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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.

A Dream.

Numerous citizens of larger or smaller political consequence, who in 1896 left the Democratic party and did not vote for its candidates, are still, under the title of "Democrats," busy formulating platforms for the Democracy in 1900. After failure inside the party to make its platform satisfactory to themselves, they are now seeking to make it suitable from the outside.

It is not for us to usurp the right of Democrats, that is, genuine Democrats, or supporters of the Chicago platform, to object to these alien endeavors to regulate the affairs of their party. The opinion may be properly expressed by any one, however, that the regulating process is foredoomed to failure.

The bulk of the Democracy has launched itself upon a course of political and social radicalism. Even should it consent to replace with other phrases or other aims the stereotyped declarations of Bryanism, to which the reconstructing bolters object particularly, the party that in 1896 plunged into the sea of populism and turned squarely against the Jeffersonian principles of equal rights cannot be expected ever to return to their support.

Reëstablishment of the original Democracy is a dream. The advocates of it to-day are dreamers, and, being dreamers, are indifferent to the practical defence of the national prosperity, honor and order which Bryanism threatens.

What Is a "Sphere of Influence?"

As we are likely to hear a good deal about the "sphere of influence" in China claimed by this or that foreign power, it is well to keep in view precisely what is signified by the term. A definition is the more desirable because those who employ the words in diplomatic correspondence are not agreed about their meaning. During the recent debate, for instance, in the House of Commons, Mr. BRODRICK, the Parliamentary Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, showed that he had certain discriminations in meaning on the subject in his mind, but he declined to admit that the phrase bore the significance most frequently attached to it. He pointed out that a "sphere of influence" would be comparatively valueless if, by it, you merely intend to indicate a region in which you have a right to be heard when any change connected with it is made. On the other hand, the purport of the term might be expanded until it would amount, practically, to a protectorate. According to Mr. BRODRICK, however, "if you mean by sphere of influence in a given district that only the power which claims it should be allowed to construct any useful work of any sort or kind therein, then the term is completely novel to diplomatic discussion."

There are, then, at least three kinds of spheres of influence, and it would need an international agreement to determine which of the two more substantial kinds is contemplated in a particular case. No formal sanction, on the other hand, is required for the species of claim advanced by England during a large part of this century to be heard before any dismemberment of the Ottoman Empire should be carried out. Not even Turkey itself ever conceded by treaty to England this function of guardian or "next friend;" much less was the lawfulness of the claim acknowledged beforehand by other European powers, although England's right to interpose at the time of the Crimean war, and, again, after the Russians had imposed upon the Sultan the treaty of San Stefano, may be said to have been practically recognized by the Congress of Paris and by the Congress of Berlin. We are often told, too, that England regards Afghanistan as within her sphere of influence, but this does not mean that the Ameer ABDURRHAMAN is not an independent sovereign, or that his power to conclude treaties with foreign powers is limited. We come next to the relation of England to the South African Republic. Beyond a doubt the latter country should be described as within the former's sphere of influence, because, though otherwise independent, it cannot make treaties with foreign powers unless it previously secures for them the sanction of Great Britain. That evidently is an international relation, whose limits would have to be prescribed by an agreement between the British Foreign Office and the Pretoria Government.

We pass to still another definition of the phrase "sphere of influence," that, namely, adopted by the conference which arranged the partition of Africa among certain European powers. Here the German word *hinterland* describes more exactly the nature of the concession made to each of the powers concerned. By *hinterland* is signified a region, as yet unoccupied by Europeans, but lying behind or beside a territory already in the possession of a European power. The agreement is that each power may explore, improve and annex its *hinterland* at its leisure, and free from any interference on the part of the other parties to the compact. About this definition of *hinterland* there is no dispute; the conflicting claims of the French and English in the Valley of the Niger and in that of the White Nile and of its tributary, the Bahr-el-Ghazal, merely signify that, until recently, the boundaries of the French and English *hinterlands* in those quarters were unsettled. By the convention recently concluded, however, between Lord SALISBURY and M. DELCASSÉ, the boundaries have been laid down. It is agreed that these powers shall possess within their respective *hinterlands* exclusive rights of sovereignty, which, though at present inchoate, may be made actual at their good pleasure.

