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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.

Mr. Littlefield at Denver.

There is no statutory law which prevents any American citizen from discussing and doubting and repudiating and denouncing, in private or in public, any decision of the United States Supreme Court.

There is, however, a well-defined provision in the code of American honor which makes it a misdemeanor of the second degree of ridiculousness for a lawyer, probably a member of the bar of the Supreme Court, to stand up all alone before the American Bar Association, and solemnly and on his own hook to overrule the Supreme Court in so important a matter as that involved in the insular cases.

Yet intention counts for much, and the Hon. CHARLES E. LITTLEFIELD of Maine, who is an able man and a very serious person, certainly did not intend to be ludicrous.

The Virginia Republicans.

The State of Virginia, during the long Readjuster controversy which did not terminate until the final defeat of WILLIAM MANOR as a candidate for Governor in 1880, had a form of variegated and bizarre politics peculiar to itself. Not only the State but also national contests were fought and decided upon an issue local and peculiar to Virginia, namely, its relation to the treatment of its debts to its creditors.

The existing political conditions are briefly these: There are 450,000 qualified voters in Virginia, of which number two-thirds are white and one-third colored. There are in this electorate 110,000 voters who are illiterate, 35,000 white and 75,000 colored. The Republican party in Virginia does not have its largest voting strength in the "black belt" of rivers tributary to Chesapeake Bay, but in the distinctively "white counties" of western, and especially of southwestern Virginia.

In Sussex county, in southeastern Virginia, where the colored voters outnumber the white citizens in the proportion of two to one, Mr. MCKINLEY received last year 430 votes and Mr. BRYAN 735, while in Carroll county, in the mountains of southwestern Virginia, where the white voters outnumber the colored at least forty to one, Mr. MCKINLEY received 1,700 votes last year and Mr. BRYAN only 1,400.

When the proposition to call the present Constitutional Convention was submitted to the voters in May last, 72,962 votes, many of them colored, were cast in its favor, and 60,375 votes, many of them white, were against it.

The one overshadowing issue injected into the politics of Virginia by the doings of the Constitutional Convention this year is whether or not a majority of the colored voters will consent to disfranchise themselves permanently. An independent and separate question is whether the white Republicans or the white Democrats will elect the Governor.

The New Military Railways of Russia.

Railroads are constantly gaining in importance for war purposes, and this is especially true in a country of such vast distances as Russia. As soon as Russia gained a firm foothold in central and eastern Asia, the necessity for a railroad to connect these distant domains with the motherland became evident and brought into being the trans-Caspian road, which has been extended to the Afghanistan and Chinese borders.

The trans-Caspian road had originally a purely military object. The first expedition against the Teke-Turkmen proved the necessity for a railroad to transport the enormous train required; a road was built to carry supplies and material for the troops of the second expedition to the depot at Bami.

Steadily and surely Russia has advanced in central Asia and has made herself mistress of Turkistan. In 1882 Tashkent fell, in 1885 Samarkand and the Chirchik Koken ceased to exist, in 1893 followed the expedition against China, in 1890 the Teke-Turkmen were overthrown, in 1894 Meru was absorbed, and

In 1885 the Afghans were defeated, and the Russians established a military station at Kushk on the river of the same name, extending the railroad to that point.

This last advance is especially important in case of war with England. Herat, the strategic key point of Afghanistan, is only eighty miles from the Russian border. By the extension of the trans-Caspian road to Kushk, as well as through the central Asia roads, Russia can concentrate at this point all her troops in Turkistan, for an advance on Herat, and can bring reinforcements from the Caucasus and European Russia. The railroads available for this purpose are the Batum or Poti, on the Black Sea; the line from Tiflis to Baku on the Caspian Sea and the line from Rostov, on the Sea of Azov, to Petrovsk. From Baku transports connect with Krasnovodsk; these troops can be sent on over the central Asia route.

It was shown by actual trial in 1899 that the advance guard of an army corps can be shipped in eight days from Tiflis to the Afghanistan border. An army corps can be sent in about a month. England can hardly bring up an equal force in that time. As soon as the Orenburg-Tashkent road is completed there will be another means of transporting troops from the interior of Russia to central Asia. The Merv-Andishan or Marghiana route is directed against Chinese Turkistan.

