The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Roman Catholic Church.

The American Federation of Catholic Societies is to meet in convention at Chicago a week from to-day, and the indications are that it will be one of the most important and significant gatherings of the adherents of the Roman Catholic Church which has ever been held in this country.

In a recent letter Bishop O'CONNOR of Newark summed up the objects of the Federation thus:

"(1) The cementing of the bonds of fraternal union among the Catholic laity and the Catholic societies of the United States. (2) the fostering and protecting of Catholic interests and works of religion, piety, education and charity. (3) the study of conditions of our social life. (4) the dissemination of the truth. (5) the encouragement of the spread of Catholic literature and of the circulation of the Catholic press."

The Roman Catholic growth in the United States during the last generation has been one of the most remarkable of the developments of a period in which this Republic has attained to a masterful place in the family of nations, morally and materially. The "Catholic population" is enumerated by the Catholic Directory of the present year at nearly eleven millions. In 1890 it was given by that authority as about eight and one-quarter millions, and in 1883 at about six and three-quarter millions. Its growth in nineteen years, according to these statistics, has been by more than four millions. This is a gain of nearly two-thirds in nineteen years. Of course, there is no Protestant denomination which has either grown relatively with any such rapidity or has increased actually by so many millions. The increase of more than four millions in the Roman Catholic population since 1883 is nearly equal to the whole present number of the Baptists of the Union. Roman Catholics are now as many as the combined strength of the Baptists and Methodists, the most numerous of the Protestant denominations, and they are fifteen times as many as the communicants of the Episcopal Church.

At this time, too, an extraordinarily large immigration from Catholic countries is coming in, from Italy, more especially. Meantime their "missions" for the conversion of non-Catholics are reported to be more successful than ever before; and of recent years, they have been gaining socially in a very marked measure, as certain recent illustrations in the society of wealth and fashion have indicated conspicuously.

We know very well that the Protestant denominations, the Baptists and Methodists, more particularly, assert that a numerical comparison of their numbers of communicants with the whole Catholic population, including everybody baptized into that faith, is unfair; but within a few weeks, the Superior of a Catholic seminary at Baltimore has lamented publicly that the statistics of the Catholic population, as furnished by parish priests, suggest that a very great part of the immigration nominally Catholic is lost to that Church officially after arrival in the United States. As proof, he compared these statistics from the Catholic Directory:

Catholic population, 1902	10,976,757
Catholic population, 1890	8,901,367
Catholic immigration, 1890 to 1902	3,705,194

That is, the increase in the Catholic population officially reported is less than the Catholic immigration of the period by 1,031,794. The inference would seem to be that very many of these immigrants proportionally have fallen away from their Church or neglected to keep up any association with it which permits their enumeration by the parish priest among the Catholic population. The subject is so important that there are reports that it will receive the most careful attention by high ecclesiastical authorities; and very likely it will be brought up for discussion at the coming Chicago convention of the Catholic Federation.

In spite of this drawback, the Roman Catholic Church, apparently, is gaining much faster than organized Protestantism in this country. But even more remarkable than that growth is the absence of Protestant alarm or excitement on account of it. Where it is not looked on with indifference it seems to be viewed without apprehension. Not a trace of the old Know Nothing spirit remains. Hostility to the Roman Catholic Church and suspicion of it seem to have given place to respect for it as a religious force and to fraternal feeling toward it as a powerful agency for the preservation of religious faith.

Since the discussion concerning the Philippine friars arose we have received great numbers of letters relating to it, but they have come almost entirely from Roman Catholics. It does not seem to have stirred contemporary Protestant feeling to any great extent, though a generation ago negotiations by our Government with the Vatican on such a matter, or on any matter, would have provoked resentment throughout Protestantism. We do not see any evidence of a bitter controversial spirit in references to the subject in the professionally Protestant papers. Even the report on religious conditions in the Philippines by Dr. BROWN, who visited those islands as the representative of the Presbyterian Mission Board, was mild in its treatment of the Roman Catholic Church as compared with the tone which such an outgiving from the very centre of Protestantism would have had a generation ago.

This more tolerant Protestant feeling toward the Roman Catholic Church now so marked, will induce the Chicago convention, if it is wise, to abstain from any language likely to provoke Protestant resentment. Nothing in the situation so far as concerns the Philippine friars affords reason for either Catholic or Protestant excitement. The attitude of the Vatican toward Judge TAFT and the view it has taken of the negotiations with it conducted through him have been friendly and conciliatory throughout, and wisdom dictates that a like spirit should prevail in all Catholic discussions of the subject. The question of the friars and their relation to the peaceful establishment of our authority is a question of fact purely, and the evidence, such as it is, has been presented to the Vatican, which is fully able to take care of every interest of the Roman Catholic Church; and that it will neglect to guard none may be taken for granted. At the Vatican there is a skill in diplomacy which is unexcelled in any secular quarter, even if it is anywhere equalled. Cardinal RAMPOLLA needs help from no Chicago convention in the management of the case of the Vatican, and in the pursuit of his gracious and adroit diplomatic methods he will only be hampered by inconsiderate violence.

