

The Sun

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

"Poverty and Distress" in Porto Rico.

Another bit of the Kansas City platform will have to be cut out. The gifted denouncers who wrote that document in raised letters of fire and blood denounced the Porto Rican law as a "bold and open violation of the nation's organic law." The Supreme Court has had the insolence to differ with the gifted denouncers as to that point. "It dooms to poverty and distress," the gifted denouncers flamed on, "a people whose helplessness appeals with peculiar force to our justice and magnanimity." Who would not weep for the poor, helpless, down-trodden Porto Ricans, the victims of the despots of Baltimore, Dr. JACOB H. FORTSON, of Baltimore, Treasurer of Porto Rico, and the author of the Revenue act which was adopted by the Insular Legislature last December, finds that the financial condition of Porto Rico compares favorably with that of any State or Territory in the Union. The island is out of debt. Its people are taxed more lightly than those of any other part of the United States. It has means of revenue which will not only be sufficient for the expenses of the new fiscal year, but will leave a surplus. The customs duties levied by the Washington tyrants have been paid into the Insular Treasury, not into that of the United States. The poor helpless inhabitants are exempted from the operation of the Internal Revenue laws, and the island lays excise taxes of its own, mainly on liquors and tobacco. The only direct tax is that of 1/4 cent on real and personal property. About one and a half millions of the two million dollars required for the annual expenditure of the island comes from customs duties and excise taxes. That is, the United States Government has made a present of that amount to the island. Has there ever been since the time of VERMIS such shameful plundering of a conquered province? Since May, 1900, the customs collections on exports to the United States have amounted to \$600,000, every cent of which now lies untouched in Porto Rico's strong boxes.

A satisfactory revenue system having been established, Porto Rico is ready for free trade with the United States. July 4, 1901, exactly one year after the meeting of the Democratic National Convention which dropped so much piteous brine over poor Porto Rico, the Insular Legislature passed a joint resolution setting forth that an adequate system of revenues had been provided. Porto Rico is ready to take advantage of that act which, according to the Kansas City platform, doomed the people of that island to poverty and distress. Judging by the example of Hawaii, the increase in prosperity by the increase of the sugar production alone, under free trade, will be immense. In short, instead of being poor and distressed, the Porto Ricans are on the road to wealth. "In this, the first act of its imperialist programme," said the gifted denouncers, "the Republican party seeks to commit the United States to a colonial policy inconsistent with republican institutions and condemned by the Supreme Court in numerous decisions." The first act is a remarkable success. The law and the facts have overruled the Porto Rican part of the Kansas City platform. Another big rip in that precious document.

Silver or Gold?

Mr. BRYAN makes the strong and true point that while the Ohio Democratic Convention ignored the Kansas City platform of last year it did not have courage to declare openly for the gold standard. If the Democratic party is ever to regain the confidence of the conservative people of this country it will be necessary for it to do something more than ignore the currency question and whip up some issue wholly apart from it. The Ohio device of keeping mum about silver or gold will not work in a national canvass. If the Democratic party is for gold and against silver it will have to say so squarely. Mr. BRYAN deserves at least the credit of standing up manfully and positively for his vicious currency policy, but the Ohio Democrats were afraid to speak out on the subject. When the campaign of 1904 comes they will have to meet a positive gold declaration by the Republicans and they cannot meet it by any such evasion as they cannot do. As Mr. BRYAN says, "If the gold standard is good it ought to have been indorsed; if bad, it ought to have been denounced; to ignore the subject was inexorable."

The Newer Addition to Our American Population.

The Italian celebration of the feast of Our Lady of Carmel, on Tuesday, brought conspicuously to notice the great population of that race now resident in New York. The number of Italians is also steadily and rapidly increasing, a chief source of immigration to this port at present being Italy. Formerly a great part of the Italians coming hither were only temporary residents. They crossed the ocean with the intention of returning to Italy so soon as they had made the small accumulations of money which the small acreage of a competency by the frugal inhabitants of Italy. They were, accordingly, mere sojourners, with an interest in this country which was only in the opportunities it afforded them for carrying out that purpose, and their social and political influence here was insignificant or transient. They were not assimilated, but remained apart from the rest of people as Italians distinctively, retaining their own foreign speech and customs and herding together in distinct quarters of the town. For that reason and as a new class of immigrants there was much prejudice against them. They were looked down upon. An "Eustalian" became a term of reproach. That state of things, however, has passed away of recent years, or since the Italian immigration became among the very greatest to the United States and to this port. Their old habit of returning to Italy with the savings accumulated here by their frugality has been replaced by a disposition to

