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WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Hartford Election.

The idea of reorganizing BRYAN out of the Democratic party was heavily shocked by the election on Monday of Mr. IGNATIUS T. SULLIVAN, as Mayor of the capital of one of the three Northern States to which the Democratic party in the days of its traditional partisanship and conservatism used to look for national victory—Connecticut.

SULLIVAN is the President of the Connecticut branch of the American Federation of Labor. He is a labor man, first and foremost. But he was made the candidate of the Democratic party, and he was elected by a majority of more than 300 over his Republican rival. In 1900 Connecticut gave MCKINLEY a majority over BRYAN of 28,570, to which Hartford contributed a majority of 4,943. Last year Hartford chose a Republican Mayor.

Compared to SULLIVAN, BRYAN is a Democrat of the calm old school. Amid his radicalism BRYAN has always professed a certain respect for the Democratic doctrine of equal rights. But that principle is with union labor despised and spit on. Union labor is for the rule of a class that knows or cares for no law but its own, and makes war upon all other laws and upon those who would live under them.

None the less, among all the politicians of national reputation BRYAN is the choice of organized labor, the political element that has just captured the Democratic party in Hartford and led its captive to victory.

The Propagation of the Faith.

A history of the Roman Catholic Society for the Propagation of the Faith has just been published at Baltimore by the Society, with the imprimatur of Cardinal GIBBONS. It is a very interesting document, and contains information which, probably, will be new to Protestants, more especially.

In the first place, this society must not be confounded, as usually it seems to be confounded, with the "Roman Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith," or the "Propaganda," as it is known generally. That Congregation is a department of the general administration of the Church, and it was established in 1622, by Pope GREGORY XV., "to direct, supervise and assist the missionaries who preach the faith in countries where paganism, schism, and heresy prevail." The College of the Congregation with its university, at Rome, famous throughout the Roman Catholic world, is also supported by it out of an annual revenue from endowments which now amounts to $135,000. A printing establishment, in which religious works in nearly all languages are printed, is another feature. The revenue of the Congregation barely sufficing for these purposes, missionaries who cannot get support from the people among whom they labor are supported by special charitable associations, of which the chief and only one truly universal is the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, an institution founded in the last century merely.

This Society has no part in the selection or appointment of missionaries, they being chosen, trained and sent forth by the usual authorities of the Church; and it does not concern itself with the interior administration of the missions.

The enterprise was started in a very humble way in 1822, at a meeting in Lyons at which only twelve persons were present. The incentive to its organization was given by a priest who described the progress and the sufferings of the Roman Catholic missions in America, but its field was made universal. The approbation of ecclesiastical authority, without which no such institution can be established, was obtained speedily. All told, its receipts during its first year were only $4,000, though since, or from 1822 to 1900, it has distributed the vast sum of $65,690,017, of which nearly six millions has been spent in missionary work in the United States.

Soon after its foundation a central council was established at Paris, and nearly three hundred Bishops in many different countries joined in favoring it. Finally, in 1840, an encyclical from Pope GREGORY XVI. commended to all churches the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and thus "placed it in the rank of universal Christian institutions."

This table gives the receipts from 1822 to 1900 and the countries contributing the money:

France, French Colonies	$42,076,906.00
Belgium	8,701,140.00
Germany and Austria	6,892,666.00
Italy	4,790,185.00
Switzerland	715,857.00
Balkan States	287,943.00
United States	1,130,427.00
Canada, Mexico, West Indies	1,148,276.00
Great Britain and Ireland	2,301,764.00
Holland	1,167,634.00
Portugal	440,871.00
Russia, Poland	66,754.00
Spain	639,908.00
Central and South America	515,706.00
Oceanica	85,675.00
Asia	74,000.00
Africa	256,586.00
Countries not named	22,556.00
Total	$65,690,017.00

This sum was distributed throughout the continents of the world, thus:

America	$9,973,916.00
Europe	9,799,654.00
Asia	21,582,446.00
Africa	8,415,858.00
Oceanica	6,011,590.00
Special gifts for miscellaneous purposes	6,156,548.00

During the same period the total sum given to the United States specifically was $5,807,393, or an average of more than seventy-four thousand dollars a year. "There is not a single portion of the Church here which at one time or another has not been helped by the society;" yet the sum received from the United States was only $1,120,420.

Membership in the Society is always individual and voluntary, but usually members are formed into "bands of ten," with a "promoter" in each. The requirements for membership are a daily offering of prayer and the giving of five cents a month, or sixty cents a year, for the Society. There are also "special members" who contribute six dollars a year, representing the amount collected in a "band of ten," and "life members" who give at one time not less than forty dollars. Both the living and the dead may be enrolled as members, and both "share in the merits and prayers of missionaries, and in masses said by them." Frequent meetings of branches of the Society in different parishes are held.

