The Sun.

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Stability and Grandeur.

The *Troy Press* sees a clear way to Democratic victory in New York this year. Here are the specifications:

"The thing to do is to put up a Democratic candidate who may well challenge comparison with any Republican that shall be named. This can be done, and doing it will be a work of incalculable consequence in redeeming New York and placing it once more stably and grandly at the head of the Democratic column of States."

The only thing omitted is the name of the challenging statesman.

Some of the friends of the Hon. ROSWELL PETTIBONE FLOWER think that they can supply the name.

Some of the friends of the Hon. ROBERT AUGUSTUS VAN WYCK think that they can produce the statesman.

Some of the friends of the Hon. WILLIAM RHADAMANTHUS HEARST do not hesitate when they are asked to name the man for the occasion.

But what are the views of these three statesmen on the fundamental article of Democratic faith in the year 1898? Are they sound on free silver? New York will never be placed stably and grandly at the head of the Democratic column of States under the leadership of a heretic.

Work That Democrats Cannot Do.

Aside from the obvious financial and economic reasons for electing a Republican House of Representatives this fall, there are two special reasons arising out of the war with Spain.

A form of government is to be provided for the annexed territory, for it is hardly probable that the present Congress will have time to settle the many questions arising from the passing of the Spanish conquered territory to the United States. The Democratic party as a whole is not heartily in favor of retaining the new acquisitions. It consents to those in the Caribbean, but it is opposed to those in the Pacific. It began by opposing the annexation of Hawaii. It seems almost wholly unaware of the importance of acquiring the Philippines and striving to develop American commerce in the East. To many of the hide-bound belated Bourbons still mumbling about 16 to 1, the great national patriotic movement for the expansion of the United States seems only a trick of the Robber Barons and the Money Power.

American interests in the East will be served best by the election of a Republican House. There is a strong and able Democratic minority that agrees with the Republicans as to expansion, but the mass of the Democratic leaders and, apparently, of the Democratic party, hangs back and tries to block the wheels of progress.

In spite of the lessons of the war and the extent of territory that has been added or will probably be added to the United States as part of the fruit of that war, Democrats are declaiming in the old-fashioned buncombe style against the dangers of a standing army and promising in their platforms to resist the enlargement of the standing army of the United States. A few months ago these same windy citizens were howling against the "dudes" of the navy and proclaiming the folly and uselessness of a navy. They don't dare to tackle the navy any longer, but they still retain their unreasoning prejudices against an adequate army. The work of reorganizing the army and making it a little more proportionate to the new demands upon it and to the growth of the country, will not be done by Democrats. They have learned something on the water, but on land they are still behind the times.

The Glory of the War.

We have referred already to the speech of Gen. GROSVENOR to the Illinois veterans, in which he recalled the attention of the people to the brilliant and memorable achievements of American arms in the war with Spain; but as they will make up one of the brightest records in our history they cannot be dwelt upon too frequently or with too great satisfaction.

When it became apparent, early last spring, that war with Spain was at hand, this country was wofully deficient in preparations for the inevitable emergency. Yet the tactics of the President, obviously pursued in order to gain time to rush through all possible preparations for supplying these deficiencies in troops and the material of war, provoked violent outcries against him in the very newspapers which are now bitterest in their vituperation of him because of the suffering which has resulted from this necessary haste.

Our regular army of about 25,000 men only was scattered in small bodies far and near, and only the supplies essential for so small a force had been provided, or could have been provided, under the narrow appropriations for the purpose made by Congress. This was the condition in which we were at a time when we were on the eve of war with a fully equipped military State, with a large and thoroughly seasoned army already in the field and supplied with every requisite for modern military service. That we should have surmounted the difficulty, so that in four months we compelled Spain to sue for peace after a rapid and continuous series of victories by us on sea and land, was one of the most brilliant achievements of generalship and military administration which is afforded by the history of war.

As Gen. GROSVENOR says, our initial victory, the splendid triumph of DEWEY at Manila, was made possible by the rapidity with which supplies were sent across this continent to be conveyed to our Asiatic squadron. It was a task requiring the ablest administration in the Navy Department, and was performed quietly, systematically, without undue publicity; and it was done thoroughly and successfully. Sensational newspapers were crying out madly for an immediate assault on Havana, impregnable against any such attack as we could then have attempted, and sure to involve us in awful and probably futile losses. Instead, the first assault was made on the other side of the world, and its complete and bloodless success shattered the power of Spain at one blow and changed the whole course of American history. The Philippines were our proper objective, but sensational newspaper strategists had overlooked it. DEWEY's triumph gave renewed confidence to our whole navy and filled it with the inspiration of victory. The vaunted power of the Spanish navy, previously ranked above our own in strength, was proved in a single engagement to be a delusion. Foreign opinion and even timorous home misgivings had looked for disaster for us at the beginning of the hostilities, but, instead, victory attended our arms from the first stroke to the last, with never a variation. Neither on sea nor on land did we suffer a single reverse, a single delay in our victorious progress.