He must know, every Catholic should understand, that the policy our Government will adopt in the Philippines if it is advantageous for the United States, so far as concerns the peaceful establishment of our authority in the Philippines, is also advantageous to the Roman Catholic Church. If the friars are in the way, they are in the way of both. If it is desirable in the interests of the Government that they should be withdrawn, their lands purchased under the right of eminent domain, and other ecclesiastical agents substituted, it is no less desirable in the interests of the Church, for these would be promoted by harmony between it and the Filipino people and the Government of the Philippines.

For that reason Judge TAFT left Rome after negotiations with the Vatican which were undisturbed by any clash of discordant feeling, and with the assurance that they would be carried to a satisfactory conclusion at Manila. Here in the United States some bitterness in the discussion of the question is exhibited, but at Rome, according to all our reports, only harmony prevails.

Ignorance and Confusion.

The examination of the title to the Panama property has already begun at Paris. The Department of Justice is represented there by Mr. CHARLES W. RUSSELL, a lawyer well qualified for so important a search. Probably within a fortnight both Attorney-General KNOX and Senator SPOONER will be in Paris on the same errand. The people of the United States need not fear that the legal side of the transaction will be inadequately handled. The Administration is pushing the matter, along the lines prescribed by the Canal act, with its accustomed promptness, energy and judicious choice of agents.

Meanwhile the partisans of Nicaragua have not lost all hope. The *New York Herald*, a journal which has sought persistently to prejudice the minds of its readers against the superior route, prints a column of confused statements about the past history and present status of the title of the Panama company, styling it "a scandal-ridden concern, that has ruined many thousands of persons already, which title is liable to be attacked in many different ways."

This is borrowing the favorite "argument" of Senator MORGAN, whose contempt for the entire system of French jurisprudence, and for French methods and men in general, that statesman has so frequently and so fearlessly expressed. The ancient scandals of the De Lesseps period have nothing to do with the question of the desirability of the acquisition for which Congress has voted. The present soundness of the title which the New Panama Company proposes to convey to this Government is the subject of the search now in progress. This country's interests as a purchaser will be safe in the hands of lawyers like the Attorney-General and Senator SPOONER.

The *New York Herald's* attempt to befog the business while the examination is yet in progress, invites attention to the question of its own competency to discuss Panama affairs. For example, it says in a Washington despatch published yesterday:

"The French Government is understood to desire that the United States should take hold of the canal and build it. Through diplomatic channels it has aided in every way the plan to unload the property on the United States. When M. HUTIN, who preceded M. BŒUVRÉ as the President of the new canal company, was in the United States dickering with the last Walker Canal Commission he was chaperoned by the Ambassador and M. BŒUVRÉ, the Chancellor of the Embassy. Later, when M. HUTIN retired, M. BŒUVRÉ was temporarily detached from the Embassy for a period of several months to devote his entire time to looking after the interests of the French company."

Mr. HUTIN did not precede Mr. BŒUVRÉ as President of the New Panama Company. Mr. BŒUVRÉ does not and never did hold that office. The new President of the company, chosen on Dec. 23, 1901, after Mr. HUTIN'S resignation, is Mr. MARIUS BÖ. Mr. BÖ and Mr. BŒUVRÉ are two distinct persons. One is President of the New Panama Canal Company. The other is Chancellor of the French Embassy at Washington. Mr. BŒUVRÉ simply transmitted to our Government the telegram of the French Company, in January last, offering to sell for $40,000,000. He has described his part of the transaction in testimony before the Senate Committee on Interoceanic Canals, his questioner being Senator MORGAN:

"The Chairman.—Now, M. BŒUVRÉ, I will ask you just one question.

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—Yes, sir.

"The Chairman.—You are Chancellor of the French Embassy?

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—Yes, sir.

"The Chairman.—And you have presented a cablegram to the Government?

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—Yes, sir, on Saturday, the 4th of January, 1902.

"The Chairman.—You did that as a private gentleman, not as an official of the Embassy?

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—Oh, no; as a private citizen.

"The Chairman.—The Embassy has no connection with that act, whatever?

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—No, sir.

"The Chairman.—And you do not understand that you in any sense at all commit the French Government by having made that communication?