The administration of the Society is almost wholly by the laity. The "central councils" are two and are at Lyons and at Paris, and the division of funds is made by their common consent. There being no permanent fund, "Catholic missions are always at the mercy of the faithful, and at the beginning of each year the total sum of money collected during the past year is distributed." Members get the news of missions through a periodical called "Annals of the Propagation of the Faith," printed in several different languages and with a circulation, bi-monthly, of 800,000 copies. This publication stimulates recruiting for the missionary work, or in the words of "an eloquent orator" quoted in this history of the organization:

> "An astonishing and glorious fact marks the close of the century. Speculators and economists laud the resources, salubrity and charms of a country to attract colonists; and they do not always succeed. The publications of the Propagation of the Faith speak of nothing but privations, peril and struggles; the more they darken the picture, the more they kindle the zeal for missions, especially if they open the sombre perspective of martyrdom."

The Pope extends "spiritual favors" to the Society by granting "plenary and special indulgences" to its members. The list of the missions assisted numbers more than two hundred, those in the United States now being Indian missions chiefly. In Asia are the greatest number, China alone having 41 and India and the Indo-Chinese peninsula 45. The number in Africa is 53, and in the Turkish Empire there are 13. About 15,000 priests and religious, 5,000 teaching brothers and 45,000 sisters are laboring as missionaries, besides native priests, brothers and sisters.

"At the lowest computation," this history of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith estimates that the total number of missionaries at the opening of this century is 65,000. It is an army of faith which affords a marvellous exhibition of the religious zeal which is stimulated by this "Prayer for Catholic Missions" in the Mass for the Propagation of the Faith:

> "O God! Who wouldst have all men to be saved and come to a knowledge of the truth, send forth, we beseech Thee, laborers into Thy harvest; and grant them with all boldness to preach the Word; that Thy Gospel may everywhere be heard and glorified, and that all nations may know Thee the one true God, and Him whom Thou hast sent, JESUS CHRIST, Thy Son our Lord. Amen."

This is a prayer in which all Christians zealous for the propagation of their faith, Protestant no less than Catholic, can join.

Statistics of Protestant foreign missions gathered for the Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions, held in New York in 1900, are also impressive. They show the number of missionaries and helpers, clerical and lay, men and women, to be 18,682, besides 4,170 ordained and 73,966 unordained natives. In these statistics are included physicians, married women, tract distributors, teachers, and so forth.

The Exclusion of Unborn Chinese.

The second section of the Chinese Exclusion bill prohibits the entry into our mainland territory of Chinese laborers coming from any of the insular possessions. The prohibition applies not only to Chinese who were in the Philippines, or in Hawaii, or in Porto Rico when we acquired the islands, or who have come there since or have been born there since, but also specifically to "those who may be born there hereafter."

This provision denying to future generations of insular Americans of Chinese descent the right to set foot upon the American mainland appears both in the bill which has just passed the Senate and in the similar bill which is under discussion in the House.

There are some things to be said about this particular feature of the "closed door."

The Supreme Court of the United States has decided, in the case of WONG KIM ARK, that children born in the United States of Chinese parents subject to our jurisdiction become American citizens, enjoying all the privileges and immunities of citizenship. Freedom to change the place of residence from one part of American territory to another is certainly among the privileges of citizenship.

In the decision in the case of WONG KIM ARK, the Court gave practical effect to the first clause of the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution:

> "All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside."

What the Court affirmed was the principle that there is no distinction as to the rights of citizenship between a Chinaman born within the jurisdiction of the United States and a negro born within the jurisdiction of the United States, and it was to establish the equal rights of the negro and the white that the Fourteenth Amendment was adopted. "All persons" means all persons including Chinamen, not all persons except Chinamen.

Within the United States, therefore, the Fourteenth Amendment, as interpreted by the Supreme Court, puts the American-born white child, black child and yellow child on precisely the same level as to rights of citizenship.

Whatever might be the opinion of the Supreme Court as to the present status of white men, black men and yellow men born under the American flag in Porto Rico or Luzon, it is very clear that if Porto Rico or Luzon should ever become a State of the United States the exclusion clause of which we are speaking would at the very first opportunity be declared unconstitutional.

That is not the question which interests us just now. Why is it, we desire to ask, that the very same Democrats, anti-Imperialists and Constitutional authorities who have been declaring so persistently that the Constitution extends itself of its own force to all newly acquired American territory, that there can be no distinction of citizenship under the flag as between mainland and island, are now accepting without protest and eagerly and unanimously, or nearly so, this exclusion clause which if, their general theory is correct, is unconstitutional even at the present time?

By what mental process do they persuade themselves that they can enact legislation concerning unborn Chinamen in the Philippines or in Porto Rico which they could not Constitutionally enact in the case of unborn Chinamen in Oregon or Idaho?