We come now to the practical question. Is "sphere of influence" synonymous with *hinterland*, as it is applied by Russia to Manchuria and by Germany to Shan Tung? Theoretically, it is not; for no claim to sovereignty is set up with respect to either of the provinces named. Even the nucleus of Russia's acquisitions, the Liao Tung peninsula, is, ostensibly, held under a lease, and the same thing is true of the German station at Kiao Chou Bay. But, while the Russians and the Germans do not lay claim, respectively, to sovereignty in Manchuria and Shan Tung, they do claim exclusive railway and mining privileges in those provinces, and thus, practically, give to the term "sphere of influence" the very meaning which, according to Mr. BRODERICK, it has not yet acquired in diplomatic discussion. As a matter of fact, the scope and validity of the definition assigned by Germany and Russia to the term "sphere of influence" in China has been acknowledged by the British Foreign Office, which, in communications with Berlin, has disavowed any desire to connect its naval station of Wei Hai Wei with the interior of Shan Tung. It has also accepted, under pressure, certain modifications imposed by Russia in the original contract of the Hong Kong and Shanghai Bank for the construction of the extension of the Northern Railway to Newchwang. It appears, then, that when we speak of spheres of influence in China, we should recognize that the phrase differs from *hinterland* only in its failure to assert a claim to sovereignty. In all other respects Shan Tung, during the period for which it is leased, will belong to Germany as fully and exclusively as if it were owned by her in fee. No one doubts, moreover, that long before the expiration of the lease the province will be formally annexed.

In "spheres of influence," thus defined, do Americans continue to enjoy the rights which China has previously granted to them by treaty? By law, no; by favor, yes. That is, at all events, the position which has been taken by Russia, and in which she is supported by France. It remains to be seen whether Germany will not concur in the view advocated by England and the United States, that a lessee of foreign territory takes his lease subject to the international obligations previously assumed by the lessor.

For Germany.

The latest occurrences at Apia and Mulinuu and thereabouts clear the whole Samoan situation at the cost of some American and English lives.

Three Governments agreed by treaty to guarantee good government in Samoa and to preserve peace and order there. The three Governments are those of the United States, Germany and Great Britain, in the order of signing the compact.

A rebellion arose in Samoa against the Government established by the treaty, and it has been fostered, promoted, encouraged and practically supported throughout by the local representatives of one of the parties to the treaty, Germany.

The paramount duty of the treaty Powers, in the present grave emergency, is to suppress the rebellion, to protect life and property, to prevent outrage, and to remove the cause of trouble and danger by deporting the leader of the rebels.

That is the duty of the United States, Germany, and Great Britain jointly. In the exercise of that duty, the representatives of at least two of the three treaty Powers declared at an end the so-called provisional government of the rebel MATAAFA; and thereupon Admiral KAUTZ, as the senior naval officer of the Powers responsible for peace and order in Samoa, issued a proclamation ordering MATAAFA and his adherents to disperse.

We say at least two of the three treaty Powers, for it does not appear from the despatches whether the German Consul-General ROSE participated in the conference. Probably not; or, if present, only as a protesting minority, for after Admiral KAUTZ'S warning to the rebels to go to their homes, and after MATAAFA and his followers had evinced a disposition to obey, the German Consul-General issued a proclamation of his own upholding the provisional government of the rebel MATAAFA. Thus supported and encouraged to defy the Powers acting under the treaty, MATAAFA resumed his active rebellion, attacked Apia, and in so doing killed three British sailors and one American.

As to Germany, the alternative is so plain now that it hardly requires statement. That Government must either repudiate Consul-General ROSE and his acts, or it must repudiate the treaty of Berlin. As a party to the treaty it cannot uphold its representatives in upholding rebels against the government established by the treaty, and we do not believe that Germany will undertake so to do.

Section 7 of the third article of the compact between the United States, Germany, and Great Britain provides:

"In case any difference shall arise between either of the treaty Powers which they shall fail to adjust by mutual accord, *such difference shall not be held cause for war*, but shall be referred for adjustment in the principles of justice and equity to the Chief Justice of Samoa, who shall make his decision thereon in writing."

The German Government has not yet, so far as is known, repudiated the Chief Justice whom it joined in establishing in authority in Samoa. It has not signified its approval of the attempted overthrow of the supreme tribunal by the rebel natives, the former German President of the Municipal Council, and the present Imperial Consul-General in Samoa.

Therefore, there is no international conflict involved in the present situation, provided that Germany meets her responsibility and does her duty, under the treaty, and does it promptly.

Our Force in the Philippines.

There are to-day, under Gen. OTIS, in Luzon, MACARTHUR'S division of four brigades, WHEATON'S, H. G. OTIS'S, HALE'S and HALL'S, and LAWTON'S, of two brigades, OVESSHINE'S and KING'S. In the Visayas, at Iloilo, Negros and Cebu has been MILLER'S command of at least two regiments, three battalions and a battery. Within a few days we may expect to hear of the arrival of 1,600 regulars now on the way to Manila. These various forces amount, in round numbers, to 31,000 officers and men, or, allowing for recent losses, to 30,000. During April half a dozen regiments now under orders will leave San Francisco for Manila, increasing Gen. OTIS'S force to 35,000. Finally, if he needed them, he could have a strong landing party of marines and bluejackets from the fleet.

