The Sun.

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The Shell and the Kernel.

Is or is not the Republican party held together by a common belief of its members in a certain distinctive body of principles and doctrines?

Has or has it not common convictions, and does it or does it not exist for the purpose of carrying out those principles and policies in government, as requisite for the welfare of this republic?

The tone and conduct of certain ostensibly Republican newspapers and a few discontented Republicans in this town indicate that, in their view, these matters are not at all essential. They are concerned only with the form of the party organization, and if that fails to suit their tastes or to subserve their personal ambitions they are ready to do their utmost to destroy the party served by it. They care nothing for the vitalizing kernel of principle within, so long as the mere outside shell offends their prejudices.

Republicans who are really and honestly devoted to their party cling to it because of its animating principle, whatever be the form of the material body which it animates.

Bank Credit and Government Credit.

Speaking of paper money, Secretary GAGE, in his report to Congress, very truly says: "Credit is the base upon which it rests." With great inconsistency, however, he thereupon proceeds to argue that a bank currency which is secured by Government bonds, and thus backed by the Government, is less useful to the community than a bank currency secured only by the assets of the banks issuing it.

Nevertheless, the Secretary concedes that the people have a preference for a currency resting upon the credit of the Government, and he therefore proposes that, although there is but little risk in a bank currency secured by a safety fund of 2 per cent., still, to satisfy the people, the Government should assume that risk!

This, it seems to us, is giving away the whole argument in favor of bank currency as against Government notes. If the conviction, that the Government's credit is better than the credit of the banks, is so deeply rooted in the public mind that the notes issued by the banks must be guaranteed by the Government, in order to make them generally acceptable, it is impossible to resist the conclusion that the Government may as well itself issue the notes in the first instance, and enjoy the profits of the business instead of turning it over to the banks and paying them for doing it.

Between Government credit and bank credit, Government notes and bank notes, the people choose the Government credit and the Government notes.

The Kingston Railroad Case.

The Court of Appeals sticks to its original decision in the Kingston Railroad case, and has denied a motion for a reargument. At the same time the court points out that the decision affects only the right of one street railroad company to compel another to allow it to use its tracks under the General Railroad act, and does not involve the legality of that use where it has been granted voluntarily.

The court rests its decision upon section 91 of the Railroad act, which says: that street surface railroads, or "*extensions or branches thereof*," shall not be built, extended or *operated* unless the consent in writing of a majority of the abutting owners, or that of the municipal authorities, shall have been first obtained. Upon this provision the court decides that without having obtained the consent required, a street railroad company cannot, under section 102 of the act, compel another company to grant it the use of its tracks. What a company can do when that use is voluntarily granted, is left for future consideration.

Cuba's Tobacco Exports.

The release by Gen. BLANCO, under orders from Madrid, of 1,645 bales of tobacco owned by a New York firm, is a very noteworthy example of the cases of this kind, and nearly the last of them, too, a New Orleans firm, we believe, being the only remaining one whose seized tobacco is still under embargo.

Gen. WEYLER's edict prohibiting the exportation of leaf tobacco was dated May 16, 1896. Our Department of State, on hearing that certain American citizens owned tobacco which was detained, although bought for shipment before the date of this order, protested through Minister TAYLOR, and several of them were allowed to bring out their property. The needed evidence as to the time of purchase in the late case was not, it is said, until more recently furnished.

But the main interest in the matter arises from indications that before long the edict itself may be revoked, at least as to our citizens. It was originally imposed on the ground that the insurgents had destroyed so many Cuban plantations that no more tobacco was raised than would keep the Cuban manufacturers supplied with raw material. It was said that, without restricting exports, 15,000 cigarmakers in Havana would be thrown out of work, with their families suffering in consequence. The Government might, in fact, have to support them.

It was surmised in this country that another aim was to take vengeance on the Cuban cigarmakers here who contribute to the patriot cause. To cut off their raw material would be to injure their power of contribution. But if that really was the object, the failure, as has been suggested, to get the fine tobacco of Havana and Pinar del Rio provinces, covered by the edict, did not prevent the procuring of other tobacco, and the American factories still kept busy. Meanwhile Spanish exporters in Cuba and Spanish importers in this country, whom the Spanish authorities did not desire to injure, petitioned for the revocation of the edict as injurious to themselves.

It is now suggested that Spain may consent to revoke the edict, although perhaps imposing instead a heavy export duty on the tobacco. The position of Spain has been that, instead of a violation of the treaty of 1795, guaranteeing certain trade privileges even in case of hostilities, the tobacco edict is really like the prohibition of exporting cereals in a time of famine, or of cavalry horses with a need of them impending. But it seems to be the aim of the Sagasta administration to build up the agricultural industries of Cuba, and also to give our country as little reason as possible for interfering on the ground of its injured commerce. The accumulated stock of Cuban tobacco in this country at the time of the edict of May 16 was a help to manufacturers for some time thereafter, but the question is of continued supplies. It would be possible to retaliate for the prolonged enforcement of the edict by prohibiting the importation of cigars made in Cuba; but apart from that, the revocation of WEYLER's order and the resumption of the export trade in the best grades of leaf tobacco would show further concessions to the United States, if not greater control of Havana and Pinar del Rio provinces.

