The Sun.

MONDAY, MAY 23, 1898.

Subscriptions by Mail, Post-Paid.

DAILY, per Month........................$0 50
DAILY, per Year..............................6 00
SUNDAY, per Year............................2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year..............8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month...............70
Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

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

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

The Flag Is There to Stay.

It is only a fortnight to-day since the President's message announced to Congress the victory of DEWEY at Manila. One paragraph is worth repeating:

"The magnitude of this victory can hardly be measured by the ordinary standards of naval warfare. Outweighing the material advantage is the moral effect of initial success. At this unsurpassed achievement the great heart of our nation throbs, not with boasting or with greed of conquest, but with deep gratitude that this triumph has come in a just cause, and that by the grace of GOD an effective step has thus been taken toward the attainment of the wished-for peace. To those whose skill, courage, and devotion have won the fight, to the gallant commander and the brave officers and men who aided him, our country owes an incalculable debt."

There has been some progress during the two weeks.

The decision of the Administration to send the able harbor-defence monitor Monterey to support Admiral DEWEY in the position he has won for our flag in the Philippines is the most significant event and effective step since the battle itself.

It shows that the President fully appreciates the magnitude of the victory to which his message of May 9 referred so eloquently. It means that what DEWEY won for the flag is to be held for the flag.

Thirst in Battle.

Statements that have appeared with regard to the effects of the smoke gases on the crews of the ships engaged in the bombardment of San Juan, in Porto Rico, raise some interesting questions. The mass of explosive now employed in the charge of a single large-calibre gun of a modern battleship is about the same as was used for the guns of a whole broadside of an old fifty-gun frigate. When to the volume of smoke gas evolved by several heavy guns is added that of a large number of quick-firing pieces of all sizes, the air surrounding a vessel, particularly in still or damp weather, becomes surcharged with heavy vapors unfavorable to respiration, and producing a distressing sensation and intense throat dryness. In a prolonged engagement or bombardment the fighting power of the guns' crews could not fail to be seriously affected unless the ships were kept moving to clear them of the vapors. The large volumes of smoke are also a great impediment to the firing, as after a few discharges they obscure the view and render the sighting of the guns temporarily impossible.

The employment of smokeless powders will remedy this last difficulty, but experience of their use is necessary before it can be said that they have not other defects. The experience of the smokeless powder first used in the German Army was very curious. In heavy firing against the wind the gases evolved came back to the firing line, with the result that the sickening smell brought on vomiting among those with weaker stomachs and sensations of sickness among the stronger. One officer describing his feelings said, "*Es stinkt ganz cannibalisch;*" most foully.

Actual use under war conditions alone can tell us what the effect of the new explosives will be. The melinite, with which the French shells are now charged, generates a gas that is expected to complete by asphyxiation the work left undone by the explosion of the projectile. Similar results are looked for from the high explosives used by other countries. To such an extent, therefore, are the conditions of naval warfare now modified, not only as to the ships and guns, but also as to the explosives, that we may be said to have entered into an entirely new period.

During the British bombardment of Alexandria, which spread over the greater part of a day, the guns' crews were refreshed by cold oatmeal water, that served at the same time as drink and nourishment. Cold weak tea, lemonade, not too cold and slightly sweetened, acts also as a good thirst quencher. Small quantities of either of these taken frequently prevent the nitrous and sulphurous fumes from reducing the mucous membranes of the throat and mouth to the parchment-like condition that causes distress to those exposed to them for any length of time. In the operations in which our fleet is likely to be engaged in Cuban and West Indian waters, with their tropical conditions, the thirst of the fighting men is doubtless not one of the least things that is looked after.

The Presbyterian General Assembly.

The Presbyterian General Assembly began its sessions at Winona Lake, in Indiana, last Thursday, with the election of the Rev. Dr. WALLACE RADCLIFFE of Washington as Moderator. The selection did not involve any questions of theological partisanship, and seems to have been determined only by geographical considerations and the generally recognized fitness of Dr. RADCLIFFE for the place.

Dr. SHELDON JACKSON, the retiring Moderator, preached a notable sermon, so far as concerned pulpit eloquence, but he made no direct reference to the lapse of faith manifested in some parts of the Presbyterian Church, here in New York, for instance, unless in the remark that "we are living in one of the great crises of the world's history." In saying this he may have had in mind merely the political conditions of this period, for he spoke surrounded by national flags and to an audience which was roused to enthusiasm by every appeal to patriotism. Unquestionably, however, we are living in a time when religious faith is passing through the greatest crisis in the history of Christianity and of all religions. It is a time when supernaturalism itself is assailed as mere childish superstition, a tissue of fairy tales and ghost stories, even by theologians themselves, and when the Bible, the source whence is derived the whole Protestant belief in supernaturalism, is relegated by a distinguished theological school to the place of a criticizable human production.

Among the reports presented in the early routine of business was one complaining that the standard of "Sabbath observance" has been lowered constantly in this country, the "Continental Sunday" replacing the "American Sabbath" in many places. Undoubtedly, the old severity of Sabbatarianism has yielded under the pressure of both popular distaste and religious doubt. It is not surprising that when people begin to lose faith in the Bible, under the teachings of the Presbyterian critical school, they should become careless about keeping Sunday in the old Presbyterian fashion. Various suggestions were made against the reading of Sunday papers, bicycling on Sunday, and other and almost universal departures from the strict Puritanical observance of the day; but nothing definite as to them was done by the General Assembly. Whatever may be done in the way of prohibition will be of no practical consequence. Presbyterians, clergy and laity, will do as they think best in this matter without regard to the precepts of that body. They are now as eager as the rest of the people to get the news of the war, and they want it on Sunday as much as on other days. Sunday bicycling, moreover, has been encouraged by some pastors in the provision of receptacles for the machines in their churches; and, by means of a wheel, a missionary is enabled to conduct Sunday services at widely removed places.

