few clients who pay their regular tribute to such lawyers. These lawyers are well equipped for their business of making a stock of goods disappear and disposing of accounts receivable, &c., during the weeks before a failure is announced, so that when this event happens no available assets remain for the creditors who are not in the game.

NEW YORK, Dec. 7. DRY GOODS.

Free Lectures for Brooklyn.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was pleased to see your indorsement of the great usefulness of the free lectures in the Cooper Union under the Board of Education, and I would ask of you to use your influence in the further extending of these free lectures to the people of Brooklyn, which almost immediately becomes part of the Greater New York. I am not alone in the opinion that these lectures would be greatly appreciated in the populous centres of Brooklyn and Williamsburg, elevating the people to a better and higher citizenship. What Dr. Leipziger has done for New York should be done by some of Brooklyn's educators, and there is no time like the present.

Noted Brooklynites have often lectured in Cooper Union and in the different school buildings of New York. Charity, and justice likewise, should begin at home, and these lecturers should be appealed to at once to do their duty in behalf of the New York across the East River. There should be no favoritism toward any class of the American people; but I have often heard it remarked that Brooklyn seemed neglected educationally, in regard to the spread of information through popular lectures, while the foreign-born population of New York's east side enjoyed advantages which were enviable. We have an abundance of school buildings suitable for these lectures scattered in different directions, and all that seems to be needed is the consent of the Board of Education and the lecturers themselves. The New York city course of lectures would be welcomed in Brooklyn, as their subjects are of the greatest interest to Greater New Yorkers. GEORGIUS.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 4.

Eliminating the Negro Vote in the South.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

Some idea of the sweeping effect that the new registration law has had in eliminating the negro vote can be had from the reports that have reached the city from a few of the country parishes. In the parish of Plaquemines, which formerly had a negro registration of 2,500, only five blacks have so far registered. In the parish of West Baton Rouge five negroes are said to have presented themselves up to last week for registration, but none were competent, and in consequence all were refused. Unless things have changed in the last few days there is not a negro on the registration rolls in West Baton Rouge.

Can't Collect Pay for Whiskey Sold for Campaign Use.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

PETERSBURG, Ind., Dec. 4.—On Friday Judge Ely gave out his decision in the case of Adams vs. Morgan. Adams brought suit against Morgan, Chairman of a campaign committee, to recover for whiskey sold for campaign purposes on order of the latter. The Judge decided that inasmuch as the whiskey was used for illegal and immoral purposes no recovery could be had. This important ruling has settled up a large number of campaign debts in this county.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Miss Ellen Nussey, who acted as bridesmaid for Charlotte Brontë, has just died at Birstall, at the age of 83 years.

One great name emerges from the Dreyfus muddle. Major Paty du Clam, it seems, was prosecuting officer at the court-martial.

Aberdeen University's Literary Society, presided over by a nephew of Mr. J. M. Barrie, has decided by a large majority, after debate, that the Scottish school of fiction does not deserve the favor it has received.

Count Dimitri Miljutin, formerly War Minister of Czar Alexander II, and one of the chief promoters of the Emperor's liberal reforms, has just celebrated the sixtieth anniversary of his admission to the Russian general staff.

A London author guilty of a book entitled "Dvorák Abu Ferna" when sued by his publisher for the cost of publishing it, demanded that the case be tried by a jury consisting of four publishers, four poets, and four professors of Arabic.

Dutch pictures brought very low prices at the Sedelmeyer sale in Paris, the whole collection bringing in about 85,000 francs. A Ruysdael landscape, the gem of the collection, was withdrawn, the upset price, 20,000 francs, not having been bid.

Juggernaut's car cannot pass through the streets of Colombo owing to the interference of overhead telegraph wires. Petitions have been sent to the Governor by the Ceylonese, as twenty-five persons wish to throw themselves under the idol's car.

An Irish ex-sergeant in the army, who died at Whittington, England, left directions that a bottle of Irish whiskey should be buried with him. As the sexton objected, a comrade of the dead man sprinkled the whiskey over the coffin. He was arrested and tried for "indecent behavior." He was acquitted.

Burglars broke into the fortress of Vincennes, near Paris, recently, and after stealing the money and valuables of the soldiers and officers, used the tools of the military blacksmith shop to break into the commissariat, which they plundered, and then made their way out through the moat by means of the ladders in the fort.

A gang of thieves organized to prey upon thieves has been discovered in Paris. Their plan was to watch for shoplifters in the department stores like the Louvre and the Bon Marché, to follow them home, and then under pretence of being police inspectors to search their apartments for stolen goods, which they carried off with no fear of complaint being made.

Italy has obtained possession of the art treasures of the Borghese family. For the Villa Borghese on the Pincian Hill the Government will pay the family a yearly pension of $30,000, and for the Borghese gallery it will give $600,000 in fifteen annual payments. An arrangement is under way by which twenty masterpieces in the Buoncompagni gallery will be ceded to the Government in consideration of permission to sell the remaining works of art.