Rhodes on the Jameson Raid.

Beneath very natural exaggeration of the charges of cruelty to the Boers by the British in South Africa there is undoubtedly solid basis of deplorable fact. Mr. MONTAGU WHITE'S very sober speech at the annual meeting of the Holland Society in this city on Monday night was merely an affirmation of things for which the evidence was already satisfactory. But it seems curious that in the excitement attending the death of CECIL RHODES and the interest excited by his remarkable will, Mr. RHODES'S recent explanation of the Jameson raid, through the words of a biographer, should have passed with so little notice. It was printed in the New York newspapers of March 28.

The Cape of Good Hope Napoleon found that "old KRÜGER was an insuperable obstacle to the union of South Africa." In agreement with the Krüger policy, although in opposition to the man personally, there was an "English-speaking minority at least as much opposed to seeing South Africa under the British flag." If left to develop, this would have become a majority against the policy for which RHODES declared that he had struggled all his life, "to make South Africa an integral part of the British Empire." So he organized the Jameson raid, at that particular time because then RHODES had at his back a "combination of millionaires" that he "might not be able to get together again."

The raid failed. But only a few years passed before RHODES and JAMESON were succeeded by the British Government, bent on accomplishing his policy of making South Africa an integral part of the British Empire, and backed by all the millionaires subject to Great Britain's power of taxation.

Neither the nineteenth nor the twentieth century will see a greater political crime than the British raid upon the Dutch republics of South Africa. No wonder the stalwart and passionately patriotic Boers fight like the Devil.

The Lease of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company.

Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE, sitting at Special Term of the Supreme Court yesterday, dissolved the temporary injunction which had been granted restraining the Metropolitan Street Railway Company from consummating its lease with the Interurban Street Railway Company, holding, in brief, that the two questions involved must be finally determined upon upon the trial of the actions, and these two questions as stated by the learned Judge, are:

> "First—Is the lease void on its face for illegality?
>
> "Second—In view of all the facts and circumstances disclosed on this motion, is the rental grossly inadequate and the plan a fraud upon the minority stockholders?"

The actions were brought by minority stockholders of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company to restrain the delivery and operation of a lease to the Interurban Street Railway Company, made by the directors of the Metropolitan company and ratified by about 80 per cent. in value of the holders of the entire capital stock. The plaintiffs hold a substantial portion of the capital stock, and are among the minority stockholders who opposed the ratification.

The Interurban Street Railway Company, to which the Metropolitan road is leased, operates a surface railroad in Westchester county, about four miles in length, has an equipment of only five cars, and its capital stock has recently been increased to $20,000,000 from its original amount, $5,000,000. The third defendant, the Metropolitan Securities Company, or what may be termed "the holding corporation," was organized in February last with a capital stock of $30,000,000; that it has acquired all the capital stock of the Interurban company and of various other street railroads in Westchester county, and agreed to pay $23,000,000 to the Interurban company for $12,000,000 of its capital stock, and $15,000,000 face value of its 3 per cent. debentures. KUHN & LOEB underwrote at par the entire capital stock of $30,000,000 of the Metropolitan Securities Company, conditioned upon the approval of the lease by the Metropolitan Street Railway Company to the Interurban Street Railway Company. The practical absorption of the Metropolitan Street Railway Company in the Interurban Street Railway Company, and then of both companies into the Metropolitan Securities Company, was opposed by the plaintiff on the ground that the lease made by the Metropolitan Street Railway Company was not within its corporate powers, and that it was illegal on its face and void as a matter of law, and that if it had been approved by all the stockholders it would still be invalid, because it sold the powers, rights and privileges, assets and property of the Metropolitan company.

Judge GILDERSLEEVE holds that as the Railroad law authorizes the lease of one railroad corporation to another, and as the lease in question has complied with the law, there is no merger and consolidation of the two companies, and he says: "The lease cannot be said to be void upon its face as a matter of law, and the continuance of the temporary injunction cannot rest upon this ground." He then takes up the second objection that the transfer of the franchises and property from the Metropolitan Street Railway Company to the Interurban Street Railway Company, is a fraud upon the minority stockholders, and he discusses the decision of the Court of Appeals in FLYNN vs. The Brooklyn City Railroad Company, where the Court of Appeals condemned the lease as fraudulent because the trustees enjoyed a profit not shared in by the stockholders at large—of which here there is no evidence—and because the rental was inadequate. As to the alleged inadequacy of rental in the case at bar, Judge GILDERSLEEVE says the Court will not substitute its own judgment upon a business proposition for that of the directors and of a majority of the stockholders, providing they are acting honestly, and that he can find no evidence here that overreaches the presumption that the directors and majority stockholders are acting in good faith.