The central Asian road, also, has an important bearing on Russia's relations with Persia. Russia desires a route to the open sea, and is planning the construction of a railroad from Roshk, near the southwest coast of the Caspian Sea, over Teheran to Bender-Abbas, a port on the Persian coast. Should this road ever be constructed, the central Asia road, passing as it does close to the Persian border, will be of even greater military significance than at present.

The fact that it passes through Bokhara has already made the Ameer practically a vassal of Russia. By these railroads Russia's forces in Turkistan stand front on western China, on Afghanistan and on Persia. Turning now to the trans-Siberian road, we see that it, too, has a high military value, especially in connection with the east China road and its branch to the south, which is also practically Russian. In the Far East the advance of Russia has been similar to her progress in central Asia; the strategic points of Vladivostok, Port Arthur and Talienwan are all connected by rail with the interior of Russia.

During the troubles in China this road did important service, although it left much to be desired. The recent appropriation of eight and a half million roubles will, however, put it in condition for all that will be required of it. The sea route by way of Odessa to the Far East is easily impeded by an enemy at the Dardanelles, consequently this land route, when once in good condition, will become the more important in a military sense.

In Manchuria the road from Mukden to Tientsin and Pekin, with a branch from Kinkhau to Nuchwang, where it strikes the road to Port Arthur, is of great importance. By these railroads, Russia encloses China on the west, north and east. The strategic importance of her network of railroads is thus evident. The system enables her to concentrate troops from all parts of the empire either against China in the Far East, or against Afghanistan and Persia on the south.

The Wall of the Iowa Democrats. The Iowa Democrats had some trouble in finding out whether they wanted to reaffirm the Kansas City platform, or not, but in the end the reaffirmers won, by no means so. So the Iowa Democrats are not with the dumb or Oyster Democrats of Maryland, Virginia and Pennsylvania. The temporary chairman of the convention, the Hon. E. M. SHARON, who comes from the hickory groves of the Wapawicon, revealed in a doleful speech the woe that is upon us. "We are facing to-day," cried the Wapawicon weeper, "conditions that are momentous, destructive to our industry, our commerce and the welfare of our people." This is a sad state of things, but unless the state of things is sad, the Kansas City platform is a trifle out of date. For years the Iowa Democrats have been distraught over silver and the tariff. At present they find that "imperialism and trusts are the two great dominant evils of our national life," and that these "produce the two great issues which the Democratic party must meet." The Democratic party met them in 1900; but once is not enough for some people.

According to the Kansas City platform, imperialism is the paramount issue. Accepting the Iowa addendum to that illustrious document, there is one paramount issue and there are two dominant issues. But these are mere delicacies of classification. The great fiction to focus the mind on is the destruction of our industries, our commerce and the welfare of our people. With their farms and their pocket-books dropping fatness, it must be hard work for the Iowa Democrats to feel as funeral as their platform, but they are used to sitting on the mourners' bench and practice makes perfect.

Still, out of the old fields cometh some new corn. The Iowa Democrats are so hot to smash monopoly that they propose to commence in the Patent Office, the fountain head of legalized monopoly. Here is brave talk. How will the Eastern Democrats like it? Perhaps the Iowa Democrats have taken a bigger contract than they can handle. But a patent is a monopoly, and monopolies must be destroyed.

If Congress prove deaf to the cry for breaking the head of legalized monopoly, the original source of power must be appealed to. If Congress persists in refusing to submit to the States "necessary amendments" to the Constitution, it will become "the duty of the States to call a convention for that purpose and revise the Constitution by adding to it the grants necessary to enable Congress to control the trusts, destroy monopoly, provide for the

election of United States Senators by the people, and provide for an income tax on persons and corporations sufficient in time of peace to pay the greater part of all the expenses of the National Government."

When in doubt, amend the Constitution. It is a long job. Iowa Democrats will have plenty of time to dig up dominant evils before it is done.

Prohibition in Maine in 1901. We print the letter of a New Yorker now sojourning in Maine and observing with cynical interest the vigorous attempts to enforce the Prohibitory law in Cumberland county.

Our correspondent's opinion that the law was designed and is used as a means of building up a monopoly in the liquor traffic for the benefit of State, county and town agencies, is manifestly based on a hasty or prejudiced ratiocination. Nor can we accept his general views as to the insincerity and hypocrisy underlying the whole system.