Moreover, when a Kansas delegate offered a resolution earnestly requesting President MCKINLEY to use his influence and prevent "needless work by the navy and army, and especially the beginning of movements or battles upon the Lord's Day," the resolution was tabled almost unanimously, the Rev. Mr. HUDNUT of Brooklyn arousing patriotic enthusiasm by declaring that "DEWEY did a holy thing in striking at Manila on the Lord's Day."

An Astounding Change in the Law.

A decision of the Court of Appeals, rendered on the 10th of May, will bring about an extraordinary change in the law of this State relating to the obligations of railroad companies to their passengers, unless the court upon a reconsideration of the questions involved abandons the rule laid down in the case to which we refer.

That case was a suit by XAVIER STIERLE to recover damages from the Union Railway Company of this city for personal injuries suffered by the plaintiff while a passenger on one of the defendant's street cars. The plaintiff alleged that he had been thrown from the car because it was "suddenly, negligently, and carelessly driven around a curve in the track upon which it was being moved over a switch." There was conflicting proof as to whether the accident really occurred through the negligence of the employees of the railroad company in managing the car or by reason of negligent conduct on the part of the plaintiff himself in attempting to alight while the car was in motion. The case was therefore a proper one to leave to the jury to be decided upon the questions of fact, and it became incumbent upon the Judge presiding at the trial to instruct them in regard to the degree of care which a street railroad company was bound to observe in carrying passengers. Accordingly, the Judge told them that "in respect to carrying passengers a railroad company is bound to exercise all the care and skill which human prudence and foresight can suggest to secure the safety of their passengers."

That this instruction was in accordance with the overwhelming weight of authority in this State and throughout the Union, and that similar language to juries has received the approval of the Court of Appeals over and over again, there can be no possible doubt; yet the Court of Appeals, by a vote of five Judges to two, has now declared it to be erroneous!

"The obligation of carriers of passengers," says Judge JOHN CLINTON GRAY, who writes the prevailing opinion, "to exercise the highest degree of care which human prudence and foresight can suggest, only exists with respect to those results which are naturally to be apprehended from unsafe roadbeds, defective machinery, imperfect cars, and other conditions endangering the success of the undertaking." In the case under consideration the plaintiff, if his story be true, was injured by reason of the negligent manner in which the driver attempted to take his car over the switch; and under such circumstances, say the majority of the Court of Appeals, "the defendant was only liable for the failure of the driver to use that skill and care which would be required of an ordinarily careful and prudent man."

In other words, Judge GRAY and the members of the court who agree with him hold that the highest degree of care on the part of a railroad corporation in respect to its passengers is exacted only in regard to what may be called its plant, the road, rails, and rolling stock, while merely ordinary care is all that the law requires in regard to the manner in which that plant is used. Every precaution that human foresight can suggest must be taken to provide safe cars and a suitable locomotive to draw them; but if these learned Judges are right, the engineer who guides the train made up of this locomotive and these cars through the darkness at the rate of fifty miles an hour is not bound to exercise the utmost care in the performance of his delicate and responsible duties. It is enough, in their opinion, if he conducts himself as "an ordinarily careful and prudent man." For it is to be observed that Judge GRAY does not limit his language to the case of a railroad operating its line by horse cars only. In the phraseology which we have quoted he is talking about common carriers of passengers generally, and he denies their obligation to exercise the utmost care in the operation of their vehicles.

It would have been surprising indeed if this revolutionary doctrine in the law had been promulgated without dissent. Judge ROGER A. PRYOR disputed its correctness in the Court of Common Pleas, and Judge DENIS O'BRIEN and Judge IRVING G. VANN dissented in the Court of Appeals on the ground that "the reason which requires the highest degree of care by a carrier of passengers with reference to roadbed and machinery extends with equal force to the use of the roadbed and machinery in the operation of cars. There should not be a higher degree of care required in providing appliances than in using them."

These views of the dissenting members of the Court are in harmony with the law as declared by the Court of Appeals itself more than thirty years ago in the case of MAVERICK against the Eighth Avenue Railroad Company (New York Reports, volume 36, page 378) and repeatedly laid down since then in scores of cases which have received the approval of the same learned tribunal. In the Maverick case the accident had absolutely nothing to do with any defect or imperfection in the road or car, but the passenger was injured in consequence of the negligence of the conductor in stopping the car so that it collided with a hook and ladder truck; yet the Court of Appeals unanimously held that the defendant was subject to the rule that "passenger carriers bind themselves to carry safely those whom they take into their coaches, so far as human care and foresight will go," and because the conductor failed to exercise that degree of diligence in the operation of his car, the verdict against the railroad company was sustained.

Another leading case, ignored by Judge GRAY and his associates, is CODDINGTON against the Brooklyn Crosstown Railroad Company, to be found in the New York reports, volume 102, at page 66, in which the accident occurred by reason of the negligence of the driver of a horse car in crossing the line of a steam railroad as an engine came along and struck the car. Here, also, the fault of the defendant was not in failing to provide a proper car or proper appliances, but in failing to use the car carefully with reference to the safety of the passengers, and the Court of Appeals, speaking through Judge ROBERT EARL, reiterated the familiar rule in these words: "That under such circumstances the defendant was bound to use the highest degree of care and prudence, the utmost skill and human foresight, is the settled law."

The settled law, however, has now been wofully unsettled by this amazing decision of the Court of Appeals in the Stierle case. It leaves trial Judges all at sea in negligence suits, and will be productive of the utmost confusion and perplexity in courts and among litigants.

Dr. Swallow and Woman's Suffrage.

