The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN

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Independence and Consent.

The enthusiasm in Manila on account of President ROOSEVELT'S proclamation of peace and amnesty shows how easily people reconcile themselves to American "tyranny." It must be saddening to the anti-imperialists to see what craven caitiffs these Filipino friends are. Is it not a terrible fate for a people to submit to law and settled government; to receive a wider freedom and larger rights than it ever knew before, and to prefer peace and civilization to miscellaneous throat-cutting, perpetual revolution and savagery? So many seas of tears and ink have been shed over these recreant HAMPDENS and WASHINGTONS.

Yet all is not lost, even if there are unworthy Filipinos. The high purpose of the anti-imperialists is not to be changed. In behalf of government by the consent of the governed, they will not cease to try to force upon the Filipinos independence without and against their consent. The Filipinos must be independent whether they want to be or not. Confound the scoundrels! What do they mean by rebelling against the anti-imperialists, throwing over their rescuers and bending basely to satraps and despots?

Is This the "Get-Together" Policy?

Hisses at a Democratic meeting for the Democratic candidate for President who at two successive elections had polled by far the greatest number of votes ever cast by the Democratic party in a national election are a very remarkable manifestation to be made at this time when it is loudly proclaimed that "get together" has been established as the policy of the party.

At the Tammany Fourth of July celebration, when the Secretary of the meeting read a letter from Mr. BRYAN, there were hisses from many parts of the hall and they persisted in spite of efforts to drown them by cheering.

When WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN first ran as the Democratic candidate for President, in 1896, he received 6,502,925 votes. Four years before GROVER CLEVELAND had received only 5,556,918 votes, or almost a million less. In 1900 Mr. BRYAN polled 6,358,789 votes.

It is true that the increase in Mr. BRYAN'S poll at both elections over that for Mr. CLEVELAND represented very nearly the number of votes cast in 1892 for the Populist candidate, Mr. WEAVER, or 1,041,028 votes. But in both 1896 and 1900 the only possible chance of election a Democratic candidate had was in drawing to him that large Populist vote; and again in 1904 there will be no hope for the Democracy except in continuing to draw to itself the political sentiment which had been expressed in Populism before the advent of Mr. BRYAN. Moreover, if it was withdrawn the Democratic party would probably have to fight it as an enemy, instead of enjoying its eager assistance as an ally.

A policy for the Democratic party which expresses its real inwardness in hisses for the Democratic candidate at the last two national elections is strangely described when it is called a "get-together" policy.

A Warning That Was Heeded.

The *Evening Post* is correct in its estimate of the importance of the volcano question in bringing about the decision of Congress against Nicaragua and in favor of the Panama route. Our contemporary says, referring to an article on volcanoes, in this month's *Century*, by Prof. ROBERT T. HILL of the United States Geological Survey:

"It need hardly be said that Mr. HILL'S diagrams and statements fully justify those who have so effectively used the volcanic argument against the Nicaraguan Canal route."

What Prof. HILL does is to emphasize the fallacy of HUMBOLDT'S old theory of the continuity of a Cordilleran range running like a backbone through North, Central and South America, and binding the whole hemisphere in one great mountain system. If that were so, the extinct volcanoes of the Isthmus of Panama might be regarded as danger spots, likely to manifest unexpectedly the same revival of malignant activity which has characterized the craters in the Nicaragua group, and in the Windward Islands. He points out that the Rocky Mountain system abruptly terminates a little south of the City of Mexico, and the Andean system in Northern Colombia; while the Central American volcanoes belong to quite another system and formation, namely, the same to which Pelée and La Soufrière belong. We quote from Prof. HILL'S article:

"Between the widely separated termini of the main North and South American Cordilleras, and extending directly across their trend at right angles to them, lies another great system of folding, to which the term Antillean may be applied. By means of this the Caribbean Sea is almost entirely surrounded on all sides except the east by mountains trending east and west and by submarine ridges of the Antillean type."

And again:

"The Central American group, with its thirty-one active craters, extending across the western ends of the east and west folds of the Caribbean corrugations * * * is separated from the Mexican group on the north by a large non-volcanic area, and on the south from the Andean volcanoes by the Isthmus of Panama, where no active volcanoes are found. * * * The Isthmus of Panama, the Pacific coast of South America west of the Atrato, the north coast of South America, the old volcanic areas of northern Mexico and the United States and the Great Antilles (Cuba, Porto Rico, Jamaica and Hayti) are regions in which volcanic activity has long been quiescent."

This confirms the recently expressed views of authorities like Prof. ANGELO HEILPRIN and Mr. GEORGE S. MORISON as to the intimate geological relation of Momotombo, Omotepe, Madera and the rest of the Nicaragua group with the volcanoes which have wrought such awful destruction in Martinique and St. Vincent. It likewise explains the opinions of M. BERTRAND, one of the foremost geologists of France, the French engineer, M. BUNAU-VARILLA, and others who have discussed this aspect of the canal question.

