The Sun.

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The National Sentiment.

The proclamation of the President calling for 125,000 volunteers to serve for two years, unless sooner discharged, is directed to a people eager to respond to it.

The patriotic support of the Government extends to the whole people and to every part of the Union. It is strong in its outward manifestation, more especially at the South and the West, but the depth of patriotic feeling is not less at the East or on the Pacific coast. It burns with intensity throughout America.

This feeling is nowhere superficial and hysterical, but will attest its calm and sober earnestness in actual enlistments to serve the flag in the war now upon us. The quotas asked for by the President from the different States will be filled up in a very few days by men who have been waiting impatiently for this opportunity to dedicate themselves to their country's service.

That in itself is a great victory for the American people, it proves that they are united in national feeling, and, thus united, they are invincible.

Fact Replaces Theory.

Being engaged in actual war with Spain, all such questions as those which have awakened controversy in Congress during the past week disappear from the popular consideration. The discussion of theory is silenced by the fact of war.

The only subject for the thought of Congress will be the provision of practical means for carrying the conflict to complete victory as speedily as possible. The increase of our military force must be provided for; the raising of money sufficient for war purposes must be authorized, and the time has come when all manœuvring for mere partisan advantage is base treachery to the interests of the nation. Newspapers which have been engaged in reviling this country or in insulting the President must cease from their assaults. We must present a united front.

With war actually present, no peace party will be tolerated by American patriotism. The Godkins and their tribe must shut up or be shut up. All influences tending to divert the American people from their patriotic duty to support and strengthen the American arms must be repressed sharply. War having come, opposition to war will be treason and sedition. It will simply be the effort of traitors to stain the flag with inglorious surrender.

Chinese Diplomacy.

The memorial addressed by the Tsung-li-Yamen, the Chinese Foreign Office, to the Emperor, detailing the circumstances of the settlement with Germany about Kiao Chou, is an interesting document. It throws much light on Chinese methods of thought, and shows that the statesmen of China are at last coming to understand the necessity of organizing the military power of the country to resist outside aggression. As the Chinese description presents it, the aggression of Germany is made to bear rather the appearance of having been intended to rouse China from its lethargy, and this the concluding paragraphs of the memorial prove to have been effected. The memorial admits that it was not foreseen that Germany would take advantage of the murder of the missionaries to seize Kiao Chou, although telegrams and letters from the Chinese Minister at Berlin, HSÜ CHING-CHENG, had prepared the Tsung-li-Yamen for a demand on the part of Germany for a port of its own to which German ships could resort, and indicated Kiao Chou as the place coveted. The appointment by the Emperor WILLIAM of his brother, Prince HENRY, to the command of the German squadron in Chinese waters, seems to have particularly impressed the Tsung-li-Yamen.

But the most interesting part of the memorial is that dealing with the action of other powers, not named, during the negotiations between China and Germany prior to the settlement, the terms of which are well known. The memorialists describe how other nations attempted to intervene, but they refused to permit it, insisting that the matter was one that concerned China and Germany only, and admitted of no foreign intervention. They were satisfied that the foreign powers wishing to mix themselves up in the affair "had no real desire to aid China, but that, under the guise of acting as mediators, they were secretly compassing their own ends; and that in the long run, therefore, China would suffer far more serious loss." For these reasons they adopted what they regarded as the only wise course, and settled the difficulty with Germany as quickly as possible. Each side made concessions, and complications were avoided. In conclusion, the memorialists say that to be in a position to resist outside aggression China must make herself strong; they therefore recommend the raising of a trained army, and intimate that they will submit later on their suggestions regarding the procuring of the necessary funds for that purpose.

With regard to Wei Hai Wei and the British acquisition of that port, the Russian Foreign Office has received the news with great calm and does not consider it dangerous to Russian interests which have been safeguarded by the possession and occupation of Port Arthur and Ta-lien-wan. Certain of the Russian papers, however, have made a great outcry over it, and the *Novoe Vremya* calls for a revision of the Afghan Frontier Convention of 1895, and in concert with several other papers insists on the opening of another "window to the sea" through Persia. The German press affects to regard England's occupation of Wei Hai Wei as a secondary consideration, that place having now no commercial and very little military importance. Many of the French papers take a similar view, though the *Temps* thinks England's action inconsistent and likely to be productive of grave peril, because it was not done for the sake of positive results, but "to dispel the consequences of an outburst of ill-humor on the part of the English public," and to gratify the sentiment of hostility to Russia and France. The *Liberté*, however, takes what seems to be a more far-sighted view of matters, and thinks the Chinese have a card up their sleeve that may set at nought the plans of the various powers. It points out with reason that the policy adopted at Pekin of successively opening new ports lessens the value of the concessions made, and when all are open to the trade of the world, Hong Kong and Shanghai, the two great entrepôts, will lose their importance. "European trade," it says, "will be swamped, and this will be China's true revenge." The French writer seems to think that the Chinese are now bending before the storm to avert greater disasters, and trust, through the mutual jealousies of the European powers, to gain the time required to enable them to assert themselves.