The strength of our regular army was 26,477 on April 30. During May, June and July it was recruited up to 51,857, or about 10,000 less than the maximum strength allowed under the bill for the increase of the force passed by Congress. From this army chiefly were drawn the three expeditions sent by us to Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines, all of them being transported over long distances by sea, involving an infinitude of arduous details, all of them landing successfully, and all of them accomplishing their purpose, so that only four months after the declaration of war hostilities were brought to a conclusion and negotiations for peace begun. It was a feat of which even a nation organized on a military basis, with a great army always at hand, might well have had reason to be proud.

The original purpose of the Administration, as expressed in the Hull bill for the reorganization of the army, was to provide for an increase of the regular army to a strength which would have furnished a trained force sufficient for the necessities of active campaigning without enforced reliance upon the militia or volunteers. The history of the failure of that bill has been related by Mr. HULL. Under a mistaken apprehension of its purpose, militia officers in many States protested against it to their Congressmen, on the ground that it would deprive them of a share of the glory of the war, and accordingly the House of Representatives ran away from this wise and necessary bill almost in a panic; and consequently an insufficient increase of the regular army was voted.

That was a great mistake; but, in spite of it, American valor, ingenuity, and resource carried through the war in four months to complete victory, and with a relative loss small almost beyond precedent. It was a magnificent achievement, and the American people have reason for boundless pride and unceasing thankfulness because of it.

An English Newspaper on the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty.

One of the most important articles which have lately appeared in the London press is a discussion in the *Spectator* of the expediency of abrogating the Clayton-Bulwer treaty. The text of the article is now before us, and we find that the writer, who speaks with the authority of one of the most influential organs of the Liberal-Unionist party, not only pronounces it to be for England's interest that the treaty should be cancelled, but also holds that, without waiting for a request to that end from the United States, his country should take the initiative, and itself propose the substitution of a different convention.

It will be remembered that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, which was concluded on April 19, 1850, by JOHN M. CLAYTON, Secretary of State in TAYLOR'S Administration, and by Sir HENRY LYTTON-BULWER, then the British Minister at Washington, had for its avowed purpose the bestowal of protection upon private capitalists who should undertake to construct any canal or railway across the American isthmus. Such canal or railway was to be a private, not a public, enterprise, and both parties to the treaty agreed that neither England nor the United States should exercise an exclusive controlling influence over any mode of interoceanic communication to be opened across the isthmus. In return for the concession to Great Britain which this agreement involved that power covenanted not to acquire any territory in Central America, of nearly one-half of which, as President TAYLOR informed the Senate in the message submitting the treaty, the British Government was then in possession under the guise of ally and protector of the Mosquito King. After the treaty was signed Secretary CLAYTON permitted, without protest, the British Minister to file a memorandum to the effect that the treaty was not to be understood to deprive British subjects of their long-exercised right to cut logwood on the coast of Honduras. What was then an insignificant settlement of woodcutters, claiming no right of sovereignty, has been since greatly expanded at the expense of Guatemala, until, by a convention with that State made in 1859, its area was fixed at 7,562 square miles. That is to say, in the course of less than half a century, what once was designated as "her Majesty's *settlement* in the bay of Honduras" has become a territory as large as the State of Massachusetts, throughout which sovereign authority is claimed and exercised by the British Crown. Mr. BLAINE held that, although the Clayton-Bulwer treaty was, on its face, intended to be perpetual, it had been rendered voidable by England's usurpation of sovereignty over a large tract in Central America, and a similar opinion was expressed by Secretary FRELINGHUYSEN in a communication to the British Government. Subsequently, however, President CLEVELAND treated the Clayton-Bulwer convention as still binding; and, therefore, although we may hold it to be voidable at our option, we must acknowledge that the option has not yet been definitely exercised.