The largest force we ever have seen attributed to AGUINALDO was 35,000, an estimate of SIXTO LOPEZ of the Philippine Junta in this country. Last summer AGUINALDO'S own estimate was 30,000, while Gen. GREENE at that time said that only about half as many were visible around Manila. Of course he can resort to conscription, but the effectiveness of untrained natives obtained in that way may be imagined. Opposed to our soldierly array they might add a leaven of demoralization.

Apparently, then, even in numbers we have sufficient, while there can be no comparison between the two forces in efficiency. Gen. GREENE reported last August that AGUINALDO'S army consisted of young men and boys, without artillery and without cavalry, who, should they attack us, would "certainly be driven back to the hills," there to indulge in guerrilla warfare while their ammunition lasted, which could not be very long under the pursuit of our army and the coast patrol of the fleet. Since then AGUINALDO has undoubtedly imported ammunition, but he has also used up a good deal. He has the benefit of knowledge of the country, but our advantages in fieldpieces and machine guns and in the co-operation of the fleet, as well as in organization, training and marksmanship, are very great. The depletion of AGUINALDO'S army by its losses must also have been heavy.

The conclusion is that we shall have all the force we need in the Philippines for our work, especially as we could easily add to the Sixth, Ninth, Thirteenth, Sixteenth and Twenty-first infantry and the artillery regiment, soon to go, other reinforcements of regulars. The act of Congress specially provides for retaining the volunteers now in the Philippines for six months, and this privilege will certainly be exercised before replacing them with new volunteers. The formal exchange of the peace-treaty ratifications has yet to be made, and even when it is we may expect to find few of our gallant volunteers now fighting in the Philippines quitting the colors before the present campaign is over.

Sealing in the North Pacific.

The sealing schooner Geneva, which put into a California harbor the other day, reported the remarkable catch of 1,243 seals in little less than one month. The open season lasts until May 1, and the performance of this single vessel suggests what can be accomplished by pelagic hunting in the North Pacific alone, outside of Behring Sea. Pelagic sealing, as the Government expert, Dr. JORDAN, has said, "involves the indiscriminate killing of males and females, the latter forming at all times the greater part of the pelagic catch." Throughout February, March and April this work goes on.

At one time it was suggested that the close season should begin on April 1, instead of May 1, and the Geneva's experience shows that such a limit would allow a vessel, with good luck, to make a full catch in the spring, outside of the season in Behring Sea, beginning with Aug. 1. But this concession we have not yet been able to obtain. It was hoped that the Joint High Commission would do something to protect the seals, one report being that it would recommend the abolition of pelagic sealing by our Government's purchase of the sealing outfits. But as the commission has adjourned until August we must expect at least one more year of slaughter, and the Geneva has begun it.

Gen. Miles and "Embalmed Beef."

On the 5th of last November Major-Gen. MILES made his annual report to the Secretary of War, and with it submitted the reports of the general officers in charge of the military operations during the war, commanders of corps and departments, and their subordinate officers, numbering in all 262 reports and filling 676 octavo pages. Gen. MILES details the various plans of campaign proposed by him, which, fortunately, were rejected by the President, and describes with much particularity his own campaign in Porto Rico, pursued against trifling opposition, the whole number of casualties from July 25 to Aug. 13 having been three killed and forty wounded.

Throughout the thirty-eight octavo pages of his own report specifically, Gen. MILES makes no complaint, no criticism and no suggestion whatever as to the supply department of the army. Indirectly he conveys only praise, for he describes movements and operations which were uniformly successful, and could not have been successful if the task of the Subsistence Department had not been performed efficiently and with promptness, if the food supplied had not been good and sufficient. He makes no reference of any kind, direct or indirect, to any defect or inferiority of the meat supplies, has not a word to say about "embalmed beef" or canned beef. He makes no mention of any detection by him or by any officer under him of any such fault or of any fault of any kind or of any complaint of any, yet he describes with minuteness the occurrences and all the proceedings at the very time when, according to his testimony before the President's commission, he had discovered the "embalmed beef" outrage. The reports of officers serving in Porto Rico at that time fill many pages, but none of them makes the slightest reference to the beef ration, much less any complaint of it.

Nor is there any reference to the subject in the reports of the Generals or other officers serving in Cuba, the Philippines, or at home camps, though they are numerous and minute, except that in the reports of the Inspector-General and his subordinates the subject is very briefly and casually touched upon in three instances. The three and only criticisms of the beef ration we find in this huge volume fill, all told, a few lines merely. Lieut.-Col. CARLINGTON of the Inspector-General's department, Oct. 1, speaking of the travel ration of troops transported to Cuba, incidentally says that "the canned roast beef furnished was unpalatable and unsightly," and then dismisses the subject. Inspector-General BRECKINRIDGE criticises "the travel ration, as now constituted, as not altogether suited to use by soldiers travelling on the sea, or even for long journeys on land," and he adds: "The roast beef furnished is unsightly and soon unpalatable, and it sometimes becomes repulsive in the tropics to the average man. It would be well to consult the naval food list in the preparation of a travel ration for use on the transports." The canned roast beef, however, is a part of the navy ration. In opposition to that report is his reference elsewhere of "canned roast beef—probably brawn—a most welcome addition to the canned corned beef and beans to which the men were previously confined."