The Glorious Opportunity of the Cubans.

Nothing more encouraging has appeared than the opinions expressed by Dr. CASTILLO of the Cuban Junta in THE SUN of yesterday, concerning the readiness and ability of the Cubans themselves to carry on the land operations in that island. If he is not too sanguine in his declarations, there is no necessity for alarm lest unacclimated troops and insufficiently trained and hardened volunteers from this country shall be required to enter Cuba during the unhealthy season to supplement and complete the task of the blockading fleet in the subjugation of the Spaniards.

Dr. CASTILLO tells us that the Cubans are unwilling to stand by idly while American troops are risking their lives in combating Spanish bullets and the perils of fatal disease, but will insist upon bearing the brunt of the fighting. Unquestionably we have a right to expect that now, more than ever, they will strain themselves to the utmost to capture the independence which we have put within their grasp. Otherwise the contempt of the world would replace the universal honor they have won in their heroic struggle of the last three years. They would be unworthy of freedom if they did not rally to a man in defence of their cause, for they have back of them now the whole strength of the United States, moral and material. Before our intervention they had no navy. Now they have to aid them a navy superior in brute power to that of Spain, and incomparably more efficient by reason of the superiority of our officers in utilizing the abilities of their ships. We shall open speedily some port or ports of Cuba, through which to convey to them all needed material of war and every necessary supply. Meanwhile Havana and all the harbors having railway communication with it are blockaded against the Spaniards by our fleet.

Dr. CASTILLO quotes Gen. GOMEZ as averring that he "can easily muster in at least 50,000 more infantry" to add to "the aggregate of about 32,000 men the Cubans now have under arms in the island." Accordingly, he advises us to send thither at least 50,000 rifles and a large quantity of fixed ammunition for distribution among these Cuban forces. Of course such supplies will be transported when a port for the purpose has been captured. Every sort of supply needful for such an army will be at its service.

Thus supplied the acclimated Cubans should be amply able to hold in check the Spanish army and prevent its receiving supplies from the land side; our fleet will look after the approaches by sea. Meantime, during the coming rainy season, our volunteers can be undergoing necessary training and drilling at Chickamauga to enable them to go to Cuba when that season is over and to complete the job thoroughly.

If Dr. CASTILLO's and Gen. GOMEZ's estimate of the available military strength of the Cubans is not exaggerated there is no reason why they should not be able of themselves, with full supplies of arms, ammunition, food, and clothing, to exhaust the beleaguered Spanish army. To doubt that they would strain every nerve, now that we have taken up their cause, would be to infer that they are unworthy to be free, and to credit the assertion of their enemies that their republic, with its backing by the Cuban people, is a mere sham put forward by a few irresponsible revolutionaries. It is a shameful doubt, a base assertion, against which their whole history cries out in refutation.

It was time, therefore, that a representative of the Cuban Junta so high in its councils as Dr. CASTILLO should declare emphatically and publicly that the Cubans will not rest on their arms and turn over to us the whole self-sacrifice involved in a fight to secure their freedom, but are prepared to vindicate their right to freedom by a supreme effort to prove that they are worthy of our succor. They ought not to need, at this season, at least, the aid of a single American soldier, unless to assist in guarding the port through which abundant supplies shall go to equip them for the task of driving out Spain from Cuba.

The Blockade of Cuba.

The reason for the Government's purchase of so many ships of all classes from the mercantile marine must now be obvious. Not only is an auxiliary fleet needed for scouting along our own coast, but many vessels are required for blockading even the more important ports of an island so large as Cuba, to say nothing of Porto Rico. Numbers as well as power are necessary for this purpose.

No rule is more strictly insisted upon by neutral nations than that a blockade, to be respected by their ships, must be effective. We ourselves have already announced our adhesion to this rule in our pending war with Spain. As to what constitutes an effective blockade a satisfactory definition was formulated in our treaty of 1871, where it is declared that "such places only shall be considered blockaded as shall be actually invested by naval forces capable of preventing the entrance of neutrals, and so stationed as to create an evident danger on their part to attempt it." That rules out not only a mere paper blockade, or one made by proclamation without ships, but a blockade not supported by ships present, at or near a port, in sufficient force to make it perilous to run the blockade.

In some treaties of former generations it was held that the blockaders must have two ships to close a port, or else a battery on shore; or six ships in place of such a battery, and so on. But our rule, announced during the Mexican war, of "a sufficient force sufficiently near to prevent communication," covers all requirements. A temporary interruption of the blockade by a stress of weather, causing ships to run further off shore, does not vitiate it, while during our civil war the British Government formally conceded, after deliberation, that the blockade of the Confederate ports was not vitiated by the fact that "several ships may have successfully escaped through it."