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—No, sir.

"The Chairman.—That is all I wanted to ask you, sir.

"M. BŒUVRÉ.—Thank you."

The name of the President of the New Panama Canal Company, who on the part of that corporation signed the offer to sell at $40,000,000, is officially established by the subjoined certificate from our Consul-General at Paris:

"On the 16th day of January, before me, JOHN K. GOWDY, Consul-General of the United States of America at Paris, France, residing therein, duly commissioned and qualified, personally appeared MARIUS BÖ, President of the Compagnie Nouvelle de Panama, personally to me known, and known to me to be the individual described in and who executed the within instrument, and duly acknowledged to me that he executed the same freely and voluntarily for the uses and purposes therein mentioned as and for the act and deed of the said company."

What importance is likely to be attached by persons at all familiar with the Panama negotiations to the confused statements and pretended apprehensions of a newspaper which does not even know BŒUVRÉ from BÖ?

Delaware.

One of the recent visitors to Oyster Bay has submitted this proposition: The Republicans of Delaware, or, to put it more broadly, the Republican party at large, must surrender to ADDICKS.

Twice has this Mr. ADDICKS prevented the election of a Republican Senator, and at present he is preventing the election of two Republican Senators, each time insisting that he must be made Senator himself.

Should the Republican party make the corrupt bargain which ADDICKS offers them—for corrupt is the correct term—in order to get one of its members elected Senator from Delaware? Can ADDICKS'S promise to support the Republican party as a rule justify, even as a matter of partisan expediency, the proposed treaty with him?

The Republican party was born after ADDICKS, and in the nature of things it ought to live longer. The way to long life, however, cannot lie along the Addicks road.

Wet Words.

The great work of philology goes on, careless of the calendar; nay, even busier in vacation time. *Ferret opus*, hot stuff. We are waiting for a really blistering, blighting "spell of weather," some hydrophobia of the dog star, the souring of the Milky Way. Then on an irritated world shall we sprinkle relieving showers of that quaint, beautiful and unprofane profanity which our diligent collaborators on the Dictionary of Profanity and Curse Lore are sending to us by the glassful, bucketful, hogsheadful, oceanful. This vast irrigation reservoir will be opened when it is needed most. Till then, patience! To-day we walk by the banks of another irrigation channel and send a few gracious drops into the cracking throat of humanity.

Certain erudite and facetious correspondents have been amusing themselves by seeking to derive "ball" in its spirituous sense from "bawl," "boll," "bowl." SWIFT'S derivation of "JUPITER" from "Jew PETER" was not more ingenious or convincing. "Ball" expresses whimsically the explosive and dangerous qualities of the cup that beers and inebriates. One of our conservative etymologists has appropriately compared "ball" with the metaphors "half shot" and "loaded to the muzzle." We may cite the exactly parallel metaphor, common in New England and probably elsewhere, of "slug." A "slug" is a "ball," a "drink." To "slug up" is to insert a number of "balls" and is the equivalent of the sister phrase "to tank up." To be pretty well "slugged up" is to be "foxed," as the Elizabethans said, to be a little "screwed," as the English and Canadians have it, but is distinctly gentler and of feebler alcoholic connotation than to have "a skate," a "jag," strangest of all, "a bun." Will our philologers tell us the origin and distribution of "bun?" And of another mysterious wet word, "o-ro-i-ded," with accent on the penult. On a steamboat the other day we heard a highly "horsy" young man, a millionaire in variety and range of vocabulary, describe an absent friend as a "boozeree," "o-ro-i-ded" about half the time.

The subject is not engaging, but the language invites inquiry. Akin to the alcoholic "ball" is "pocket pistol," called in Massachusetts "Ancients' sidearms," by the side of which belongs "Boston Lancers' milk," i. e., whiskey and "Joy street cocktail," i. e., rum and molasses (rum and "gum"). But "ball" lends itself to other metaphors and belongs to the "diamond" as well as to the proving ground. In Park row yesterday we heard a gentleman in a blue jumper say to his comrade, "I'm goin' to hit another one in a minute; I'm dry as a fish." Here arms yield to sport. So when the alliance of whiskey and carbonic came into being, the ordinary "ball," twin brother of "slug," was metamorphosed into baseball and dubbed "high." The trope for irresponsible, prolonged, elevated condition known as "a bat" also comes from the ball field. Nobody knows where a bat will send a ball. Nobody can tell whither too many called "balls" will bring the man driven by a "bat." The figure is a little confused. The "balls" direct and propel the "bat," not the "bat" the "balls," but the high allegorical significance is clear. To be "full," *Baccho plenus*, is politer and shows a lower reading of the oinometer. To be "oxidized" is rarer. The present Manhattanese word "mezzermachiner," or "mezzermachina," if we may try to fetter in written characters a gypsy of the tongue as she is spoken, is said to be a synonym of "bun" and its brethren. Whence and what is it? It has a face drunken Italian but Italian doesn't drink.

