The Sun.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 1899.

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.

Twin Currency Delusions.

Senator JONES, Chairman of the National Democratic Committee, reiterates his conviction that the Democratic National Convention in 1900 will declare for the free coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. He asserts that the present high price of wheat is caused by accidental short crops abroad, which will not soon occur again, and that other commodities have not shared in the advance; that the increased demand for labor is due to the recent war against Spain, and that the silver issue, in last year's elections, was sidetracked by others of local interest. The activity in stock speculation in Wall street, according to him, is no proof that the distress and hard times caused by adherence to the gold standard have disappeared, and, therefore, the free coinage of silver is still a necessary condition of prosperity.

Coincident with this cry for free silver, is the clamor from the little band of currency reformers, in Congress and out of it, for the retirement of Government paper currency and the substitution for it of a currency issued exclusively by banks and secured only by bank assets. Like Senator JONES, the bank currency advocates claim that they are backed by a majority of the people, and that the adoption of the measure they champion is the only safeguard against future disaster.

How completely astray are both Senator JONES and the currency reformers, facts demonstrate beyond dispute. The distress and hard times attributed to the want of free silver coinage exist in imagination only. The farmers who, two years ago, were most eager for a depreciated standard of value to lift them out of debt, have been relieved by a rise in the price of their products which has transformed them from borrowers of money into lenders of it. The war with Spain is over, yet all branches of industry are more active and the demand for labor greater than they ever were before. The stock speculation in Wall street is notoriously fed by the orders of citizens in all parts of the country, who have spare capital to invest and find difficulty in investing it. On the other hand, universal confidence prevails in our currency system and those that desire to reform it are a mere handful.

While, too, the silver fanatics are denouncing gold, and the currency reformers are denouncing the Government currency, the popularity of both is increasing. The Treasury is besieged by applications for Government notes, which it is unable to fill, and gold is going into circulation to supply the needs of business. Silver dollars will not be taken on any terms, but remain stored up by thousands of tons in the Treasury vaults. By the time, therefore, that the Presidential election of 1900 comes around, the country will be ready to vote both for more Government currency and for more gold coin, and silver and bank notes will be less in favor than ever.

The Outcome of the French Presidential Crisis.

The election of M. ÉMILE LOUBET to be President of the republic by a large majority of the Chambers in joint session is an event of good augury for the stability of free institutions in France. It indicates that the heart of the French people is sound at the core, and that their representatives in Parliament, when brought face to face with danger, know how to choose the path of safety. After all deductions have been made for the abruptness of the crisis whereby the plans of the reactionists were deranged, the fact remains that Saturday's voting at Versailles might have had a sinister result but for the self-effacing patriotism which held back MM. MÉLINE and DUPUY from competing with M. LOUBET for the post of Chief Magistrate.

Had M. FAURE died at the end of a lingering illness, or could the anti-revisionists have been warned of his approaching demise by so much as a week beforehand, there is reason to believe that either they would have arranged to elect a President favorable to their views, or, if hopeless of success in that direction, would have carried out the *coup d'état* which has been, for some time, apprehended. Recent events have proved that the anti-revisionists should have been preponderant in a joint session of the Chambers, if they could have gained time enough to concentrate and apply their strength. It will be remembered that the bill substituting the whole Court of Cassation for the criminal section of that tribunal, although denounced by the committee to which it was referred, was carried through the Chamber of Deputies by a majority of 116. Having passed to the Senate, it was approved by a vote of 5 to 4 in the committee of that body to which it was referred, and the natural inference was that it would be supported by a majority of the Senators. On the face of things, therefore, the anti-revisionists seemed likely, as we have said, to exhibit a marked preponderance in the joint session of the chambers.

They did not have time, however, to marshal their forces and to unite upon a candidate. On the one hand, M. LOUBET, the President of the Senate, had been, forthwith, put in nomination by most of his fellow Senators, including many who, although opposed to the Dreyfus agitation, were yet stalwart Republicans, and inclined, on general grounds, to favor a candidate of unchallenged probity and of proved devotion to the existing régime. We say of unchallenged probity, because, although he was Prime Minister at the time of the exposure of the Panama scandals, M. LOUBET was never even accused of personal complicity in the frauds which were brought home to so many Ministers, ex-Ministers, and Deputies. As regarded, moreover, the burning question of the moment, to wit: the Dreyfus affair, he had studiously avoided taking sides, and for that reason neither Premier DUPUY nor ex-Premier MÉLINE, although both are pronounced anti-revisionists, would consent to run against him. On the other hand, it was not until Saturday forenoon that the more violent opponents of DREYFUS, taking their cue from an article published that morning by M. QUESNAY DE BEAUREPAIRE, and from a report, which proved well founded, that the Radicals and Socialists would vote, to a man, for LOUBET, undertook to revive the candidacy of M. MÉLINE, notwithstanding the latter's refusal to permit the use of his name.

