

The Sun

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication will have printed articles returned, they will find in all cases stamps for that purpose.

May and Must.

If these two words meant the same thing, or could even be made to seem to mean the same thing, the elaborate scheme of arbitration reported to the Peace Conference at The Hague would possess surpassing interest to the nations of the earth.

But the Peace Conference can add articles to articles, and can multiply phrases, and can surround every step of procedure with elaborate provisions, without bringing May one millionth part of a vote nearer to Must in potential energy.

There is pathos in the respectable efforts of the Conference to justify its existence by enacting a long series of permissive provisions. No harm is done, perhaps some good may be done in the promotion of that mysterious moral effect of which we hear so much vague talk.

Yet the old fact remains that a permanent Bureau of Arbitration at The Hague or elsewhere—a tribunal of Peace built with bricks, every one of which is stamped with a May and not one of which is marked Must, or can in the nature of things be so marked—is destined to exert about as much influence on the greater events of the world's future as is exerted, let us say, by one of the well-established and permanent Bureaus of Press Clippings.

The Caribbean Patrol Squadron.

A novel step, which promises economy and efficiency, is under consideration by the Navy Department, that of assigning to the east coast of Central America a squadron of five small gunboats, converted from yachts.

These are the Vixen, formerly the Josephine, now at Bluefields; the Dorothea, the Viking, the Hawk, formerly the Hermine, and either the Hist or the Frolic, formerly the Comanche.

American residents in Central America have lately made many complaints to the Government. The troubles in Nicaragua, which caused the Vixen to be sent to Bluefields are well known. Gen. TOURNAI, the Governor of the province of Zelaya, tried to collect a second time from American fruit traders the customs duties they had already paid to Governor REYES, his ground being that those duties were paid as contributions to the latter's unsuccessful revolt against the Managua Government.

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The Present Status of the Dreyfus Affair.

There is no reason to believe that the trial of Capt. ALFRED DREYFUS, which will begin, it is said, on Aug. 10, will be impartially conducted, and that, unless new and conclusive evidence shall be brought forward against the accused, it will result in his acquittal.

Extraordinary precautions have been required, and may yet be required, however, to avert a second miscarriage of justice and to thwart the machinations of the headquarters staff, the members of which see not only their reputations but their military rank and even their personal liberty imperilled.

The question whether the civil should be subordinated to the military power in France was settled, temporarily at least, when the new Ministry, headed by M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU, secured a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies by the narrow majority of 26. To gain that victory, which a change of 14 votes from one side to the other would have transformed into a defeat, it had to overcome almost the whole body of Moderates, led by ex-Premier MÉLINE, who has since boldly avowed the belief that the headquarters staff should have been permitted to deal with DREYFUS as it chose.

Speaking at the Hotel Continental on Thursday evening, he said that the present Cabinet defied public opinion, and insisted upon the necessity of governmental non-interference in the DREYFUS affair. He showed when he was Premier that his method of avoiding governmental interference was to prevent an investigation of the alleged illegalities in the first trial of DREYFUS by court-martial.

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That necessary step has been taken, and the new Cabinet will not be required to meet the Chamber of Deputies again before the autumn. Before that time arrives it is probable not only that justice will have been done to Capt. DREYFUS and Col. FIGUAT, but that the whole conspiracy, of which they have been the victims, will

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It will have been observed that the new Minister of War, General the Marquis DE GALLIFFER, although he is known to be a man of fearless and flint-like temper, eked out the lion's skin with the fox's, and proceeded with the utmost caution until Parliament had been prorogued. No sooner had he got rid of the pelvis, by which term, undoubtedly, he in his mind describes the Deputies, than he rudely disciplined certain commandants, who, presuming on the supposed omnipotence of their protectors at headquarters, had ventured to forestall the judgment of the forthcoming court-martial by proclaiming their distrust of DREYFUS in orders of the day.

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So far as the official leaders of the army were concerned, the situation was more favorable to a reactionary movement than it was on Dec. 2, 1871. Had any of the Generals deeply implicated in the persecution of DREYFUS and FIGUAT, and, nevertheless, entrusted with supreme military control, been of the stuff whereof DE GALLIFFER is made, we should have witnessed a second 18th of Brumaire. Nor would there have been any very violent popular protest, for the present Chamber of Deputies is regarded with far less respect than was the Council of Five Hundred in 1799.