We think that it likewise warrants the importance which THE SUN gave to the volcano question when the choice of routes was pending in Congress. As Mr. MORISON said in a lecture delivered on May 20, about a week after the volcano argument was first presented in these columns, "in the light of what has occurred in the West Indies, to build the Nicaragua would seem like a blasphemous contempt of the most terrible warning which nature has ever given to a nation."

No doubt the volcano argument, which some of our too hasty or insufficiently informed contemporaries saw fit to discuss as "calamity howling," was a determining factor in the choice of routes.

Mr. Cleveland and Mr. Bryan.

The Hon. NORMAN E. MACK of the Erie Reservation deems it necessary to explain Mr. BRYAN'S perfectly intelligible dislike of the Hon. GROVER CLEVELAND. Here is Mr. MACK'S account and theory:

"A month ago a prominent Mississippi Democrat wrote to Mr. CLEVELAND, asking his opinion about the present political situation. In his reply Mr. CLEVELAND referred to Mr. BRYAN in insulting terms. Mr. BRYAN heard about it and the trouble began. Mr. CLEVELAND knows that Mr. BRYAN heard about the letter."

It seems more reasonable to believe, and therefore we prefer to believe, that Mr. MACK is here listening to the chatter of rumor or surmise. A Mississippi Democrat, prominent or obscure, who would spread abroad an opinion of Mr. BRYAN expressed by Mr. CLEVELAND in a private letter, would not be a desirable specimen of the Southern gentleman; nor does it seem likely that Mr. CLEVELAND would characterize Mr. BRYAN in "insulting terms." The retired statesman of Princeton deals in general views and observations. It is not to be expected of him that he would or could descend from the general to the particular; and personalities are not in his line. Solemnity rather than mordancy is the characteristic of his letters, speeches and writings.

We are confident that Mr. BRYAN'S ill opinion of Mr. CLEVELAND springs from no merely personal cause. He regards and has long regarded Mr. CLEVELAND as the betrayer and opponent of true Democratic principles and the representative of "plutocracy." It is natural also that there should be some bitterness in Mr. BRYAN'S mind as he remembers Mr. CLEVELAND'S political course in 1896 and 1900, and sees him, unchanged and unrepentant, appearing again in Democratic counsels. Mr. BRYAN'S Democracy and Mr. CLEVELAND'S Democracy are opposed to each other, radically and irreconcilably. It is ungenerous to seek to inject a personal motive into an essential difference of principle. It is true that the temperaments of the two men are so utterly unlike that there may be an instinctive or subconscious hostility between the two; but 'twere to consider too curiously to consider so.

If Lord Salisbury Should Resign.

As we have learned from our London correspondent, the published list of coronation honors was marked by several excisions. It is understood that among the names excised was that of Lord SALISBURY, promoted from a marquisate to a dukedom. It is also a matter of common report in quarters usually well informed that the acceptance of a dukedom was to be followed by Lord SALISBURY'S resignation of the Premiership. Such an act on his part was put out of the question by the King's illness, but we may reasonably presume that as soon as His Majesty recovers the intention will be carried out. The question of interest is not only or mainly who will be Lord SALISBURY'S successor, but whether the Cabinet will be so recast as to increase Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S influence.

It is generally believed that, when Lord SALISBURY resigns, he will advise the sovereign to send for Mr. A. J. BALFOUR. As Mr. BALFOUR has never been considered a glutton for work, it is unlikely that he will undertake to discharge the functions, not only of Prime Minister, but also of leader of the House of Commons. Should he limit himself to the duties of the Premiership, he will undoubtedly accept a peerage, and, in that event, the leadership of the House of Commons will necessarily devolve on Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, for there would be nobody left in that chamber who could challenge his preëminent fitness for the post. Even if no other change in the Unionist Cabinet were made the prestige conferred by leadership in the popular branch of the Legislature would inevitably augment Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S weight in Ministerial councils and give him a freer hand in the Colonial Office, which he will almost certainly retain.

It is by no means certain, however, that the reconstruction of the Cabinet caused by Lord SALISBURY'S retirement will be restricted to the changes named. There is a widespread feeling in the ranks of the Unionist party that the Government needs an extensive infusion of new blood. Especially is this cry heard from the large and growing contingent which has applauded, if it has not compelled, the resort to indirect taxation exemplified in the duties on sugar, coal and grain. This contingent represents not only all those who derive their livelihood directly or indirectly from the land, as distinguished from manufacturing, mining, banking, railroading, sea-borne commerce and shopkeeping, but also those manufacturers whose products have been subjected of late years to the competition of articles "Made in Germany." Though the representatives of these interests do not always avow their real aim, they are all at heart protectionists, and they would like to lighten the ship of State by throwing overboard Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH and other stiff-necked adherents of free trade.