What the anti-revisionists might have accomplished, could they have obtained more time, may be judged from the fact that, although M. MÉLINE proclaimed loudly, when he cast his ballot, that it was thrown for M. LOUBET, they still managed to give the former 279 votes. When we bear in mind that, as it was, there were fifty-five scattering votes, and that, in spite of the support received from MM. MÉLINE and DUPUY, the majority for LOUBET over all was only 149, we can scarcely doubt that, could the anti-revisionists have obtained forty-eight hours' delay, they would have secured the 75 votes needed, in conjunction with the scattered ballots, to make M. MÉLINE Chief Magistrate in spite of his declared unwillingness. Under the circumstances we can appreciate the wisdom of the provisions in the Constitution of 1875 to the effect, first, that, in the event of a vacancy in the office of President, an election shall take place immediately, and, at all events, within three days; and, secondly, that, when the chambers meet in joint session for the purpose, the voting shall go on uninterrupted by debate or by any other kind of business. As a matter of fact, in this instance, less than two days elapsed between the death of M. FAURE and the choice of a new President.

As we have lately pointed out, the President of the French republic under the existing organic law, as this has been successively modified by Republican triumphs, has been almost entirely divested of personal power. A certain amount of moral influence, however, proportioned to the popular confidence in his character and ability, he can still undoubtedly exert, and this force, so far as it goes, will, during M. LOUBET's tenure of office, be arrayed upon the side of free institutions. Will it, also, be enlisted on behalf of the independence of the Judiciary, which is seriously threatened by the bill interfering with the normal procedure of the Court of Cassation? It is certain that the revisionists believe that this question should be answered in the affirmative, for, while shrewdly refraining from premature professions of faith, they gave him every vote that they could muster at Versailles.

Of some significance, also, seems a passage in the short speech which he made to those who first informed him of his election. After pointing out that a President's duty was to act as an arbiter between parties, instead of being a champion of any, he added: "Let us not, however, forget our principles. Let us not abandon a single one of the great principles which are the honor of the republic, and which assure the glory of France." Assuredly, one of those principles is the maintenance of a Judiciary independent alike of legislative and executive coercion. That is one of the political principles which the anti-revisionists repudiate, and it is not surprising that the bold and prompt avowal of it on the part of the new President should have provoked demonstrations of hostility in Paris, Saturday evening, on the part of DÉROULÈDE, DRUMONT and the anti-Semitic mob.

It is well known that the anti-revisionists had for some time exhibited a growing irritation against President FAURE, because, although he was known to share their sentiments, he was reluctant to countenance any extra-legal proceedings in their interest. They intended, it was reported, to force him shortly to resign. It remains to be seen whether they will not, like the frogs in the fable, witness the displacement of a King Log by a King Stork.

Contemporary Literature.

The speech of President MCKINLEY at Boston, with its serious utterances of statesmanship upon great questions of public policy, affords a welcome relief from the catchpenny attempts of a morally degraded and intellectually feeble journalism to agitate the public mind by exaggerating blemishes in the conduct of the war.

It is very remarkable that at this time when there is so much pride in American university development there are apparent no evidences of coincident and corresponding progress in any department of intellectual effort, more especially in current literary discussion. In science clever men are turned out, and they begin their careers with some paper which is full of promise, but almost invariably they stop there. We should make an exception in the field of medicine and surgery, for in it original and progressive minds are giving distinction to this country; but nowhere else do we find them. The prevailing indications are of smartness and shallowness; and in literature no successors ranking with the more notable writers who had won a right to serious literary consideration a generation ago are making their appearance. In both form and substance the new writers are wanting. They do not seem to have reached the stage of mature intellectual development. If in this younger generation of literary aspirants there has appeared a mind of distinction we have failed to discover it. Never since there began to be a considerable American literature has it seemed at so low an ebb as it is now, never a time when raw and untrained minds were so impudent in putting themselves forward as leaders in thought and masters in art.

Our journalism, too, has never before made so deplorable an exhibition of shallowness, insincerity, intellectual feebleness and moral debasement as it is making now, and among the examples of greatest degradation are newspapers of the greatest pretensions to superiority. They seem to be incapable of understanding the difference between evidence and assertion, proof and surmise, and keep up senseless cries on the theory that the public also is incapable of reasoning.

"Algerism!" What is that? The Secretary of War is at the head of a department made up of expert bureaus under distinguished and experienced army officers, who are accountable and who expect to be held accountable for the manner in which they discharge their strictly professional duties. They are throwing none of their responsibility on the shoulders of the Secretary, but insist, rather, that it shall be put wholly on their own shoulders. The Secretary himself is merely a subordinate of the Commander-in-Chief, the President, is purely an agent, and the President also insists that the full responsibility shall rest on him alone. It would seem to be a responsibility he could well afford to take, for the war through which we have gone was notable for its successful management, both military and administrative; with a maximum of gain, a minimum of loss. If "Algerism," then, is used as a term to define its conduct by the Administration, and that is the only meaning it can have, it signifies honor rather than reproach.