Commendation of the commissary supplies is frequent on the part of both line officers and officers of the Inspector-General's Department. Here are a few examples:

"The food supply for the soldiery at Chickamauga Park was not only abundant, but of unusually good quality.

"The trip to Porto Rico was a most successful one. The subsistence was all that could be asked for. The army supplies were abundantly sufficient and of good quality."—*Inspector-General* CARLTON *of First Army Corps.*

"About a week later fresh beef was issued. This beef was on the contract of the Swift Packing Company of Kansas City, and was of superior quality."—THOS. M. WOODBURY, *Major and Inspector-General.*

"The Commissary Department, so far as my inspections developed, and I have to date inspected twenty-seven regiments, has done well."—H. J. SLOCUM, *Major and Inspector-General, Third Division, First Army Corps.*

"There has been little complaint of rations since the transfer of the camp to Savannah. The abundant rations furnished by the Government have been thoroughly inspected."—CURTIS GUILD, Jr., *Lieutenant-Colonel and Inspector-General, Seventh Army Corps.*

"The quality of subsistence stores furnished at posts is generally reported satisfactory, and the administration of affairs appears to be in capable, zealous hands."—*Inspector-General* BRECKINRIDGE.

"There never was a lack of good and sufficient food. The Commissary Department met the demands upon it in a satisfactory manner."—*Major-Gen.* GRAHAM, *Second Army Corps.*

"Commissary supplies have, on the whole, been sufficient in quantity and of good quality."—*Major-Gen.* FITZHUGH LEE.

This despatch from Major-Gen. OTIS, dated at Manila yesterday, gives like testimony:

"*Adjutant-General, Washington.*

"Subsistence supplies excellent and abundant. Meats deteriorating in this hot climate are sold at public auction at high figures. Considerable hard bread spoiled; will be some loss. Supplies in all other departments good. Medical supplies abundant.

"OTIS."

If the matter of the meat ration was of the tremendous importance which Gen. MILES pretends to give to it now, why was it that when the thing was fresh in his mind and in the minds of the officers associated with him in Porto Rico none of them so much as referred to it? If he had discovered a plot to poison the army "under the pretence of an experiment" with "embalmed beef," why did he not warn the Government of it at the time and make some mention of it in his report?

It seems mysterious that if the "embalmed beef" question was of the overshadowing importance Gen. MILES has tried to make it out, nothing as to the matter came from him while the meat was actually doing to the troops the harm alleged by him.

In the Open.

The leading points of the Amsterdam avenue case are bound to become clearer in the public mind every day, since they are not only unprecedented but extraordinary in their nature. Among the reports upon the matter that will help to make them clearer is this despatch taken from the *Evening Post* of yesterday afternoon:

"ALBANY, March 30.—The Assembly Railroad Committee is likely to amend the Fallows bill to meet the views of the Governor, and then, if it passes the Assembly, it will have to go back to the Senate to be dealt with by the friends of the Metropolitan Railway Company.

"The Tammany Senators assert that the bill can never go through the Senate again with the Ford amendment stricken out or modified to suit the Third Avenue Company, and there seems to be good reason for their assertions."

This state of affairs is wholly novel.

The Legislature was appealed to by residents of a certain district of New York city to consolidate in their behalf the tracks of two railroad companies occupying Amsterdam avenue. One of these companies, the Third Avenue, agreed to any one of three propositions: First, that the four tracks should be interlaced, leaving practically but one up and one down track; secondly, that the companies should occupy the same tracks indefinitely; and, thirdly, that the companies should occupy the same tracks pending a decision of the courts as to which company could with greater legal propriety be excluded from the avenue altogether.

To neither of these propositions would the Metropolitan Company assent, and the public has before it the amazing assertion or confession in the public prints that the Metropolitan Company controls the Legislature; that it can force the Legislature to taint itself with discrimination against the Metropolitan's rival, the Third Avenue; and even that this unheard of injustice may finally be accomplished.

The situation would be grave beyond words were it not that, while individuals like Senator FORD are calmly and complacently urging the open prostitution of the Legislature to the behests of the implacable Metropolitan Company, the reason of decency has reasserted itself in the Assembly and the Governor of the State protests against the job.

The political organization BRYAN leads will go up once more, but in greatly diminished numbers, to the sacrifice on Democratic altars, and will again be cast down. This is inevitable. Even the most enthusiastic member can give no reason for the slightest hope of a contrary result.—*Mobile Daily Register.*

This is the forecast of a Democratic journal that followed the flag of Bryanism, while admitting free silver to be fraud.