The treaty, therefore, exists, and the question is, what is to be done with it? We concur with the *Spectator* in thinking that the treaty, if allowed to stand, would be now, as it has been in the past, a veto on the construction of a trans-Nicaragua Canal by any agency, private or public. No private company will undertake to cut the waterway unless it secures the help and patronage of the United States Government, and this our Government will not give, neither will it construct the canal itself unless it can exercise exclusive controlling influence over it, when completed. From such exclusive controlling interest it is debarred by the treaty; and, therefore, one of two things must happen, the treaty must be abrogated or the making of a trans-Nicaragua Canal must be renounced. This is distinctly recognized by the *Spectator*; "if we refuse," it says, "to give up our rights under the treaty, we prevent the construction of an interoceanic waterway." It then proceeds to argue the question whether it is for or against English interests to have such a canal. From the commercial point of view the inquiry is answered forthwith in the affirmative. England being the greatest of maritime powers, every improvement in oceanic communication must needs help her and her commerce. The Suez Canal did this, and so would its counterpart connecting the Atlantic and Pacific oceans. It is pointed out that a straight line between England and her Australasian empire passes through the Isthmus of Panama. Unquestionably, a waterway cut through the American isthmus would increase the wealth of the world, and England would get her share of it, if not more than her share. Passing from commercial to strategic arguments, the *Spectator* admits that, if the United States was at war with England, the Nicaragua Canal would place the latter power at an enormous disadvantage, as we could use the waterway at such a conjuncture and she could not. We could effect a junction between our Pacific and Atlantic fleets while England's reinforcements were steaming around Cape Horn or through the Indian Ocean. On the other hand, if England were at war with one or more of the Continental powers, the existence of a Nicaragua Canal would be of signal advantage to her, for, in that case, the United States would be neutral, and the canal, if under our control, would be part of our neutral waters. Moreover, we should be strong enough to make our neutrality respected, which could not be said of a Spanish-American republic. It would not be true, for instance, of Nicaragua or Colombia, if either of them were the nominal owners of an interoceanic canal.

The *Spectator's* conclusion is that while, commercially, a Nicaragua Canal controlled by the United States would be a good thing for England, it would also be strategically a benefit, except only in the case of a war with the States. So that England is brought face to face with the question, "Are the chances of war with the United States great enough to make her refuse the benefits which the making of the canal would certainly confer on her?" The *Spectator*, on its part, does not hesitate to say that, on the whole, England had better not worry about the possible risk of an Anglo-American war, and had better abandon the veto on a Nicaragua Canal which the Clayton-Bulwer treaty practically gives her. It believes that the British public will ultimately take this view, and it holds that the British Foreign Office ought not to wait until our State Department requests the abrogation of the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, but should itself propose the substitution of another convention by which England and the United States should mutually bind themselves to allow no power *except* the United States to make or control any canal across the American isthmus, and to declare that, if and when the United States shall make such canal, it shall be open on equal terms to the ships of all nations at peace with our republic.

It has long been the opinion of THE SUN that the Clayton-Bulwer treaty ought to be torn up, and it is at once with surprise and satisfaction that we find the opinion shared by an English newspaper of weight and influence.

Essentially National.

The term of the Governor of New York has been changed twice in recent years. Originally and for many years a two years' term, it was lengthened to three years, after the election of 1876. Upon the adoption of the amendments to the Constitution submitted to the voters for ratification in 1894, the two years' term was restored. The term is now two years.

In consequence of these conditions and changes, it has happened that at only three elections for Congressmen in a quarter of a century in New York the Governorship has been the highest executive office to be filled. These three elections were those of 1874, 1882, and 1894. This year the election will be for a Governor and Congressmen, and this year, as in all preceding elections under the same conditions, national issues will completely overshadow minor and local questions. An election at which Congressmen are voted for is always a national election, to be decided by the consideration of national questions and by the relation which the rival political parties bear to them.

Imperatively and unavoidably this year's election in New York will be fought and won on national issues, precisely as has been the case in all preceding contests when a Governor and members of Congress, but no Presidential electors, were to be chosen.

The Sultan and Crete.

There is nothing to equal the truculent insolence of the Turk when he is dealing with people who do not press things home to him, except the servile alacrity with which he hastens to appease his adversary when he finds punishment about to fall.

It was in this spirit that the Sultan sent his Minister for Foreign Affairs out in the small hours of Thursday morning to arouse the Ambassadors of Russia, France and Italy, and the British Chargé d'Affaires, from their slumbers in order to get, if possible, an arrest of judgment in the case of his riotous subjects in Crete. He was, as could only be expected, unsuccessful in his effort, and the execution of the decision of the Admirals goes on, as it should. Having claims of our own against the Sultan and his Government which they have treated with studied indifference and contempt, we have no sympathy with them in their Cretan troubles, and no regret will be felt by the American people when they are deprived of their power to misgovern and ruin their subject races.

So far as Crete is concerned, it is a satisfaction to feel that whatever the future of the island may be, the Sultan's sovereignty over it is practically ended. Whenever the European powers decide that his troops and officials shall evacuate Crete, they will have to go. No resistance they can make will be effectual, and their expulsion, if expelled they must be, can be carried out without the slightest interference by Constantinople except by diplomatic notes and protests. For any loss of life or destruction of property that may occur in the process of expelling the Ottoman from the island, the Sultan and his Government can be afterward made responsible, as they would be in fact, for no Turk would venture to disobey the orders of the Sultan.