To oust the whole of these would be impracticable, since the Duke of Devonshire is one of them. But there is no reason to suppose that the Duke, who is an easy-going person, would make a resolute fight for his economical principle. Just what Lord GOSCHEN thinks of the recent resort to indirect taxation he has not seen fit to announce, but, should he give it his approval, the Duke of Devonshire and his following would probably content themselves with saying *crede experto*. The crucial question for Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is whether Sir MICHAEL HICKS-BEACH can be prevailed upon to accept a peerage, and thus leave the Chancellorship of the Exchequer open to a younger and more pliable man. The rest would be easy, for the new Premier himself, Mr. BALFOUR, is known to be open to conviction touching the obsoleteness of free trade.

By the British Liberals the prospective changes in the Cabinet will be watched, of course, with intense anxiety. If Mr. CHAMBERLAIN is permitted to have his way, they will look on their own triumph at the next general election as assured. They may have to wait four years for it, because the present Parliament was elected in October, 1900. But they will be comforted and cheered by a series of victories at by-elections, which will allay discords, stiffen the waverers, and call back thousands of deserters to the party standard.

The chances are that Mr. CHAMBERLAIN will never go higher than the leadership of the House of Commons, for his tenure of that post threatens to prove fatal to the Unionists. For the loss of the Premiership, however, he will always be able to console himself with an earldom, and a prize which satisfied the elder PITT ought to content an ex-Mayor of Birmingham.

The Lady and the Pocket.

The name of Judge SIDENER of the First District police court of St. Louis deserves to be written in letters of silk and gold on every woman's heart, and especially on the hearts of those women whose husbands are curmudgeons and skinflints. A St. Louisian was brought before Judge SIDENER on the charge of abusing his, the prisoner's, wife. The wife whopper pleaded in justification that the said wife had "gone through" his pockets. The wife answered that her lord stayed himself with an excess of flagons and threw away his money at times. To keep the pot boiling she had to visit his pockets and transfer household appropriations therefrom. The Judge held that her financial methods were entirely justified, and he fined her irritated master $5 for disturbing her peace.

More than once fluttering, anxious wives, full of doubt and scrupulous of conscience, have asked THE SUN if it was right for the wife of a closefist or a spendthrift to levy upon his pockets. We have had no hesitation in affirming the right and duty of the consort of the more than infidel who provideth not for his own household to take the money that he refuses or neglects to give. The learned heads of divines and casuists in theology and ethics may decide as to the strict merits of such cases in the court of conscience, but there can be no doubt that eternal equity must stretch out relieving hands and countersign these orders on the purse.

It is assumed that the irregular impost is absolutely necessary. To exact toll to be spent on extravagances and superfluities would be brigandage. The woman who resorts to this legitimate pocket picking must have clean pickers. She is entitled to reasonable allowance and wage. Her gowns and frills should be such as suit her station and her husband's means, and his meanness must not pique her into taxing him too high. There are men, otherwise of good principles and orderly life, who have to be cuffed or bled before you can get money out of them. They part with it as grudgingly as if it were a year of life. What an excellent and a reticent husband was BARKIS, the carrier, to CLARA PEGGOTTY, yet how he would writhe and groan when he had to produce a guinea from his strong box under the bed. Let us not be unjust to the "close." In grandfathers and great-grandfathers, in bachelor uncles and spinster aunts, in all persons not immediately responsible for your maintenance, to whom it may occur to leave you something in their wills, frugality and penuriousness are to be encouraged. If these savers are saving for you, they are saving for a good cause. Such altruism is to be praised. The old boys and girls may deny themselves comforts if they choose. The less fun they have the more there will be for you. In a general way their thoughtful provision for posterity, this sacrifice of the present for the future is to be approved and applauded. It is sound from the economic point of view and it is satisfactory to the young folks. Let JACOB sweat and swink for twenty hours a day. BENJAMIN will enjoy for him and pour champagne into the silver cup. Some must work and some must cut coupons and a dash. So runs the world away.

But a stingy husband must be a plague to his wife, no matter how useful and pleasant his hoardings may be to his descendants. We can't believe that there are many such husbands in the United States. The Americans as a class keep open purse for their wives and are more inclined to spend too much than too little. Still, there must be some proportion of griping niggards among them. To that proportion Judge SIDENER speaks. There is the larger class of men who are thoughtless or selfish in regard to the allowance of their wives. "I am poor," says the saw, "but all I have I spends upon meself." There are wives who struggle along on hope and carfare, while their Misters live sumptuously in the matter of cocktails and Havanas. Sworn statements of the minor expenses of any average husband and wife would be matter for some strange and entertaining comparisons.

Meanwhile, both the "near" and the careless should remember that a married woman possesses the right of visitation and search of her husband's pockets.