The "subway cocktail" is severely local, we believe; known in the Manhattanese toxicology only. The genial word "Mulligan," in its technical liquid meaning is puzzling. It has made its way on the stage. Was it the favorite of those glorious warriors, the Mulligan Guards of this town? If yes, then we shall drink at least the sound of that dactyl in affectionate remembrance of the Hon. EDWARD HARRIGAN, now or formerly of the Ninth ward, and of TONY HART, "the lost light of those dawn-golden times." The fresh air of modernity is felt in "power house" and "pumpin' station," substitutes for the saloon. We commend them to sociologists and dictionary makers. And here ends our short walk among Wet Words.

In the conference to be held at the Mayor's office to-day over the Pennsylvania Railroad tunnel into New York city it should be remembered that the great thing to be done to serve the public interest is to provide for the tunnel. This will be accomplished best if the whole list of conditions which the Aldermen recently urged when opposing its building is thrown away.

Somewhere in the world are 119,000,000 big copper pennies. What has become of them is a mystery.—THE SUN.

Not only a mystery, but a miracle. Those big, honest, round-faced, homely, hulking "coppers," how is there room enough to hide them in this crowded world? It is a shame that they are tucked away from human view. Seldom is youth to be pitied, but in knowing not the good old copper cent the boys lose much. A "copper" was of such weight and respectability. A boy's pocket had too many uses and engagements as a safe deposit vault and curio museum to carry more than one copper or, at the most, three.

There are no such sticks of candy in this oblate spheroid now as those beautiful, striped sticks which used to sell two and three for a copper. There is no fun in matching or pitching pennies since those lovely brown coppers went away. Why, anybody could have the sense of wealth, be passing rich with half a dozen of those massive and solid coins in his pocket.

It is our firm belief that some wealthy amateur, whom we hate and admire, has quietly acquired most of those coppers, ranged them in majestic galleries, in long, dull-shining layers, in towers and walls, within some mighty crypt or palace. There, by the gleam of copper lamps and cressets he passes the happy days and nights, consulting the faces of his treasures and gloating over a defrauded world. We intended to be such a collector once, but *Dis aliter visum*, Fate would not have it so.

Impulsive persons, devoid of philosophic calm, "felt hot" yesterday. There has been so much winter this spring that the coming of something resembling summer in the aft of July seems a little strange. Let us think of southern Arizona, of daily temperatures of 114 to 127, of Indians boiled to death in an ice chest where they had incautiously taken refuge, and so be cool and happy. Considering the price of hard coal, it is lucky that winter is almost over.

Already the Hon. WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE DEVERY is stretching from the Ninth district to the rest of the State. He expands and grows. "We need a financier for Governor," he says. DEVERY is a wonderfully successful financier. "The kind of a man we should nominate for Governor," continues our statesman, "is a man who has a knowledge of big affairs." In other words a big man. Who is a bigger man than Big BILL? Who gives bigger affairs? Who fills a larger circle of big affairs from free beer to real estate? "We want a good man that ain't been beaten," DEVERY again. Why don't you speak for yourself, BILL?

TOMMY ATKINS ate 34,500,000 pounds of jam in the Boer war.—London despatch.

Truth is that the men are the greater candy-and-sweet gobblers everywhere. They bolt the sweets, the women nibble 'em. Then man, petty man, sticks up his nose, wonders at the sweet tooth of woman and pats himself with approval. So cheaply is the "superiority" of man maintained.

The unexpected reaffirmation of the Kansas City platform by the Democratic State convention of Missouri is thus accounted for and the statesman who did it is thus described by a Missouri "Democratic leader," speaking in the St. Louis *Globe-Democrat*:

"It was not on the cards to have the Missouri Democrats indorse free silver at any old ratio. The leaders were in touch with the Eastern managers, who desired to have the heaven born ratio kept in the background, as the Democrats did in Georgia, in Illinois and as it was planned to do elsewhere. The idea, of course, is to keep our long haired Democrats in the background, so as not to scare away the silk stocking gold Democrats of the East, who are talking about coming back into the party, at least to the extent of voting for our Congressional nominees this fall. Things were looking up in that direction. Even the great and good CLEVELAND talks about coming back for the time being.