Dr. SWALLOW polled 118,000 votes out of the total of 750,000 cast for Treasurer of Pennsylvania last year. He ran on the Prohibition ticket. On Friday he was nominated for Governor by the Prohibition party of that State, under conditions generally favorable to a large vote.

The National Prohibition party, upon its establishment in 1872, went to Pennsylvania for its Presidential candidate. The Prohibitionists of Pennsylvania have preserved their organization intact since that time, polling usually about 20,000 votes and falling below that total in a national election only once since 1884, namely, in 1896, when their strength was divided between two candidates, one of whom, Mr. LEVERING, had 19,000 votes. One of the points of difference between the two factions of the Prohibitionists at the Pittsburg National Convention of May, 1896, was the alien question of the extension of the suffrage so as to include women on equal terms with men. The broad gauge or regular Prohibitionists, after a protracted controversy on the subject, adopted a resolution which excluded the consideration of every other question than that of prohibition. This was extremely distasteful to the minority, made up of middle-of-the-road Prohibitionists. They thereupon seceded to the number of 300, and adopted a platform of their own, containing this declaration:

"No citizen should be denied the right to vote on account of sex."

Other questions engrossed the attention of the voters in the election of 1896, and it is a somewhat curious circumstance that after a practical unification of the two factions of Prohibitionists the delegates at this week's convention at Harrisburg should have adopted as one of their chief planks in the platform on which Dr. SWALLOW was nominated for Governor the following plank:

"We reaffirm our belief in the justice of equal suffrage, regardless of sex."

To what extent this question will command the attention of voters in Pennsylvania this year, and how much it will add to the popular support of Dr. SWALLOW, it is not easy to predict. In the absence of some other questions which may be said to have been disposed of definitely at the election of two years ago, it is not unlikely that woman suffrage will gain some consideration. Pennsylvania is not one of the States in which partial suffrage for women has been established, and the Prohibitionists, perhaps, are better able to gain attention for that issue in this year's canvass than any of the other parties. They not only have a high record of votes cast at last year's election, but in the Presidential election of 1896 the Prohibition vote in the State of Pennsylvania was larger than in any other.

One thing seems almost certain, and that is that the contest waged by Dr. SWALLOW and his friends and well wishers will be an interesting and to some extent spectacular campaign, arousing many latent political animosities in a State in which of recent years the Republican preponderance has been overwhelming.

A Lesson for Scorchers.

The preparations for war have disclosed something that should make every scorcher reflect. It is reported from Washington that a large majority of the militia volunteers rejected because of physical unfitness are wheelmen who have used very low handle bars habitually. It is said that their doubled-up posture in the saddle has produced abnormal conditions of the heart and spine which disqualify them for the life of soldiers.

While the reported discovery of the examining surgeons conflicts somewhat with the statements of physicians who have investigated the bodily soundness of professional racing wheelmen, it is by no means a surprise. How can a rider assume the humped, dromedary-like position of the scorcher without dangerously affecting his back and cramping the organs of his chest? Perhaps the explanation of the healthiness of racing wheelmen lies in the fact that, in most cases, they were exceptionally well qualified for the race track before they entered upon a professional career.

The police authorities of Washington have endeavored lately to reform monkey-backed wheelmen by making it unlawful for them to ride with their handle bars more than four inches below the centre of the saddle. This ordinance is based on the fact that the scorching attitude is not only unbecoming, but also prevents the rider from seeing objects ahead of him. It would certainly be better for wheelmen themselves, and would increase both the happiness and the security of other people, if the monkey-back of non-racers were to disappear from the highways.

A week ago we spoke of the enterprise of one of the public educators of the yellow variety which printed an alleged picture of Munich, representing that town as a seaport with a forest of masts in the crowded docks and a wide harbor with a fleet of steam vessels speeding this way and that on the peaceful errands of maritime commerce.

Yesterday another New York newspaper reproduced under the head of "War Pictures of Live Interest" a photograph of the Rock of Gibraltar with a legend explaining that Gibraltar is "about the only Spanish possession not in danger of capture by the United States."

This seems worthy to go into the collection as a companion piece to the view of Munich.

BOOKS FOR CHILDREN.

Further Suggestions and More Lists.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Permit me to call to the attention of "J. C." who inquired in your columns on Friday concerning good reading matter for a child of 12 years, a number of reading lists designed to supply exactly the information he seeks. These lists have all been compiled by persons who have brought expert knowledge of both books and children to their task of preparation; and only books which are sound and helpful, as well as interesting, are included in any of them. I range them in the order of what I consider their relative value to one not an expert in juvenile literature.

1. *Five Hundred Books for the Young.* By Geo. E. Hardy, Principal of Grammar School No. 82, New York City. New York: Scribner's Sons.

The books suggested by Mr. Hardy are classified according to the subject written of, as well as according to age of the prospective reader; and a comment on each book is given, as are the publisher and the price.

2. Reading for the Young. Compiled by J. F. Sargent. With supplement. Boston: Library Bureau.

This is not restricted to a selection of a certain number of books, but covers practically the whole range of books in the English language (together with a very few French and German books) fit for the reading of children up to eighteen years of age, graded according to the age of the reader. It also contains very complete references to articles in *Harper's Young People*, *Wide Awake*, and *St. Nicholas*.

3. Literary Landmarks; A Guide to Good Reading for Young People. By Mary E. Burt. Boston: Houghton, Mifflin & Co.

The author, a professor of literature in a normal school, illustrates her theories of reading by references to the best children's books of all classes; and she appends a complete list of the books so referred to, with information as to publishers and prices.

4. A Descriptive List of Books for the Young. Compiled by W. M. Griswold. Cambridge, Mass. Published by W. M. Griswold.

In this list, too, the books are arranged according to subject; and a brief review of the book, quoted from some standard literary journal, is appended to each title. The value of this guide is diminished by the compiler's allegiance to phonetic spelling, which has caused him to transliterate many of the words in the quoted reviews in a very puzzling way.