Lecturing at the University of Chicago on "The Christian Ideal of Women in Contemporary Fiction," Prof. SHAILER MATTHEWS said that "not one of the women novelists has painted a real woman." We never cease to venerate and bow before the superior intellect of man. Biologically and psychologically, the superiority is well shown and known; and it must never be permitted to drop out of sight. Nobody knows what ails the confounded women folks would put on if they were allowed to be on a footing of equality with their natural superiors. Still, speaking of novelists, we have a dim remembrance of believing once that there were some real women in JANE AUSTEN'S works. The belief must have been erroneous. JANE'S art was parochial. She never read TOLSTOY and never heard SHAILER, or even BRANDER MATTHEWS.

Dr. FUTCHER of Baltimore, that epicurean capital, gives some rather satisfactory statistics about American gout. He says that it is much more common in the United States than is commonly supposed. Out of 13,400 cases admitted to Dr. OSLER'S wards in the Johns Hopkins Hospital in thirteen years, there were 35 gout cases, 0.24 per cent. of the whole number. For the same time in St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, there were 116 gout cases out of 31,100 admissions, a percentage of 0.37. So London is only about one-third ahead of Baltimore in the matter of gout. Fifty or after is the common age for gout. Twenty-seven of the patients were native Americans. Notice a certain difference between autocratic and democratic gout. In Baltimore "the majority of the cases appeared to have earned rather than acquired their gout." In the United States you have to get the gout by your own exertions. Much more satisfactory than inheriting it.

In the Harwiches, on Cape Cod, the customary friendly greeting is "How's you biler?"—*Boston Journal.*

Alas! Where are the captains of old Cape Cod? Centuries ago or less, that great race, the old sea captains, was strong in the Yarmouths, not utterly remote from the Harwiches, if memory holds her seat. In all the earth and the waters on and under it there was no other object so repulsive to the captains and so despised by them as a steamer. "Sailor? He ain't no sailor. He's a fireman or somethin' on one o' them damn steamers." Such was the language and such the exalted principles of the captains of the Yarmouths. And now do the Harwiches talk of "bilers?" The sea captains and their telescopes must have been laid away.

The Present Prohibitory Law in Vermont.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The old prohibitory law of Vermont formerly had a provision for moieties. This provision, however, was repealed by the General Assembly of this State six years ago. It eliminated practically all of the benefits accruing to officers and others through abuse of the provisions of that law. There is doubtless less corruption under the present prohibitory law of this State than is the case with any liquor law of any kind in any State of the Union.

CHARLES T. FAIRFIELD.

RUTLAND, Vt., July 5.

Spooner and La Follette in Wisconsin.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

As the campaign for the Gubernatorial nomination progresses it becomes apparent that there is a large element in the Republican party in this State which still clings to the belief that it is possible to renominate and reelect Robert M. La Follette as Governor and at the same time to return Senator John C. Spooner to the United States Senate. A number of counties that have elected La Follette delegates to the State Convention have indorsed Senator Spooner and certain newspapers that are supporting the Governor's cause are avowed advocates of Senator Spooner's reëlection.

The opponents of Gov. La Follette, the *Sentinel* among the number, have repeatedly asserted that the renomination of the Governor would inevitably result in the retirement of Senator Spooner from public life.

In view of this difference of opinion upon an important matter the *Sentinel* desires to offer a suggestion. In doing so it would call attention to the fact that the subject in dispute can be finally and effectually settled and removed from the campaign. While the *Sentinel* and other conservative papers on the one side, and the *Oshkosh Northwestern* and the *Madison Journal* on the other are debating the point at issue, the partisans of each wing of the party will cling to their respective authorities and no definite conclusion will be reached. But there is a way out of the jungle of controversy.

If Robert M. La Follette and Isaac Stephenson will publicly declare that they recognize the value of Senator Spooner's services to the nation and State, if they will openly advocate his reëlection to the United States Senate and use their influence and the organization of which they are the leaders to bring about that happy event, if they will break the silence which they have maintained during the many months of controversy upon this point and dispel the doubt that exists in the minds of some of their partisans as to their feeling toward Senator Spooner, they will effectually spike one of the largest guns of the opposition to Gov. La Follette's renomination.

If they will not make the announcement demanded of them the friends and admirers of Senator Spooner who are now in the ranks of the La Follette supporters will find it necessary to make choice between La Follette and Spooner. Which will they choose?

Students of Theology Falling Off.

From the Chautauquan Magazine.

The number of theological students to be graduated this spring was 300 below the normal, and predictions are made that the number to graduate next year will be even further below it. Fewer students from the colleges are entering the seminaries. The number of graduates this spring was 3,352, all sorts save Roman Catholic. The ability of large religious bodies, such as Methodist and Presbyterian, to absorb new men is much less than is generally supposed. And the number becomes proportionately fewer because lay effort is increasing rapidly.