It's to be wondered whether our esteemed contemporary will hold to that course again.

Since THE SUN printed the letter relating to Vassar College's danger from fire from the parent of a student, we have received denials of the letter's assertion from a trustee, from the assistant librarian of the college, from an alumna, and from a member of the class of 1901, maintaining that the buildings are properly constructed and are safe with reference to fire.

One must conclude that Vassar is all right.

Alleged Discoveries of Spiritual Laws.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I made some discoveries while at Northfield in 1898. I was shown the law of spiritual gravitation, by which the eternal principle in man is evermore drawn toward the centre of the spiritual universe where is its God. This law explains why the history of religion is coeval with the history of the human race. Simultaneously with the discovery of this law, the law of spiritual cohesion was shown to me. These two laws are doubtless the same law. It is an axiom that, directly as the soul comes into right relationship with its native universe and its God, it comes into right relationship with all the spiritual units in that universe. To be reconciled to God comes to include reconciliation with mankind. This explains why Christ loved the leper. It also explains why there were no meridians nor parallels in Christ's vision of the world.

I received several impressions at Northfield. Here is one of them: Earth has no language by which to communicate spiritual truth. If this is true, it follows that the Bible student must make full allowance for the limitations to which the inspired prophets of old were subjected. The utmost the God-Man Christ could do was to speak in misunderstood parables. It follows that there is only one source of spiritual knowledge—by harmonious soul-contact with its native universe and with its God, whose life radiates through and vitalizes that universe. Man may recognize, interpret and announce these soul sensations. He cannot communicate them. It is said reverently, God has never communicated His final word at second hand. The parable, the pointed finger and the pointed life are man's only implements with which to point his fellow man to God. These only beckon, they communicate nothing.

BROOKLYN, March 28. J. G. D.

Three Queens.

From the Nice Riviera Daily.

It is a noteworthy fact that the greatness of England has been so signally emphasized under the rule of her three queens. In the days of Elizabeth were laid the foundations of that vast supremacy of the seas which has since never been disputed with us; in the time of Anne the victories of the British arms under the ever glorious Marlborough maintained and magnified the proud position of the kingdom; and under Victoria the work of the empire has been brought to its present magnificent development.

Trampedang Bismarck.

From the Indépendance Belge.

Some years ago a resident of Wenden, in Livonia, Herr Trampedang, wrote to the Chancellor for permission to give his newly born son the name of Bismarck. The Chancellor wrote to his admirer: "Much flattered. The permission is granted, but on one condition—if, notwithstanding my age, God gives me another son, I desire to call him Trampedang."

CONSECRATING THE NEW POPE.

A Dignified Ceremony, Occupying Parts of Three Days—Some of the Details.

The votes of two-thirds of the Cardinals of the Roman Catholic Church assembled in conclave are all that is necessary to change any Roman Catholic—layman, cleric, Bishop, Archbishop or Cardinal—into the Pope, the head of the most numerous body of Christians on earth. The moment that the person who receives such proportion of the votes of the Cardinals has said that he will accept the election he becomes without any further ceremony the Vicar of Christ on earth, head of the Bishops, Bishop of Rome, Supreme Governor of the Catholic Church, Patriarch of the West and Prince of the Pontifical States. It is not necessary that he should hold even minor orders. Laymen might have been chosen Pope, subdeacons have been, and one of the greatest of all the Popes, Hildebrand, after his election called Gregory VII., was not ordained priest until after he had been chosen Pope.

But in spite of this the enthronization of the new Pope is an occasion of great ceremony and pomp, inasmuch as it is the visible setting apart of the chosen person as the head of the Roman Catholic Church. The ceremonies are many and complicated, carried out with all the wealth of detail that the long succession of pontifical masters of ceremony have been able to devise.

The proceedings begin early on the appointed day in the Sistine Chapel, where, for the second time, the Cardinals adore the new Pope. The first adoration was immediately after the election, while the Cardinals were still in conclave. After this adoration, the procession is formed to conduct his Holiness to St. Peter's Church. First march the choir, then the lower clergy, then the Bishops, Archbishops, Cardinals, all in order of rank, the juniors first, and, finally, carried in his chair by twelve servants, comes the new Pope. All around the clergy march members of the Papal Guard and of the Noble Guard.

In the great Church of St. Peter the procession moves up the central aisle and halts at the chapel of the Most Holy Trinity, where the Pope adores the Host. Then it passes by the high altar on the north side, and on the east side stops, when the Pope alights and with the Cardinals enters a place railed off from the rest of the sanctuary. After a moment the new Pope advances toward the altar and prays at the lowest step. Then he ascends the steps and seats himself on the altar, in the centre, where the ciborium holding the Host usually is placed. The Cardinals then advance to adore him a third time. They prostrate themselves before him and kiss his slipper; then rising they kiss his hand, which is covered by the edge of his cope, and then receive from the Pope two embraces. The Pope then blesses the people and leaves the altar. Mounting his chair again he is conducted out of the church in the same style as he entered.