remain permanently and to become citizens and thoroughly Americanized. Their children are sent to the public schools, where they soon acquire our language, and in speech are not distinguishable from others. As their numbers have increased and their importance to industry has been augmented, greater respect is accorded to them. They have come to be recognized as a significant part of the population, and their thrift, frugality, aptitude for labor and assiduity in it have secured for them material advancement, to which they are assisted also by moral and intellectual qualities notable in their race. They are beginning to enter into the learned professions, which, undoubtedly, will draw from them hereafter very many recruits. In politics, also, they are now exhibiting an interest that promises to make them eventually a political factor which will have to be reckoned with very seriously by the present political adepts. The subtle Italian mind lends itself naturally and most efficiently to politics, and when in any large measure it extends its energies in that field, and it is already beginning to do it, our political machines will feel its influence very powerfully. The second generation of Italians, trained in the public schools and made familiar with all American methods in the competition for existence, will need to ask no odds in any field. They become thorough Americans, with no tie to any other country and with ambitions only for advancement in this Republic. They will scatter throughout the town, instead of remaining in peculiarly Italian districts, and they will intermarry with other races. Where their names are not readily pronounceable by the English-speaking community they will be gradually transformed to overcome the difficulty, as other such foreign patronyms have been changed so generally in our history. The Italian immigrants have had an evil reputation because of the disposition of the hot southern Italian blood, of which they are almost wholly, to crimes of violence, but as they become Americanized in the second generation this tendency passes away and their shrewdness, subtlety and frugality assert themselves without that drawback. Italy itself is a hive of activity from one end to the other of the peninsula, and the aptitude of the Italians for many branches of delicate industry, in manufactures, in agriculture and in horticulture, is famous. They are also shrewd merchants and their ability to endure the hardships of a rough and severe labor is demonstrated here and throughout Europe very strikingly. That the Italian immigration to this country is increasing is palpable evidence that the Italians already here are prospering and it indicates that the race is to be one of the most important, and, we believe, one of the most valuable contributions to American civilization and to the composite American stock.

Tycho Brahe. TYCHO BRAHE's name, we fancy, is less familiar to this generation than it was to the last. Not that any oppressive amount of knowledge about the man or his work burdened people then, but they had been brought up in the belief that BURLINGAME's "Hudibras" was the wittiest poem in the English language, and every tongue could rattle off the lines: "To TYCHO BRAHE he gave / That TYCHO BRAHE OF DENMARK FATHER, / For he, by geometric sense, / Could take the size of pots of ale." We don't believe that many people read "Hudibras." They simply quoted from the book without reading it, as they did with Brewster's "Anatomy of Melancholy," and inquiring minds, puzzled by the quotations, would seek for light in the encyclopedias. Thus they learned something about TYCHO BRAHE, the great Danish astronomer and astrologer. Quotations from BURLINGAME and BURTON, however, have gone out of style, even JOHN BARTLETT has dropped the Tycho verses, and in consequence acquaintance with TYCHO's name and the demand for information about him have fallen off.