Our blockade of Cuba, then, need not be an absolute sealing of its ports so that no vessel can find its way through, aided by a dark night or by other circumstances, otherwise the number of vessels required to blockade a long coast would make the attempt hopeless. As it is, the President has greatly eased the navy's task by limiting the blockade, for the present, to the portion of the north coast between Cardenas and Bahia Honda and to the single southern port of Cienfuegos. This last was deemed too important to be left open, while Cardenas is about seventy-five miles in an air line east of Havana, and Bahia Honda less than sixty west. We may look for other proclamations extending the blockade, so soon as other ships are added to the blockading fleet, and meanwhile perhaps GOMEZ's forces may help us by breaking the railroad communications at more distant ports.

It is conceivable that the blockade may be interrupted, here and there, either by the attacks of the Spaniards at some port or by the withdrawals of our ships to engage a fleet offering battle. In that case a neutral vessel may slip in without penalty. But a single vessel left may be enough to sustain the blockade; and, as has already been said, temporary absence through stress of weather does not destroy it.

No Joint Action in Spain's Favor.

The diplomatic tactics just resorted to successfully by Secretary SHERMAN recall those of Secretary SEWARD on a similar occasion in 1861. Our Department of State has objected to the shrewd move of Minister POLO Y BERNABÉ in turning over Spanish interests here to the joint care of the French Ambassador and Austrian Minister, and has, it is understood, caused an arrangement to be substituted by which French Consuls are to have the right of acting for the Spanish and the Austrian Consuls only where there are no French Consuls.

Shortly after the outbreak of the civil war a proposal of France and England to act together, in a representation made to our Government, was frustrated, as our contemporary, the *Times*, recently noted, by Mr. SEWARD. The Ministers of the two countries called on him for the purpose of filing with him a joint statement, but he refused to talk with them together and invited them to confer with him one after the other. The precedent proved sufficient, and never thereafter was an attempt made at joint mediation.

In the present instance it may at first seem a matter only of personal and official convenience for the French and Austrian representatives to be intrusted jointly with Spain's interests, but our Department of State does not propose to have any such action of two powers. In the case of trouble, each would be able to bolster up the other, and neither would feel that it had the sole responsibility.

It was a Parthian shaft that the Spanish Minister let fly in taking his departure, but it did not reach the mark.

The New York Ball Club.

We print here a very pertinent letter concerning the New York Baseball Club and its management:

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The writer is one of those who, in utter disgust at the low ebb to which baseball had fallen, resolved at the close of last season to avoid the ball grounds in future. Then came talk of reform of the rules of what was once a gentleman's game, but which now seems sacred to rowdyism, and I again became interested. The Brush rule, with its complications, seemed to me full of the promise of failure, but still I hoped that I might be mistaken. Saturday's game removed any doubt in my mind as to just what the Brush rule is good for. I was seated close to third base when the decision which started the row occurred; but I won't go into the question of whether it was a good decision or a bad one, because, under all the rules of common sense, it makes no difference whatever. The point which hardly any one interested in the subject seems to get hold of is that even a poor umpire, in fact, a *very* poor umpire, is better than no umpire, and consequently that, from the very nature of things, his decision must be final.

Mr. A. J. FREEDMAN makes a statement that shows conclusively just whose fault this rowdyism is. He says that fifty men, "brokers, professional men and others," came to him after the game and assured him that SNYDER's decision at third base was a poor one. Now, will Mr. FREEDMAN kindly state to us if he thinks that the umpire should go around after each play and gather the opinion of forty or fifty different "brokers and professional men" before giving a decision on a point? Does he further think that the grand stand is the best position for the umpires to stand in where undoubtedly these forty or fifty poll parrots were seated? Does he further think if forty or fifty "brokers, professional men and others" disagree with the official umpire's decision that the proper course of players and spectators is to fall into hopeless rowdyism?

Mr. FREEDMAN may say in reply to this that GLEASON, who was put out of the game, did not do any rowdy act, but merely kicked his glove around the ground, as a sign of his distinguished opinion that the umpire was wrong. That is strictly true. GLEASON did no worse harm actually than to kick an old glove, but when one considers that by so doing he excited a disgraceful riot his very simple little act becomes anything but pleasant to contemplate. The whole fault comes from the miserable vanity of these players. When they strike out it is as regular as clockwork for the majority of them to shrug their shoulders and sneer, fling their bats down, or do something to convince the audience that they are very much injured citizens, who would certainly have made a home run if an unjust and scandalous umpire had not deprived them of their rights.