He further holds that it cannot be said that the rental is grossly inadequate, nor that the sale of securities is improvident nor that the consideration of $23,000,000 is not a fair value. The lease, says the Court, must stand or fall on its own merits, wholly irrespective of the relations between the Securities company and the Interurban company, and while it is true that under the lease the stockholders are limited to an annual dividend of 7 per cent. for 999 years, no matter how great the earnings and profits of the Metropolitan system may become, and that the holders of the stock of the Metropolitan Securities Company would get the benefit of the surplus, still these considerations do not affect the good faith of the plan.

It would seem to us that the decision of Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE is sound, and must be sustained by the Appellate Division. In any event it is clear that the Court at Special Term is right in setting aside the temporary injunctions and leaving the matters involved to be determined on the actual trial of the issues involved.

Love Songs in a Woman's Suffrage Club.

The Political Equality League of Chicago is one of the most earnest and famous of the many famous and earnest clubs of women. If woman is ever elevated to her proper sphere by the side of the tyrant man at primaries and the polls, the completion of the great work will be due, in no small degree, to the efforts of the Chicago Political Equality League. The leaders of that club neglect nothing that can make its labors for emancipation solid, fruitful and continuous. It has frowned upon the frivolity which has found its way into some women's clubs. It has lived for graver purposes than cakes and tea. Other clubs might attract or entertain; the Political Equality Club lived for political equality and nothing else. Other women's clubs might be butterflies or humming birds; this was an eagle. It was proud to be grand, gloomy and peculiar, as its enemies called it. Caramels are for the many. Only select souls can thrive on a diet of severe thought.

The Political Equality League was known far and wide for its zeal, the austerity of its principles and its unwavering devotion to one high purpose. There was something of the Spartan, the old Roman, in its inflexibility. There is something sad in that "was." It sounds like an epitaph on the lofty single-mindedness of the Political Equality League. For the high ideals have been forgotten in part. At a meeting last week a mere man sang Prince PONIATOWSKI'S "Yeoman's Wedding Song," which contains such alien and sentimental matter as this:

> "Though I've little wealth, but sov'reign health,
> And am only a yeoman free,
> When heart joins hand, there's none in the land
> Can be richer in joys than we."

What has political equality to do with commonplace, old-fashioned notions like these? How does the joining of heart and hand promote the passage of a Constitutional amendment to prevent woman from continuing to be the slave of domineering man? The Roman matrons and the Spartan virgins sighed. They had not left their happy homes and travelled through mud and rain for the sake of hearing about a yeoman free and his bouncing bride. They must have shuddered and put their hands over their ears when the musical man person began to troll out "How Fair Art Thou:"

> "O, at thy feet low happy in silent pain to die,
> But rather would I rise, my dear, and to thy bosom fly,
> To press a thousand kisses on thine enchanting brow,
> Then sinking down and dying, yes dying, still to sighing,
> How fair art thou!"

Tush, tush! what words are these for a meeting of the Political Equality League? It is as easy to imagine JEREMY BENTHAM and JOHN STUART MILL doing a cakewalk, or HERBERT SPENCER warbling "Dear Midnight of Love." Mrs. CATHERINE WALCH MCCULLOCH must have expressed the emotion of all the truly serious souls in the meeting when she said that "we didn't come here to listen to love songs." The Secretary of the League pleads that it wants "to get hold of young women as well as old." It is hard to see how the utterance of a song of a desire to press a thousand kisses on thine enchanting brow is going to lead anybody, young or old, in the direction of political equality. Is this once stern and rockbound club to become a league for the cultivation of love songs?

Among the Democratic members of the Committee on Ways and Means, Mr. RICHARDSON of Tennessee is playing politics over the question of industrial life or death for Cuba, with his accustomed sinuosity and insincerity; Mr. NEWLANDS of Nevada is laboring to force prematurely the question of annexation, being inspired, as it seems, by an ardent desire to connect his name with that event as he did with the annexation of Hawaii; while Mr. MCCLELLAN of New York, having made a most intelligent and candid study of the conditions, has prepared himself to vote squarely for the twenty per cent. reduction in case thirty-three or forty per cent. cannot be obtained.

By some curious blunder or misapprehension the salary of the United States Consul at Odessa is reduced by the pending Diplomatic and Consular bill from $2,500 to $2,000. Secretary HAY has written to Speaker HENDERSON a vigorous letter suggesting that instead of a cut-down, there be an increase to $3,000.

The Secretary is right. Odessa is one of the most important stations, and the Consul who has represented our Government at that point for seventeen years is one of the best men in the service. If Mr. HEENAN were the British, French or German Consul at Odessa, he would be getting from $4,500 to $6,500.

The mistake should be corrected.