It may be, as Mr. ANGELL, recently our Minister to Turkey, is reported to have said, that it will be a desperate parting if Turkey has to give Crete up, and that nobody is more determined to resist than the Sultan. In what way, except diplomatically, he can oppose the action of the powers in Crete is difficult to see. On more than one occasion when the Turks have been hard driven, vague threats of a general massacre of the foreigners in the country have been made; but at Constantinople they know well enough that it would be the merest madness to carry out such a policy now, and they are intelligent enough to understand that Crete is not worth the consequences it would infallibly entail. If resistance is made in Crete, it could be only in the event of a conflict of the powers whose troops are in occupation of the island, and whose ships are guarding its coasts and harbors. Of that there is no indication. If there are any differences among them it will be over matters of detail; on the general policy to be carried out they appear to be entirely in accord.

In any case, the hope of a disagreement among the powers is a slender foundation on which to build up a policy of resistance in Crete; yet if a conflict should happen to break out, it certainly would not be the Turk that would benefit by it.

War and the Color Sense.

The papers in the case of the Texas regiment which refused to take its pay from a colored paymaster have been sent to the President by the Paymaster-General. It is safe to assume that Mr. MCKINLEY will hold that the color of United States money is not affected by the color of the paymaster, and that sensitive Caucasian consciences should be content with taking a lofty moral ground as to financial complexion, and should not expect to have scruples and pay too.

Is it to consider too curiously, to consider how far these writhings of this supersensitive Caucasian regiment go? The labor of colored men in the mines and mints, in the paper mills, in the Bureau of Engraving and Printing and other offices of the Treasury, has contributed to make the money of the United States. That money cannot be regarded as a pure Caucasian product. Ought a haughty Lone Star regiment to accept the ambiguous tokens, even at the hands of a white paymaster?

Another query. Would these Lone Star purists take any favors from colored officers or soldiers? The Ninth and Tenth United States cavalry regiments, for instance, those "smoked Yankees," are powerful fighters, but, being black fighters, could their assistance be honorably accepted by a high-minded Caucasian regiment, with proper ethnological ideas and a rigid color scheme?

Mr. MCKINLEY has to select an American representative to attend the Czar's projected conference on the question of general disarmament. Neither Professor CHARLES ELIOT NORTON nor Miss JESSIE SCHLEY has yet refused the appointment.

The Independent Citizens' Committee, which consists in part of the Hon. ISAAC H. KLEIN, made a tremendous mistake in proposing to nominate Col. THEODORE ROOSEVELT for Governor.

It is the tradition and the duty of Independent Citizens' Committees to nominate persons unacceptable to the world in general and incapable of election. Col. ROOSEVELT is the most popular citizen of New York and therefore ineligible to the honor of a nomination at the hands of Mr. KLEIN and the other independent brethren.

We don't want to hinder Mr. KLEIN from voting for Col. ROOSEVELT, but the precedents ought to be followed.

It is quite generally true that the men and the newspapers which were pro-Spanish and anti-American before and during the war are now in the front rank of the opponents of American progress and development. There are just enough notable exceptions to show how strong is the tide of expansion. It has caught and swept onward some Mugwumps and others whom we had supposed to be immovable.

No Englishman fears expansion or doubts his capacity to turn it to good account.—*St. Louis Globe-Democrat.*

But there are a few persons in this country who assume that it is inferior to England and that it cannot do what England does so well.

The Hon. MARY ELIZABETH LEASE, long the foremost stateswoman of Kansas, is to lecture in favor of Spiritualism before the Indiana Association of Spiritualists. "Spiritualists," says a correspondent of the *Chicago Times-Herald*, "will announce her conversion with delight." It may be doubted if the spirits will share that delight. They will have to come when she doth call for them, or there will be trouble.

It is painful to learn that a Chicago concern, which was going to manufacture gold, has not been able to produce enough to pay a small bill for rent. The Chicago Rosicrucians and seekers for the grand arcanum ought to import a little sea water from the New England coast.

The Hon. TOM MCNEAL of Topeka, who discovered and patented the Hon. JERRY SIMPSON and as Mayor of Medicine Lodge gave him his first office, that of Town Marshal, writes this appreciation of him:

"It is his unlimited gall which commands my admiration."

The same quality commands Mr. SIMPSON's admiration.

The increase in the postal receipts at various cities for the month of August shows that the Hon. GAMALIEL BRADFORD of Massachusetts still has views to express and postage stamps to buy. If his zeal for letter-writing continues another ten years, the Government may be able to pay the postage and two cents premium on every letter.

A Forty-ninth Street Corner in Oats.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Since Joe Leiter lightened the paternal purse in his attempt to corner all the wheat crop of the Northwestern States of the Union, the grain market has remained comparatively quiet in Greater New York.