Thus hope is felt by those interested in this trade that before long tobacco will come in freely; but the cigarmakers of Havana are naturally against the revocation of the edict, and something may depend on the available supply.

The Hawaiian Treaty Not Unconstitutional.

The Hon. DANIEL AGNEW, who, many years ago, was Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Pennsylvania, appears again in print, at the age of 88, to oppose the annexation of Hawaii, either by treaty or by joint resolution of Congress. His objections to the McKinley treaty, which are set forth in the December *Forum*, are substantially the same as those which he urged against the Harrison treaty, and they can be, therefore, as easily refuted.

Annexation, Judge AGNEW says, is unconstitutional, for the reason that there is no express power in the Constitution to acquire and incorporate a foreign territory and people into the Union. That was the assertion made by the Federalist opponents of the purchase of Louisiana, and it is well known that JEFFERSON, who, up to that time, had been a strict constructionist, expressed some doubt concerning his own authority and that of the Senate in the premises. The common sense of the country, however, held at the time, and has held ever since, that an implied power to safeguard itself against exterior dangers by annexation must be presumed to be vested in our Federal Government, as in every other Government to which the right of self-preservation is conceded. The power exercised for the first time by JEFFERSON in the case of the Louisiana territory has been five times exercised since his day. We refer, of course, to the case of Florida in 1821, to that of Texas in 1845, to that of the territories gained from Mexico by treaty in 1848, that of the so-called Gadsden Purchase, a little later, and finally that of Alaska in 1867. If those six successive annexations were invalid for the reason that the implied powers exercised by the Executive and Senate or by Congress could not be properly deduced from the Constitution, the fact would have been long since proclaimed by the United States Supreme Court. Innumerable have been the cases brought before that tribunal in which the fundamental question whether the six territories in question had been properly incorporated with the United States has been urged, but never has it been urged successfully. The question of the constitutionality of annexation, therefore, must be pronounced *res adjudicata*, and it is too late even for the venerable ex-Chief Justice of Pennsylvania to raise it.

Judge AGNEW, indeed, admits that there are precedents for annexation, and mentions all of them, except the Gadsden Purchase, but he contends that they are not to the point. The purchases of Louisiana, Florida, and Alaska, he says, were justified "by an overruling necessity for the national safety." He does not allege that the acquisition of Texas, of California, and New Mexico, and of the Gadsden Purchase were so justified. Let us take up, first, the three precedents to which he gives particular attention. It is certainly true, as he says, that the purchase of Louisiana was "an overwhelming necessity to free the United States from an intolerable burden." What was that burden? It was the breach by Spain of the treaty of 1795, whereby she had granted to citizens of the United States a right of navigating the Mississippi and of depositing merchandise at New Orleans. With respect to this matter, however, the Federalists pointed out that, in 1803, the year in which the purchase was made, Louisiana was the property of France, and that we had no right to assume that a treaty giving us adequate privileges could not be negotiated with France and would not be duly observed by that power. That is precisely what the opponents of the annexation of Hawaii say. They tell us that we can get by treaty with the Honolulu Government all the coaling and repairing facilities we need in the Hawaiian Islands. The rejoinder made to the Federalists in 1803 is as pertinent now as it was then. No doubt, replied the friends of JEFFERSON, a treaty could be made with France, and, presumably, it would be observed, so long as France controlled Louisiana. But how long would she be able to control it in the event of a war with England, which would be dominant at sea? So with our coaling and repairing station in Hawaii. No doubt it would be serviceable so long as the Honolulu Government should be able to maintain its independence. But how long could that Government, single-handed, maintain itself against England or Japan?

The purchase of Florida was completed, as we have said, in 1821, when the King of Spain reluctantly affixed his signature to the treaty which had been negotiated two years before. The annexation of this territory meets with the approval of Judge AGNEW, on the ground that it was "an imperative necessity to free the United States from a neighbor whose hostility kept us in constant alarm." Would not Judge AGNEW have equally approved the purchase, even had no hostility been shown to us by the inhabitants of Florida, in order to prevent that territory from again becoming the property of Great Britain, which, as he will recall, possessed it during a considerable part of the last century? It is, however, with regard to Alaska that Judge AGNEW finds it most difficult to show that no precedent is afforded for the acquisition of Hawaii. "If Alaska fell," he says, "into the possession of Great Britain, it would give her great power to annoy us, and to make further claims upon our Pacific territory."