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Extraordinary precautions have been required, and may yet be required, however, to avert a second miscarriage of justice and to thwart the machinations of the headquarters staff, the members of which see not only their reputations but their military rank and even their personal liberty imperilled.

The question whether the civil should be subordinated to the military power in France was settled, temporarily at least, when the new Ministry, headed by M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU, secured a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies by the narrow majority of 26. To gain that victory, which a change of 14 votes from one side to the other would have transformed into a defeat, it had to overcome almost the whole body of Moderates, led by ex-Premier MÉLINE, who has since boldly avowed the belief that the headquarters staff should have been permitted to deal with DREYFUS as it chose.

Speaking at the Hotel Continental on Thursday evening, he said that the present Cabinet defied public opinion, and insisted upon the necessity of governmental non-interference in the DREYFUS affair. He showed when he was Premier that his method of avoiding governmental interference was to prevent an investigation of the alleged illegalities in the first trial of DREYFUS by court-martial.

Holding such views, he or any Premier supported by him would have undoubtedly allowed the headquarters staff to make the second trial a farce by ordering it to be held in some place where it could have been subjected to overwhelming pressure at the hands of the Anti-Dreyfusards, and by designating for judgment only those judged beforehand to be the accused. To M. WALDECK-ROUSSEAU it was, consequently, indispensable not only to obtain a vote of confidence from the Chamber of Deputies, but, in view of the precarious majority by which it was conceded, to give himself a free hand by proroguing Parliament as speedily as possible.

That necessary step has been taken, and the new Cabinet will not be required to meet the Chamber of Deputies again before the autumn. Before that time arrives it is probable not only that justice will have been done to Capt. DREYFUS and Col. FIGUAT, but that the whole conspiracy, of which they have been the victims, will

have been exposed, and that its authors or accomplices will be deprived of opportunities to persecute innocent men or to threaten the public peace.

It will have been observed that the new Minister of War, General the Marquis DE GALLIFFER, although he is known to be a man of fearless and flint-like temper, eked out the lion's skin with the fox's, and proceeded with the utmost caution until Parliament had been prorogued. No sooner had he got rid of the pelvis, by which term, undoubtedly, he in his mind describes the Deputies, than he rudely disciplined certain commandants, who, presuming on the supposed omnipotence of their protectors at headquarters, had ventured to forestall the judgment of the forthcoming court-martial by proclaiming their distrust of DREYFUS in orders of the day.

The Marquis, also, on the theory that it comes to near that comes to be done, removed from Paris to a cooler atmosphere the General whom DREYFUS invited, on the occasion of FAURE's funeral, to execute a coup d'etat.

These admonitions have culminated in a notice to Gen. ZURELIXES, who for some time has been behaving as if the French capital belonged to him, that he is superseded in the Military Government of Paris by Gen. JOSEPH BARTHELEMY, who, we may rely upon, will be selected by Gen. GALLIFFER for excellent reasons. By this time the Parisians are thoroughly alive to the significance of placing at the head of the War Office an old soldier, who not only is certain of being obeyed by the rank and file, but also knows his fellow Generals from their head to their heels.

Even with their rank and honor at stake, men will think twice before essaying a military coup d'etat while the War Office is occupied by DE GALLIFFER, who would no more hesitate to shoot a rebellious General than he did to mow down the Communists in May, 1871, twenty-eight years ago.

There is no doubt that a certain frigate with grave danger to republican institutions was despoiled when Premier WALDECK-ROUSSEAU, having escorted from the Chamber of Deputies the semblance of a vote of confidence, hastened to brush it from his path by a prorogation of Parliament. Not only in the month of June, but for upward of a twelvemonth past, the French Republic has been in jeopardy, and there was too much ground to fear that President FAURE, had he lived, would, through sheer weakness and timidity, have been an accomplice in a military coup d'etat.

The failure of the Generals who had much to fear from a revision of