But a few days ago a ripple of excitement disturbed the calm and serene quiet of Forty-ninth street, near Broadway. The string of a feed-bag broke, precipitating an avalanche of oats to the newly asphalted street for the distance of several yards, unnoticed by the sleepy driver of the unfortunate horse, which undoubtedly was compelled to go supperless to bed in consequence of the accident.

Scarcely had the horse and wagon disappeared around the corner before a "starch-box wagon" and four small boys came rumbling along from the direction of "Hell's Kitchen," and the boys quickly espied the rich treasure that was spread out on the asphalt before them.

The largest boy was evidently the owner of the wagon and indisputably the "boss" of the gang. He drew a line across the straggling oats with his bare big toe, and shook his dirty little fist at his companions, forbidding them to cross the "trocha," which, it is needless to remark, contained more than three-fourths of the spilled oats on his side. Without remonstrating at the injustice of the "boss," the three little boys went quietly to work and soon filled their pockets with oats and dirt, which they scraped up together, while the larger boy threw his oats into the wagon box, almost filling it with his lion's share of the spoils.

The quartet of small rogues then retired to the curbstone, where they soon became deeply involved in conversation. The result was that each emptied his pockets into the wagon containing the oats. Then several passing wagons were hailed with the inquiry: "Want to buy any oats?" until a junk dealer came along and bought out the whole syndicate for a nickel.

The biggest boy took the coin, mounted himself into the "starch-box" wagon, shook the reins and the three other little ragamuffins drew him along at a rapid pace toward "Hell's Kitchen," with all the ceremony which the occasion demanded.

As I gazed on the fast disappearing urchins I thought, "Here is the beginning of another great financial career." AN INTERESTED SPECTATOR.

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.

England Wants an Army Hat.

From the Manchester Courier.

I hear that a movement is on foot in the Indian army for the introduction of various alterations in the soldiers' uniforms. The present helmet, though it may be an improvement on its predecessors, is universally regarded as exceedingly uncomfortable. The form of headgear advocated is that with which the Australian troopers familiarized us at the last Jubilee—namely, a broad-brimmed hat looped up at the side for smartness.

THE ORIGINAL INDIAN OF MANHATTAN AND LONG ISLAND.

As He Appears in the First Volume of Colonial Laws.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To a resident of New York no fact or incident which will throw light on the early history of the settlers can fail to be of interest. In looking over the first volume of the Colonial Laws of New York, lately published under the authority of the State Legislature, I came across some ancient enactments whose perusal brought with them a vision of smoky wigwams, buckskin garments and toiling squaws, and I have transcribed some of them for the benefit of your readers who may be interested.

Portions of the "Lawes establisht by the Authority of his Majesties Letters patents, granted to his Royall Highnes James Duke of Yorke and Albany; Bearing Date the 12th. Day of March, in the Sixteenth year of ye Raigne of our Soveraigne Lord King, Charles the Second," otherwise known as the Duke of York laws, promulgated at Hempstead, Long Island, in 1664, read very much like a sequel to Cooper's novels, with the romance left out. The Indian, in and near Manhattan, had become an object of legislation, and if the laws then passed were enforced, it is difficult to see whence came the great hatred of the Indian for the white man. For instance, it was enacted (spelling modernized) that "For the Indians' encouragement toward the fencing in their cornfields, such towns, farmers or persons where cattle may annoy them that way shall direct, assist and help them in felling of trees, riving and sharpening rails and holing of posts; allowing one Englishman to three or four Indians, and shall also draw the fencing into place for them, and allow one man a day or two toward the setting up of the same, and either sell or lend them tools to finish it, provided that such Indians shall fence their cornfields or ground at their own charge, and if any Indians shall refuse to fence their corn grounds, being tendered help as aforesaid, in the presence of sufficient witnesses, they shall keep off all cattle or lose the damage."

Such magnanimity as the following enactment discloses should certainly have been rewarded: "All injuries done to the Indians of what nature whatsoever shall, upon their complaint and proof thereof, in any court, have speedy redress gratis, against any Christian in as full and ample manner (with reasonable allowance for travel), as if the case had been betwixt Christian and Christian."

We might think the following a cause of grievance if tradition did not tell us that the law was not obeyed: "No person whatsoever from henceforth shall sell, truck, barter, give or deliver any strong liquors to any Indian, directly or indirectly whatsoever, known by the name of 'Rum Strong waters, Wine Brandy Spirrits or any other Strong Liquore under any Name whatsoever,' under the penalty of forty shillings for one pint, and so proportionately for greater or lesser quantities so sold, bartered, given or delivered, as aforesaid."

Religious liberty, so far as the "barthen," at least, were concerned, seems to have been in name only, for we find it ordered that "No Indian shall at any time be suffered to 'Powaw or performe outward worship to the Devil in any Towne within this Government.'"