What possible power to annoy us and make further claims upon our Pacific territory would the control of Alaska give to England which she did not already possess through her control of British Columbia, which is actually conterminous with one of our States? It is absurd to say that "Mr. SEWARD saw that the safety of the United States rested in the immediate purchase of Alaska." The safety of the United States was, indeed, at stake in the Oregon controversy, but that, through negligence or pusillanimity, was permitted by our Government to be decided against us. Mr. SEWARD wanted Alaska for commercial purposes, and, from this point of view, he was amply justified in buying it, in view of the relatively small price at which Russia offered to sell the territory. That it is of any material use to us from a military or strategic viewpoint, so long as British Columbia is interposed between it and the rest of the Union, no reasonable person will contend.

We pass to the three precedents afforded by Texas, California and the Gadsden Purchase, to only one of which does Judge AGNEW refer at any length. The joint resolution of Congress, by which Texas was admitted to the Union, is declared by him to have been unconstitutional, and he holds, moreover, that it was not justified by any overruling political necessity. "Texas was acquired," he said, "to preserve Southern equality in the Senate." That may have been the motive of many Southern members of Congress, but it was by no means the motive actuating all the supporters of the joint resolution. It was feared, and justly feared, that Texas, if not admitted to the Union, would fall under the protectorship of England, by which power measures had been already taken to that end. Texas, in other words, in 1845, was in a position similar to that occupied by Hawaii at the present time. If we did not take it some non-American power would. Even Judge AGNEW admits that the subsequent acquisition of California and New Mexico in 1848 made the control of Texas an absolute necessity to us. With regard to California and New Mexico he seems to think, though his allusion to the matter is contained in a single line, that we acquired those territories through the exercise of the war powers vested in the Federal Government. That, of course, is one way of looking at the matter, but, as a matter of fact, we paid $15,000,000 in cash, and assumed $3,000,000 worth of debts due from Mexico to American citizens, this being the price agreed upon for the ceded territories in the treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo. It can scarcely be pretended that California was necessary to our national safety, at a time when it could only be reached by a voyage round Cape Horn, or by the route across the Isthmus. We bought California and New Mexico because we wanted them, and those who questioned our right to do so were unable to impeach the transaction successfully, either before the United States Supreme Court or before the tribunal of the popular common sense. The same thing may be said of the Gadsden Purchase, made shortly afterward. This had behind it no plea of overwhelming necessity, for it merely rounded out conveniently, from a strategic and commercial point of view, the southern boundary of our newly acquired possessions.

Judge AGNEW, apparently, has never seen the imposing array of testimony from military and naval experts as to the strategic importance of Hawaii to the defence of our Pacific coast. If he had, he could not but admit that a much stronger case can be made out for the annexation of the Hawaiian Islands at this juncture than was made for the acquisition of Alaska or of the Gadsden Purchase, and that, so far as the national safety is concerned, those islands are more needful to us now than California was in 1848. But, as we have said, the whole question of our right to annex territory, whether contiguous as in the case of Florida, or non-contiguous as in the case of Alaska, is *res adjudicata*.

The Troubles of Hayti.

Conduct like that of Germany at Kiao Chou Bay and Port au Prince is sometimes contagious. Kaiser WILHELM did not invent the fashion of collecting claims against weak nations by the seizure of territory or threatened or actual bombardment. England was generations ahead of Germany in the use of such methods of settling controversies offhand, and other nations have resorted to it. Indeed, Germany's own application of the law of force to Hayti has followed England's application of it to Nicaragua, in the seizure of Corinto, a few years ago.

Now we hear of a rumor at Port au Prince that Italy, noting the effect of the demands made by the German ships Charlotte and Stein, is also to try the virtues of an ultimatum and a threatened bombardment in collecting two old claims against Hayti. These claims rest, it is said, on the unpunished murder of an Italian a few months since and the illegal seizure and sale of a vessel and cargo belonging to an Italian, several years ago.

If this rumor should prove true, Hayti would be nearly crazy with indignation. President SAM took the wisest and, in the end, probably the most economical course, when he yielded to Germany's threats, yet it brought the overthrow of his Ministry and the substitution of what appears to be a very good successor. There had even been a fear of general revolution; but the change in Ministry thus far seems to be accepted as a sufficient show of popular discontent at the Government's management.

But while the real mistake in that affair was perhaps the one made at the outset in the excessive sentence imposed on the German LUEDERS, and while an attempt to resist the Kaiser's navy would have been madness, when the damages claimed amounted to only $30,000, yet, if King HUMBERT should repeat the game of intimidation, there is no saying what the Haytians might do. We are inclined to think, however, that the fears of the people have set afloat this rumor, and that it is really baseless. Meanwhile it is well that the Marblehead is at Port au Prince.

British Treatment of Indian Editors.