Courses of reading or random selections from one or more of the above manuals can hardly fail to promote and increase a taste for the best literature. S.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., May 20.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How hard it is to draw up a list of books that will yield sweet and healthy pleasure to our little men and women! At best one can name only bits of books, a poem here and there, or even parts of poems, which young intelligence will apprehend, and nearly all of them will require explanatory comment. But here is a string which holds many pearls, although of unequal utility and beauty, for the furnishing of little folks' minds:

Tennyson: May Queen; The Brook.
Shelley: The Skylark; The Cloud.
Longfellow: Poems generally.
Wordsworth: Selections by Arnold.
Cowper: John Gilpin.
R. L. Stevenson: In a Child's Garden.
James Whitcomb Riley: Lullaby Land.
Æsop's Fables.
Andrew Lang: Fairy Books.
W. B. Yeats: Irish Fairy Tales.
Jeremiah Curtin: Irish Fairy Tales.
Ruskin: King of the Golden River; Ethics of the Dust.
T. Bailey Aldrich: Story of a Bad Boy.
Kipling: Jungle Books.
Fenimore Cooper: Indian tales.
Lamb: Tales from Shakespeare.
Addison: Vision of Mirza.
Little Flowers of St. Francis; new translation by Thomas Arnold, M. A.
Swift: Gulliver's Travels, abridged.
Coleridge: Ancient Mariner.

The G. A. Henty books; Joel Chandler Harris's "Mr. Rabbit at Home;" Mrs. Celia Thaxter's and Mrs. Meynell's books for young people, I have heard highly commended. PAM.

NEW YORK, May 21.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Apropos of books for children, here is Kipling's list, one or two of which are not sufficiently known by me to be sure of the spelling:

Scott's Pirate (to be read aloud).
Heroes of Ragord (Norse mythology).
All of Mrs. Juliana Horatia Ewing's books: Six to Sixteen, A Flatiron for a Farthing, Jackanapes, The Story of a Short Life, Daddy Darwin's Dove Cot, &c.
All Louisa M. Alcott's books.
Water Babies.
The Gypsy Breynton Series.
What Katy Did; What Katy Did at School.
The Silver Skates, by Mrs. Mary Mapes Dodge.
Grimm's Tales.
Hans Christian Andersen's Tales.
Black Beauty.
Facts on the Fiord.
Roman d'un Jeune Homme Pauvre.

NEW YORK, May 21. R. W. G. W.

THE INFLOW OF GOLD.

Excess of Imports Over Exports for the Fiscal Year Will Be Fully $100,000,000.

WASHINGTON, May 22.—Reports to the Bureau of Statistics show that the importations of gold during the present fiscal year have been over $105,000,000, and deducting the exports of gold, which amount to about $15,000,000, leaves the net gain to our gold stock from importation a round $90,000,000, to which it is expected there will be added between this and the end of next month a sufficient sum to bring this year's net importations in excess of exports up to fully $100,000,000, a sum which exceeds that of any preceding year in the history of the country. Indeed, the reports of the Government show only twelve fiscal years in the last half century in which the imports of gold have exceeded the exports, most of these years being between 1878 and 1888, while from 1888 to 1897 the exports constantly exceeded the imports. Then the tide again turned in our favor, and the excess of gold imports in 1897 was $44,653,200, and for 1898 it promises to reach a round $100,000,000.

The addition to our gold currency by coinage of our own mints is also likely, the bureau says, to be unusually large during the present year. It amounted during the ten months ending April 30, 1898, to $50,013,432, and is likely to reach $65,000,000 by the end of the year. Another interesting development in this line is the remarkable increase in the use of gold in business transactions during the last few weeks. During the first twenty days of the present month 75 per cent. of the customs payments in New York were made in gold coin, and during April over 50 per cent. of the customs payments were in gold coin. For several years prior to 1898 the customs payments in gold coin probably did not average more than 1 per cent. The effect of this increase has been felt in the payment of gold by the Treasury at its Custom Houses and in its general business transactions. This increase in the use of gold, especially in customs payments at New York, is understood to be largely due to the movement of paper currency to the West, a portion of it in payment for grain shipments, and a larger portion probably by the withdrawal of deposits in New York by Western and Southern banks, because of uncertainty in the minds of their managers as to the probable effect of the war upon business.

Another Need.

The inventor rushed into the office of the Secretary of War.

He was in a terrible state of excitement.

"I have something that demands your immediate attention," said he to the Secretary.

"What is it?"

"An invention by which an entire fleet can be destroyed."

"I've no use for it," answered the Secretary wearily.

"What!" screamed the inventor.

"That's right," said the Secretary; "I wouldn't give you two cents for it. But, my friend, if you come around here with a device by which an entire fleet can be discovered we'll open a Treasury vault in your honor.

Driven Wells in War Times.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I noticed in THE SUN to-day a suggestion about putting down driven wells for the soldiers while in camp in the enemy's country in order to get pure water. This plan is not only feasible, but really the safest thing to do. I was the attorney for many of the citizens of this neighborhood in the legal contest against William D. Andrews & Bro. in the celebrated royalty case concerning the Nelson W. Green patent, which was defeated in the United States Supreme Court in 1883. In that litigation I sent to Paris for certified records of the engineers' reports of the French invasion of China in 1856 and 1857. When a place was evacuated by the Chinese they put poison into the springs and surface wells, and many soldiers were killed thereby, and therefore the engineer corps made requisition for iron pipes, which were forced into the earth with sledge hammers and common pumps put on and pure water drawn. I trust a good supply of such materials will be taken to Cuba for use there.