"But along comes this here DAVE HALL romping into the convention with a Pike county warwhoop and rallies all the free silver shorthorns to a roasting declaration for 16 to 1. Who is this DAVE HALL? Well, he is a fellow we send out into the back counties to rally the faithful with ghost stories about the infamies of wealth, the plutocracy of the East, the threatened downfall of the republic, &c. Why, he would get the folks scared up until they would be afraid to venture out after dark, lest they'd meet one of those monsters in the road. That's the kind of a man DAVE HALL is, and I don't see how the boys let him come charging into the convention and carry things off. It may be fun for DAVE, but I know the managers in the East do not see anything funny in it, and I reckon they will be calling on Governor DOCKERY for an explanation as to how he came to overlook that trick. They were depending on DOCKERY to have the convention do things up ship shape."

DAVE HALL! A bigger man than all Missouri's Democratic enemies of BRYAN! DAVID will doubtless become better known to us as the campaign goes on.

A division in the party was caused by the bolt of Prince CUPID.—*Honolulu despatch.*

Not the first time the rascal has bolted. Still, his specialty is not division but union. He ought to be on the union platform even if he has left the Home Rule party. There is talk of making him the candidate for Delegate on the Good Government ticket, but that is no place for him. It is his best play to organize a Young Men's movement.

Who'll Go Trolley Riding?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Does every body in New York except millionaires and policemen work twenty four hours a day, seven days in the week, fifty two weeks in the year? I am prompted to this inquiry because for a month I have been trying to find somebody (man preferred), to go on a four day trolley trip with me, sharing expenses, and all the people I have seen have reported "too busy, can't get off." Surely somebody in New York has a vacation some time, or is it that I am a suspicious character and they want to choose their own company? Possibly some SUN reader that I have not yet approached may want to go. If so, will you kindly head him my way for particulars, and oblige, W. J. T.

NEW YORK, July 28.

Morningside Park.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Morningside Park, extending from 110th to 122d streets, and daily crowded with women and children, is without a toilet room. Until recently many persons availed themselves of the privilege of sitting on the grass beneath the thick shrubbery, but for obvious reasons few do so any more.

A laborer in the park told me a few days ago that he had a special pair of shoes for use when walking through the grass, which he keeps in the park, but never takes home. He also said that he is kept busy at times directing persons to the nearest toilets, which are private ones and some blocks away.

THE SHIFT OF READERS.

Christian Scientist Says Mrs. Eddy Isn't Hitting at New York.

W. D. McCrackan has sent to THE SUN a statement dated at the office of the Christian Science Publication Committee for the State of New York, 1153 Broadway, in which he says:

The Christian Science churches in New York and in various parts of the United States and Canada are now taking action in accordance with a recent by-law of the Mother Church of the denomination in Boston relative to a three years term for readers. Christian Science churches have no personal pastors and no personal sermons are preached in them. The Bible and the Christian Science text book are the only preachers. The lesson sermons consist of Scriptural texts and correlative passages from the denominational text book read by first and second readers elected by the members of each church. It is these readers whose term of office is now being limited to three years.

The government of the Christian Science churches is congregational in character, each adopting its own by-laws, electing its own officers and being incorporated according to State laws so as to own its own church property. There are 521 incorporated churches here and abroad and 184 Christian Science societies holding regular services, but not yet incorporated as churches, making a total of 705.

The mother church in Boston, of which these churches are branches, has a membership of over 24,000, made up of Christian Scientists from all over the world. At a recent gathering some 6,000 or 7,000 members of this church in Boston voted to contribute any portion of $2,000,000 that may be necessary to provide an auditorium seating 4,000 or 5,000 persons.

As discoverer and founder of Christian Science, Mrs. Mary Baker Eddy occupies a unique position among Christian Scientists. She is pastor emeritus of the Mother Church, and in that capacity is frequently consulted and her advice is gladly followed. But all branch churches are independent and individual organizations, and work out their own rules of church government, as they also build their own church edifices.

This by-law is equally applicable to all Christian Science churches in the United States and Canada, and after adoption will doubtless lead to a change of first and second readers wherever such readers have been in office three years or more. Any suggestion that this by-law is aimed directly at the New York churches is thus seen to be absolutely without any foundation.

MUSEUM EMERGES VICTOR

From the Little Mill With the Hon. Percy Nagle's Ex-Secretary.