Causes for the falling off are being offered in great numbers. The cause least often presented, but probably nearest the truth, is the improved worldly conditions surrounding the clergy as a class. Salaries are increasing, better houses are offering to live in, elaborately equipped plants are multiplying. With these come a waning of the ministerial necessity. Ambition seeks large, not small things. Martyrdom, more or less pronounced, is always popular. Ease, good pay, long vacations, with their accompanying small responsibility, small service, are not popular, when compared with the same attainments in secular life. The Brooklyn pastor, who, receiving $7,500 a year, was surprised by his trustees with an increase to $9,000 was robbed of the heroic for himself and for many who might come after him.

Why Lord Fairfax Went to England.

From the London Globe.

Among the most interesting of the coronation visitors is Baron Fairfax, the one American peer, whose father was a Maryland physician and whose uncle, the tenth Baron, was Speaker of the California House of Delegates in 1854. Lord Fairfax, though holding an ancient Scottish title, would appear to be a citizen of the United States. Indeed, his family have given their name to one of the counties of Virginia, so that it would seem he has a double allegiance. In 1900 the eighth Baron came to England and successfully asserted his right to the title, and on Thursday next Lord Fairfax will, by proxy, declare to the King that he becomes his "Liege man of Life and Limb, and of earthly worship, and Faith and Truth will bear to Him, to live and die, against all manner of Folk."

English Women Work Less.

From the Westminster Gazette.

It is interesting to note that nearly all the census returns show that man works more and woman less than they did ten years ago. It is true that in a good many directions more and more women find employment—many more are teachers and clerks, for instance, but the great decrease in the number of domestic servants brings down the general percentage.

GENESIS OF THE DECLARATION.

Its Adoption on July 4, 1776, and the Actual Signing on August 2.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In strict technical accuracy it is an error to say that the Declaration of Independence was actually signed on July 4, 1776. The Declaration was adopted on that day. Delegates from five colonies, namely, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, New Jersey, Virginia and North Carolina, voted solidly for it. Eight, New Hampshire, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, South Carolina and Georgia, did not vote solidly for it, but gave a majority. The vote by delegates was 44 in favor to 26 against.

It is interesting in recording its history to note that on Friday, June 7, 1776, Richard Henry Lee, a delegate from Virginia, offered the following, which was seconded by John Adams of Massachusetts:

Resolved, That these United Colonies are, and of right ought to be, free and independent States; that they are absolved from all allegiance to the British Crown, and that all political connection between them and the State of Great Britain is, and ought to be, totally dissolved.

Much excitement and alarm was caused by the boldness of the resolution. And neither the names of the mover nor seconder nor the text was entered on the minutes, but it was made the special order for June 8. On that day it was referred to a committee of the whole Congress to report on Monday, June 10, at which time it was made the order of the day for Monday, July 1.

On June 11 a committee was appointed to draft a "declaration" in accordance with the above resolution. Thomas Jefferson of Virginia, John Adams of Massachusetts, Benjamin Franklin of Pennsylvania, Roger Sherman of Connecticut and Robert R. Livingston of New York were appointed.

A dangerous illness in the family of Richard Henry Lee, the author of the resolution, called him to his home in Virginia on the 10th and prevented his appointment on the committee, which on June 28 made report to Congress of the "Declaration of Independence." It was ordered to be read and to lie on the table.

On Monday, July 1, Lee's resolution was called up as previously ordered, but the committee asked further time. The Declaration was taken up on Tuesday, July 2, when it was informally found that nine colonies were in favor of its adoption, but after much exciting debate it was put off until July 3, and on that day final action was determined for Thursday, July 4.

On that day, "with the greatest solemnity" the Secretary was directed to call the names of delegates whose answer "Yes" meant possibly infamous death. "Josiah Bartlett of New Hampshire" was called. Every eye was directed toward the man, as Dr. Bartlett with the clear response "Aye" gave the first vote for the Declaration of Independence.

The extremest tension was now upon all until the last name, George Walton of Georgia, was called, and with his affirmative answer the fitful silence was broken, the unanimous vote of separation from Great Britain was announced, and the United States of America took its place among the nations of the earth an independent Government.

On July 19, 1776, it was resolved that the Declaration passed on the 4th be finally engrossed on parchment, with the style and title, "The Unanimous Declaration of the Thirteen United States of America" and the same, when engrossed, be signed by every member of Congress. On Aug. 2, 1776, the journal of Congress has the following:

The Declaration of Independence being engrossed and compared at the table, it was signed by the members.

This document is now in the Department of State at Washington. The original draft is also there, to which there were never any signatures.

On Aug. 2, 1776, the Declaration was signed by fifty-five members. Col. Thomas McKean, after the adoption on July 4, had received orders to join Gen. Washington with his regiment of "Philadelphia Associates," which being relieved by the "Flying Camp" in the latter part of September, he resumed his seat, and, according to a letter written by him some years afterward, signed at that time or about the beginning of October.