Another of these cries is "beef!" though how there can be any reproach in giving our troops the same kind of beef which is consumed by our people is hard to understand. Moreover, the Government has offered to everybody full opportunity to present any evidence prejudicial to the quality of the meat which can be produced. It has not avoided any accusation, but rather has invited opposing evidence and continues to invite it. A voluntary investigation is succeeded by an official military investigation, and nothing obtainable concerning the matter will be left unexposed. All the same, newspapers keep on yelling, "Beef! beef!" as if the Government was trying to escape from a responsibility it is assuming so openly. The subject is under judicial investigation by a sworn tribunal of military law, yet the ignoble newspaper crew persist in their monotonous howling.

As we have said, all this is occurring at a time when our university system is supposed to have advanced far beyond the old collegiate system of the past, with great consequent gain in the education and intellectual training of the generation now on the stage.

No Free Ship Bill.

The minority of the House Committee on the Merchant Marine have submitted a report against the Hanna-Payne ship bounty bill, declaring that at $8,250,000 a year for the prescribed twenty years it would cost $165,000,000.

But what substitute for bounties do the minority propose? Free ships. In other words, they would reverse a policy which has subsisted almost from the foundation of the Government, and is embodied in registry laws still on the statute book. The purpose of the law of 1792 was to give us a merchant marine that is not dependent on foreign shipyards. That policy was successful for seventy years, our tonnage in 1861 having risen to the great total of 5,539,812 tons. Then came the civil war, with the raids of Anglo-Confederate cruisers, which nearly ruined our foreign carrying trade. Nevertheless, Congress, against appeals to resort to free ships for recovering lost ground, clung to the registry laws, and on June 30, 1897, our total documented tonnage had reached 4,769,020 tons, or about one-eighth short of the high mark of 1861.

What protection for the American shipyard can do has also been shown by the working of the law passed about a dozen years ago, which required that all warships should thereafter be made wholly of American material. For a time the price of our war vessels was high, but it has since been steadily falling, and several years ago Secretary HERBERT was able to declare that the price per ton for the gunboats Nashville, Helena and Wilmington, built at Newport News, seemed "fully as low as is paid for similar work in France and England." The reduction on the cost of battleships in the last eight years has been no less remarkable, while recently we have seen American ship armor underbidding the foreign product for use in Europe, and cruisers and battleships ordered in Philadelphia and in San Francisco for the navies of Russia and Japan. Our transatlantic shipment of American steel rails is one of the great industrial wonders of the hour, and it would be hard to set a limit to the prospects of the steel industry.

The Commissioner of Navigation believes "the time is not many years distant when we shall build ships of iron or steel better and more cheaply than they can be built anywhere in the world," and certainly the tendency is that way.

The free ship proposition, then, is out of the question. Instead of being a movement of progress it would be one of retrograde. Whatever other policy may commend itself to Congress, it deserves no consideration. The law of May 10, 1892, admitting foreign-built ships on the construction of a like amount of tonnage here, has been of benefit, and an extension of it is one feature of the Payne-Hanna bill. But in no case should any free ship bill, in the full sense of that term, be passed.

The Colonel and the Kangaroos.

The melodramatic countenance of Col. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN stared from the newspapers of Minneapolis and St. Paul last week. The Colonel is looking well, in spite of militarism and imperialism. It is impossible not to notice, however, that his always thin lips have grown thinner. The compression of his martial days has left its mark. Yet this lips are still competent for their work, and splashing cascades of speech fell from them while he was in Minnesota.

The Colonel has tacked on his same old speech a few remarks about the dangers of a standing army and imperialism, but otherwise he is unrevised. He talked to the St. Paul Democrats about his old friend, the money trust, praised the Chicago Convention for representing "more faithfully and honestly the sentiments of the party upon public questions than any convention that has been held within a generation," and predicted that "the youngest [man in the] audience will not live long enough to see the Democratic party repudiate one plank of the Chicago platform." The Colonel has not come to a new edition yet, and people who read him in 1896 are not liable legally for not reading him now.

Of more immediate interest is the letter from a distinguished Minnesota Democrat, Judge SEVERANCE, which was read at the dinner of the St. Paul Democrats, where Col. BRYAN made his old speech. Judge SEVERANCE

"did not know what great national sin the United States had committed that she should be made the scavenger of the universe. He could not see why we should charge ourselves with educating a lot of kangaroos up to the American idea of liberty and justice. He did not know why the United States should clean the guano out of the city of Manila."