LANSINGBURG, May 21. CALVIN E. KEACH.

ENGLAND AND THE WORLD.

Full Text of That Part of Mr. Chamberlain's Birmingham Speech Which Relates to England's Foreign Policy in General and Her Attitude to the United States in Particular.

From the London Times of May 14.

A few days ago Lord Salisbury [cheers] made a powerful and an eloquent speech, in which he urged the people of this country to apply this same method of testing by results to the foreign policy of the Government. ["Hear, hear!"] I am inclined to think that it is at the moment rather on foreign than on domestic policy that the attention of the country is fixed, and I am glad of it. I am glad that the people of the country are turning their attention to this question of foreign policy, which in the past they have sometimes thought had nothing to do with them. It would be a great mistake to suppose so, because you must all recognize that there is, and there has been for some time past, a combined assault by the nations of the world upon the commercial supremacy of this country, and if that assault were successful our existence would be menaced in a way in which it never has been threatened since the time, at the very beginning of this century, when the great Napoleon attempted to lay an interdict upon British trade. Now I am going to speak to you upon foreign politics [cheers], and I begin by saying that the situation is too serious and too critical for me to treat it in anything like a controversial spirit. I am not going to raise in reference to it anything of a party issue. It is a national question that we have to consider. The time may come before long when the Government—any Government—may have to appeal to the patriotism of the people as a whole, and if that time should come I hope it will not find us, as it has found other nations in less happy circumstances than we are, divided among ourselves and wasting in party recrimination energies that we shall want for the defence of our national interests. [Cheers.] I must say this, at any rate. I do not think it is wise or patriotic for certain party leaders, who have been playing to the fiery zeal of some of our own supporters, to represent the Foreign Minister of this country, with the vast responsibilities which are in his hands, with the anxiety which is cast upon him to represent the interests of this country in the presence of foreign nations—I do not think it is wise or patriotic at such a juncture to assert that he is discredited and defeated, to gloat over the alleged humiliation of the country, and to say on every occasion that the Government as a whole is weak and vacillating. [Cheers.] If those statements were believed in foreign countries, if they were acted upon by foreign Governments, they would make a great mistake. [Laughter and cheers.] They would find that courteous diplomacy, and moderate language, and even graceful concessions ["hear, hear!"] are not incompatible with a firm maintenance of the honor and the essential interests of the country. [Cheers.] And if they were to presume upon this false interpretation of the mind of the Foreign Minister and the mind of the Government, the difficulty of preserving peace would be very much increased.

THE NEW DIPLOMACY.

Now I want, according to my manner, to submit to you a plain statement of the situation as it appears to me. Ours is a democratic Government. We gain all our strength from the confidence of the people ["hear, hear!"], and we cannot gain strength or confidence unless we show confidence in return, and therefore, to my mind, there is no longer any room for the mysteries and the reticencies of the diplomacy of fifty years ago. You must tell the people what you mean and where you are going if you want them to follow you. ["Hear, hear!"] I do not mean to say that I can tell you all the details of secret negotiations. That, of course, would be absolutely absurd, and would make negotiations impossible. But the plain issue and the main principles and the particulars of the problems with which we have to deal—those might be stated in language to be understood of the people, and I would take the judgment of the people just as soon upon them as I would take that of the wisest diplomatist in the world.

BRITISH ISOLATION.

Now the first point that I want to impress upon you is this. It is the crux of the situation: Since the Crimean war, nearly fifty years ago, the policy of this country has been a policy of strict isolation. We have had no allies; I am afraid we have had no friends. [Laughter.] That is not due altogether to the envy which is undoubtedly felt at our success; it is due in part to the suspicion that we are acting in our own selfish interests, and were willing that other people should draw the chestnuts out of the fire for us; that we would take no responsibilities, while we were glad enough to profit by the work of others. In this way we have avoided entangling alliances; we have escaped many dangers; but we must accept the disadvantages that go with such a policy. As long as the other great powers of Europe were also working for their own hand, and were separately engaged, I think the policy we have pursued—consistently pursued—was undoubtedly the right policy for this country. ["Hear, hear!"] It was better we should preserve our liberty of action than become mixed up with quarrels with which possibly we had no concern. ["Hear, hear!"] But now in recent years a different complexion has been placed upon the matter. A new situation has arisen, and it is right the people of this country should have it under their consideration. All the powerful States of Europe have made alliances, and as long as we keep outside these alliances, as long as we are envied by all, and suspected by all, and as long as we have interests which at one time or another conflict with the interests of all, we are liable to be confronted at any moment with a combination of great powers so powerful that not even the most extreme, the most hot-headed politician would be able to contemplate it without a certain sense of uneasiness. ["Hear, hear!"] That is the situation which I want you to have in view, which you must always have in view, when you are considering the results of the foreign policy of any Government in this country. We stand alone, and we may be confronted with such a combination as that I have indicated to you. What is the first duty of a Government under these circumstances? I say, without hesitation, that the first duty is to draw all parts of the empire closer together [loud and prolonged cheers], to infuse into them a spirit of united and of imperial patriotism. [Cheers.] We have not neglected that primary duty. [Cheers.] We have pursued it steadfastly and with results that are patent to all the world. Never before in the history of the British Empire have the ties which connected us with our great colonies and dependencies been stronger, never before has the sense of common interests in trade and in defence and in war, never before has the sense of these interests been more strongly felt or more cordially expressed. [Cheers.]

AN ANGLO-SAXON ALLIANCE.