The Alaska-Canadian Frontier.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Allow me to congratulate you on the excellent editorial entitled "The Stolen Monument," which appeared in your issue of April 4. Would that there were more newspapers which spoke with the stalwart Americanism of THE SUN.

It is plain to every one that, since the discovery of gold in Alaska, the Canadians have been trying to get possession of a vast region belonging to the United States, and are ready to resort to almost any means to accomplish that end.

To a practical American, who has the best interests of his country at heart, it would seem that the proper time to settle this matter is now. Why waste any more time over the provisional boundary?—a temporary concession, made in a weak moment, to prevent trouble. Every day's delay only adds to Canada's pretensions.

Let us declare the absurd agreement of October, 1899, at an end. Let us declare that the only boundary line we will tolerate is the one turned over to us by Russia, the one which the whole civilized world—including Canada—has recognised since 1825, and which Canada only recently began to question.

Let us have a little more backbone in this matter. A. W.

OVERBROOK, Pa., April 7.

Bicycle Revival—The Why and How.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read with much satisfaction your editorial this morning upon the revival of bicycling, having "viewed with regret" for several years back what has seemed to me an unaccountable decadence of one of the most important of latter-day pastimes. I rejoice at the prospect of a return of the good old days.

But I have frequently made the observation, as no doubt have also many others of your readers, that the decrease of wheeling was disproportionately great here in New York city, as compared with the other large centres like Chicago, Philadelphia, &c., to say nothing of the smaller towns or the country generally.

The reason, of course, lies in the fact that few of the principal thoroughfares have been made practicable for the rubber-footed steed; and owing further to the fact that almost all kinds of vehicles preferable seek the asphalted avenues wheeling is highly difficult even upon those streets.

Is it good policy for the builders of the city streets to thus discriminate against the bicycle? It seems to me that if a larger number of the streets leading to the Brooklyn and Jersey ferries in those districts most frequented were adapted to the bicycle, rapid transit would be materially, as would likewise the disgraceful conditions of travel upon the elevated be improved. Can there be any doubt that if all the north and south thoroughfares of Manhattan were convenient to bicycliers that thousands of the patrons of both the overcrowded "Ls" and Metropolitan trolleys would prefer the wheel? W. J. ENNISSON.

NEW YORK, April 8.

The Prince of Wales's Visit.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have just read with considerable surprise the letter of Mr. Crookall with reference to the proposed visit of the Prince of Wales to this country, and also with more than considerable satisfaction your editorial comments thereon, which I should think voice sentiments of the majority of the inhabitants of this great country. There are few people claiming to be Englishmen who hold such views as those expressed by Mr. Crookall.

HENRY STEBBING ALLEN.

NEW YORK, April 8.

Sheep Drink.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You may print in red letters of your most conspicuous type the statement that sheep do drink. When I was a boy in Steuben county, New York, not so many years ago, it was my business, among other things, to carry water twice each day to a flock of a hundred sheep. Do you suppose I should have carried that water if the sheep had not drunk it? Sheep drink very little at a time, but they drink often. Those hundred sheep used to require about fifteen gallons in twenty-four hours—a very small amount for each individual sheep. I have seen sheep in dry pastures, as "F. O'C." says, and I have noticed that they are always feeding in the early morning. Hence I conclude that the dew on the grass is sufficient to slake their thirst. F. H.

PRINCETON, N. J., April 7.

Fairly Well.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* How will La Grand Tum do? E. G. LASON.

LOWER PINE VALLEY, N. Y., April 8.

Poor Human Nature.

Jaggles—How can a doctor, for business reasons, afford to tell his patients what things to do in order to keep in good health?

Waggles—Easy enough. He knows they won't do them.

Her Ride Home.

When the evening shades are falling,
Then I wend my weary way
To the elevated station,
Bound for Harlem, far away.

There I wait with countless others
'Till "Train for Harlem" greets my ear,
Then I know the time for conflict
Swiftly, surely draweth near.

Then I try with all the others
Room within the car to win,
And it's then I thank my fortune
That my frame is long and thin.

For I edge my way on slowly
'Til at length I take my place
Right in front of some young fellow
With a stodgy looking face.

In the hope that he'll take pity,
And offer me his seat;
But I say the girl's a stunner
Who accomplishes this feat.

For the man, quite unobserving
Of the ladies standing near
Gives their eyes upon their papers,
And will neither see nor hear.

Twice I've stood out on the platform,
With a dozen more or so,
While the cold, cold winds of winter
Make it a thing not slow.

Now the car swings round a corner,
All within swing forward, too,
With both danger and cursing
Where there is no stay for you.

Some fat man right behind me
Is propelled against my back
And I'm more precipitated
Than some other fellow's slap.

Now the train and were crazy
Rushing through the other way
And our mental and bodiloes
Don't suggest the spoon of May.