Better counsels would appear to be prevailing with the British administration in India, at least in one instance. The extraordinary sentence of penal servitude for life which was imposed by a panic-stricken Judge on the editor of a Mahratti paper, the *Profud* of Islampur, Mr. KISHALKAR, has been revised on appeal and reduced to one year. The sentence of seven years inflicted upon Mr. HAMOLKAR, the proprietor, has been reduced likewise; in this case to three months.

There was no evidence adduced on appeal that had not been already brought forward at the trial when these persons were condemned. The conclusion, therefore, is that the court before which they were arraigned in the first instance had lost its head. In any case, the moral effect both of the original and revised sentences will remain, and it will be weighed duly by a people long accustomed to close and incessant criticism of their alien rulers.

The article for which Mr. KISHALKAR and the proprietor of the paper of which he was editor, Mr. HAMOLKAR, were sentenced was merely in general approval of a manifesto issued by the Canadian Republican Committee about eighteen months before, and reproached the people of India for their apathy in political and other matters affecting their material condition. A translation of it appeared in THE SUN some two months ago, and there was certainly nothing in it, to an American eye, to justify such sentences as were passed by the Satara Court before which the two gentlemen named were tried.

In the case of Mr. GANGADHAR TILAK of Poona, the appeal that was made against his sentence of three years' imprisonment has not been successful. The judgment of the court by which he was condemned has been confirmed, but efforts are to be made to obtain a pardon. In the meantime Mr. TILAK is becoming a great popular hero, and his sufferings in the cause of the Indian people are made the subject of eulogistic verse. His virtues are extolled and he is recognized as a leader in the national cause. Whether he is released soon or has to serve out his full term, his influence among the Indian people has been fully established. For this reason, even if he is pardoned, he will, on coming out of prison, probably be sent out of the country during the pleasure of the British Government.

There still remains another Indian editor, Mr. KRISHNARAI of Islampur, under sentence for criticising too freely the British administration of his country. If only half the descriptions of the state of impoverishment to which the bulk of the Indian people has been reduced under the existing system be true, there seems to be only too ample justification for the severest criticism.

A good authority on Indian affairs says that things in that country are going from bad to worse, and fears that serious retribution may be coming upon England for her failure to heed the many appeals for justice made during the past twenty years.

An Englishman on New York.

We have received a thick pamphlet with a glaring red cover, upon which in huge letters appears the title, "Satan's Invisible World Displayed; or, Despairing Democracy." The author is W. T. STEAD, an Englishman, and the pamphlet so sulphurously entitled by him is described further as "A Study of Greater New York."

Undoubtedly there are Mugwumps in this town who will enjoy the perusal of this hysterical Anglican production, and will applaud its depiction of New York as the most prominent feature of the landscape of the regions over which SATAN reigns. As Mr. STEAD has drawn his inspiration chiefly from these defamers of their country, they must feel flattered accordingly.

Reasonable New Yorkers who know their own town from actual observation of it and experience in it, and who have had an opportunity also to compare it with London and other English towns of commercial importance, will feel surprised that an Englishman should have needed to journey hither to find "Satan's Invisible World."

The truth is that of all the great cities of the world, there is none which excels New York in orderliness, in all the conveniences of life, and in the sobriety and general well-being of its population. So far from causing despair to democracy, it has furnished in its steady improvement in everything that contributes to the peace and comfort of civilization the most conclusive demonstration of the capacity of a democracy for municipal government.

As SATAN is described also as the Father of Lies, Mr. STEAD's pamphlet should properly have been dedicated to his Infernal Majesty.

Somebody who does not revere the alphabet wishes to have the designations of the streets in Washington changed from A, B, and C into names which he considers would be more inspiring and picturesque. People of this curious way of thinking crop up occasionally. They like 1, 2, and 3 no more than they do A, B, and C, and have no sympathy for visitors from out of town who carefully read the alphabet and the notation table on the lampposts, and then ask the policeman to tell them how to get to places. These reformers have no liking for the ways of convenience and of order. They consider that Montmorency sounds better than 102, and that Washington, Jefferson, or Massasoit is more interesting than any numeral. The same sort of people object to the gridiron formation of the streets, so common in American towns. They want diagonal and meandering streets, and vistas filled in with something. They are even eager for blind alleys. The circumstance that it was difficult, owing to the irregularity of the streets, to shoot down the Paris revolutionists with cannon, seems to make no difference with them. It is well known that you could shoot ten miles in a New York street, if it were not for the elevated railroad; but that is nothing to these people, who seem to court revolutions. However, all that is necessary is to see the Aldermen. Any authenticated Board of Aldermen will change the name of any street on application. As for crooked streets, there is a German song which tells how anybody can manufacture them. The method specified, however, is not feasible for a teetotaler.

Some of our best known and most appreciative citizens have united in the happy suggestion to the Park Commissioners, which we detail elsewhere this morning, that in recognition of the lifetime services of the late WILLIAM A. STILES in behalf of our parks and toward the general adornment and beautifying of New York, his name should be given to one of the new parks recently created. The Park Commissioners will honor themselves in commemorating thus the æsthetic perceptions, scientific knowledge, and practical judgment so long and so unsintedly devoted to the interests of the public parks by one of the gentlest and most lovable of men.