Charles S. Hervey, one of the expert accountants of the Finance Department, submitted to the Comptroller yesterday a report on the methods of the trustees of the American Museum of Natural History in expending city appropriations. Mr. Hervey declared that there were no grounds for the criticisms recently made by Alderman Doull, Percy Nagle's ex-secretary. He found that the financial system of the museum was so perfect that it would be impossible for any irregular or extortionate bill to pass the auditors. As to the right of the museum to pay curators and other assistants out of the appropriations, Mr. Hervey reports that there can be no question of it. Mr. Hervey adds:

As regards the further criticism that the salaries paid by the museum authorities are excessive, there would seem to be no evidence in support of such a contention. Upon the staff of the museum are some of the most famous scientists in the world in their particular lines. In one instance I am informed that a curator, the liberality of whose salary has been recently questioned, contributes annually far more than he receives in salary to the museum, and instead of being at the museum one or two hours a week, as his accuser declares, is there from early in the morning until late at night. The gentleman in question, I am informed, has a very large private income and, besides being a thoroughly adept in the line of investigation for which he is employed, is also a great enthusiast in prosecuting his researches, the museum, therefore gaining in every way by his employment.

BRITISH PRAISE FOR SMITH.

The Consul at Manila Says the General Did His Work Well and Humanely.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—Capt. Henry Harford, British Consul at Manila, who is on his way to London on a leave of absence, is making a short visit in Washington. In regard to the case of Gen. Jacob H. Smith, who was recently reprimanded and retired for his famous "kill and burn" order, Capt. Harford says that while he was not personally acquainted with the General, he had the utmost sympathy for him as a soldier.

"I do not wish to be understood," he continued, "as in any way criticising the official action in Gen. Smith's case, but he had a very difficult task in Samar and he performed it well. It is hard for you people over here fully to understand and realize the difficulties to be coped with in the Philippines. You should give your army every credit for what it has done over there."

Capt. Harford speaks from a military experience of twenty years when he expresses the belief that military rule, or a degree of it, is necessary in the Philippines. As for the Filipinos, he considers them incapable of self-government, describing them as treacherous, and, with the exception of a very small proportion, ignorant and little removed from savagery. A temporizing policy, he declares, especially in Samar, would be a mistake.

"They must be subjugated," he said. "You must teach the little devils to respect you. I think your officers have conducted the war as humanely and gallantly as any people in the world could have done."

The Devery Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: It has been to me an instructive, but not novel, experience watching Devery fool the people. The idea of Devery fighting Croker is preposterous. The men have been too close together to part now. Why should Devery fight Croker? It was Croker who made Devery and Devery who unmade Croker. If it were Croker who was pursuing and pounding Devery it would not surprise me. It strikes me that Devery is fooling them all. He is raising the anti-Croker cry with the same motive as the fleeing thief who was himself shouting the loudest, "Stop thief." If Devery "stood openly for Croker" he would, to use his own language, "get the hop light Lou over the fence." The apparent boldness and daring is captivating. Devery is everything but the real Devery to the misguided people of the Ninth district. He is good, kind, charitable, a man of the people who knows his people and their needs and supplies them for electioneering purposes. He is put at the front because he has the ability and nerve to carry out the plans of Croker to regain power. When he has captured the Ninth district he will extend his missionary work to other districts, capture them, and when the proper time comes deliver the goods to his old friend and benefactor, Richard Croker of Wantage.

It has been said that John F. Carroll is the guide and adviser of Devery. This is no doubt so, but the real master hand and brain and standby of Devery is Croker's old friend and partner, now Devery's real estate partner, John J. Halloran. Halloran, in my opinion, was put near Devery as Croker's personal representative. Halloran was Croker's proxy in many a deal, political and otherwise, at Albany and here. He has the confidence of Croker and was one of his closest advisers in the last campaign, nay more—he dictated the nomination of Charles W. Dayton for Supreme Court Justice. Halloran was Croker's judge maker, that is, he was the high contracting party between Croker and the candidates on many occasions. It is not to his interest to fight Croker, and his close association with Devery explains satisfactorily what has seemed a mystery. He was put next to Devery to protect Croker's interests, and he seems to be doing it with great success. I am afraid it is going to be another case of the tiger swallowing the canary.

NEW YORK, July 26. POLITICIAN.

High Ball.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Mr. Charles Frederick Stansbury is, I think, correct in his theory of the origin of the expression "high ball." When Mr. Stansbury was in his cradle and I was a young man and Mr. Gibson of *Puck* was celebrating something—I think it was his centenary, but I am not certain—it was not his bi-centenary—the English stableman used to administer a "bolo" to a horse when there was something the matter with the animal's midst—toward the fourth quarter of the last century the euphonious "bolo" became "ball," and the sporting Britisher and the Englishman who wished to be thought sporting, called his drink a "ball." We went them one better and adding carbonic, vichy or seltzer made it "high." EDNOR P. SUBRANNOON.

NEW YORK, July 26.

TROOPS COME FOR WAR GAME.

17th Company of Artillery Arrives at Newport From Boston.