Still more come at every station
'Til they can't squeeze in the door
Still the "con" cries, "Room up front there!"
As he has done so oft before.

But New York folks are good natured
And you can't deny this truth,
So we all smile sympathetic,
When one says, "Let city the roof!"

So the train goes on its journey,
Now the "con" cries "out!"
And I leave my struggling brethren,
Let my daily stint is o'er.

NEUTRALITY.

The British Exportation of Mules and Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The real question in regard to the British operations in this country in purchasing and shipping mules for use against the Boers in South Africa seems to rest on two propositions. It may be assumed that the technical charge of enlisting men here cannot be proven. So far as the question of the right of our citizens as such to sell and export in the ordinary course of commercial enterprise any article, even contraband of war, to a belligerent is involved, that has long been settled. Mr. Justice Story, in 1822, in the case of the Sanctessima Trinidad, 7 Wheaton, 340, and Mr. Chief Justice Chase, in the case of the Bermuda, 70 U. S., 514, declared this to be the law; in the former case the declaration included armed vessels as well as munitions of war; but that court seems not to have gone so far as to say that a belligerent might come into this country and by its regularly constituted military authorities buy and ship in its own private vessels articles clearly contraband according to its own laws, especially if its efforts in that behalf involve a regular and systematic plan of operations more or less military in character.

The only Federal case which seems to have been so decided was that of Pearson vs. Parson, 108 Federal Reporter, 461, decided in 1901, that being a case involving these very operations by the British in the South and Southwest. The question can scarcely be deemed settled by that decision because it was by an inferior Federal court, and was apparently not appealed, and for the reason that the court manifestly, and as it expressly declared, had no jurisdiction of the subject matter of the suit, the question being a political one and for the executive branch of our Government to decide.

The measure of this country's responsibility in the premises is not alone found in our neutrality laws. Those laws are good as far as they go and bind us, although they do not bind other nations unless in conformity with their laws or the laws of nations. The true measure of our responsibility must rest on principles of international law; and it is to two of those principles that I call attention. The first is the one referred to and declared by the United States Supreme Court in the case of the People vs. Arjona, 120 U. S., 479, in which case it was declared that "The law of nations required every nation to use 'due diligence' to prevent a wrong being done within its own dominions to another nation with which it is at peace." This was said in regard to the right of this country to prohibit and punish counterfeiting in this country of the money of a foreign government; and it is apparent that the same principle might well be held to apply to such operations as are now carried on in the South by the British; the fact that war exists making the exercise of the utmost good faith and the highest degree of diligence in the performance of our duties as neutrals the more imperative. The other proposition is that declared in the treaty of Washington in regard to the Alabama claims dated May 8, 1871, which is as follows: "A neutral government is bound * * * not to permit or suffer either belligerent to make use of its ports or waters as the base of naval operations against the others, or for the purpose of renewal or augmentation of military supplies or arms, or the recruiting of men."

It seems obvious that the clause "or for the purpose of renewal or augmentation of military supplies" includes such operations as those in question. This declaration, though made in regard especially to the controversy between Great Britain and this country growing out of the acts of the former during our Civil War, was more than a mere declaration, applicable alone to that case. It was a declaration of principle which was intended to be binding on both nations thereafter, and in a sense thus became a principle of International law. That it did not in effect, nor was it intended that it should, supersede the well-known and well-established right of citizens of a neutral State to sell and export to belligerents articles of commerce, including contraband of war, in the usual course of trade, is plain and clear. It only declared that neither belligerent should in time of war use a neutral port or neutral waters to renew or augment his military supplies. And while it may be well said that the other belligerent in the present case was no party to that compact, yet that was not necessary, if, in fact, the declaration had the force and effect of a principle of international law, as seems to have been the case; at any rate, Great Britain cannot well complain now that a principle to which she gave her adherence thirty-five years ago, and which she has not expressly disavowed, is now invoked against her.

It is by no means certain that the spirit and intent of our neutrality laws, as well as the well-established and universally recognized principles of international law, are not violated by permitting men in the actual military service of the Government of Great Britain and on the payrolls of her army in the field to come here, and establish on our territory bases of supplies for the notorious purpose of sending the articles purchased to the army in Africa to be used as a part of their military equipment against a State with which we are at peace. Mules and men to care for them are just as much a part of the belligerent force as soldiers and arms and as ammunition and food, and are as necessary to the prosecution of the war. Recruiting mules is no less a violation of a law in spirit than recruiting men. Furthermore, if it could be established that any one, no matter what his nationality, had engaged men here to go to Africa in the nominal capacity of muleteers, and if such men and mules are as they seem to be, paid as a part of the expense of the military operations in the field, and are under control of the English military authorities—does not the case come within the true intent of section 5,282 of our Revised Statutes?