What is our next duty? It is to establish and to maintain bonds of permanent amity with our kinsmen across the Atlantic. [Loud cheers.] They are a powerful and a generous nation. They speak our language, they are bred of our race. [Loud cheers.] Their laws, their literature, their standpoint upon every question are the same as ours; their feeling, their interest in the cause of humanity and the peaceful development of the world are identical with ours. [Cheers.] I do not know what the future has in store for us. I do not know what arrangements may be possible with us, but this I know and feel—that the closer, the more cordial, the fuller, and the more definite these arrangements are with the consent of both peoples, the better it will be for both and for the world. [Loud cheers.] And I even go so far as to say that, terrible as war may be, even war itself would be cheaply purchased if in a great and noble cause the Stars and Stripes and the Union Jack should wave together [loud and prolonged cheers] over an Anglo-Saxon alliance. Now, it is one of the most satisfactory results of Lord Salisbury's policy [cheers] that at the present time these two great nations understand each other better than they have ever done since more than a century ago. ["Hear, hear!"] They were separated by the blunder of the British Government.

THE EAST AND THE FAR EAST.

It is not in this connection that our foreign policy has failed; it is not in reference to this, I suppose, that Sir William Harcourt said the other day that we were snubbed and humiliated in every part of the globe. ["He is," and laughter.] No; I suppose that it is in regard to the East, and especially to the far East, that this exaggerated language was intended to apply. As to the East I will only say this—that more active interference on behalf either of Armenia or of Crete would have infallibly brought about precisely one of those combinations which I have indicated to you as possible ["hear, hear!"], and I do not believe there is any one in this country, any reasonable man, who would pretend that it would be right for this country to face such a contingency in such a cause. But in the course of the last four months the interest has shifted further eastward still, to China, where undoubtedly vastly greater interests are at stake; and although we are only at the beginning of great events—the result of which it is impossible to foresee, although we can foresee that they will be of momentous importance to every man and woman in this country—although, I say, we are only at the beginning of events, already we are condemned by an impatient section of politicians for want of foresight and for want of success. Now, I think, if you will be patient with me, I can show that these two charges at any rate are groundless; but I do not wish you to believe that in my opinion the campaign is over, that the victory has been won so that there are not in the future problems of the most serious character with which this country has got to deal. But let us take the question of foresight. I do not really follow the language of some of our critics. Do they really believe that the Government, of all men, were alone ignorant of what every tyro in politics was perfectly well acquainted with? Everybody has foreseen, everybody has known—not for the last few months, but for many, many years—that it was the persistent ambition and the continuous policy of Russia to extend her Eastern dominions southward, to have an ice-free port for her trade and an ice-free harbor for her safety. Nobody was ignorant of that. The Government knew it as well as the man in the street. [Laughter.]

THE COLLAPSE OF CHINA.

But there is one thing that nobody knew. People may have suspected it, but I venture to say that the majority of those who had the best means of judging were not prepared for the total collapse of China in the Japanese-Chinese war. We knew that only a few years ago China, or the fear of China, had forced Russia herself to give up territory which she had previously occupied, and I do not believe that before this war there was any general or satisfactory information at all which would have led one to gather that the absolute corruption, the crass ignorance, and the gross misgovernment of the mandarins in China had brought the ancient empire to a position of practical impotence, in which all effective resistance was for a time entirely destroyed. But that was a very important fact to recognize. From the moment that you recognised that fact you had to see that China, unless she were assisted from outside, is absolutely at the mercy of the great military empire with its hundred millions of inhabitants, and with 4,000 miles of land frontier on the boundary of China. But when was this information complete? When was this knowledge certain? Not in our time, but in the time of the late Government. The matter, as I have said, is much too serious for anything in the nature of recrimination. In such a case it seems to me that the *tu quoque* argument is worse than absurd; it is mischievous and almost unpatriotic. I only refer to it to show the difficulty of the case, not to blame the late Government, and when Sir William Harcourt accuses us of want of foresight and of not having made preparations, at least it is fair to say to him, "What preparations did you make when for the first time you became acquainted with the weakness of China, with her absolute incapacity to resist the advance of Russia?" After that it was only a question of time, and of a very short time, when Russia would come to Port Arthur, and extend her influence in the province of Manchuria. Yet the late Government took no steps to come to an understanding with Russia. On the contrary they refused to join Russia and France and Germany in the intervention which those powers made in order to prevent Japan from having Port Arthur. I do not say that they were wrong. It is possible of course that if they had joined they might have made their own terms, but whether that be so or not they allowed the opportunity to go by, and they did nothing. What followed? The inevitable followed, as it always does.

RELATIONS WITH RUSSIA.

The expected happened, and Russia did go down to Port Arthur and to Talienwan. As to the way in which Russia secured that occupation, as to the representations which were made and repudiated as soon as they were made, as to the promises which were given and broken in a fortnight afterward, I had better perhaps say nothing except I have always thought that it was a very wise proverb, "Who sups with the devil must have a long spoon." [Laughter.] The present Government did try to come to an understanding with Russia. We took care to inform her that we had no jealousy, no objection to what we understood to be her commercial objects, or to the development of her trade, or to the expansion of her legitimate authority; but we sought to induce her to give up the idea of political predominance and military occupation. We failed—that was not consistent with the ambition of her Government—we failed to persuade her, and then we fell back upon the alternative policy, which had always been in our minds as the only alternative policy. We obtained the cession of Wei Hai Wei, and we obtained commercial privileges for ourselves and the whole of the world, the importance of which I believe will be fully recognized at no short distance of time. [Cheers.] Now I contend that in this preliminary skirmish, for it is nothing else, we have done very well. ["Hear, hear!"] I do not think Russia is one atom stronger than she was, let us say, five years ago. I think that we are in rather a better position, but I don't want to conceal from you my own conviction that the position, the general position, is very far from satisfactory. We have in the future to count with Russia in China, as we have to count with Russia in Afghanistan, and with this difference—that in China we have no army and no defensive frontier. But what was the alternative? What more could we have done under the circumstances at the time, being, as we were, entirely isolated, for that again is the point on which I want to lay emphasis? Some of our critics say: "Oh, you might have come to an understanding with Russia." It is easy to say that, but an understanding takes two parties to the bargain, and Russia wanted what we did not want, and we had nothing to offer her to induce her to desist from her plan. And if we had made an understanding with Russia, who would guarantee that the understanding would be kept. ["Hear, hear!"]