An amendment made in 1675 has an ominous sound, and yet it is followed by one which shows an honorable determination in the colonists to do justice to the Indians: "Ordered, that in case there should be a 'Warr' with the Indians (which God Forbid) for the better carrying on of the same ye money arising shall be levied, according as there shall be occasion, an account whereof to be given to the following court of assizes. Ordered, that in all cases, the magistrates, through the whole Government, are required to do justice to the Indians as well as Christians."

The Indian appears again in the subjoined Sheriff's bill of expenses in the trial of one Angle Hendrickson:

	£	s.	d.
To 2 cans Brandy to Mashpagz kills	0	08	00
To Brandy & Provisions carried to Neversinks	2	00	00
To moneys spent at Neversinks	1	05	00
To 6 men in the boat to Neversinks	3	00	00
To 5 Indyans who were employed to find her	0	15	00
To 5 cans Brandy at ye time she was taken	1	00	00
To 6 men that took her	3	00	00
To French wine to ye Jury	0	12	00
To Brandy to ye Carpenters	1	05	00
To ye Negroes in Brandy	0	08	00
To ye Executioner in Brandy & French wine	0	08	00
To work done by ye Executioner	3	00	00
To Owne briggs & Makeing	1	00	00
To ye Carrmen & Porters in Brandy	2	00	00
To French Wine to ye Carrmen & Porters after Execucon	2	04	00
To an acco't brought in by Hen: Newton of moneys spent	1	00	00
To her Duett Dureing ye time of her imprisonment	0	18	00
To an Indyan	0	10	00
To ye Jury of Life & Death in French wine	0	12	00
To more wine & Beere	1	00	00
Summa Totalis	26	11	00

The unfortunate woman was apparently executed for her crime. Whether the jury, the executioner, the negroes and the Indians survived this very alcoholic process of law does not appear. BERTHA W. HOWE.

BROOKLYN, Sept. 17.

The Stonewall Jackson Controversy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "The Yankee hash, converting one of Jackson's most brilliant actions into a victory for Shields," as Mr. R. J. Bestor, Company B, Maryland Guard, Twenty-first Virginia Infantry, calls it, is described as below by a correspondent in the *Richmond* (Va.) *Whig*, of April, 1862.

This Southern paper introduces the letter by the following: "The subjoined account of Jackson's encounter in the lower valley of Virginia should have reached us several days ago. It is from a distinguished and thoroughly reliable source:"

STAUNTON, March 31.

To the Editor of The Whig: I send you such particulars as I have been able to gather of the bloody battle near Winchester. From all accounts it was the most desperate contest of the war, from the fact that the loss on our side was twenty per cent. of the whole number engaged.

For many hours our heroes maintained their stand and finally withdrew. Our loss in killed and wounded was 465. We lost two guns, one from the Rockbridge and one from the Augusta battery.

In a later issue, this Southern paper says: "After the engagement at Kernstown, Jackson fell back to Harrisonburg, where he remained till April 19."

Mr. Bestor says "Jackson's object was to prevent Shields from going to Contreville." What has that got to do with the question at issue? I have asserted and I have proven beyond doubt that Gen. Shields was the first man and the only man that ever crossed swords successfully with "Stonewall" Jackson.

I also asserted, and have made good this assertion by reputable authorities, that Jackson's force was equal, if not superior, to Shields's in numbers. Mr. Bestor would have us believe, apparently, that Jackson expected defeat; that he was, in fact, leading a forlorn hope. Unfortunately for his ingenious theory, the facts and the well-known aggressiveness of the hitherto unbeaten "Stonewall" are against it.

Another reputable and unquestioned authority that I would quote is Col. William Allan, aide-de-camp to "Stonewall" Jackson, who, in his biography of the great Confederate General, says: "Early in March (1862) Jackson was at Winchester. On March 23 he attacked Banks's division. In this battle (at Kernstown) he (Jackson) was defeated. * * * Jackson retreated up the Shenandoah." PATRICK J. FORD, JR.

BROOKLYN, Sept. 17.

Henry Clay Was Defeated by a War Hero.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the Henry Clay volume of "Little Journeys to the Homes of American Statesmen," by Elbert Hubbard, I find the following, which applies to a situation in New York at the present time:

"When Clay ran against Jackson for the Presidency he found that a peace hero has no such place in the hearts of men as a war hero. Jackson had not a tithe of Clay's ability, and yet Clay's defeat was overwhelming. 'Peace hath her victories'—yes; but the average voter does not know it. The only men who have received overwhelming majorities for President have been war heroes. Obscure men have crept in several times, but popular diplomats—never."

NEW YORK, Sept. 18. B.

The Japanese Method.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The present discussion of the question whether water or wine should be used in naming the battleship Illinois has led to the suggestion that the Japanese custom in launching a ship be adopted. What a beautiful vision is presented of a flock of doves loosed from the ship's deck as the vessel is named! S.