At the conclusion of the letter "the crowd gave vent to wild applause." The St. Paul Democrats had no perception of any duty of the United States to the Philippines, of the commercial and naval value of the Philippines to the United States, of the service to civilization of such "scavenger" work as Gen. LEONARD WOOD has been doing in Santiago. An opportunity to educate kangaroos and be scavengers is all the St. Paul Democrats can see for America in the Philippines. Judge SEVERANCE's letter and Col. BRYAN's 1896 speech throw a strange light on the Democratic party.

The Referendum in South Dakota.

South Dakota was admitted into the Union in November, 1889, and has adhered almost continuously since to the new-fangled plan of leaving everything pertaining to the essentials of State administration to the direct vote of the people. At the first general election, held in October, 1889, these questions were submitted to the voters: First, the adoption of the proposed Constitution; second, the adoption of a radical prohibition clause forbidding the manufacture or sale of intoxicating liquors, and third, the adoption of a clause providing for minority representation in the Legislature. The Constitution was adopted, the prohibition clause was carried by a small majority, but minority representation was defeated by a large vote.

In 1890 the first State election was held under the Constitution adopted the year before, and additional questions were submitted to the voters: an Indian suffrage amendment, disqualifying tribal Indians for the suffrage, a woman suffrage amendment, to omit the word "male" from the Constitution, both of which were defeated, and an amendment creating a State debt, which was adopted.

Last year the question of woman suffrage was again submitted to the voters, and the result as compared with 1890 was:

	For.	Against.	Majority Against.
1890	22,972	45,682	22,710
1898	19,689	22,983	3,294
Decrease	3,283	22,699	

Both the supporters and the opponents of woman suffrage profess to find encouragement in these returns, each side seeing in them a decline in numbers among their adversaries. It would seem rather that the lesson is that the voters have become less interested in the question.

A liquor amendment, submitted simultaneously, did away with the prohibition clause in the Constitution, and was adopted by 22,170 to 20,557. That is, prohibition was rejected in 1898 by a majority about the same as that by which it had been accepted in 1889.

This is an anxious hour for the Hon. JOSEPH CLAY STILES BLACKBURN and Gen. P. WAT HARDIN. According to the *Cincinnati Enquirer*, a horrible, hairy, inhuman apparition has been frightening the people of Ruckerville, KY. It is "a large black beast, ungainly in movement, ferocious in appearance, with wide red stripes around its body, a long bushy tail, and takes long strides like a kangaroo." There is too little reason to doubt that this is the Money Devil. He is after BLACKBURN and HARDIN, and he will get them if they don't watch out.

It had been a day of triumph in Springfield, Ill. "McGOORTY's tall frame quivered with the passion that convulsed him." McGOORTY "hurled thunderbolts" at the Speaker of the House, and all the Democrats helped McGOORTY hurl. McGOORTY's voice "pierced the din like a razor." He accused the Speaker of "trampling on the constitutional rights" of the Democratic members. The Speaker's face "turned white" as McGOORTY led a rush against him. The voice of Mr. HURST, centre rush, "quivered." His index finger, raised high in air near the Speaker's nose, quivered also. The Speaker's "teeth rattled like the snapping of a bear-trap, at the same time pushing the heavy gavel against the oak desk." An accomplished set of teeth. Except as to his teeth, the Speaker was not rattled. The programme was carried out. MALATO (Dem.) of Chicago jumped on a desk, shook his finger at the American flag behind the Speaker, and cried in accents wild:

"Tear down that flag and run up the Russian standard. That flag is an insult to the members of the House."

By this time "the Speaker's eyes were shining like those of an angry snake." It was a great day, especially for McGOORTY and the Springfield correspondent of the *St. Louis Republic*.

It is said that the Philippines are rich in gold deposits.—*St. Louis Republic.*

This confirms the suspicion that the Money Trust is at the bottom of the accursed plot to subvert Col. AGUINALDO and govern him without his consent. The Hon. JIM JONES of Arkansas has his gerfalcon eye on the Money Trust and its plot. If the Money Trust doesn't quail in a few days it will be because it has become domesticated and is used to JONES.

The Code of Civil Procedure.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The report of the Committee of the New York State Bar Association on Code Revision has been printed and affords food for reflection. Upon the theory that the Code of Civil Procedure is crude, diffuse and badly arranged, the committee proposes something radical in the way of revision, or to simplify, to eliminate whatever does not strictly pertain to procedure, and to leave matters of detail to be regulated by court rules.

It may be observed in respect to the "elephantine proportions" of the Code, about which it complains, that, since the Code comprises laws relating to the organization of courts, the duties of officers who have to do with their machinery and other things that the committee thinks it ought not to contain, it is not more voluminous than was the body of law whose place it supplies. It was thought to be a good thing to collect between the covers of the Code cognate provisions scattered through many books and often hard to find, but which the practitioner needs to have always at hand. To scatter them again through the general statutes may make the Code look smaller and enable the novice to delude himself with the pleasing notion that its proportions are no longer "elephantine." It can accomplish little else.