THE POLICY OF WAR.

No, there was only one alternative to the policy of the Government—the policy of war; and that is the policy to which that man of peace, Sir William Harcourt [laughter], to which the whole of his arguments logically tend, and to which his taunts and his gibes are egging on the people of this country and the Government of this country. Let us consider the alternative. We might have declared war on Russia. We might for a year or two have held Port Arthur against Russia, but we have no military force there to back us and no frontier in China. I am one of those who think that for any country there are worse things than war; there is loss of honor; there is loss of those interests which are so vital to the security of the existence of the nation. But, in any case, I hope I am sensible enough never to give my voice for war unless I can see at the commencement of the war a fair probability that at the end of the war the objects of the war will have been obtained. [Cheers.] Now, what does history show us? It shows us that unless we are allied to some great military power, as we were in the Crimean war, when we had France and Turkey as our allies, we cannot seriously injure Russia, although it may also be true that she cannot seriously injure us. ["Hear, hear!"] If that is the case, it is a case which deserves the serious consideration of the people of this country. It is impossible to overrate the gravity of the issue. It is not a question of a single port in China—that is a very small matter. It is not a question of a single province; it is a question of the whole fate of the Chinese Empire, and our interests in China are so great, our proportion of the trade is so enormous, and the potentialities of that trade are so gigantic that I feel that no more vital question has ever been presented for the decision of a Government and the decision of a nation, and for my part I have tried to-night to state clearly and without exaggeration the conditions of the problem that we have before us. I think you will see that it is complicated enough to preclude all hasty judgment. One thing appears to me to be certain. If the policy of isolation, which has hitherto been the policy of this country, is to be maintained in the future, then the fate of the Chinese Empire may be, probably will be, hereafter decided without reference to our wishes and in defiance of our interests. If, on the other hand, we are determined to enforce the policy of the open door, to preserve an equal opportunity for trade with all our rivals, then we must not allow jingoes to drive us into a quarrel with all the world at the same time, and we must not reject the idea of an alliance with those powers whose interests most nearly approximate to our own. [Cheers.] I am not going to strain your patience. I have said what I have to say, but I am afraid you may think I have been rather gloomy to-night, and, indeed, I have thought it right to warn you of the dangers ahead. ["Hear, hear!"] But I have a great confidence in the future of this country, and I do not doubt that an issue will be found out of all the difficulties which will be worthy of our tradition and our race. [Cheers.] The country is prosperous as is no other nation. [Cheers.] Our people are united and contented; we enjoy under a sovereign whom all her subjects revere [loud cheers] the fullest measure of ordered liberty; and I feel some certainty that we shall meet the great responsibilities of the future with the indomitable spirit which in the past carried our ancestors in triumph through difficult and dangerous times. [Loud cheers.]

What They Are Doing.

From the Rochester Democrat and Chronicle.

The opponents of Hawaiian annexation are doing all in their power to embarrass naval operations in the Pacific and compel the Government of the islands to take a position that will prevent us from stopping or coaling at Honolulu.

The Bravest Sailor of All.

I know a naval officer, the bravest fighting man;
He wears a jaunty sailor suit, his cap says "Puritan."
And all day long he sails a ship between our land and Spain,
And he avenges, every hour, the martyrs of the Maine.

His warship is six inches square, a washtub serves for ocean;
But never yet, on any coast, was seen such dire commotion.
With one skilled move his boat is sent from Cuba to mid-sea,
And just as quickly back it comes to set Havana free.

He fights with Dewey; plants his flag upon each island's shore,
Then off with Sampson's fleet he goes to shed the Spanish gore.
He comes to guard New England's coast, but ere his anchor falls
He hurries off in frightful speed, to shell Manila's walls.

The Philippines so frequently have yielded to his power,
There's very little left of them, I'm certain, at this hour;
And when at last he falls asleep, it is to wake again
And hasten into troubled seas and go and conquer Spain.

ELLA WHEELER WILCOX.

DR. ABBOTT'S CHANGED VIEWS.

Believes That God Is Inseparable from Nature—But Dr. Abbott Is Not a Pantheist.

The Rev. Lyman Abbott, in his sermon yesterday morning at Plymouth Church, Brooklyn, took as his subject the change in religious thought and theological conceptions in the last thirty or forty years.

"Nobody," he said, "can deny that in the last thirty or forty years there has been a change in religious conceptions. Many men have changed their views. I know that I have, and, although we cannot attack those who hold to the views which we think we have outgrown, the change must be illustrated by our own experience.

"God, I now think, is not apart from nature, but dwells in nature. That He made this world and is not the engineer of it I cannot now believe. There are no forces; there is but one force, God. There are no causes, for there is but one great underlying Cause. Natural and supernatural are the same.

"I have come to think that creation is a continuous process, with God Himself in the process always. Every spring, every year, every day, every hour is a new creation. Imagine Him gone and the universe is gone. He is the Ruler, not over the universe, but in it. Is that not pantheism, you ask? No, for there is a difference between 'the all' and 'in all.'

"I can no longer believe in special Providences, unless all are special. He did no more in guiding Moses than in guiding Gladstone. He was no more the leader at the Red Sea of old than our emancipation leader in the red sea of blood.

"Revelation is a continual process, with God showing Himself to man more and more as the years go by. He is disclosing just as fast as we are able to comprehend. God rules the human race from within, as does the teacher or the father or the pastor.