It must be an immense relief to the German nation to learn that the Emperor will permit the production of SUDERMANN's new play. Herr KRUPP's cannons are made in Germany, and the Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, fastest of great ships, was built at Stettin. But these matters are not nearly as momentous and formidable as a new Sudermann play. A young American author the other day lamented the fact that his stories had not been published in Paris instead of here. He was sure that they would have attracted some attention in Paris. Really he should have published them in Germany, where literature amounts to something. The Kaiser's army is a considerable matter in the fatherland, but it cannot compare with Herr SUDERMANN. It is safe to say that there are plenty of Germans who believe that the city of Sodom reached the full measure of its fame only when the Sudermann play, "The Fall of Sodom," was published. It is no wonder that the Emperor was cautious in letting loose the new play upon Germany and the world. When the Sudermann novels, "The Wish" and "Dame Care," were issued from the press the whole country was inundated with tears. The Kaiser Wilhelm der Grosse, had it been in existence at that time, could have sailed readily from Bremerhaven to Nuremberg and from Dresden to Cologne. The new play may be dangerous with fire and brimstone. It is a Sudermann play, and it is certainly tremendous with some quality or other. Nobody speaks of GOETHE and SCHILLER in Germany nowadays. The nation has room only for the name of SUDERMANN. There was another, but he seems to have passed. We refer to the author of "Little Hannele."

THE BICYCLE CONTEST.

The Strain on the Riders Not Too Great for Human Endurance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* After being surfeited from every source with the sensational vaporings over the late six-day bicycle race, and the superabundance of combined sympathy and indignation expressed thereat in most of the daily papers, it was a great relief to read the sensible editorial on this subject in to-day's SUN. As there is, perhaps, no one in New York better qualified to speak on the effect of long periods of sleeplessness than myself, I can give from personal experience my opinion on this matter. I affirm unhesitatingly that for a man of good constitution (and those not so blessed have no right to enter these contests) the strain is not so severe that two or three days of rest and attention will not cure the contestant and leave him in the same health and strength he enjoyed before the ordeal. In my profession I am sometimes called upon to do an amount of work that an outsider would not believe possible of achievement. As an example, last week saw me fasting four days and nights, in which my amount of sleep was four hours *in toto*, while a very few days before I completed a mass of work extending over a period of nearly eight weeks, in which my nightly average of sleep was very little over three hours, Sundays included, and containing in this stretch two breaks of sleeplessness of fifty-three and sixty-one hours respectively. Add to this, during the course of years, several breaks varying from seventy to eighty-five hours, one of ninety-six, and one even of 105 hours.

Let any of these *Journal* physicians come to interview me and I will give him all the information he requires. If this deprivation of rest can be endured in a still and deserted building and at a sedentary occupation, like mine of architectural painter, by mere force of will, how much easier must it be for men whose minds are enlivened by bodily action and by the clamor and surroundings which are to be found during the excitement of a six-day race.

As for the frightful brutality to which the men are subjected, according to the sensational accounts of which we have read so much lately, that is the least part of it. A chafed or raw skin and swollen ankles, a bruised seat and numbed arms, although painful and unpleasant, are no more to be feared by men in good condition of mind and body than the training of an oarsman who has to take his meals standing for the first two weeks, and those who participate in these amusements do not shirk their pleasures for such trifles any more than on a recent occasion I was inclined to stop half way in a walk from Patchogue to my home in this city, about fifty-seven miles, because I discovered my shoes were not fitted for the work.

All honor to these men who stood the strain for six long days, not only for what they have endured for their benefit, but also for the example which they have set of pluck, endurance, and strength of will. When public opinion shall so assert itself that all these would-be moralists who preach and rail against everything in the form of manly sport, from boxing to football, shall be forced to cease their dismal croakings and join the M. Y. O. B. Association, so much the better for the world at large. Otherwise men will slowly but surely degenerate into a society of croquet players, and even then will be denounced for the brutality and ferocity of their sport, and this city will be one great and glorious concourse of Parkhursts, Paderewskis, and Hawthornes. HUGHSON HAWLEY.

NEW YORK, Dec. 13.

Independence Only! the Cuban Cry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In these days, when the air is full of rumors about the "reforms" Spain is expected to put in operation "soon" in Cuba, and when men heretofore identified with the cause of freedom have given importance to such rumors, it may be proper for a Cuban to say to the American people that Spain is incapable of granting reforms which the Cubans, fighting for independence, would accept.