The changes by which the committee proposes to prosecute its work of simplification fill us with misgivings. On this branch of the subject much might be said. Two illustrations, however, will suffice.

The committee has grouped into a single section, under the heading "General Powers of Courts of Record," the following:

1. To issue subpœnas. 2. To administer oaths. 3. To punish for contempts. 4. To make regulations not inconsistent herewith. 5. To do all other acts incident to its jurisdiction.

Now, it is obvious that this is by no means what it purports to be, a summary of the general powers of courts of record. It is merely an enumeration of a few incidental powers. The general powers are those which enable courts to hear and determine actions and proceedings; but this enumeration wholly omits to mention the fundamental powers of issuing process by which actions and proceedings may be begun, parties brought into court and the judgments and orders of the courts enforced; and it omits that which is the soul of all, the power to decide controversies. It is once more the play of "Hamlet" with Hamlet left out.

Again, the same section accomplishes something its framers never intended. It empowers courts by their rules to repeal all existing statutes regulating practice and substitute their own rules therefor, provided only that such rules be not inconsistent with the provisions of the "Judiciary law" of which it is a part, and which, by the way, is not intended to contain any provisions whatever regulating practice.

The danger of an attempt to abridge the language of existing provisions of the Code is well illustrated by the proposed provision that an appeal from a judgment must be taken within thirty days after service upon the *adverse* party of a copy of the judgment. Who is the adverse party? Adverse to whom? The natural meaning is adverse to the party appealing. But the committee intends no such meaning. In the text as it now stands no such inaccuracy exists.

The committee justly inveighs against the constant current of amendment. To this malady it straightway proceeds to apply the homœopathic remedy of another amendment.

What the Code most needs is to be let alone. Its doubtful provisions have been illustrated by a multitude of decisions. Its contents and peculiarities of arrangement are familiar to practitioners. The profession can get along far better with the Code as it is than with a mass of new and equally crude provisions, to be studied and harmonized and made the stock on which to engraft another myriad of judicial decisions at the expense of litigants. LEX.

SARATOGA, Feb. 16.

Campania and St. Paul Arrive on Sunday.

The Cunarder Campania and the American liner St. Paul, which frequently arrive on Friday evening in good weather, got into port yesterday, the Campania first. She reached her dock about 8 o'clock in the morning. She ran into strong westerly gales in the Irish Sea, and on leaving Queenstown met with winds of almost hurricane velocity. Her runs the first day in the open sea was but 300 knots. Her runs for the other days were 410, 452, 284, 498, 505 and 347.

The St. Paul, which got up early in the afternoon, encountered the same storms. She made daily runs of 325, 370, 342, 241, 477, 483 and 482 knots.

The enforcement of the customs regulations was so modified by the use of discretion on the part of inspectors and appraisers that there was little delay in the examination of passengers' baggage from either ship and practically no kicking on the part of the passengers.

MOVING ICE ON THE LAKE.

Sounds Like the Booming of Cannon Tell of Its Breaking Away from Shore.

From the Chicago Daily Tribune.

The immense ice field which covered the entire head of Lake Michigan during the recent cold wave, and which is estimated to have contained not less than 1,000 square miles of ice, has disappeared. The warm weather of the last two days, coupled with the southwest gale which has been sweeping out from land, loosened the ice from the shore and drove it far down the lake. Sounds like the discharge of cannon were heard when the big floe took its departure, and so violent were the detonations that buildings on shore were shaken and a globe on a hanging lamp in the four-mile crib was shattered by the shock. The occupants of the Sixty-eighth street crib were at the table when the shocks came, and they were so startled by the heavy reports and the trembling of the structure that they ran out of doors hatless.

"The noise was like the sound Dewey's guns must have made when he cleaned out the Spanish fleet in Manila Bay," said Capt. William Smith of the Morford. "The water had been falling at the crib and we were in the house when the first report came. The crib trembled like an earthquake, and we all rushed out of doors in time to see the field begin to move. It tore past the crib about three miles an hour. The ice between the crib, South Chicago piers and Sixty-eighth street pumping station piers was held by the crib for a time, but that gave way during the night and commenced piling up against the structure. First a big cake would slide over the rest and land almost on the breakwater and then fall back, to be ground into powder by the one riding over it in turn. The roaring and cracking were terrible, and the third, fourteen-inch ice kept up a heavy grinding against the breakwater of the crib until the last had gone by. I think the loud cracks were caused by the water falling faster than the ice and air getting under, which became compressed and blew up the ice.

The tug Morford, which was compelled to remain at the Sixty-eighth street crib a week, owing to a hole which was out in its side by the ice, was brought into port yesterday, and in the entire trip it encountered no ice. A few detached cakes are in sight and a fringe of ice along the shore, but the rest of it is gone. Vesselmen say the next north wind will bring most of the ice back, unless a long warm spell comes to melt it.