In the Scandinavian countries and in Prague, where he died, his fame as a sort of legendary hero has continued, and Prague intends to celebrate this fall the three hundredth anniversary of his death in 1601. TYCHO was the last of the medieval astronomers, for KEPLER was his pupil and a few years after his death GALILEO for the first time pointed the telescope to the heavens. He narrowly missed being the first of the modern astronomers; but he rejected the Copernican theory of the earth's motion around the sun on account of the mistakes in COPERNICUS's demonstration, and substituted in compromise a theory of his own, which was not accepted, by which the earth remained the centre of the universe. That kept him on good terms with the Church and did not upset his astrology, but it lowered his rank forever in the records of scientific astronomy. He was a genius beyond doubt, but with an admixture of picturesque humbug that was not uncommon to genius in his day. A quarrelsome swashbuckler, like BENVENUTO CELLINI and CYRANO DE BERGERAC, he had his fits and fits, and his fits, and in a duel at night he lost his nose. He devised a substitute for it out of precious metals and was that excited the wonder of his contemporaries. He was intimate with kings and emperors and on his island observatory in the Sound, where he trained the stars with mysterious ceremony, clad in an astrologer's hat and a gown covered with symbols. At the same time he devised mechanical instruments of wonderful precision and secured measurements of celestial objects so accurate as to amaze later astronomers, who have checked his investigations with modern appliances. He had the luck to discover a "new star" in Cassiopeia which added to his astrological reputation. His life was as full of adventures as that of CLELIXI or KING TROBROUS of Corsica, and he died as the honored guest of the Holy Roman Emperor, RUDOLPH II, himself an astrologer, in his Bohemian capital.

The good people of Prague, in their desire to do honor to TYCHO, have naturally turned to the most modern methods. Nowadays it seems necessary to guard against possible blunders, and the first step in honoring the great who have gone before is to dig them up and make sure that the remains are authentic. Last year, for instance, they took the great Sallan emperors with their wives and children out of their graves at Speler. The resurrectionists were unusually lucky with poor TYCHO's. They found him buried, with his wife, under his monument in the Thunberg church. They were mummified and TYCHO was found to resemble strikingly the rumbustious marble figure on his tomb. There was a tall, stately figure, with brown hair

and mustache and glasses full them, but with no nose; an additional mark of identity. The burial cloths were also well preserved, a dressing gown of red-velvet brocade, with sleeves and front of a darker color, a velvet cap with ostrich feathers, silk stockings and embroidered slippers. The expert photographer had, and measured his bones and his skull, and he has been put into a new coffin and buried again. Now that Prague is sure that it has the right TYCHO BRAHE it can celebrate his memory with assurance on October 24, next.

Judge Day on Expansion. People are taking two quite opposite views of the deluge delivered by Judge WILLIAM R. DAY last Thursday at the annual meeting of the Ohio Bar Association. On that occasion Judge DAY discussed the new position of the United States in the family of nations.

Those who rejoice in the accomplished results of the policy of expansion, which grew out of the events in which Mr. DAY bore so honorable a part, first as Secretary of State and then as chairman of the commission that negotiated the Treaty of Paris, find nothing but cause for satisfaction in his remarks upon the present situation. To them it seems clear that Judge DAY was speaking as an expansionist, not as a reactionist statesman. On the other hand some of the anti-imperialists, so styled, profess to regard one passage in Judge DAY's address as a note of warning and a signal for retreat. He said to the Ohio lawyers: "We must never lose sight of the fundamental principles of our Government. This obligation is all the more binding now that a decision of the Supreme Court of the United States has made the government and disposition of the islands practically open to be determined by the American people." The opponents of expansion dwell on the two words which we have italicized above. "Here is President McKinley's former Secretary of State," they say in substance, "calling attention particularly to the circumstance that, while establishing the power of Congress to control the acquired territories independently of certain Constitutional restrictions applying to the Union of States, the Supreme Court asserts the power of the American people to dispose of such territory—that is to say, to withdraw from it, to get rid of it, as the fundamental principles of our Government require that they should." Having resisted the progress of events up to the present time at every step and always in vain, and having been deprived of all other comfort or encouragement by the Supreme Court's decision, the anti-imperialists seize eagerly now upon the last hope of reaction, the absolute power of Congress to dispose of American territory not incorporated into this Union. That, in their opinion, is the way out, and every man who like Judge DAY mentions this subject and never questions the power of Congress to relinquish the islands if the American people should so decide, they hail as a prophet and an ally. To this pass has anti-imperialism come! It now banks exclusively on the Constitutional power of Congress to haul down the flag, to abandon or transfer sovereignty, and to withdraw. There is nothing in the rest of Judge DAY's address to justify the interpretation the anti-imperialists put upon his remark, or to indicate that he sympathizes in any degree with their programme. Every word he said bears strongly the other way. In his humble opinion the thought of abandoning or "disposing" by gift or sale of a single square inch of territory over which the American flag now flies as an emblem of sovereignty, is as far from his idea of American policy as it is from the ideas of ninety-nine out of every hundred of his fellow citizens.