Britain, recorded in the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Our guarantee was to New Granada, and it ante-dated the Clayton-Bulwer convention.

Some German papers appear to be astonished at Lord KITCHENER's figures. The Boers killed, according to his Lordship, far outnumber the Boers wounded. His latest report from Pretoria, dated Aug. 19, 1901, shows that sixty-four Boers were killed and twenty wounded. Surely, there must be an error here of some sort. It is hardly necessary to say that in ordinary fighting the number of the wounded is almost always far greater than the number of the killed.

THE FRENCH PIGEON SERVICE. The siege of Paris taught the value of carrier or homing pigeons, and in consequence of that experience the French Government has given much attention to this means of military communication.

In case of war it is expected that the present system will be entirely adequate. Under this system the carrier pigeons are to be used above all for connecting the fortresses, one with another and all with the capital. For this purpose each border fortress has pigeon houses for the adjacent fortresses, as well as for Paris or for some intermediate station en route to Paris.

Paris is thus connected directly with the fortresses on the northern border. For the fortresses on the northeastern frontier Langres is the intermediate station. For the fortified places southeast of Paris, Lyons serves as relay station. Ten lines of flight run to Paris, five to Langres, and the stations are organized so as to be capable of sending a communication with all important places for nearly six months.

Lately carrier pigeons have been found to be very useful in the reconnaissance work of cavalry. The officers' patrols, pushed out well to the front, carry pigeons along for messenger service, thus avoiding the weakening of the patrol from sending back cavalry messengers to make the report. Moreover, a pigeon will go more quickly and surely than a cavalryman through a strange country occupied by the enemy. Each cavalry brigade has thirty pigeons, and a patrol carries six, two men being required to convey them.

Another application, as is well known, is for naval communication with ports or coast fortifications. Until wireless telegraphy had proved so reliable and certain, pigeons will be used. They have been found capable of covering as much as 300 nautical miles very effectively.

The Engineers are charged with the carrier pigeon stations in time of peace. The frontier stations have now about three hundred birds, which serve two or three lines of flight. The homing stations at Lyons, Langres and Paris are much stronger. The training begins when the pigeons are about four months old, and their flights are progressively increased in the first year from 13 to 200 miles, in the following years they are increased to 500 miles.

There are also many private pigeon stations, which become available for the army in time of war. Since 1895 carrier pigeons have been used in the garrison and field maneuvers. For mounted patrols they are carried in baskets like knapsacks, either singly in a basket, or in cylindrical tubes which are placed horizontally in the baskets. The baskets are of various sizes, for one, two or three pigeons. A new method has been tried recently, namely, carrying them in a portable pigeon house, the idea being that the pigeons will return to this wagon, even if the latter has changed its position since the pigeons were sent out. These portable stations are designed to accompany the commanders, and to serve as places of assembly for the pigeons sent out with their messages by officers' patrols.

Francis Varca, a Hungarian patriot who fought under Kosuth, is now living and actively engaged in business in Leon, Iowa. A letter recently written by him to a friend in New York, in which he alludes to the fact that those who were once Hungarians.

I am exceedingly thankful for your kind wishes on my eighty-fourth anniversary. As you know I am an exile from my native country, Hungary, where I spent my youth. I joined the great army of 1848 for the restoration of our Constitutional rights, robbed from our country by Austria, and in that struggle we were beaten. I am a penniless refugee from the light of Hungary and a stranger in the land of the free.

The "Vote" of the Keady. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN. In reply to "The Voice of the Keady," a cablegram of 1848 for the restoration of our Constitutional rights, robbed from our country by Austria, and in that struggle we were beaten. I am a penniless refugee from the light of Hungary and a stranger in the land of the free.

Stand correct in regard to the "vote" of the keady. Still, I am not the only one who has erred. I have such company as follows, who write: I love to hear their earnest voice. Wherever they are, bid them to stand correct in regard to the "vote" of the keady. This truly kaided. NEW YORK, Aug. 23. W. A. O.

Army Traps on Sale at Peekskill. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN. During the second week in July, while on a whelting trip down through the Hudson Valley, I stopped at Peekskill for some refreshments. At the place where I had lunch I was asked if I did not wish to purchase a few army traps. I did not, but further talk brought out the fact that the traps were of the best quality and were made by a well-known maker of traps.