Capt. Kelley, keeper of the Sixty-eighth street crib, had a narrow escape from being lost. He started to walk ashore over the ice on Tuesday afternoon, and soon afterward the first noises indicating the disruption of the ice began. The men at the crib feared he might not escape, but two hours later Capt. Kelley telephoned from shore that he was all right.

Capt. Miller, keeper of the four-mile crib, reported that the ice ran by his castle in the lake at a rate of two miles an hour.

"It shook up everything pretty freely," he said, "and it piled up against the crib as if it would overwhelm the structure. For about eighteen hours it kept up a constant cannonading, every loud report being plainly felt in the cribhouse."

The ice was pretty well broken up when it passed the Lake View crib, and the keepers there did not have such thrilling experiences as those at the other cribs.

Mexico's Sign Language.

From Modern Mexico.

Mexico is a land of many tongues; but, above the Indian dialects and Spanish, there is one universal language—the language of signs. It is the most expressive of all; the Mexican eye and hand are eloquent members. It is capable of infinite variations; its shadings and suggestions are beyond all translation. But there are certain gestures that have a fixed meaning, a signification well understood by every nation and every tribe from Guatemala to Texas.

A general upward movement of the body, shoulders shrugged, eyebrows raised, lips pouted and palms outspread, varies in meaning from "I don't know and I don't care" to a most respectful, "Really, sir, I do not understand you."

The index finger moved rapidly from right to left, generally before the face, means "No more" or simply "No." To move the right hand palm outward from the body toward another person means "Just wait, I'll be even with you yet."

The index finger on the temple, moved with a boring twist, means "He's drunk."

The right hand held to the lips, three fingers doubled, thumb and little finger erect, varies from "He drinks" to "Have one on me."

To move the open hand over the cheek in imitation of a razor has reference to the idiom "playing the barber," and means "to flatter."

All four fingers and the thumb held points together and moved toward the mouth means "to eat."

The right hand held before the face, the two middle fingers moving rapidly, is a familiar salutation.

Greek Women of Old.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to an article in to-day's SUN, entitled "Mr. Depew and the Greek Women," I beg to differ with the views it presents. Mr. Depew was altogether correct in his statements as to the intellectual condition of the ancient Greek woman, since he undoubtedly intended them to apply to the general condition of women at that period. "An Athenian matron was expected to live at home. She was not allowed to be present at the games or the theatres; she was bound, when she appeared in public, to be veiled, and to hasten whither she was going without delay; she received no education, and could not share the elevated thoughts or ideas of her husband." (Sanger, Demosthenes against Nerra, p. 1380; Becker, Charicles, 2, 215.) It was only among the "Hetairæ" (kept women) that the splendid examples of female intellectuality are to be found. "They alone of their sex saw the plays of Alexander and Aristophanes; they alone had the entrée of the studios of Phidias and Apelles; they alone heard Socrates reason, and discussed politics with Pericles; they alone shared in the intellectual movement of Greece." (Sanger, History of Prostitution.) The leading trait in their history is their intellectuality. (Grote's History of Greece, 6, 100.)

Among these women may be mentioned Aspasia, who lectured publicly on rhetoric and philosophy, and with such marked ability that she counted among her patrons and lovers the first men of Greece, including Socrates, Alcibiades and Pericles. She continued her lectures on philosophy with undiminished success to the day of her death. (Plutarch, Life of Pericles, 24, 32; Demosthenes against Nerrea, p. 1350; Aristophanes Acharnn, 497; Athenæus, 13, 25-56).

Hipparchia, the friend and successor of Aspasia, who was one of the most esteemed and voluminous authors of her day. (Diogenes Laert, 6, 96.)

Bacchis, the mistress of Hyperides. (Athenæus, 13, 56; Alciphron's Letters, 30.)

Gnathena and Gnathenion were famous as wits; the biography of the former was written in verse by the poet Machon. (Athenæus, 13, 39.)

"Lais was as remarkable for wit and information as for her matchless figure and lovely face. She refused $2,000 from the orator Demosthenes; but yielded gratuitously to the ragged cynic Diogenes, and graciously shared the patrimony of the philosopher Aristippus" (Sanger). It was while the mistress of the latter that she publicly debated with Xenocrates, the disciple of Plato.

Leontium, the mistress of the philosopher Epicurus. "She composed several works; among others, one against Theophrastus, which excited the wonder and admiration of so good a judge as Cicero" (Sanger).

It was to women of this class that all intellectual conditions were exclusively confined; and, so far as the Greek woman in general was concerned, Depew was correct in stating that she was devoid of education.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb. 12. G. G. FAUGHT.