It is time that the peace-at-any-price newspapers should know that to talk of reforms in Cuba is simply to waste words. It is too late now for such Spanish devices. The Cuban people have not taken up arms for so-called Spanish "reforms." They pleaded for those to which they were entitled, those which formed the basis of the treaty of Zanjon, but they were not carried out by Spain. When Spain at last, urged by the very Spaniards on the island, thought of adopting the so-called plan of Abarzoza, which was an insult to the Cubans, inasmuch as it embodied no reforms at all, Cuba received to fight to the death for absolute independence.

To suggest reforms is an insult to people who are shedding their life's blood for freedom. The acceptance of such reforms, however advantageous they may seem to a peace-at-any-price man, is impossible after our country has been ruined, our Marti, Maceo, Crombet, Sanchez, and others dear to us have lost their lives struggling for independence. It is not possible, after the innocent have been murdered and blood has transomed our cities and towns as well as the battlefields, our women have been insulted, mothers and sisters suffered at the hands of the most detestable of men! No, God forbid it! Cuba will fight to the bitter end, animated by the names of her heroes, stimulated by the cries of vengeance of the innocents, urged by the tenacious rance of her devastated homes and outraged women. Trustingly in God, she will struggle on even alone until the yellow and red rag floats no longer over her homes, or until every Cuban worthy of the name has perished in defence of her honor.

ARTURO ROS MAYNER.

BATH BEACH, Dec. 12.

$600 Worth of Cats in One Shipment for Mr. John Wanamaker.

From the Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Perhaps the largest and most valuable shipment of cats which was ever made from Maine has been sent out from the American Express office of this city to the well-known merchant of Philadelphia, John Wanamaker. The sale was made by F. D. Nudd of Waterville, and it is stated that it amounted to $600 in clean cash, as there were 100 tabbies, and the most beautiful ones it has ever been your reporter's privilege to gaze upon. There were black and whites, tiger stripes, yellow and whites, the Angora white, which had the pink eyes, the jet black, and, in fact, the blue and white, for thus alone can the maltese of brilliant color be described. The cats were all finely feathered, with feather-duster-like tails, which should excite the admiration of our city cousins, who are said to pay from $10 to $25 for the pets, which would make the retail price of the shipment at least $1,200. The temporary home for the tabbies consisted of casket boxes divided in sections and openly crated upon the top. The American Express Company's agents along the route will furnish lunches and drinkables, so that this large family will probably arrive in health and safety, as all seemed very contented when leaving here.

Knew His Business.

From the Washington Post.

A bright little boy—one of the pages of the Senate—sat at one of the Senate entrances the other day, when a lady approached him with a visiting card in her hand.

"Will you hand this to Senator Blank?" she said.

"I cannot," replied the boy, "for all cards must be taken to the east lobby."

The woman was inclined to be angry and went away muttering. Then a thought struck her, and taking out her pocketbook she found a 25-cent piece. With it in her hand she went back to the boy.

"Here, my lad," she said, in a coaxing tone, "here is a quarter to take my card in."

"Madam," said the boy, without a moment's hesitation, "I am paid a larger salary than that to keep cards out."

London's Wide-Awake Police.

From the London Daily Mail.

Here is the list of recent murderers, none of whom have been discovered:

The murderer of the Frenchman Brosette.
The murderer of Miss Camp in the London and Southwestern Railway train.
The murderer of Mrs. Francis at Camberwell.
The murderer of Emma Johnson at Windsor.
The murderer of William Barrett at Upton Park.
The murderer of the nameless corpse found bound in the Thames.
The murderer of Miss Marshall at Bethnal Green.

To these crimes must be added numerous burglaries, in which an immense amount of property has been made away with.

Woodchopper Wears a Bell.

From the Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

A Milo woodchopper who goes about his work with a huge cowbell attached to his back, says he means to take no chances. "No fool shoots me for a deer," says he.

NEW YORK REALTY IS ALL RIGHT.

Lying Rumors of a Collapse in Prices Founded on a Recent Sale.

There has been much comment among real estate men over the price brought by the Smith property, which was sold at auction last Wednesday for $640,000. The property consisted of two lots and an office building in Cortlandt street and three lots with three old stores in Liberty street, the land extending through from one street to the other. The Liberty street property was sold to Frederick G. Bourne of the Singer Manufacturing Company for $310,000. The Cortlandt street property was sold to Horman Brothers for $340,000. Before the sale it was freely prophesied that the whole property would bring not less than $800,000 and possibly $1,000,000. Since it has been so freely declared that real estate values in that part of the town have been greatly exaggerated; that this sale would bring them down to their proper point. There was also reported to be much consternation among property holders who have been intending to sell, but have held on to their property for higher prices. In addition to all this, it has also been said that the heirs of the Smith estate were much dissatisfied with the price fetched.