SCRANTON, Pa., Sept. 17.

Autumn in the Country.

From the Punxsutawney Spirit.

Pumpkin pie and apple cider!
Out 'er loose and open wider!
Ain't no time like fruitful autumn;
Rick 'r nuts in river bottom!
Who said fall was melancholy?
Just the time to be real jolly!
Stir that steaming apple butter;
Fry them doughnuts—hear 'em sputter!
See them trees with apples laden;
See the buxom country maiden!
Scenes of plenty, bliss Arcad'n.
Sparkling eyes and rosy features!
Joyous, blessed, happy creatures;
Apple snits and pumpkin slices;
Eggs and butter bring good prices!
Gran'ries full and runnin' over;
Bulging haymows sweet with clover.
Country sausage! Goodness, land sakes!
Hurry up them buckwheat pancakes!
My, oh, my! But don't we pity
Poor fo'ks livin' in the city!

"THE LOTTERY OF SOULS."

A Current Story Concerning Mexican Church Methods Critically Examined.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Since the beginning of the present year there has been a fantastic item of "fake" news floating through the columns of the New York daily press, and now that THE SUN has given it the honor of a place in its columns it is time to call public attention to this ambulating bit of nonsense.

The *Christian Endeavor World* is responsible for its first appearance. About ten months ago it was presented as follows in the columns of that paper:

The Rev. Francis S. Borton, a missionary in Puebla, Mexico, says that he recently saw the following notice in a Roman Catholic church in Mexico:

"Raffle for Souls—At the last raffle for souls the following numbers obtained the prize, and the lucky holders may be assured that their loved ones are forever released from the flames of purgatory:

"Ticket 841—The soul of the lawyer James Vasquez is released from purgatory and ushered into heavenly joys.

"Ticket 41—The soul of Mme. Calderon is made happy forever.

"Ticket 762—The soul of the aged widow Francesca de Parras is forever released from the flames of purgatory.

"Another raffle for souls will be held at the same blessed Church of the Redeemer, Jan. 1, at which four bleeding and tortured souls will be released from purgatory to heaven, according to the four highest tickets in this most holy lottery. Tickets $1. To be had of the father in charge. Will you, for the poor sum of $1, leave your loved ones to burn in purgatory for ages?"

A few weeks later some highly respectable journals in New York gave this remarkable item their serious attention and copied the canard with as much gravity as though it were a cable despatch.

By this time the Catholic newspapers found that patience had ceased to be a virtue. The Rev. Mr. Borton, the Methodist missionary to Puebla, was invited to explain upon which one of Mexico's numerous church doors from the Rio Grande to Yucatan he had found posted the document in question.

Mr. Borton declared that he made the translation on the spot from a written notice on the door of a church in the little town of Matamoros. The pastor of the church, Father S. C. de Leon, in a letter over his own signature in the *Southern Messenger* of San Antonio, Tex., asserted that the charge was false.

There is a commandment which says: "Thou shalt not bear false witness," but let us be charitable to this Protestant Christian minister and believe no worse of him than that he had but an indifferent knowledge of the Spanish language. If he knew anything of the Catholic Church, he would not need to be told that no Catholic priest pretends to know when any soul will be released from purgatory. On that foundation alone the "Lottery of Souls" canard dissolves and disappears.

We cannot hope to hear the last of this fable, however, now that THE SUN has taken it up in its issue of Sept. 12 and started it afresh on its wicked little round. The latest correspondent has changed the locality to Puebla Los Angeles, but has blundered strangely in not changing the winning numbers and even has not had the foresight to alter the names of the tortured souls whom the Methodist missionary has made happy by despatching them into paradise. The fortunate departed are: No. 841, James Vasquez; Nos. 41 and 762, the souls of Mme. Calderon and the old widow, Mme. Francesca de Parras. Now, when last heard from, these "three winners" were deceased members of the Church of the Redeemer in Matamoros, and their term of purgatorial detention had expired through the drawing of "a lucky number."

It would be interesting to receive the Rev. Mr. Borton's explanation of this little peculiarity in his clumsy calumny. The world, as it grows older, grows wiser, and sensible Protestants are becoming weary of time-worn, crazy accusations against the oldest Church in Christendom.

THE SUN, noted for its justice, will give this correction a wide circulation, but it cannot be hoped to crush the calumny, for as a great satirist has said: "A lie once set going, having the breath of life breathed into it by the father of lying and ordered to run its diabolical little course, lives with a prodigious vitality." A CONVERT OF 1894.

WHITE PLAINS, Sept. 16.

AMERICAN GUNS.

Some Remarks on Their Efficiency by One Who Knows Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There appeared recently on your editorial page a letter on American naval ordnance which criticised our guns. I have just been discharged from our navy and I speak from experience.