Somebody Brounch Chair-Watching in the City Hall. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN. You are probably wondering how the Brounch chair-watching in the City Hall is getting on. I have just returned from the City Hall, and I can tell you that the Brounch chair-watching is getting on very well. The Brounch chair-watching is getting on very well. The Brounch chair-watching is getting on very well. The Brounch chair-watching is getting on very well.

That Tattered Flag. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN. I would suggest that the tattered flag of the United States be replaced by a new flag, one that is clean and bright, and that is worthy of the United States. I would suggest that the tattered flag of the United States be replaced by a new flag, one that is clean and bright, and that is worthy of the United States.

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THE MAINE LAW AS IT IS. The Observations and Somewhat Intemperate Conclusions of an Outsider. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I have noted with interest your editorial of Aug. 21, headed, "Peace at Mystic." While the annual Peace meetings have been for several years past held at Mystic, and while the society have a grove there and a so-called temple, yet I trust for the good reputation of Mystic that it will not be charged with all the reason which is talked by some of the delegates who have been in attendance this year and years before.

As a native of Mystic and one interested in her welfare, I would not want to have the world think that the inhabitants of Mystic are such cranks as the various resolutions which are submitted annually at the Peace meetings would seem to indicate. As a matter of fact, this Peace meeting business, so far as I am able to discover, originated with a few Quakers who lived at a place called Quakerstown, a few miles above the village of Mystic, and who were abetted by various cranks scattered throughout the country.

I believe that the interest which has been manifested by the progress of the Spanish-American War, the interest has fallen off. At this particular meeting there were speeches of such a treading on the toes of the liquor traffic that the meeting would have been justified in hanging the speakers to one of the trees which adorn their beautiful grove. The meeting was a failure. The attendance was small compared with former years, and on one Friday, a sort of a riot broke out in the grove, and the grove was made, and the grounds were the scene of many disgraceful drunken brawls and many who, after the meeting, returned to the village disgusted.

During the last session the Grand Army convention was held in an uninvited for a number of years, and it has developed into a society of cranks, and to my mind it is unfortunate that the city of Mystic should have been chosen for the site of the annual Peace meetings. For Heaven's sake do not charge the poor town with being responsible for the fact that they are held there.

Size of the Independent Vote in New York. To the EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Your editorial on the Political Census of Greater New York, in today's issue, is very interesting, but it does not cover the whole ground. We have found from careful canvassing that all of the 178,000 voters who do not register with either party, and who are therefore not included in the personal investigation has shown that many of these are strongly partisan.

Many of the city employees, for reasons not easily understood, have not enrolled in any party, and I wish to draw your attention, is that many of the men who perhaps from life-long association or habit enroll themselves as Democrats or Republicans in municipal affairs, of the hundreds of men who to-day are serving on the City Committee or on the sixty Assembly District committees of the City, are not enrolled in any party, and I wish to draw your attention, is that many of the men who perhaps from life-long association or habit enroll themselves as Democrats or Republicans in municipal affairs, of the hundreds of men who to-day are serving on the City Committee or on the sixty Assembly District committees of the City, are not enrolled in any party.

It would pay students of municipal reform to come to Maine and learn the methods by which the friends of the liquor traffic have succeeded in getting the pockets of the victims of the town and city liquor agencies of the last cent. So hard has the regime pressed upon the fishermen of Maine that throughout this summer hotels and boarding-house keepers hereabouts have had to send to Portsmouth, New Hampshire, for fish caught in Portland, as the fishermen know that if they go into Portland, and any of their fellows get drunk in the city limits, they will be pulled into the police court and charged a swingeing court fine.

Every New Yorker who visits this city notes with surprise that more drunkards are seen on the principal streets of New York. The reason for this is that everything possible has been done to prevent the sale of hard stuff in the town and city liquor agencies. Lager beer is not sold at these places, because it is not so strong as the other liquors. The customers drunk. What the cunning wine-pullers of the State and town liquor rings like to do is to sell "forty-two" whiskey and "thirty-two" gin, so that most of the buyers of the farming and fisherman class may become as full as goats before getting out of town or on the board of vessels. The liquor traffic is being picked up drunk and run through the hopper of the municipal court to the great profit of those who rule the local voters.

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