Talks with some of the persons interested do not bear out these various rumors. In comparison with the recent sales of similar property, the price brought by the Smith property is thought to be a fair one. Nor does there seem to be any great dissatisfaction on the part of the heirs. Mr. Otis of 15 Cortlandt street, who has charge of the Smith estate, said yesterday:

"The talk about this property going for a song is largely confined to the newspapers. In the present condition of the real estate market I think the property went for a very fair price, and, so far as I know, the heirs are satisfied that this is the case. There are several things to be considered in a sale of this kind. In the first place it was a partition sale, ordered by the court, and such sales rarely bring as large prices as might be got under other circumstances. Then in this particular sale the buildings have counted for little. With the increase of these new modern buildings the old ones have depreciated in value very much. On the Liberty street property are old stores that are not much good, and would add little or nothing to the value of the property. Yet that the price, $310,000, for the three lots was a very fair one is shown by the sale of another lot in Liberty street a few weeks ago for $106,000. You see, the average was maintained. The prices brought by this property cannot justly be compared with prices brought by Broadway property.

"The Cortlandt street property brought a better price, because the building on it is better. Yet this is an old building and it has suffered from the competition with the newer office buildings. While we, of course, should like to have got more money, a natural desire, yet we were satisfied. The price came up, I think, to the expectation of those best acquainted with the property."

James A. Harriman, whose wife held an eighth interest in the property, said that while he thought the new owners bought it in at a cheap price, neither he nor his wife was dissatisfied. An evening paper on Monday said that one of the women who held an interest in the estate was so dissatisfied that she intended to appeal to the courts to have the sale set aside. Mr. Otis said that so far as he knew there was no truth in this statement.

AFRICAN LIMBLESS COTTON.

Specimens of the New Grade Shown at the Cotton Growers' Convention.

ATLANTA, Ga., Dec. 14.—One of the features of the Cotton Growers' Convention to-day was the exhibition of a new variety of cotton, known as the "African limbless." In 1893 Adolph Kyle, while wandering over Central Africa, came across a new species of giant cotton in the valley of the upper Congo River. The plant was not under cultivation, but appeared to grow wild on the marsh lands. It differed from other cotton in that many of the stalks were as high as twenty feet; and the bolls were connected directly to the stalk without any intervening limb. Kyle cut off a piece eighteen inches long. He placed it in his trunk and finally came here.

Talking to a group in a hotel Kyle related the above incident and so interested Mr. F. W. Jackson, a planter of this State, that the latter asked to see the specimen. Kyle gave it to him, and in the spring of 1894 Jackson planted a large number of seed, obtaining only fifty-seven perfect stalks in his crop. The soil in which he experimented was very poor, and the stalks only averaged eight feet, with an occasional exception measuring fourteen feet. The maximum number of bolls on one stalk was 187, and the ordinary run averaged fifty-seven bolls. The American cotton averages only eight to eleven bolls to the stalk.

The quality of the new species was found to excel the old greatly. The next year the amount of product was increased slightly, and in 1896 five acres yielded three and a half bales to the acre. The average Georgia planter considers himself fortunate if he gathers three-quarters of a bale to the acre. From the crop of 1896 there is enough seed to plant 2,500 acres. It is expected that with proper fertilization the seed will produce five bales to the acre.

The new variety has five "locks" or divisions to the boll, whereas the old style has only four. The locks in the ordinary variety are only three-quarters of an inch long, while the new kind is one to one and a half inches long. While the brand has been indorsed as genuine by Commissioner of Agriculture Nesbitt and others, Col. R. J. Redding, Superintendent of the State Experimental Farm, denounces it as spurious, and says that it is simply a variety of a weed that grows in many places and which has been brought to high cultivation. The convention will investigate the cotton to-morrow.

J. C. Wellborn, President of the State Alliance of South Carolina, was elected President of the convention.

Wanted to Go to Wantango.

From the Louisville Dispatch.

He was a typical Westerner, and City Ticket Agent Dorsey of the B. and O. S. W. saw it at a glance, but he also noticed a prosperous air about the stride of the fellow as he entered the office at the southwest corner of Fourth and Main streets.

"I want to go to Wantango," said the rustic.

"Kentucky or Indiana?" inquired Mr. Dorsey.

"Lord bless you, my friend, it's to Wantango in Oklahoma I want to go."

"Oh," from Mr. Dorsey. "Which way do you want to go?"

"I've allus heerd thet the shortest distance between two places wus a straight line, and you kin start me as straight as you please."

And then the gentleman from Wantango watched silently as Mr. Dorsey pored over two railway guides.

"Well, sir, the best I can do for you," said Mr. Dorsey, "is the B. & O. S. W. to St. Louis, and from there over the St. Louis and San Francisco."

"Gimme the ticket, mister. I don't know whether it's my road, but when you mention 'Frisco I know it's the right direction."

Indian Maiden Rides a Wheel, Plays the Piano, and Sells Trinkets.

From the Lewiston (Me.) Journal.