"I no longer look forward to a great day of resurrection. The resurrection is continuous, as that of the plant from the seed."

AFTER ATTERBURY'S SCALP.

A Combine of Brooklyn Republicans Trying to Beat Him—Atterbury Isn't Scared.

The fight for supremacy among the Republicans in the Twenty-third ward in Brooklyn is becoming very warm, and, beginning to-night, caucuses are to be held in the various districts in order to select delegates for the new ward committee, which are to be voted for at the unofficial primaries. A combination has been formed with the purpose of downing Walter B. Atterbury, the present leader of the ward and Chairman of the Republican County Committee. Senator A. A. Wray, Internal Revenue Collector Frank B. Moore, Deputy Internal Revenue Collector James Burnes, Joseph W. Cabble, former Corporation Counsel Burr, and Ernst Nathan have joined forces to defeat Mr. Atterbury. A circular sent out by the anti-Atterbury combination says:

"We believe that the sentiment of a large majority of the Republicans of the Twenty-third ward is opposed to machine methods. We cannot forget that, by an overwhelming majority at the last election, the voting Republicans of the ward placed the seal of their condemnation on the use of such methods. We believe that the call for caucuses in each election district by the machine (which machine the new primary law was enacted to wipe out of existence) is without warrant or excuse, and is an attempt to commit the newly enrolled Republicans to a continuance of the control of the party affairs by those who have managed them with such disastrous results. We believe in an organization that exists to express the wishes of the people, and not in a machine whose purpose is to suppress popular sentiment.

"Because of our belief, we, the undersigned, urge all Republicans who desire a change of management in our party affairs to refrain from attending the caucuses above referred to, which will seek to bind those so attending, and we invite you to attend a conference to be held in the —— district at ——, on Wednesday evening, May 25, at 8 o'clock, for the purpose of nominating delegates to the Assembly District Convention and delegates to the new Ward Committee.

"The delegates so nominated to the new ward committee are requested to meet at Carson Hall, corner Bedford avenue and Fulton street, on Saturday evening, May 28, at 8 o'clock, to nominate twenty delegates to the new General Committee of Kings county. Let us have a ticket that will worthily represent the sentiment of the Republicans of the Twenty-third ward."

Mr. Atterbury is certain that the men who stood by the Republican party last fall will stand by him in this fight. The men who represent the opposition to him are the men who bolted the Republican ticket last November and voted for Seth Low and the independent ticket. Mr. Atterbury believes that after the primaries it will be found that the Twenty-third ward still believes in Republicanism and will return him not only to the Ward Committee, but also to the Republican County Committee.

TWO GOLDEN JUBILEES.

Unveiling of a Tablet in Memory of Bishop John Adams Paddock.

St. Peter's Protestant Episcopal Church, corner of Bond and State streets, Brooklyn, began yesterday a series of services to celebrate the fiftieth anniversary of the founding of the church. Bishop Littlejohn was expected to preach at the morning service, but was unable to be present on account of sickness. In his place the rector, the Rev. Dr. Lindsay Parker, delivered the sermon. W. Frank Tiemann of the vestry read a historical sketch of the parish since its foundation, and a memorial tablet of the late Right Rev. John Adams Paddock, D. D., Bishop of Olympia, who was for over a quarter of a century rector of the church, was unveiled. In the afternoon there was a jubilee in the Sunday school at which the singing of the "Star-Spangled Banner" by the children was a feature, and William G. Low delivered an address.

The Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, the rector of Trinity Parish, preached at the evening service. He expressed himself as most happy to bring to the people of St. Peter's parish not only his own personal congratulations, but those of the parish he represented. He said that he hoped that at the centennial anniversary of St. Peter's they could look back upon as glorious a past as they now did and look forward to as promising a future.

The choir, under Henry G. Eskuche, rendered an elaborate musical programme. It is composed of over fifty members, and is said to be one of the best in Brooklyn.

Memorial services will continue through the week. Bishop Potter will preach on Monday evening. On Thursday evening a dinner will be given at Parish Hall under the direction of the St. Peter's Club, at which the Rev. Dr. William S. Rainsford and Justice Augustus Van Wyck will speak.

The Society of the Kent Street Reformed Church, in Greenpoint, began yesterday a four days' celebration of its golden jubilee and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the pastorate of the Rev. Lewis Francis. Mr. Francis preached a historical sermon. He said that when the society was organized Greenpoint was a small hamlet, and the population of Brooklyn was only 60,000.

Mr. Magginly from Canton.

From the Buffalo Times.

Many unjust things have been said of President McKinley, but it remained for the *El Diario* of Madrid, with unconscious humor, to perpetrate the following: "It will no doubt surprise our readers to learn that the Yankee President Magginly is a naturalized Chinaman, having been born in Canton."

A Tennessee Editor Explains.

From the Hardeman Free Press.

We can explain our disheveled appearance. We was down to Memphis, and because we leaned our head over to rest the barkeeper nailed our whiskers to the icebox. We had to cut ourself loose with a dull barlow knife, and hence——

Fighting Families.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

The Williamses has gone to war—the Joneses fellered suit;
The Jinkinses is drillin' an' learnin' how to shoot;
The Browns has all enlisted an' left these Georgy scenes,
An' the news is that they're formin' of a light brigade o' Greens!

The Spurlins—they're applyin' for colonelships; an' them
Weak Wigginses pull brigadiers like roses from the stem;
An' the Redbone boys, they're hustlin', an' the Clay Path fellers—they
Had mustered fifteen captains 'fore the private got away!

The town's jest emigrated! From Meigs to Mullet Flaps
Thar ain't enough to lynch a man, or cultivate the craps;
For ever' man that had a chance has gone away to shoot;
An' the women's got the offices an' salary to boot!