There is no use of going further into the matter. In no game that is played excepting baseball is any kicking worth speaking about prevalent. In football, tennis, shooting, boat races, anything you can name, the captain or person authorized to argue a point does so briefly and politely and then submits to the decision. In baseball alone, the best game of all but for this fearful rowdyism, the spectators, who pay their money to see skilful playing, are forced to submit to listening to a lot of toughs and rowdies wrangling and bickering like so many querulous old maids. Mr. FREEDMAN's statement in the paper this morning or yesterday that the umpire was to blame for Saturday's display of National League methods is a complete confession of whose fault this rowdyism is. By defending GLEASON as he has done he admits the principle that, if the umpire makes a mistake, his players are, in his opinion, justified in inciting the mob to such conduct as compels the need of police protection for the man doing his best to do his duty, and which precludes the possibility of fair umpiring, because nine men out of ten men will be intimidated by the prospect of such scenes as that which disgusted every fair-minded man last Saturday.

FRANK LAURENCE DOROHUE.

NEW YORK, April 19.

Before considering the most noticeable point of this timely communication, we will correct our correspondent's statement that GLEASON did nothing but kick his glove. THE SUN's report of the game, made with special and all possible care for accuracy in details, shows that the episode which led up to GLEASON's exclusion from the game began with a rush to the umpire by JOYCE, GLEASON, HARTMAN, DOHENY, DAVIS and WARNER, who rose to kick. The action of JOYCE, the captain, might be explained by his argument that Umpire CURRY, and not Umpire SNYDER, was the man to decide the case; but GLEASON, HARTMAN, DOHENY, DAVIS and WARNER approached the umpire to wrangle and intimidate him as of old, and for nothing else. In the second instance of disorder SNYDER called HAMILTON safe at the plate. THE SUN's report says: "GLEASON, who had been on the bench and was supposedly out of the game, rushed to the umpire, however, and was followed by JOYCE and others."

The throwing of cushions at the umpire by spectators roused to riotous conduct by the example of the players, came later.

Now let us look at the point of Mr. DOROHUE's letter to which we have already referred to as most noticeable, namely, the New York management's continued and open encouragement of rowdyism.

As an extraordinary guarantee, on the part of each individual League President, that the rules for abolishing disorder were to be respected, all the Presidents signed a special agreement to enforce them. The nub of these rules was No. 60:

"Under no circumstances shall any player be allowed to dispute the decision of either umpire in which only an error of judgment is involved."

Here also is the portion of the agreement that bears upon the rule just quoted:

"In no instance shall any persons except the captains of the competing teams be allowed to address the umpire or question his decisions.

"I further agree to discipline any player, captain or manager who violates this agreement."

This document was last subscribed to by the President of the New York Club. But not only have his players violated it grossly by wrangling with the umpire as they used to wrangle, but Mr. FREEDMAN has actually justified them in their disorder and has joined in it himself by appealing to fifty brokers and what-not to testify that the umpire was wrong. He gave his promise that, so far as he was concerned, the umpire should be the sole and absolute judge of play, and this is the way his promise eventuates. By the evidence which he himself has furnished, Mr. FREEDMAN's profession that he is in favor of clean ball and against disorder is as hollow as his promise to abide by the rules. And, to make unmistakable the New York President's brazen repudiation of his agreement, his Captain, JOYCE, has announced that, rules or no rules, he will kick as he likes.

Unfortunately, Mr. FREEDMAN is not alone in his contempt for the laws of sport, which the National League has resolutely undertaken to defend. There were, at the Polo Grounds the other day, enough spectators animated by the spirit of disorder to produce the disgraceful episode of the cushions. Mr. FREEDMAN has cited "fifty brokers" as being sympathizers with his policy of deliberately defying the rules. And we have also seen a list, collected by him, of signatures to a statement that the disputed decision was "wrong," the signers, of course, intentionally or ignorantly, upholding FREEDMAN and his players. Certain of the gentlemen who have put, or have been persuaded to put, their names to this paper ought, unquestionably, to have had a better sense of what is sportsmanlike. In every game of civilization those who take part agree to submit to arbitration, the umpire being the court. One would suppose that these gentlemen would have appreciated the impropriety of their action on the simple strength of the League agreement, even if they lacked or had lost the sense of sport.

The *Philadelphia Press's* report of the game played in Philadelphia on Friday says that "the New Yorkers started in to make it warm for the umpires." If the League itself does not see to it that the umpires rigidly enforce the rules, under penalty of the instant and unfailing exertion of their authority, the game of baseball will surely become degraded to a lower plane of rowdyism than it has yet known.

Trousers and Man.

Even amidst the alarms of war the voice of the higher æsthetics pipes its gentle note, not unheard; and the growlings of the cannon do not deaden this cry of genuine distress:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will THE SUN be good enough to crack this nut: Should a man be seated or standing while putting on his trousers?

"NEW YORK, April 20. BACHELOR."