Pronunciation Here.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Anent "Pronunciation Found Here by a Westerner" in to-day's issue of your newspaper, will you permit another Westerner to add to the stock accumulated by Mrs. or Miss Mary Ann Brown? For example, the letter "u" appears to be the shibboleth by which New Yorkers "give themselves away." For years I have heard "dooty," "nooze," "noozepaper," "alsolootly," "resolootion," and so on and on. Down in Baltimore, on the Eastern Shore and in tidewater Virginia, the sounding of the "r" in four, more, &c., made me an object of wonder to those who always say "foh," "mo," &c.—and yet I received my education at Annapolis, Md. A. P. U.

FEB. 16.

A Champion of the Automobile.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I greatly fear "Neigh-Neigh-Neigh" is not a horse, but an ass. One of the most powerful locomotive engines in the world was stalled on the New York Central this week, utterly unable to pull its load. Are we, therefore, to give up locomotives and draw the Empire State express by horses? The automobile is here to stay, and I'm glad of it. MULE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 18.

Suffrage and Divorce.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A correspondent in your columns refers to divorce in Wyoming. During the twenty years after full suffrage was granted to the women of Wyoming (1870 to 1890) divorce in the United States increased about three times as fast as the population. In the group of Western States, omitting Wyoming, it increased almost four times as fast as the population. In Wyoming it increased only about half as fast as the population.

Yet in Wyoming, as in most of the Western States, divorce is not particularly hard to get. This makes it the more remarkable that so few persons wish to be divorced. Evidently, equal suffrage has not destroyed the happiness of the home. M. M.

FEB. 16.

WHERE CENTENARIANS GROW.

Five Persons in Madison County, Ind., Have Passed the Hundred Mark.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

Action has been brought by one of his daughters to have a guardian appointed for Alexander Ferguson of Gilman, Madison county, Ind. Ferguson is the oldest man in eastern Indiana and possibly in the State. He has just passed his 107th birthday. Until within the last year his mind has been as sound as his body, and he has been able to recall incidents of eighty and ninety years ago as though they had happened yesterday.

This action has brought to light the fact that there are five people in Madison county who have passed the 100-year mark. Ferguson is the dean of the men and his sister, Mrs. Bettie Carolton, who lives near Franklin, heads the women, with 111 years to her credit. Summitville claims the next distinction, presenting Thomas Wells, aged 106. Wells was born in Falmouth, Pendleton county, Ky., in 1793, but has lived in Indiana since 1824. He presents his mother's records as proof and his person is good evidence of his statement. His father was a soldier in the Revolutionary War under Washington's command and spent the winter of 1779 at Valley Forge.

Monroe Hedges was 106 years of age on Feb. 11, and he looks it. He has been a cripple for fifteen years and is scarcely able to move. Mentally, however, he is most active and sees a bright side to his gloomy life. He is very poor and lives with his 80-year-old wife and two sons. He is a Kentuckian by birth. He was born in Fleming county, near Flemingsburg, and comes from a distinguished family of Kentucky pioneers. Many of his people have been very prominent in Kentucky life and have served in Congress and in the State Legislature. He became a circus rider at eighteen and was the star attraction with that pioneer of all circuses—Baily, Brown & Stickney's. He travelled over eighteen States, which was, ninety years ago, a most remarkable feat for any man. He followed the occupation of a jockey after that and rode his last race at Lebanon, Ind., when he was 79, and won it. He remembers when the Kentuckians regarded Indiana as an impenetrable forest north of the knobs which lined the north bank of the Ohio.

WAR BOOMED A SOUTHERN TOWN.

Jacksonville Rolled in Wealth—Shoe Dealer and Pieman Become Millionaires.

From the Atlanta Journal.

"Did the soldiers help Jacksonville?"

"Well, I should say so," remarked a citizen of that place at the Kimball this morning.

"First and last," he said, "we had about 50,000 soldiers camped in and near Jacksonville. It is estimated that they spent in the city not less than $500,000 a month for several months. That is a reasonable estimate, I think, because these soldiers spent more than an average of $11 a month during their stay. They spent as a rule all they made while there, or over $15 apiece monthly.

"This money was put in actual circulation and everybody got some of it, from the peddler on the street to the merchant prince. The retail trade was something great and the saloon trade was simply enormous. On pay days it was almost impossible for a citizen to get a drink so large were the crowds of soldiers patronizing the saloons. I know a saloonist who had a small rented place. He made enough money to buy his saloon building and spent $10,000 in putting up a roof garden. A shoe man who had a little store now owns three fine shoe stores, and is going to build a handsome opera house. I know of a small hotel which cleared $15,000 in that city of hotels.

"Everybody," said he, "made money, and many people got rich. I know of a wholesale firm which sold Government supplies. At various times they got checks for $190,000, $90,000, $175,000. That was doing business right along.

"An Italian had a little hole-in-the wall where he sold pies and sandwiches. He moved out to the big camp and opened up on a larger scale, dealing in lunches, hot coffee, &c.

"Now he owns the swellest restaurant in Jacksonville, with beveled mirrors and marble-topped tables, and employs six cashiers.