NEWPORT, R. I., July 28.—Preparations for the mimic war to be held between the army and navy are being carried on here on an elaborate scale. This morning the first of the troops which are to reenforce the troops stationed at the forts in this vicinity arrived. They were the Seventy-seventh Company of Artillery, coming from Fort Warren, Boston. They went to Fort Wetherill, where they went into camp this afternoon. Troops will continue to arrive to-morrow, Wednesday and Thursday, to be stationed at Fort Adams and Fort Greble.

Gen. MacArthur, who has charge of the land defences in the manœuvres, left Newport this morning for New London, making the trip on the United States steamship Castle. Gen. Sanger, the Assistant Secretary of War, was expected at Newport today to inspect the work on the local defences, but he did not arrive. The torpedo boat flotilla went outside this morning, but its destination could not be learned. It was said that there might possibly be an attack on the North Atlantic Squadron by these little flyers, but nothing official can be learned about any of the movements of either the naval vessels or of the doings at the forts.

The ships of the North Atlantic Squadron are off the Vineyard. The torpedo boats had not returned early this evening. Gen. MacArthur was accompanied to-day by Col. Butler, Major Harrison, Capt. Kerner and a number of the members of his staff.

P. R. R. TUNNEL CONFAB PRIVATE

Mayor Expects It to Result in a Contract the Aldermen Will Accept.

The conference to be held to-day between Mayor Low, the president and counsel of the Rapid Transit Commission, the Presidents of the boroughs and representative members of the Aldermen, upon the Pennsylvania's tunnel franchise is expected to lead to the submission of an amended contract to the Aldermen which the members of that body will accept. Vice-President Green of the Pennsylvania Railroad Company will attend the conference, and the Mayor has assurances that the company will agree to the insertion of a clause in the contract binding the corporation to an eight-hour day and to pay laborers no less than $2 a day.

Mayor Low made the announcement yesterday afternoon that the conference would be a private one. It is understood that his reason for this step was the action of the Central Federated Union in appointing a committee to attend the meeting uninvited. It is felt by Mayor Low that if the conference should be turned into a sort of public hearing the object for which he has called it would be defeated. The meeting will be essentially one of private consultation, and will have for its purpose the smoothing out of the protests raised last week by the Aldermen to the contract as it now stands.

BIG JERSEY LAND SYNDICATE.

Report That $65,000,000 Will Be Invested in River and Ocean Front Property.

This news came from Jersey City yesterday:

A syndicate with a capital of $65,000,000 will soon be incorporated under the laws of New Jersey, according to a report circulated in Jersey City yesterday, for the purpose of purchasing and developing lands on the Hackensack and Passaic rivers and along the New Jersey coast. It is said that the syndicate includes interests represented by the Realty Trust Company of New York, the Central Bond and Trust Company of New York, George W. Young, President of the United States Mortgage and Trust Company, and the Vanderbilts.

James C. Young, Vice-President of the National Realty Company, in Jersey City, said to be the representative of those interests, said yesterday that he had secured options on 3,728 acres in New Jersey. He refused to discuss the proposed scheme further than to say that the lands acquired will be developed for commercial purposes.

It is understood that the syndicate has already secured 5,000 acres of shore front along the Hackensack River and the ocean front, and that it is now after a tract somewhere between Atlantic Highlands and Atlantic City.

MILITIA WON'T TAKE PART.

States Decline to Send National Guard to Fort Riley Manœuvres.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—The desire of the War Department to have many National Guard organizations participate in the September army manœuvres at Fort Riley, Kan., is almost certain to meet with failure. So far not a single State has accepted the invitation of the Department, and twenty-two States and two Territories have declined, in each case the reason given being lack of funds. These States and Territories are Alabama, Arizona, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Maine, Michigan, Maryland, New Jersey, New Hampshire, North Dakota, New Mexico, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Vermont, Washington and Wyoming. It was thought that the Kansas militia at least would take part, but Gov. Stanley wrote that arrangements had been made already for mobilizing the State National Guard at Emporia in August. Some of the States which sent declinations will, however, be represented by National Guard officers.

CARNEGIE LIBRARY SITES.

Purchase of Land in Three Boroughs Authorized.

The Board of Estimate yesterday authorized the purchase of further sites in three boroughs for the Carnegie libraries. It was decided to acquire four sites in Manhattan, three in Richmond and one in Brooklyn, as follows:

Manhattan. In Ninety-sixth street near Park avenue, at a cost not to exceed $30,000; at 135th street and Lenox avenue, at not more than $30,000; 236 East Twenty-fifth street, at not more than $20,000; in Sixty-seventh street just west of First avenue, at not more than $17,000.