Matthew Thornton of New Hampshire was elected to Congress in September, and received permission to sign when he took his seat in November. His name appears at the bottom of the right-hand column, his colleague's, Josiah Bartlett's, being at the head of the column, the order in which the delegates signed the instrument being from the right to the left, ending with George Walton of Georgia on the left side.

NEW YORK, July 5. JOHN JACK.

The statements above agree in every particular but one with the note appended to the copy of the Declaration as printed in the official compilation of "The Federal and State Constitutions, Colonial Charters and other Organic Laws of the United States," published by order of Congress. There it is stated that the copy engrossed on paper and adopted on July 4 was actually signed by John Hancock as President.

An Improved Telescope.

From the Journal of the Astronomical Society of the Pacific.

The medial telescope is the name applied by the inventor, Prof. Schupmann of Aachen, to a refractor of peculiar construction. The objective of an ordinary refractor consists of two lenses of different densities. This combination is necessary in order to correct for spherical and chromatic aberration. In the medial telescope, however, the objective consists of one lens, and the light which falls upon it passes through uncorrected. Near the eye piece is placed a somewhat complicated optical system, which not only corrects for spherical and chromatic aberration, but does it better than is possible with the ordinary objective. For, even with two lenses of different densities, it is not possible to correct entirely for chromatic aberration, there is left what opticians call the "secondary spectrum," the effect of which is to make the images somewhat indistinct in even the best of telescopes. With the medial telescope the secondary spectrum is greatly reduced in intensity.

A telescope of this description has been built at Urania Observatory in Berlin; its aperture is thirteen inches and its focal distance is sixteen feet. The secondary spectrum is only one-twentieth as intense as that in an ordinary refracter of these dimensions. It is reported to be of excellent definition and to give surprisingly faultless views of the planets, even under bad atmospheric conditions. By simply turning a small screw, the image of a star may be broadened out into its spectrum, with any desired degree of dispersion. The advantages of this instrument are its almost perfect achromatism and its inexpensive construction. Its disadvantages are its small field and the great loss of light which arises from the character of its optical system.

Didn't Catch Kitchener.

From the London Globe.

Saturday week, when some of us expected the peace settlement, a worthy dean—a most reverend gentleman, possibly slyly thought he could steal a march on Lord Kitchener. He telegraphed from the Orange River Colony, saying: "As I am acting as chaplain, and conducting divine service in very many camps to-morrow, may I ask if the hymn, 'Peace, Perfect Peace,' would not be a most appropriate one to give out to be sung?" And the great "K." wired reply: "Please yourself, but I think 'Onward, Christian Soldiers,' quite as good."

A Rural Laconic.

From the Boston Courier.

A gazing bull
A meadow full
Of buttercups and clover.

A city chap
With gory wrap
The fenceway getting over.

A stamp! A snort!
A yelp! a sort
Of detonating bellow:
An upward flight,
A downward light,
A carcass sadly mellow.

A jury then
Of countrymen,
The local death appraiser,
The quest proceeds,
The verdict reads—
"He wore a tennis blazer."

IN PRAISE OF THE WHEEL.

Next Saturday's Celebration of the Silver Jubilee of Cycling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The twenty-fifth anniversary of the bicycle, which is to be celebrated by a parade in this city on Saturday next, July 12, in which the wheelmen's organizations in this part of the country, including the score or more embodied in the Associated Cycling Clubs of the Greater New York, will participate, calls for a few pertinent observations concerning one of the most remarkable sports and industries which the world has ever known. History does not record the existence of any sport or pastime which, in a period so brief, ever acquired the measure of distinction and popularity accredited to cycling, and no business or industry whose success depended almost solely upon the individual support of people in search of pleasure and recreation ever attained, in a similar space of time, the gigantic proportions of the bicycle industry.

The coming celebration, to be known as the "Silver Jubilee" of cycling, and in which it is believed that fully 10,000 wheelmen will take part, will recall the numerous stages of the wheel's development. Veteran wheelmen will look back to the time when the bicycle was a luxury which very few could possess, and when cycling was commonly regarded as an art to be thoroughly mastered by not more than one person in a hundred. It will be remembered how the process of mechanical evolution, so to speak, turned the high or "ordinary" bicycle into the "safety" and how, with the development of the safety, genius gave birth to the pneumatic tire—one of the foremost factors which have helped to make cycling universally enjoyable. With the appearance of the safety the bicycle was adaptable to the use of women as well as men, and numbers of the fair sex were quick to appreciate the opportunity afforded them. Then came the tandem, or two-seated bicycle, which likewise received a hearty welcome. This was followed by the "triplet" or "three-seater," the "quad," or "four-seater," and so on, until it seemed as if there was no limit to the wheel's seating capacity.