On the Sunday following this part of the consecration occurs the coronation, which takes place in St. Peter's also. The Pope says mass, during which the senior Cardinal Deacon places on him the pontifical mantle, uttering this prayer: "Receive the holy mantle, the plenitude of the pontifical offices, to the honor of Almighty God and of the most glorious Virgin Mary, his mother, and of the blessed apostles, Peter and Paul, and of the Holy Roman Church."

Then, the choir singing "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus," the Pope in procession leaves the high altar and goes to the balcony over the great doors of the church. The Cardinal Deacon then removes the pontifical mantle, and the Cardinal Dean places the tiara as monarch on the head of the new Pope, saying this prayer: "Receive the tiara adorned with three crowns, and know that thou art the father of princes and king, the governor of the world, on earth vicar of our Saviour Jesus Christ, to whom is honor and glory for ever and ever. Amen."

Then the Pope, wearing the tiara, makes two prayers over the people in the great piazza, who represent the people of Rome and of the former Papal States: "May the holy Apostles Peter and Paul, in whose power and authority we confide, intercede for us with the Lord. By the prayers and merits of the Blessed Mary, always a virgin, of the blessed Michael, the archangel, of the blessed John the Baptist, and the holy apostles Peter and Paul, and all the saints, may Almighty God have mercy upon you, and may Jesus Christ, having remitted all your sins, lead you to the life everlasting. Amen." May the almighty and merciful Lord grant you indulgence and absolution and remission of all your sins, space for true and fruitful repentance, a heart always penitent and amendment of life, the grace and consolation of the Holy Spirit and final perseverance in good works. Amen." These prayers end the ceremony of the coronation and the Pope retires in state.

On a day appointed the Pope goes to his cathedral church, which, contrary to popular belief is not that of St. Peter, but that of St. John Lateran. There he is enthroned as Bishop of Rome and Patriarch of the West and receives the keys as such Bishop. That ceremony completed his Holiness has to turn his attention to the vast business of the Church, the appointment of the congregations which lapse at the death of a Pontiff, and the details of the complicated and innumerable questions presenting themselves to the head of the largest Christian church.

New Poem by the Pope.

From the Tablet.

The *Palestra del Clero* published the following poem, composed by his Holiness the Pope, on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday:

IN VIRGINES DEO DEVOTAS.

Christus adest; dulcique suas vos nomine sponsas
Dicere Christus amat, sancto sibi foedere junctas.
Is, procul a strepitu, fida statione quietani,
Insontem vobis tribuit traducere vitam;
Vos ibi, ceu septo fragrantia lilia campo,
Floretis, large donis caelestibus auctae.
Instruat insidias Satan, artesque malignas,
Terreat obiecta dubias formidine mentes;
Praesens e caelo properat succurrere Iesus;
Ad pugnam trepidas divino robore firmat.
Tum vos Ipse novo ferventius ardet amore:
Intima recludit sacri penetralia Cordis,
Mira demulcens animos dulcedine.—Tandem
Emensas cursum feliciter atque fideles,
Dum iam mors instat, festivus et ore benigno
Obvius occurrens, supremo munere donat.
Et tristi exilio caelestibus inserit oris,
Aeternumque iubet divina luce beari.

TO VIRGINS VOWED TO GOD.

Christ is at hand; by the sweet name of His brides Christ loves to call you, united to Him by a holy bond. He has granted to you to live an innocent life, far from the din, quiet in its secure position; there you, like fragrant lilies in a hedged-in field, bloom, generously enriched with heavenly gifts. Satan prepares his snares and wicked arts, he terrifies doubting minds by holding out fears to them; Jesus, present from heaven, hastens to aid; with divine vigor He strengthens the timid for the fight. Then He himself inspires you more fervently with new love. He incloses you in the deepest recesses of His holy Heart, softening your souls with wonderful sweetness. At last, when death is now at hand, festive and with kind face He comes to meet you who have passed through the voyage happily and have been faithful and gives to you the greatest gift. From the sad exile He leads you to the heavenly shores and bids you be blessed forever in the light divine.

Sanitary Regeneration of Matanzas.

From a Matanzas Newspaper.

The system of drainage which is carried on by the American authorities, including the cleaning of the streets and the general improvement of the sanitary condition of the city, merits the warmest applause. This praiseworthy and humane work will be better understood by our readers when they look at the mortality list since September of last year. Here it is:

In September, 1898, 716 persons died; in October, 688; in November, 541; in December, 450; in January, 1899, the death list was 323, and in February 266. This shows that the death rate has been reduced by about one-half.

The result as it appears is prodigious, and the Cuban people must acknowledge the interest taken by the American authorities in hygiene since by their measures of sanitation so vigorously prosecuted they have saved from death an immense number of sons of Cuba.