We must stop for a moment and look at this bit of lovely, even if undomestic, *genre*. We see the ingenuous face of "Bachelor" peeping above the coverlet and looking thoughtfully, now at the unpitying ceiling, now at the closet where is his store of raiment. His eyes are large and limpid, reflecting an inquiring mind. A little fold in his forehead shows the anxiety to which his present doubt has brought him. The orderly arrangement of his room, the almost geometrical regularity of the pins in the pincushion, the situation of the brushes and combs on the dressing table, reveal a spirit enamored of correctness and accuracy. This is a young man who had rather have his trousers bag at the knees than do anything incorrect. A physiognomist would tell him that a desire for an orderly comeliness, for a harmonious correlation of his forces, is his mastering desire. This is a young man who in former and more dignified times would have worn a nightcap.

It is already 11 o'clock in the morning, and he has to go downtown to luncheon at 1; but there is no probability that he will keep his engagement. Morning after morning, all the glow has been taken out of his bath by the saddening reflection that when the moment comes to don his trousers he will be uncertain as to the proper way of inclosing himself therein. Is it worth while to get up only to be assailed anew by the old perplexity? So he asks himself, thinking mournfully of the new pair of gray trousers that came home last night. His little body is weary of this world.

It is a privilege to be able to speak a word of comfort to this young *Hamlet*, almost self-doomed to perpetual pajamas. Courage, doubting soul!

Modern man was made for trousers, and trousers were made for modern man. From these two irrefragable propositions comes peace to tortured "Bachelor." Clearly it is his duty, and should be his pleasure, so to put on his trousers as to cause the least trouble to the trousers and to himself. We leave out of consideration abnormal situations. We take it for granted that "Bachelor" knows how to fall into his trousers in an upper berth in a sleeping car. Also that, if he were to follow the example set by a distinguished citizen of Chicago and the world, and change from morning garb to evening while being shot through the streets in a cab, he would have no doubt as to what the geographical necessities of the position would require of him.

We assume that he is not in the stateroom of a steamer or in a cab or a car, but in his own little bedroom. Does he find that it is more comfortable for himself and the trousers to be seated when he puts them on? Then seated let him be. The harmony between himself and the garment is established. We suppose that temperament would have much to do with the matter; that an indolent man would creep into his trousers while sitting down, and that an energetic man would stand up and jump into them, so to speak. But these are mere idle speculations. The solemn and cheering fact for our friend to keep in his heart of hearts is that he violates no law or by-law of æsthetics whether he sits or stands up when he puts his trousers on. He has his choice. He has nothing to consider but his own feelings and those of the trousers.

And now, "Bachelor," you can get up, bathe, with an undisturbed mind, and use the eclectic system when you come to put on your trousers.

The New Moral Plane.

The man without a country, writing in the newspaper without a country, accepts the fact of war with this singular lamentation:

"To be beaten by the Spaniards would not restore us to the position we should have held, if we had not gone to war at all. The proud place of a moral leader of the world which we have been holding ever since the civil war, we have deliberately forfeited. *We have placed ourselves upon the same moral plane as the Governments of the Old World.*"

As GODKIN's unceasing theme and constant effort, ever since he got a newspaper, have been to prove that the people of the United States are on a lower plane, morally, politically, intellectually and socially, than the nations of the Old World, this view of our national degradation is, to say the least, remarkable.

Coffee, Tea, and Beer.

It is reported that the Ways and Means Committee have decided not to put in the war revenue bill which they are preparing any provision for imposing a duty on tea and coffee. The reason they give for the omission is that these articles are necessaries of life to the poor. At the same time the committee propose to lay an increased tax on fermented liquors, making it $2 per barrel instead of the present $1.

For the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, the imports of coffee amounted to 737,600,000 pounds, and those of tea to 113,300,000 pounds. Both these articles are now admitted free. A duty of 3 cents per pound on coffee would yield, therefore, $22,128,000 annually, and one of 5 cents per pound on tea would yield $5,665,000, making together $27,793,000.

The internal revenue tax on fermented liquors for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1897, yielded $33,800,000. Doubling the tax, therefore, would make the same article yield $67,600,000 annually, or more than twice what would be derived from the duties suggested for tea and coffee.

The question is, whether, if tea and coffee are to be exempt from taxation on the ground that they are necessaries of life to the poor, fermented liquors, the principal of which is beer, should not likewise be exempted for the same reason. It would seem that both kinds of beverages should be taxed alike or made free alike. In our opinion it will be wise to tax both.

Wise American soldiers and wise Americans thinking of joining the army will at once be vaccinated.

Señor POLO Y BERNABÉ, recent Minister of Spain to this country, has apparently in Canada constituted himself a watch tower of observation over the United States. He will be his Government's reporter-in-chief, hoping always with particular earnestness for some indication of interior weakness that may result in comfort to Spain. The people of the United States need no incentive to energy in prosecuting the war just undertaken, but it will do no harm to remember the Spanish Minister looking on.

Mr. AUGUSTUS SCHERMERHORN's manner of standing by the Government is beyond criticism. He has given his yacht, the Free Lance, to the country, not for a price, but as a free offering of patriotism. That's the way.