Mr. Towne's Prophecy and Pledge. One of the most pathetic and nobly phrased speeches ever spoken in Congress was that which the Hon. CHARLES ANNETTE TOWNE of Minnesota delivered in the House of Representatives on February 8, 1898. He was parting company with the Republican party on account of the silver issue; and he was leaving his otherwise beloved party because, as he explained then and afterward, he never found it possible to compromise a principle. It was in that speech that Mr. TOWNE exclaimed, in language which BRYAN imitated later: "The burden of the gold standard on the world could be measured only in blood and sweat and tears." It was in that same speech that Mr. TOWNE recorded this pledge, and uttered this prophecy: "I warn gentlemen on this floor—not as a prophet, but as one who has always lived near to the people and by the grace of God means to continue near the people on duty that not a single day will I know what the people are thinking and what they are feeling in this year of grace 1898. They know that the constituting gold standard is existing by the permission, and growing at the cost of the manhood and the enterprise of the universe, and that the time will come when a stop must be put to it." Yesterday this same CHARLES ANNETTE TOWNE, as the promoter and president of a company capitalized at \$1,000,000 and now engaged in an effort to measure the gold standard put in blood or sweat or tears in Texas oil, was reported as uttering these cynical remarks on the political future: "While the supply of gold continues to increase as it has been increasing lately there can be no serious or successful demand for the silver." We do not put Mr. TOWNE's predictions and pledges and noble sentiments of four years ago alongside his tranquil and comfortable observations of to-day for the purpose of making him feel uncomfortable. We merely want to inquire whether he was a humbug then or is a recanting now.

A recent decree of the German Government abolishing Polish instruction in the province of Posen has been ineffective as a means of limiting the use of Polish in that province. More than 1,000,000 residents of Posen and neighboring Poland speak Polish as their native language, and without much effort Polish continues to be the spoken language of the great body of German subjects at any time hereafter; and outside of Posen, as the number of Poles, especially in the large manufacturing cities, has been increased by the scattering of them

of the German provinces, so have Polish spoken each year. In Finland, in which there were last year 2,500,000 Finns and less than 100,000 Russians, the efforts of the Russian Government to enforce the abolition of the Finnish language of the province have been no more successful. Representative measures have increased emigration from Finland, but they have not had the effect of inducing or compelling any considerable number of Finns to speak Russian.

There has been observed in Ireland recently, concurrently with the efforts of the German Government to diminish the use of Polish and of the Russian Government to abolish the use of Finnish, a general revival of the study of Gaelic, one marked feature of which has been the increased sale of books published in that language. Another manifestation of revival of Gaelic is the increased membership of Gaelic societies outside of Ireland. About 15 per cent of the native-born inhabitants of Ireland can speak Gaelic, but less than 1 per cent of the inhabitants, and these chiefly in Connemara and Kerry, speak Gaelic exclusively. Until recently there has been little teaching of Gaelic, and with its use being confined to the peasantry in rural districts remote from the large towns, a Gaelic department is a feature of many Irish papers and Gaelic translations of certain standard books of some value.

It is a somewhat curious circumstance that while the three languages, Polish, Finnish and Gaelic, each of which is asserted to be the influence of the Governments in the countries in which they are chiefly spoken, resist extinction, the minor languages in countries where there is no opposition to their use are diminishing. Finnish in Belgium, the language of one-half of the population of that country, is declining, and French in Germany, though without any Governmental discrimination. A whisper which ought to grow into a roar may be heard among the Iowa Democrats. It is "Nominate CARO BELLS for Governor!" CARO BELLS, the greatest and wisest of Iowa Democrats, speaks by the side of whom even Uncle Horace is but a midget. "Rich, fearless, popular," as one of his admirers calls him, the Hon. CARO BELLS is or should be the joy and pride of the Iowa Democrats. A nomination for Governor isn't half good enough for him.

At the opening session of the Universal Peace Union in Buffalo a Pennsylvania man, who was a handsome young man, and laid in hours of expectation and readiness for the assault so long and so bravely, and were presented to the assembly, and were recommended to the bill back to the Senate and recommend his passage. New York, July 17. T. J. RUNDIE.