We present to the Board of Health our most sincere congratulations.

A Spring Day in Billville.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

"What is the Postmaster at?"

"Under the chinyberry tree, a-playin of checkers wi' Mr. May."

"An' the Sheriff—what's he?"

"A-setin' a-settin with the Coroner."

"An' what's the storekeeper?"

"That's him yander, diggin' bait."

"What time does the next train leave?"

"No tellin'. The conductor an' the engineer has tied up an' gone fishin'. They'll be back, mos' lik', 'fore sundown. Jest make yerself at home!"

THE NEW MEXICAN AMBASSADOR.

Exchange of Friendly Sentiments on His Presentation to the President.

WASHINGTON, March 30.—Señor Azpiroz, the new Ambassador of Mexico to the United States, was officially presented to President McKinley this morning at 11 o'clock. The presentation took place in the Red Parlor of the Executive Mansion, the Ambassador being escorted by Assistant Secretary of State Hill and attended by the several Secretaries and attachés of the embassy in full uniform. Señor Azpiroz is the first Ambassador of his country to the United States, the late Minister Romero having died just before the legation of Mexico at this capital was raised to an embassy. The following address was made by the Ambassador:

"MR. PRESIDENT: The Mexican Government has witnessed with satisfaction how quickly your Excellency's Government kindly seconded its intention of raising to the highest rank in the diplomatic service the reciprocal representation of our two countries, this policy being dictated by their relations, which daily become closer, more cordial and more in keeping with the generous efforts made to give a proper standing to liberal institutions on the American continent. Owing to the death of the illustrious citizen who for the largest period represented my native land in this great country—an event which never can be sufficiently deplored—there has been a delay until now in accomplishing the great desire felt by the Government that sends me here to respond to the honor shown us by the United States of America by accrediting as Ambassador their last Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary in Mexico, who undoubtedly is most worthy of such great distinction.

"I would consider myself most fortunate were I to approach in the performance of my duties the dexterity, prudence and success attained by my predecessor, in rendering closer the bonds of friendship existing between my country and yours. I do not flatter myself in believing that my Government has found in me such enviable traits of character, although my Government is sure that it can rely on my earnest desire to apply all my faculties to the cultivation of the friendly relations happily existing between the two republics and for the accomplishment of which it trusts that the Government over which your Excellency so skilfully and brilliantly presides may grant me its powerful assistance. In placing in your hands the letters that accredit me as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the Mexican Government near the Government of the United States of America, I cherish the most fervent wishes for the personal happiness of your Excellency and for the increasing prosperity of the American people."

The President replied as follows:

"The relations of neighborliness and intimate association that have so long and happily existed between this country and Mexico make it especially appropriate that their channels of international communication should be of the highest grade known to diplomacy. It therefore affords me much gratification to see the realization of the purpose of Mexico to raise its mission in the United States to the rank of an Embassy, a purpose not earlier fulfilled owing to the lamented death of your honored predecessor, whose promotion to be an Ambassador was promptly reciprocated by conferring like dignity upon the representative of the United States in Mexico, and I welcome you as the accredited Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of Mexico.

"What you say respecting the aim of your mission to cultivate and, if possible, still further develop the friendly relations between the two republics, finds a most cordial response on the part of this Government, and I doubt not that, inspired by these high mutual purposes, your efforts will be no less effectively met than were those of your esteemed predecessor during his long and honorable sojourn among us, and that, like him, you will have abundant opportunity to realize the close ties of association and interchange existing between our two countries and to know the feelings of amity and regard which this Government and my countrymen cherish for Mexico and the Mexican people, for whom they wish all prosperity and the lasting enjoyment of the blessings of progress and peace. I beg you to convey to his Excellency, the President of the United Mexican States, my sincere wishes for his health and happiness."

W. W. ASTOR'S PERSONAL TAX.

He Puts in a Plea of Non-Residence and Is to Be Examined—Not a British Subject.

William Waldorf Astor is going to try to swear off his personal property taxes in this city. Recently, while in England, he made affidavit that he was a non-resident and asked to have his name taken off the personal property list. The affidavit was forwarded to Charles A. Peabody, Jr., attorney for Mr. Astor, and by him was presented to President Feitner of the Tax Department. No action was taken on the matter until Mr. Feitner learned yesterday that Mr. Astor was in this country. Mr. Feitner then notified Mr. Peabody that Mr. Astor would have to submit to an examination in person by the Tax Commissioners, who desire to question him concerning his legal residence. Mr. Astor, it is said, signified his willingness, and a date was fixed for the examination. Just what that date is Mr. Feitner refuses to tell. He intimated yesterday that the question of Mr. Astor's residence may not be settled until the courts have had a chance to pass upon the matter. If the Tax Commissioners refuse to vacate his personal property assessment Mr. Astor will be obliged to go to the courts to establish the fact that his residence is in England and not in New York.