If the gentleman cares to go deeply into the matter he will learn that our American-built guns have no superiors anywhere.

If foreign guns are so greatly superior to ours, let him tell us why they all sag at the muzzle after being fired a few times.

Why, too, do British naval officers, authorities on naval ordnance, freely admit that they do not think their heavy guns would live through an engagement like that of Manila?

The gentleman has been deceived, egregiously deceived. I presume that it is because foreign guns of heavy calibre are so superior to ours that the new Japanese ships, the finest specimens in the world outside of our own fleets, are not to be armed with them. No, of course not! The Japanese Government likes to throw away good money, so it orders inferior guns, the guns our ships carry, pays more for them than for English or German guns, and is satisfied.

Take, for example, the 10-inch guns on one of our monitors. One of those guns is now about ten or twelve years old, has been fired nearly 650 times, and is in the same condition as when it left the foundry, except that it works better.

Perhaps the gentleman will remember how a great Krupp gun was taken from a British battleship a few years ago. Why? Because it sagged at the muzzle, the recoil mechanism worked so poorly that the shock of firing threatened to tear the decks to atoms, and because it was feared the gun would burst.

Experts of other countries have examined our guns with admiration and almost awe, their greater muzzle and initial velocities, penetration, stability, tensile strength and perfection making them far and away superior to any others.

Your correspondent says the 6-inch and 8-inch rifles on our cruisers are slow in action. I do not know the speed with which foreign guns of those, and also 13-inch calibre, may be fired, but I do know that the more rapidly a large gun is fired the less accurate is the aim and the more danger of bursting the gun through overheating or carelessness.

Finally, it is a crying shame that any one who calls himself an American, or even one who earns his living in the only free country in this world, should make invidious comparison with other lands, or otherwise try to belittle his own nation.

If the gentleman wants to run down the United States let him go abroad, renounce his allegiance to us and throw all the mud he chooses. A. S. RIGGS (ex-U. S. S. Nabant).

NEW YORK, Sept. 17.

The Kind-Hearted Women of Chattanooga.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My husband, an officer of the army, was stationed all summer in Chattanooga, and I have had an opportunity to see much of the sickness and suffering among the soldiers of Camp Thomas. As a constant reader of THE SUN, it would be a satisfaction to see in your columns a tribute to the noble-hearted women of Chattanooga, who with such untiring energy ministered to the wants of the sick and convalescent soldiers. Under the management of the Women's Christian Temperance Union they opened a reading room called "The Soldier's Rest," where the men could sit, read, or write. Owing to urgent circumstances afterward it became a temporary hospital, where scores of convalescent men, waiting for trains at the stations and too weak to do for themselves, were carried and received every attention at the hands of these kind-hearted women. Regardless of the intense heat, they visited the city and camp hospitals every day, carrying milk, soup, flowers, fans, and bandages. At their own expense they often hired carriages and ambulances to take the sick to and from the stations. All hospital trains passing through were visited by them, never empty handed, and many is the sorrowing mother they have cared for till she could get off with the body of her dead son.

At first these women worked entirely alone, giving from their own pockets, but gradually the public came to recognize the importance of the work they were doing, and food, clothes, flowers, and money came in from all quarters.

I can testify to having witnessed personally the unselfish goodness of those women, and feel that their kind deeds deserve recognition beyond Chattanooga. N.

HUNTSVILLE, Ala., Sept. 16.

The Favorite Son of Misfortune.

From the St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

No other political gamester in the country has been playing in such hard luck this year as has W. J. Bryan.

The Passing of the Rough Rider.

The herd has been corralled and shipped to Spain,
Much thanks to you, Rough Rider!
You've rounded 'em up and we sha'n't complain
If, after your months in the sun and rain,
You elect to give your pent feelings rein;
Whoop it up, Rough Rider!

Fill up and be frisky on coffin paint
If you like, Rough Rider.
We never supposed that your brand was saint;
We wanted a killer with nary taint
Of bashful forefinger, and none there ain't
In you, Rough Rider.

Remember the warning your Colonel spoke—
You know him, Rough Rider—
"For a week or two you're a damned fine bloke,
Then if you stay drunk you're a no 'count soak."
Now, while you're a hero, old heart of oak,
Farewell, Rough Rider!

DR. ECCLESTON RESIGNS.

The Rector of St. John's P. E. Church at Clifton, S. I., Insists Upon Retiring.

On the 1st of last May the Rev. Dr. John C. Eccleston, who for the past forty years has been rector of St. John's Protestant Episcopal Church, Clifton, Staten Island, tendered his resignation owing to his advancing years and ill health. A joint committee of the wardens, vestry and congregation of the church prevailed upon Dr. Eccleston to reconsider his resignation and accept an eight