Each year it was thought by many that the possibilities of improving the bicycle must be exhausted, yet in the succeeding output of the manufacturers it was seen that some praiseworthy modifications had been made which were destined to increase the machine's popularity. One of the most notable of these involved the substitution of the bevel-gear for the continuous chain apparatus—a change which resulted in avoiding much annoyance to riders. Finally a few years ago, another step was found possible in the march toward perfection, and that was to produce a machine which should be self-propelled. Hardly had this idea been conceived before it materialized in the form of the motor bicycle, or motorcycle, as it is familiarly called. Without the motorcycle to-day competitors in paced races would be placed at a serious disadvantage. These machines, moreover, as they are now built, are thoroughly suitable for road use, and their widespread utility seems to be only a matter of time.

The wheel, which made the human body a source of motive power many times greater than that available in walking, proved a means of fascinating multitudes of people of all ages and of both sexes. It was discovered that as a promoter of health and as an economical means of transportation it had no equal. The cyclists organized themselves into clubs, and through the coöperation of such bodies the movement was begun for the construction and betterment of our highways which has resulted in millions of dollars having been spent for this purpose and in awakening throughout the land a sentiment in behalf of the good roads cause which will insure the expenditure of as many millions more as may be necessary to provide every State in the Union with modern public thoroughfares. As the pioneers in the movement for practical and scientific road building the wheelmen deserve the highest credit.

From a commercial point of view, the wheel has been an object of great interest and speculation. Twelve or fifteen years ago, when the cycle manufacturers in this country were few, wheel making was undoubtedly an exceedingly profitable business, particularly for those makers who were generally regarded as trustworthy and straightforward. Indeed, it continued to be highly profitable, under competent management, up to only a few years ago, but in the period from 1896 to 1898 competition in the cycle trade was too strong to permit the maintenance of extravagant prices for the finished product, and the uniform prices of $135 and $150, which had been long adhered to with peculiar stiffness, fell to $100, then to $75, and finally to $50. Within the last two or three years it has been possible to buy a good wheel for $20, and even less, but there is a disposition on the part of experienced riders to pay a fair price for their machines and thereby increase their chances of procuring those that are durable.

Some idea of the extent of the American bicycle industry, while at its height may be gathered from the fact that during the four fiscal years 1896, 1897, 1898 and 1899 our exports of bicycles amounted, in round numbers, to $20,000,000. The United Kingdom alone received nearly $2,000,000 worth of American wheels in 1898, while machines amounting in value to $1,700,000 were shipped to Germany in the same year. Inasmuch as only a comparatively small portion of the wheels made here were available for export, it is easy to imagine how vast was the domestic demand for this modern agent of locomotion. It was a singular circumstance in connection with our exports that fully two-thirds of the machines shipped abroad went to countries which make a specialty of manufacturing, a fact which left no doubt as to the relative merit of the American product.

The parade next Saturday should speak for itself. It will not, of course, prove that cycling has, or is likely to have, as strong a hold upon the affections of people of all ages as it possessed five or seven years ago, but it will tend to show, nevertheless, that the wheel still occupies an important place of its own, despite unsound views to the contrary.

BIRD.

NEW YORK, July 6.

A Tale of Greek Brigands.

From the Westminster Gazette.

M. Stravalopoulos, a young man who was captured recently by brigands, has returned to Athens. He states that as he was about to go on board his yacht at Kyklos he was accosted by a fashionably dressed young man, who kept him in conversation while four other men crept up behind him and seized him and gagged him. They then carried him off to the spot, close to which they were encamped. The fashionable young man, who turned out to be a notorious brigand chief named Panopoulos, M. Stravalopoulos was taken to a large cavern or grotto, very comfortably furnished, where the brigands compelled him to write to his father a rich banker, for a ransom of £4,000 in gold. His captors gave him plenty of food and wines, and even insisted on his saying his prayers twice a day. They also made him read various improving books, of which there was a large supply in the grotto. On the arrival of the money it was conveyed to a monastery in the mountains, where one of the monks counted it and handed it over to the robbers. A great feast was held the same evening in the grotto, and the brigands becoming intoxicated, the prisoner made his escape and reached the railway after a journey of five hours on foot. He returned to the grotto as soon as a force of police could be got together, but the brigands had all decamped.

Cairngorms.

From the Scotsman.

Cairngorms are not topaz, but simply well crystallized quartz, the same mineral which, when colorless, is called rock crystal, and, when violet, amethyst. Topaz has an entirely different chemical composition, a different "habit" of crystallization, and a greater hardness than cairngorm. Some specimens of topaz have been found in the Cairngorm Mountains, but they are rare. Perhaps the author's mistake has arisen from the fact that a great deal of pale colored topaz (mostly Brazilian) is imported into Scotland, cut, set and sold as "real Scottish cairngorm."

The Hat Pin and the Cow.

From the Rockland Courier Gazette.