Of course, if it should be proved that any one hired or retained any of these men to enlist or enter himself here in the service of Great Britain, the person so hiring or retaining would be guilty of violating the provisions of the section; but the law goes further than that. It declares that any one who hires or retains another to go beyond the limits of the United States "with intent to be enlisted or entered in the service" of Great Britain, for instance, violates the law. So, one need not be enlisted here, or even asked to enlist, in order to come within the law. If he is hired or retained to enter the military service in any capacity, the offence is complete; and if what is seemingly notorious, is in fact true, that these mules are bought here by and for the British military authorities, with money appropriated for the prosecution of military operations against the Boers, and are from the time of their purchase in fact, though not in name, under the control of the army, and if the men in charge of such animals are similarly employed and paid—then at least the spirit, if not the letter of the law, is violated. Let us be fair and neutral in fact, and hold the scales evenly balanced as between the contending parties. We need not interfere at all with the usual operations of proper commercial intercourse, but if we stop operations which in fact go beyond that condition, the great and wealthy British Empire should not complain. JOSIAH B. THOMPSON.

NEW YORK, April 8.

Has the President Got Col. Watterson in a Hole?

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

WASHINGTON, D. C., April 4. Marse Henry Watterson has a delicate problem before him. It is whether or not he can afford to sell his soul to the "Man on Horseback." Two or three weeks ago President Roosevelt instructed that Cupido be asked the gallant chaperon of the Star Eyed Goddess if he would accept appointment as a member of the Board of Visitors to the West Point Military Academy.

"Hold up, hold up, there!" exclaimed Marse Henry, when cupido made the suggestion. "Hold up a minute. Wait till the President hears what I am going to say about him in my speech to the Virginia Democrats. Tell he won't want to appoint me to anything."

Watterson made his speech. He put the Terrible Teddy on horseback with a big H. He flayed him to an unheeded tanning. He had all sorts of fun with the man in the White House. When the President read all this he laughed. And when he was asked if he still wanted Col. Watterson to go as a visitor to West Point he laughed again and exclaimed:

"Why, certainly!"

Hence some sense of a dilemma confronts the gallant Kentucky historian.

First—If he accepts the appointment he will as a matter of decency have to stop kicking for while the President.

Second—If he declines he will have to refrain from the President half way in participation in the gentleness of life among great men, a most so Renaissance face.

Her Advantage.

Jaggles—Is there less danger in keeping an auto than a carriage?

Waggles—There seems to be, if you have many figurative designs. I haven't yet heard of a pole stopping with a collision.

Oh, Liberty!

Thomas—Do you wonder my a meeting of the Equal Rights club to day? What did you do?

Mrs. Jones—Pres the sour line.

FOR THE MEXICAN VETERANS.

An Appeal for the Passage of the Bill to Give Them $12 a Month Pensions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I trust that THE SUN will lend its influence toward securing immediate and favorable action in the House upon Senate bill No. 3,522, "to increase the pensions of Mexican War survivors to $12 per month." This bill passed the Senate on the 14th day of February, and four days later was referred to the House Committee on Pensions, of which Mr. Loudenslager of New Jersey is chairman. It should not remain there so long as to imperil the chance of its passage at the present session.

The measure, it is understood, has received the approval of Commissioner Evans. In a note to Senator Gallinger, chairman of the Senate Committee on Pensions, he places the number of survivors of the Mexican War on the roll June 30, 1901, at 7,568. Of these only about 3,900 would benefit by this act, because under an existing law the others—approximately 3,668—are already receiving $12 per month as "totally disabled from manual labor and in such destitute circumstances that $8 per month were insufficient to provide them the necessaries of life." Assuming the number to receive the increase of $4 per month now to be 3,900, the total additional expenditure would be only $187,200 per annum.

Congress has been generous to the survivors of the Civil War, and to their successors and dependents, especially at the present session, in the matter of private pensions; and it is already provided for the veterans that upon reaching the age of 75 years they become entitled to a service pension of $12 per month—just and only what is now asked for the Mexican War veterans, all of whom have doubtless reached that age. I seek to institute no comparison between the services of those who fought in the Mexican War and of those who took part in the struggle for the preservation of the Union, but surely some consideration is due to the men who followed Scott and Taylor in a contest the results of which have been of such incalculable advantage to the nation.

Senator Gallinger, in his report accompanying the bill, calls attention to the fact that it is now about fifty-four years since the close of the Mexican War, and as the survivors are all approximately 75 years old, it is fair to assume that they will not long continue on the roll. The decrease is more and more marked every year.

From July 1, 1897, to June 30, 1901, the number dropped was 3,424; from July 1, 1900, to June 30, 1901, the number was 784, or a little over 10 per cent. of the whole number now on the roll. According to the accepted tables of mortality, there will be a great decline of the number and a marked decrease in the cost; "indeed, it will not be many years before the name of the last survivor will disappear from the roll."