"Yes, sir; make no mistake. The soldiers were worth millions of dollars to Jacksonville, and the money they spent will help the city for years to come, because hundreds of thousands of it were put in permanent improvements and many lines of legitimate business."

Woman's Trick to Draw a Pension.

From the Kansas City Journal.

It was briefly recounted in the telegrams the other day that Mrs. Harriette D. Mealer, a wealthy and prominent woman of Rush county, had been arrested on the charge of defrauding the Pension Department. A most singular story is revealed in this affair. Mrs. Mealer came to Rush county about fifteen years ago with a family of grown-up children. She had been a widow ever since the close of the civil war, her husband having been killed in battle. She at once took a prominent place in the best society and was regarded as a leader in church affairs. Commencing about two years ago, she would go to Missouri for weeks at a time, and it was the supposition of her friends that she was visiting kinefolk. But in some manner the United States authorities got an intimation that something was wrong, and they placed a detective on the track of the woman, with the result of finding that she was married to a Missouri man, and that her visits were to him instead of to other kinsfolk. When arrested at La Crosse by Deputy Marshal Trigg she had just returned from a six weeks' stay with her husband. Her own children were shocked and astounded when they found that their mother had married again, and it is needless to say that Rush county regards the affair as a great sensation. Mrs. Mealer's crime consists in having drawn a pension after she had married again.

No Woman in a Kansas Priest's Play.

From the Kansas City Journal.

The friends of Father Philip Williams, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart at Atchison, claim that he is the first priest in Kansas and the first person in Atchison to write a play that has been rendered before the public. The play written by Father Williams is entitled "The Gallows Cheated," and it was rendered before an Atchison audience by the Cyrano Dramatic Club of the Catholic College. Its hero is a young man who went generally to the devil and finally committed a murder for which he was to hang the next day. His father comes to see him in prison, but, in order to spare the old man's feelings, he denies any relationship and sends the old man away rejoicing, after which he curls up and dies with heart disease, thus cheating the gallows. The play has oceans of tears and much anguish in it, but it may be searched from one end to the other without finding a woman.

Righteous Retribution.

From the Philadelphia Call.

It was at a matinée performance. A well-known actor was annoyed by two young ladies behind him. One was telling the other that he was a periodical visitor at her home, while two other girls asked any number of impudent questions about him. After the performance the actor approached the quartet and grasped the talkative girl's hand, exclaiming:

"Why, Annie, how do you do? How is your mother?"

The girl was indignant, of course, but he kept on, and, shoving several of his cards in her hand, he said:

"Give the girls one of my cards, won't you, Annie, and introduce me."

The girl saw the name and wilted.

Insane from Snake Bite.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

MOREHEAD, Ky., Feb. 16.—Mrs. Binda Gilliam has been adjudged insane by Judge Nickel and sent to the asylum at Lexington. Mrs. Gilliam became insane from the effects of a bite from a poisonous snake.

An American Academy.

From Literature.

The responses to the suggestion by *Literature* of a ballot for ten charter members of a proposed Academy of American Immortals up to the morning of the 14th of February are as follows:

W. D. Howells	7	Paul Leicester Ford	1
John Fiske	6	Capt. A. T. Mahan	1
Mark Twain	6	James Whitcomb Riley	1
Thomas Bailey Aldrich	5	Edmund Clarence Stedman	1
Charles Dudley Warner	4	Henry Cabot Lodge	1
Bret Harte	4	Richard Watson Gilder	1
S. Weir Mitchell	4	Henry M. Alden	1
Henry James	3	Elizabeth Stuart Phelps Ward	1
George W. Cable	2	Richard Harding Davis	1
John Burroughs	2	Henry B. Fuller	1
Henry Van Dyke	2	Mrs. Annie Trumbull Slosson	1
Frank R. Stockton	2	Joel Chandler Harris	1
Donald G. Mitchell	2	John C. Van Dyke	1
Richard Henry Stoddard	2	Henry E. Krehbiel	1
Bronson Howard	1	Lafcadio Hearn	1
Bliss Carman	1		
Owen Wister	1		
Margaret Deland	1		

A Blunt, Bold Statement.

From the New York American Wine Press and Mineral Water News.

Our wine makers are to-day producing cheaper and better wines than their counterpart in Europe.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The contest for the Democratic nomination for Mayor of Chicago between Carter H. Harrison and John P. Altgeld is becoming ever more bitter, with the present indications of a split favorable to the election of a desirable and popular Republican. The salary of the Mayor of Chicago is $7,000. The vote of Chicago is pretty evenly divided between the two parties, with the preference on the Democratic side. The German-American vote of Chicago is very large, and though Mr. Harrison received the bulk of it in the election of April, 1897, it is the opinion of well-informed persons that Mr. Altgeld would get a majority of it this year if regularly in the field for Mayor. There