If we dared apply so common an expression to a genius so uncommon, we should say that the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS's nose was out of joint to-day. Two master minds, the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN and the Hon. JOE SIBLEY, are communing together in the palace of the latter. JOE SIBLEY has already been nominated for Vice-President by JOE BAILEY. In 1896 Mr. WILLIAMS had aspirations that were not fulfilled. We are afraid that he will regard JOE SIBLEY as the minion of fortune and worm of the hour.

CHARLES J. BONAPARTE thinks that the work of political reform will be interrupted by the war.—*New Haven News.*

What does the Hon. CHARLES JOSEPH BONAPARTE regard as the most pressing work of political reform? The lynching of persons whom he regards as undesirable?

The Hon. MARION BUTLER, Senator in Congress from North Carolina and proprietor of the *Raleigh Caucasian*, is not silent still and silent all. Sunday he spoke in the People's Church in Washington on the "Duty of the Moral Forces in Relation to Trusts and Monopolies." It seems that "the masses of the people are deprived of the opportunity of acquiring the wealth that they produce and earn; that those who produce the wealth to-day do not enjoy that wealth; it is concentrated in the hands of a few—those who 'toil not, neither do they spin.'" Consequently "the majority of the people are being made poor while they are making the country rich," a remark which shows that Mr. BUTLER is what may be called an abstract statistician, who dwells above this chilly sphere of facts. What is the remedy for the unequal distribution that he distributes? "If the ministers and the college professors, the educators, and other great moral forces did their duty, there would be sent to Congress better men, who would make better laws." Here we must take a respectful farewell of the Tar Heel economist. While for some reasons we might like to see a Congress composed entirely of college professors, nothing can ever persuade us that in the most Utopian of Utopias a man could be sent to Congress who would be more anxious to make good laws and plenty of them than is the Hon. MARION BUTLER.

Beautiful BOB BERNER, the lively young man who is trying to get the Democratic nomination for Governor of Georgia, is shattering the stump with his thunders. Of a speech of his last week, an enthusiastic correspondent of the *Atlanta Journal* says:

"His address was a masterpiece of logic and effective eloquence. Nothing like it was ever uttered in the Court House, that almost tumbled with applause."

It is not safe for Beautiful BOB to speak in halls or court houses. He should deliver his masterpieces out of doors, and even then he will loosen all the shingles on the roof of heaven.

The *Pittsburg Dispatch* moans and grieves. "Why," it whimpers, "cannot the tax on tobacco be dodged by making the cigars viler?" Because the worst is not as long as we can say this is the worst, and we can say it sincerely and truthfully of many cigars. Yet, if the Pittsburg mourner will patronize home industries and stick to the Pittsburg stogies, the Wheeling stogies, the stogies and cigars of many brands, cheap but not nasty, his soul will be comforted. Taxes cannot make cigars bad, for most cigars are born bad. They are a judgment and a punishment on the bold man who dares to attack them. Among inanimate objects cigars are the chief humorists.

Montana's Quota, 850; Ready to Come, 10,000.

From the Great Falls Leader.

If the President should call for 200,000 volunteers for the war, which is certainly putting the figure high, Montana's quota would be about 850, and to the best of our information about 10,000 Montanans have already signified their intention of going to the front.

CANADA IS "CATCHING ON."

It Appreciates at Last What Imperialism Means—A Warning to Laurier and Others.

MONTREAL, April 22.—The Canadians are getting ready to take all the advantages likely to accrue from the war between the United States and Spain. Politically, opinions are somewhat divided. The larger number of Canadians fully sympathize with their American brothers in the stand they have taken on behalf of the Cubans, and wish them all success. On the other hand the pro-European and anti-American section regard the matter with alarm, because they see in the expulsion of Spanish power from Cuba the weakening of the influences on which they depend to maintain their own present high-handed domination in Canada. The Government at Ottawa will of course take their instructions from London, where they will see to it that neutrality is impartially observed, which is indeed the best thing for Canada. Great expectations are formed of the impulse that will be given to the trade of the St. Lawrence by the war, and in the anticipations of a great boom right here, Klondike affairs are almost forgotten. The high price of wheat has proved a most welcome and agreeable circumstance for the Minister of Finance, and it is hoped that events may help to keep it up to its present level if they do not raise it higher, for just now the people of Ontario are not in the best of tempers with Ottawa. They have at length learned by hard experience what common sense failed to teach them, that the reckless subsidizing of railways in the far West and the development of the wheatfields of Manitoba and the Northwest Territories must ultimately inure to their own hurt. They have discovered that both the burden of the cost and the loss falls on Ontario directly and indirectly, and are now in full revolt against the extravagance into which the Ottawa people under the convenient mask of imperialism were getting ready for a further plunge.