THE DIRT-Y-WISHING THEORY. Desire as the Maniprator of the Universe and of its Evolution. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: F. W. Readley's "Problems of Evolution," which was so brilliantly reviewed in last Sunday's SUN, will do much, I hope, to revive in Lamarck and some of his theories, which, with our latter-day contempt for the old-fashioned Darwinian, are looked on in some quarters with disdain. On this subject I should like to call attention to a remarkable essay by Edward Carpenter, entitled "Exfoliation," in which the attempt is made to add a psychic factor to evolution.

Lamarck said: "Animals vary from low and primitive types by dint of wishing. Desire is here to be primary, and the universe rather an unfolding than a 'folding in.' If I may use the expression to characterize the process by which an organism adjusts itself to its environment, Schopenhauer and Von Hartmann both very clearly saw the importance of emphasizing this metaphysical factor in the evolution of life." "Birds do not fly because they have wings, but have wings because they wanted to fly." The incentive is primary, the adjustment secondary. "The bird," says Schopenhauer, "desires to fly because it wishes to be free, and this desire has begotten all things, Lamarck's evolutionism that things vary by dint of wishing and Darwin's formula of inherent tendency to variation contain the same truth under different names." "The bird," says Schopenhauer, "wishes to fly, and it is this wish, not its wings, that is the cause of its flight." It would seem to follow logically from this that mind has begotten the universe. "Dr. Carpenter," says Schopenhauer, "has asserted that the world was merely 'my idea,' or, in other words, that the universe is a mere mental projection of the mind."

From an environment explain the fact that from a few farmers may come a musical genius? Five children born to the same father and mother, and reared in exactly the same circumstances, may show utterly diverse tendencies: one runs to acquisitiveness, another to the study of letters, another to the art of music, and so on. It is the inherent urge, not the environment, that can account for the fact that a few farmers explain a Shakespeare, a Chatterbox or a Booker Washington.

We pay too much attention to the physical side of the mental, and we forget that the mind is too close to the ground often to lose the trail. BENJAMIN DECATASSERS. New York, July 15.

THE SPANISH WAR. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: How do you explain the curious statement made by the late Mr. Poe to the effect that the shadow of his raven, which was sitting on the pallid bust of Pallas just above his chamber door, was thrown by the lamp of Cleveley into the street below? I have often heard this query, but never an answer to it. PENTH AMOBY, July 17.

THE PORT HUDSON VOLUNTEERS. To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I should be sorry to neglect, if my article on the Port Hudson Volunteers, published in THE SUN of July 7, claimed for the volunteers anything not merited, or a reward for an act not accomplished. If "Subscriber," writing under date July 8, is aware of the well-known fact that the "storming column" did not storm, and, further, is ignorant of all the circumstances surrounding the event from which have been drawn arguments in favor of the claim, his point of criticism may be well taken as an individual writing according to his lights and capacity, but we actors in the real events of life at that time, resent it, and are in no mood to have this play in the theatre of war aspersed by this late-day reference to an "opener bouffe." While we strive for recognition of kindly public opinion, through its Congress assembled, we assume that the claim of being a martyr, whatsoever, should be investigated, would be the satisfied consciousness that it was lawfully appropriated.

The committee from the highest deliberative body in the land has expressed an opinion on the subject of the Port Hudson Volunteers, and will bear any and all questions, why members of the Port Hudson Volunteers should be recognized at the doors of Congress. An extract from Senate Report No. 2,417, Fifteenth Congress, as follows: "Your committee, however, before coming to a conclusion as to the merits of the measure, and in view of the fact that the organization was not organized until after the close of the war, and that the only one of the kind which was organized during the war, the committee is of the opinion that the bill for the Department for its organization and for the recognition of its members, and the report of the Secretary of War, with the report of the Adjutant-General of the Army, and a statement of the organization of the Port Hudson Volunteers, should be referred to a committee of the House of Representatives, and that the bill for the Department for its organization and for the recognition of its members, and the report of the Secretary of War, with the report of the Adjutant-General of the Army, and a statement of the organization of the Port Hudson Volunteers, should be referred to a committee of the House of 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