He pays the largest personal tax paid by one man in this city. He is assessed at $2,000,000 on personalty, and if the tax rate reaches 3 per cent. this year, as is now expected, his bill for 1899 for personal tax alone will be $60,000. His assessment has stood at $2,000,000 for several years, and it is not known that he ever objected before to paying the tax since the amount to be paid on was fixed at that sum. Mr. Feitner said that Mr. Astor had made no objection to the increase in the assessment on the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel. That objection came from Mr. Boldt, who pays the taxes on that structure.

The customs officer who said on Wednesday that Mr. Astor on his arrival here declared himself a British subject appears to have misunderstood him.

A person authorized to represent Mr. Astor said yesterday that what he did say to the customs inspector was that he was a resident of London, and that as a matter of fact he had not renounced his allegiance to the United States to become a British subject.

The Proposed American Memorial to Lafayette in Paris.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it possible to get information from the distinguished gentlemen who are sponsors for the projected Paris memorial to Lafayette?

Great publicity has been given to an assertion that this work is now in un-American and incompetent hands, and nothing has been said by way of reply.

The secretary of this committee and Mr. Edward Everett Hale of Boston have been asked for information and are silent.

Mr. Hale, I am told, is one of a sub-committee of three, together with Archbishop Ireland and Mr. Peck, our commissioner to Paris.

It surely cannot be that these gentlemen have allowed themselves to be used for the furthering of unbecomingly narrow if not sordid ends. Such an impression has some currency, unfortunately, and the gentlemen will conserve their reputation for discretion in the administration of a trust by making a frank and clear statement.

The school children and the Legislatures of the various States contributing to this patriotic purpose, and the whole of our people, in fact, will, no doubt, be glad of enlightenment as to the form and probable artistic quality of the memorial which is to be a permanent exhibit of ours.

Let us run no risk of contributing to the gayety of the already too "gay Paree." AN AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, March 28.

Appeal from a Mother.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The words of the following came to me as I observed a well-bred young man struggling to reach his home after having imbibed too much. In his heart he would like to be exemplary in every respect, but, like many others, he stumbles in trying to keep upon the narrow pathway. V. M. C.

THE DRUNKARD'S PRAYER.

Help me, dear Saviour, while in Satan's power I sin,
drink and curse all the day;
Thou art merciful and mighty and know that great
demon I'd keep at bay.

But in moments of weakness and seemingly great
despair,
That evil monster tempts me with the cup and bids
me drown every care.

And now I pray to Thee for mercy and more faith
and strength, dear Master,
With which to battle Satan and save my soul from
final disaster.

Yea, Saviour, I beseech Thee to ever with love and
compassion guide me.
And I seek Thy forgiveness, for Thy humble follower
would I gladly be. MOTHER.

A Just Complaint Against Literary Piracy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Several leading papers have published letters of mine, as well as poems, and have given me no credit for the same.

WILBUR HERSCHELL WILLIAMS.

KALAMAZOO, Mich., March 27.

DEWEY POSES FOR A PRIVATE.

The Hero of Manila Bay Cheerfully Complies with a Volunteer's Request.

From the San Francisco Chronicle.

All the stories told of Admiral Dewey from the earliest date of his career in the United States Navy give him credit for affability and a kindly disposition. While a strict disciplinarian, these pleasant traits in his character always made him popular with the men, and while no one ever ventured to trifle with an order coming from him, his orders are always so issued that they receive a cheerful as well as a prompt response.

The readers of the sketches of Dewey as executive officer of the Colorado, written by the ship's writer and published in the Sunday *Chronicle*, must have noted that an affectionate relationship existed between Dewey and his men. He is evidently the same old Dewey to-day—as amiable and kindly toward all as ever. The exalted station he now occupies and the conspicuous place he holds in the public eye and in the hearts of the nation through the glory and splendor of his achievements in Philippine waters have not changed him in the least. And an admirable story is sent to the *Chronicle* from Corregidor Island as proof of his present extreme kindliness and affability. It is told by Ernest Johnstone, who sends to the *Chronicle* a couple of photographs of the Admiral, and it relates the manner in which the photographs were obtained. He says:

"Admiral Dewey visited this island (Corregidor), where I am stationed, the other day to inspect the old dismantled Spanish fortifications. A private in the hospital corps met him, snapped the first photograph on him, and then said: 'Would you gentlemen mind standing still a moment. I would like to take your pictures?'

"'Certainly, my boy,' the Dewey said, and he buttoned his blouse, remedying the two naval officers accompanying him to do likewise, the three standing as you observe for the second photograph. I knew this would be interesting now that Dewey is the man of the hour. The building in the background is part of the Corregidor lighthouse.'

"The first snapshot shows Dewey coming down from the lighthouse, and he is ca