So strong is the feeling in Ontario that the West must now bear the cost of its own development that a proposition which was to have been laid before Parliament for the subsidizing of another railway line in British Columbia has been abandoned in consequence of the unanimous protest of the supporters of both political parties in Ontario. They will have no more bleeding of Ontario for the benefit of Klondike Ministers at Ottawa and their political friends and jobbers, and they told this in plain language to Sir Richard Cartwright, with a request that he would communicate the same to his colleagues in the Government. The continual increase of the debt and taxation, in violation of all the pledges given before the elections, is destroying the last vestiges of popularity enjoyed by Sir Wilfrid Laurier on his advent to power. This is especially so among the French-Canadians, who are offended by his "British to the core" policy. It is only a few days ago that I received a request from a French-Canadian gentleman asking me to send him the true meaning of "British to the core," as Sir Wilfrid Laurier's political friends were trying to explain it away by saying it meant that being born a British subject he was bound to be loyal to the British Government. At Ottawa it is now a subject of common remark that Sir Wilfrid Laurier appears to have entirely thrown off the austerity of principle and simplicity of life that were among the causes of his popularity, when he was in opposition and only a plain lawyer in the little town of Arthabaskaville. Since he has risen to the status of an imperial statesman he has given way to a love of display and ostentation, combined with the desire for the means to indulge in it that causes his old friends serious misgivings. They think he has ruined the Liberal party, and see symptoms of its break-up in the nomination of his right-hand man, Mr. Tarte, to the Canadian Commissionership at the coming exhibition at Paris. There is one thing certain at this moment, which is, that were an election coming off now the Liberal party would have a very poor chance of success, although between it and the Tupperites it would be very much a case of Hobson's choice.

Military preparations called for by the complications arising out of the Cuban troubles are going on with considerable activity, and important additions are to be made to the British North American squadron to enforce the observation of the laws of neutrality in territorial waters and on the high seas. It is not believed that either side will issue letters of marque, but there is apprehension that some over-zealous commander might be led to infringe the rules if there were not sufficient force present to make them respected. Among the military there has been the greatest anxiety to see the contest begin, as there is somehow an idea that American troops are not quite up to the European standard of efficiency.

Another Portrait of the Shameful Militiaman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your article this morning upon the Hon. James Hamilton Lewis, alias "Ham" Lewis, alias "Dude" Lewis, was of great interest to me, as I had the pleasure of seeing the honorable gent quite frequently during the State camp for militia held at Olympia, Wash., during the summer of '94. He was at that time on the general staff, and therefore did not wear the fetching attire in which you show him. He looked then like a cross between an undertaker and a Knight of Pythias in full regalia.

The Hon. Ham was not like the "kind Capt. Reese" of blessed memory. He was decidedly not "adored by all his men." The general opinion was that he was more kinds of a qualified fool than any one in the State in general and that camp in particular. I never saw him at any drills, but he was continually cantering across the parade ground in front of the cavalry lines, giving the men and visitors to the camp a treat.

He was fairly eaten up with conceit, and his especial delight was to gallop back and forth on evening parade on pretended orders and errands, giving the admiring country populace the idea that he was the entire show. I think that, like the immortal Mr. Toots, he wrote long letters to himself commending himself for these warlike exploits. It would be quite in keeping with the man.

He was always particularly fond of being saluted, and would go yards out of his way to get a salute. One very warm day, just after dinner, a half dozen of us were lying down in the shade of one of the tents facing the parade ground. Lewis came from headquarters on horseback, taking a course that would bring him within a hundred yards of us. As he neared he commenced looking at us. As he got opposite he slowed down, and turned in his saddle and smiled. As there was no reason, military or otherwise, for saluting, we didn't do so, but pretended not to see him. He then bowed, and receiving no acknowledgment, took off his hat and gave us a profound flourish. Some of the men with me were old Seventh Regiment men, and therefore in a fine state of discipline.

Lewis was laughed at by every man in camp, from the Colonel down to the newest-joined recruit.

In truth, the man is an arrant braggart and egregious ass, and as vain as a peacock. He knew at that time nothing of tactics, and was the laughing stock of the squadron on account of his mistakes. The only good thing I know of him is that he is a pretty fair rider and knows a good horse. At least, I suppose so, as he rode a magnificent coal-black mount at that time.

His title "Dude" Lewis was given him for the great display of fancy clothes he wore—lavender "pants," diamond-studded shirt front, and expansive-breasted Prince Albert.

Your tribute to his character is fully appreciated by those who have come in contact with him.

A FORMER SERGEANT IN THE FIRST SQUADRON CAVALRY, N. G. S. W.

NEW YORK, April 23.

For the Pardon of John D. Hart.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that all the diplomacy with Spain has failed and war has commenced, the imprisonment of John D. Hart has no further political object.

John D. Hart was convicted of filibustering, fitting out armed expeditions against a friendly power in times of peace, and imprisoned in the Eastern State Penitentiary of Pennsylvania at Philadelphia, where he now occupies a felon's cell, a patriot treated as a criminal!