Ezra Whitney lost a valuable cow the other day in a very unusual manner. While eating hay the animal swallowed a long hat pin and died in a short time. Dr. Freeman performed an autopsy and found that the pin had penetrated the cow's liver.

THE CASE OF MUSOLINO.

Conditions in Italian Life That Account for His Being Made a Hero.

From the Lancet.

After a trial of well-nigh three months' duration at the Lucca Assizes the "Robin Hood of Calabria" has been condemned to penal servitude for life, the first eight years of that term to take the form of "carcere cellulare"—that is, of solitary confinement. The proceedings were instructive and interesting from many points of view—judicial, medical and social. Tedious at all times, Italian forensic procedure is trebly so in criminal cases when counsel for the prosecution and the defence outvie each other in a discursive loquacity, encouraged rather than checked by the presiding Judge. Every circumstance affecting Musolino conspired to accentuate this phenomenon.

He was the popular idol of a region where law is traditionally more honored in the breach than in the observance, and witnesses in his behalf were as formidable in number as they were prolific in evidence, exculpatory or palliative. Was he not a self-constituted redresser of social inequalities, rectifying the financial frontier" by a free-handed bestowal on the poor of the money he extorted from the rich? Was he not "at war against the Government," defying the police so successfully that the military had to take the field against him? Did he not for years outmanœuvre regiment after regiment, discrediting their commandants and digging the grave of many a professional reputation? Had he not the makings in him of a guerrilla leader, prompt to utilize every local advantage?

That with such a career he should have been defended by criminologists of the Lombroso school as little better than an anthropoid ape or pithecoid man is barely credible; but such is the fact. The public prosecutor and his adjuntas had seriously to rebut plea after plea as to his being a "criminel-né" or an "epileptoid" or a "tuberculoid imbecile," to quote a little from the terminology of Lombroso or Ferri; but, to do him justice, they were spared a good deal of trouble in this direction by Musolino himself, who indignantly resented the "pseudo-scientific attentanti" set up in his defence and sought to vindicate his conduct and career on the Brigandian plea of the wild justice of revenge.

That there were features intellectual and moral in his nature on which psychiatry and sociology would do well to ponder is undoubted, and accordingly we are promised an elaborate study of his case by two of the first medico-psychologists of Italy. Till this is made public it would be idle to plunge into the hideous welter of expert evidence adduced by counsel for the defence, but meanwhile it may be well to consider the atmosphere, social and traditional, in which Musolino and thousands like him are born and developed.

In Calabria, more perhaps than in any Italian province, life is cheap, even the ties of parental love being elastic enough to admit of the annual sale of children to itinerant "impresarii," by whom again they are sold to organ-grinders and strolling mountebanks in the capitals of Europe. Laws prohibitive of this infamous traffic are evaded with a success that proves the discredit into which legal authority of every kind has fallen, particularly in southern Italy. Not to the judicial tribunals, too often venal, invariably so blocked by cases remanded or awaiting trial that years elapse before justice can be pronounced—not to such tribunals does the victim of wrong or injury look for redress, but rather to private vendetta, aided by sympathizing relatives or friends.

Add to this that hardness of living as to food and shelter robs the prison of its terrors and that the abolition of capital punishment still further minimizes deterrents, and we are in a position to understand the great criminal statistician, Baron Garofalo, when he says: "Take Europe, minus Spain and Portugal (the Iberian peninsulas), and you will find more murders committed year by year in Italy than in all the other European countries put together." Musolino is only one of some units in advance of contemporary brigands in Sicily and Sardinia, while every youth who carries the prohibited "coltello," the "accursed knife," is a potential homicide, under the all too frequent provocation of vinous excess or that master demon of the Italian proletariat—jealousy or disappointed love.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Prohibition party will hold its State Convention in New York to nominate a Governor and other candidates under the emblem of the Fountain at Saratoga on Sept. 5.

The Republican candidate for Governor of Vermont, Gen. McCullough, is a resident of Bennington; the candidate for Lieutenant Governor comes from Roxbury; the nominee for Secretary of State from Morristown, and the candidate for Auditor from Craftsbury. Vermont Republicans often choose their candidates for elective office from small towns in preference to large cities.

There is some friendly controversy among the Republicans of Massachusetts over the question as to who shall preside at the State Convention this year. Ex Secretary of the Navy Long was first chosen to preside, a choice which it was expected the Republican State Committee would ratify. Michael J. Murray, according to some of his friends, is not disposed to retire as a candidate for Chairman of the State Convention. Before Mr. Long left the Cabinet a majority of the members of the State Committee had pledged themselves to support Mr. Murray for chairman. Senator Lodge is understood to favor the selection of Mr. Long.

Section 4 of the amended Virginia Constitution excludes from the suffrage "persons who, while citizens of this State, after the adoption of this Constitution, fought a duel with a deadly weapon, or sent or accepted a challenge to fight such a duel, either within or without the bounds of this