I am a Mexican War veteran, but you will see that I am not selfishly and exclusively pleading an individual case, but rather for simple justice. Although nearing a decade beyond the allotted age of man, I am still able to "hoe my own row;" so, while I am by no means averse to receiving benefits from a grateful country, I am free to say that there are others among the survivors who need them more than myself. Very sincerely yours, EDWIN B. MOORE.

BROOKLYN, April 7.

An Appreciative Landlord.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

Last fall the occupant of a rented cottage an upper Western avenue, wishing to add to the comfort of his home and at the same time improve the appearance of the place, conceived the idea—a rather unusual one for a tenant—of digging a cellar and putting a brick foundation under the house. All winter he devoted his spare moments—in the morning, in the evening and on Sundays—to the work of excavation, and when the job was completed he proceeded to erect the foundation.

The next time the landlord called to collect the rent he was much surprised at the change in the appearance of his place.

"This is quite an improvement," said he to his tenant.

"Yes, it is," replied the latter. "Well, I felt as though I wanted a little more room and, as I had a little spare time I concluded to add a basement to the house."

"It certainly makes quite a difference in the looks of the place," said the landlord, "and ought to make the property more valuable. In view of this fact I suppose I will have to raise the rent. You may have the house at the old price until the 1st of May, but after that I must ask you to pay me $4 more."

This was more than the tenant had looked for, and the landlord's remarks took him completely by surprise. As he likes the place and does not care to move, he is now wondering whether he can compel the landlord to pay him for the labor and time spent in improving the place.

The Singer Who Immortalized "Ben Bolt."

From the Pittsburg Dispatch.

The Rev. Dr. Matthew B. Riddle of the Western Theological Seminary gave some interesting personal recollections of Nelson Kneass, the singer who made "Ben Bolt" famous. Dr. Riddle spoke of the wonderful personality of the man and the memorable effect his singing had on all who heard him.

Kneass was a member of a travelling minstrel troupe, covering the Western circuit. He sang sentimental songs which at that particular time were acquiring immense popularity from the efforts of Stephen Foster. A wonderfully sympathetic voice was his, as evidenced by the fact that although the old Pittsburg Theatre was held in disfavor by the upper class, and minstrel performances were seldom attended by them, nevertheless the house was crowded by persons of all ranks of life, rich and poor, who were bent on the one errand—to hear Nelson Kneass.

The man was a great favorite, and among all the singers and performers of the day he was the most widely known. His memory still survives, and will continue to survive as long as "Ben Bolt" shall be sung. Rumor had it that the wonderful minstrel singer was the black sheep of a prominent Philadelphia family, and that his erring ways were vagaries of fate. Kneass started West with his troupe on an Ohio River packet boat and was drowned. Whether he fell by accident or design is not known. It was reported that he was about to marry, or had just married.

How Ah Cheong's Dream Came True.

From the Chicago Daily News.

HONOLULU, March 6.—Ah Cheong is a Chinaman who made a somewhat precarious living as a vegetable pedler. Business was bad and he got into debt. The Chinese New Year was coming on and he became worried about his debts. About a month before the New Year celebration he was arrested for forgery, the charge being that he had forged the name of a prominent Chinese firm to a check for $50 on the bank of Bishop & Co. In the police court he admitted all the facts necessary to prove the charge, but alleged as justification that he had had a dream in which the suggestion came to him to commit this forgery, that in this dream he did commit it, got the money and paid his debts, and that it all came out right. Having confidence in his dream he had proceeded to put the plan into execution. Notwithstanding his novel plea he was sentenced to a year's imprisonment, but, still confiding in his dream, he appealed from the sentence of the Circuit Court. The court found the complaint in the case defective and instructed the jury to acquit, which was done. So his dream came true.

The Religious Ceremonial of the Coronation.

From the London Truth.

There is no foundation whatever for the statement of a weekly contemporary that the King and Queen have been anxious to omit the celebration of the Holy Communion from the coronation service, and it is a pity that such notions should be so readily circulated, as they cause a great deal of trouble and annoyance.

The King's wish has been that no essential part of the coronation service should be left out, but he desires, and most reasonably, to curtail the very long and tedious function by omitting what can be dispensed with without injuring the dignity of the service. It has been the practice for the Bishops to invite the Lords, and this will be left out. A number of the special prayers can be curtailed, and it is proposed to replace with the Lord's Prayer another prayer. It has also been suggested that there should be no sermon. The omission of the Litany, the Communion, the offertory, the confession, and the administration of the Holy Communion are among the only indispensable portions of the coronation service.

The New Democratic Leader But 44.

From the Brooklyn Citizen.

The selection of Judge Gray of Delaware to be chair