Let justice now season law and allow John D. Hart, the true and earnest martyr of the darkest days of a young, struggling republic, to go free. Open the prison door to John D. Hart. We need such men today.

W. E. M.

Money for the Cubans.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Could there not be organized a great national subscription in aid of the cruelly ravaged Cubans? The charitable efforts for their relief, though carried on with much self-sacrifice on the part of those engaged therein, do not seem at all commensurate with the appalling widespread misery to be found among the victims of Spain's misrule. While wise legislators ponder over the momentous questions of the strife in Cuba, let the healing hand be strengthened working for the weak sufferers who have been saved from the fearful holocaust of human life that the past few months have witnessed in that woful region.

The eager generosity with which the people in various parts of the Union have given their money to relieve distress in Cuba is an encouragement for more extensive efforts for the same good purpose.

APRIL 21, 1898. MIRA.

Long-Distance Argument.

From the Rat Portage Miner and Rainy Lake Journal.

We are wondering who that shiner was who sat on the ice in front of our humble habitation the other night having a quiet "confab" with the man in the moon.

PENNSYLVANIA GERMAN BRAUCHA.

They Are Like Spells, but Are Not Regarded in the Light of Witchcraft.

CHURCHTOWN, PA., April 23.—An aged elder of the Dunkard or Mennonite Church laid aside the book he had been reading and to THE SUN correspondent he said:

"That story will be news to the Dunkards. I have travelled in Lancaster, York and Berks counties among Dunkards, Amish, Mennonites and other sects who use the Pennsylvania German dialect, but I have never heard of any belief such as that upon which this story is founded. No children born into Dunkard families are considered 'no good,' no matter in what time of the year they are born, or in what age of the moon or conjunction of the planets or position of stars. We have fine children born at all seasons, and no one, above all, no parent would harbor even the thought that the child was born under an unlucky star or planet, and was, therefore, 'ein nix nutz.' And then to suppose that any Dunkard lad would mark his breast by an odd sign, such as we used to mark sheep, is foolish.

"That story is high strung—too high. It is trying to blend the delicate, refined superstition of New England with the blunt, sturdy, unread yeomanry of the east Pennsylvania farms. Our young men are not built that way. They are straightforward, matter-of-fact, horse-sense, Pennsylvania Dutchmen. To describe one of these men as fretting about being a 'nix nutz,' and going around moping and lamenting and sorrowing and whimpering and refusing to love because of having been born under an unlucky spell or star, is to try to transform our sturdy young Pennsylvania thick-headed Dutchman into the ancient lisping, delicate dude of New England superstition, born in Salem and suspicious even of his own existence. No, we have no such young men, no such mothers or fathers.

"There is but one thing that I recognize in the story that is at all known among Dunkards, Amish, or Mennonites. I refer to what are known as 'braucha' in the Pennsylvania German vernacular. We have such short German prayers, quotations from Scripture, or odd sayings, that are used for various purposes. Some of our women folks can brauch for burns, scalds, wildfire, sickness of various kinds and afflictions. So can our men. The practice is quite common among the Pennsylvania Germans not in the Dunkard Church. The custom is as old as American civilization. It was brought over from Germany by people from the Palatinate. Now, you may think that the original words may have long ago been lost. They are never printed. The brauch or powwow is preserved only in the memory of men and women; it is never written down. A man who is dying or fast aging, and knows a truth, is privileged to impart it to a woman. He will whisper it, and the woman who receives it will remember it after she has heard it repeated a number of times. The words are generally short, but it is amusing to hear some of the brauchs; how much they have been changed from the original prayers in the Pennsylvania German. They have little resemblance to the original. A woman can impart a brauch or a powwow to a man, but she may not tell it to a woman. Neither may a man communicate one to a man. If he did it would render the brauch valueless. A person who is afflicted, and who is willing to be brauched or powwowed for, must, of course, have implicit faith in the process, or there is no use in receiving the treatment. His faith makes him whole.

"When a person powwows or brauches a patient he blows gently on the afflicted part of the body, moves the lips in the prayer and thinks the words, does not say them. No one hears a sound from the powwower. He may pass his hand over the afflicted part quickly as if to say 'begone!' at the conclusion of the treatment, but that is all. Now, I believe in it, because I have seen many strange and startling cures follow such treatment. People may say, 'Oh, they'd get well without powwow.' That may be true, but I, with very many others, am happy in the belief in the efficacy of such prayers for the faithful, and there you are! People can let us alone in our belief.

"Now, I don't wish you to understand that we believe in witchery. I admit that in some parts of the Pennsylvania German counties people still believe in spells and witchcraft, but happily this is dying out. I know that there are some who pretend to have the power to make a neighbor's cows give bloody milk; to cause his children to shrink and shr