Lucy Nicolar, daughter of the late Joseph Nicolar of the Penobscot tribe, is an accomplished bicycle rider. She is just coming into her teens and is a young miss of marked beauty, and wherever she goes with baskets or Indian exhibits many a young American who looks upon the Indian maiden feels that the land of the Penobscots must be "the land of handsome women." Just now Lucy is receiving private instructions that she may enter the Oldtown High School. Her instructor tells me that she is bright in her studies and that mathematics is her forte. Lucy is perhaps the most proficient piano player on the island, being the owner of an instrument. She also sings pleasingly. But the skill of the tribe is not forgotten by this young member, for she can make baskets, &c., as well as some of the older ones. The mother of Lucy is one of the finest-looking members of the tribe, a woman respected by all who know her.

The Credit Money of the Country.

From the Kansas City Journal.

The cost and inconvenience of transporting money from one part of the country to another was aptly illustrated at Topeka the other day when it became necessary for the Rock Island Railroad to send $257,000 to Chicago. If the money had been sent in greenbacks or gold the express charges would have been $321.50; if in silver, $577.75; but the railroad people rejected all three and made the transfer with a bank draft at a cost of only 2 cents. The credit money is the real money of the country, and laws to strengthen it are wiser than laws in relation to the coinage of any metal.

Squaw Man's "Graft" on the Government.

From the Kansas City Journal.

Our idea of a lucky man is one who can get a great big graft on the Government. Charles Henry is a citizen of Pleasanton, who years ago was married to a quarter-blood Cherokee woman. She died about seven years ago, leaving a little son. Two months ago Mr. Henry discovered that his wife was carried on the rolls of the Cherokee tribe, and that his little son was entitled to all the land and head money secured by any other Cherokee. Last week he received for the boy a check for $3,700 and a deed to 320 acres of rich land. He is a coal miner and had been very poor.

Curious "Spells" of Southern Negroes.

From the Philadelphia Times.

There are numerous harmless "spells" which are regular observances in the lives of the average Southern negroes. Besides the root chewing, the track-lifting, &c., they have a love-philter of frogs' legs cooked in still water, and the ashes of a bat are powerful enough to keep away a rival or an enemy. To make a dog stay at home they cut off the tip of his tail and bury it under the doorstep. To make a wife obedient they "draw her picture" and hide it in the shingles. Thus, waking or sleeping, there is a constant forcing or counteracting of destiny.

ST. RONAN'S WELL, L. I.

A Hillock of Romantic Traditions That Is Being Carted Away.

A part of historical Long Island about which more romance than history centres is being destroyed to furnish earth for the causeway from Corona to the Flushing bridge. This is that loamy promontory extending from Jackson avenue, just outside of Flushing, known as St. Ronan's Well from a deep well which is on the property. As long ago as there is any record of the place it was marked for romance's very own, for history says that the Rev. Francis Doughty came into possession of the property as part of a grant of 13,000 acres from Gov. Kieft in 1642, and furthermore that the Rev. Francis had a beautiful daughter, who was wooed and won by Dr. Vanderdonk, a Yonker or Dutch gentleman, and, because the young lovers used to sit by the well in the period of their courtship, that and the surrounding property was given to the bride as a dowry. It got the name of Yonker Island.

After Dr. Vanderdonk's death his widow married Hugh O'Neale, and their descendants fled the place when, in Revolutionary times, Yonker Island was occupied by the British. There were rumors then of a murder and a ghost which haunted the old well. Again rumor takes up the tale a quarter of a century later, when, it is said, a French exile of noble blood came to live there with his daughter, a girl of extraordinary beauty. She became the affianced bride of an American. Shortly before the date set for their marriage St. Ronan Carlyle, a young Englishman, was a guest there. He fell madly in love with the girl, and upon her refusal to desert her fiancée and fly with him he cast her into the well and shot himself. This gave to the place the name of St. Ronan's Well.

In later years it figures more prosaically. It became a picnic ground, and city sweethearts dropped stones into the well and made wishes. George Siddons and Barry the Kid fought a famous prizefight there. Ex-Gov. Prince of New Mexico and John Higgins of Flushing bought the property, intending to sell the rich loam for agricultural purposes, the sand for building purposes, and then, the promontory being levelled, cut up the land into building sites. But the scheme was a failure, and the property passed from their possession. Since then this plan has been in part carried out.

MONEY FOR THE BRONX ZOO.

Society Has $60,000 Subscribed and Wants $40,000 More to Begin With.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers of the New York Zoölogical Society, held at the Downtown Club yesterday, it was announced by Prof. Henry F. Osborn, Chairman of the Executive Committee, that subscriptions amounting to $65,000 had so far been received for the zoölogical gardens in Bronx Park which the society proposes to establish. Of these subscriptions $60,000 are to the park improvement fund and $5,000 to the general fund of the society.

The society wants to raise $100,000 at once in order to make available $125,000, which the city will furnish to prepare the grounds. The buildings and animals are to be supplied by the society. Work will begin as soon as the society raises the amount named. It is desired, however, to raise $150