Richmond. In St. George, at a cost of not more than $20,000; in Stapleton, at not more than $10,000; in Port Richmond, at not more than $5,000. Only two of these sites will be purchased, as the board accepted a site at Tompkinsville, given gratuitously by the Realty Trust Company.

Brooklyn. In Linwood streets, at a cost not to exceed $36,000.

A Strange Coincidence of Births.

From the Meridian Press.

W. F. Adams of Seattle, Wash., who is now in Meridian, yesterday received two telegrams which mark an unusual coincidence.

One telegram was from his daughter, Mrs. M. S. Waterman, in Seattle, announcing that she had just become the mother of twins, a boy and a girl. The other despatch, which arrived within an hour of the preceding one, was sent by his daughter, Mrs. M. E. Atwater, in Baltimore, Md., who announced that she had just become the mother of twins, a boy and a girl.

The newcomers on the Atlantic coast and youthful cousins 3,000 miles to the westward come into the world on the same day and almost at the same hour.

On W. G. Grace's 200th Century.

From the London Globe.

In 1866,
When India knew not Ranjitsinhji,
And Shrewsbury still was building bricks,
And hopes of Abel yet were dingy,
You made two centuries or more
(The score sheet reads 224).

And now in 1902
When those you knew as babes are thinking
That cricket will no longer do,
For them whose once quick eyes are blinking
Against the M. C. C. you score
A noble century and more.

Though you were great when they were small,
'Tis they have turned to games discreeter,
Golf, billiards or th' unquiet ball,
As for their age and muscle meeter.
You show she bid the same full face,
You prove yourself the age old Grace.

MUCH BUILDING LAST YEAR.

Increase Over 1900 More Than 25 Per Cent.—Great Brick Production.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—In connection with some statistics on the production of brick, the Geological Survey reports that there was a remarkable increase in the number of buildings erected in the forty-five largest cities of the country in 1901 as compared with 1900. In 1901 the number of building permits issued was 85,571. In 1900 it was 68,417. The gain was therefore more than 25 per cent. The value of the buildings erected last year was $372,173,634 against $241,556,585 in 1900, a gain of nearly 55 per cent.

Although New York was first in the value of its buildings, with $136,015,697, the number of permits was less by 1,056 than in Philadelphia, where the total value of the new buildings was only $29,519,710, and 1,965 more than in Chicago where the total value was only $34,962,075. The average value of the buildings erected in New York in 1901 was $17,768, in Chicago $5,776 and in Philadelphia $3,358.

The year 1901 was one of unprecedented activity in the production of building bricks, the total output being valued at $51,095,623 as compared with $43,099,512 in the year before. The common brick product increased in value from $38,621,514 in 1900 to $45,103,076 in 1901.

The Geological Survey also presents figures concerning the manufacture of clay products in the United States. The total value of these products in 1901 was $110,211,587 as against $96,212,345 in 1900.

DROPPED TO LOWER CLASSES.

Princeton University's School of Science Students the Chief Victims.

PRINCETON, N. J., July 28.—In the wake of recent academic surprises comes the news to-day in the final reports of Princeton's examinations, held last May and June, that over fifty of the sons of Old Nassau have been dropped to lower classes. A vast majority of the decapitated youths are in the school of science, which heretofore has had the minority of delinquents. The list of deficient students smashes all Princeton records, exceeding last year by twenty-one. Twenty-four sophomores, sixteen of whom are in the school of science, move down a notch; the juniors are next, with ten school of science and four academic; the seniors follow with nine, most of them being in the school of science. Six specials swell the long list to fifty-three.

The Committee on Examinations have decided to withhold the names of the "dropped" boys, but a prominent member of the university is authority for the statement that at least twelve of the number are athletes, fully half of whom are conspicuous figures in football, baseball and track activities.

The most plausible explanation offered for the large number dropped in the school of science is that the entrance requirements for this department are less stringent than the academic.

$2,000,000 FOR BRIDGE PLAZA

At the Williamsburg End—Part of Broadway to Be Widened.

A resolution was adopted by the Board of Estimate yesterday sanctioning condemnation proceedings for the acquisition of several parcels of property to allow for the construction of a plaza at the Brooklyn approach to the Williamsburg bridge. The cost of the property is estimated at about $2,000,000.

The board also authorized the widening of Broadway at Van Cortlandt Park from 50 to 75 feet and decided that as the circumstances of this widening were exceptional the city should bear four-fifths of the cost.

Among the other expenditures authorized by the board were $168,000 for the purchase of horses, carts and other things by Street Cleaning Commissioner Woodbury, $40,000 for the establishment by the Fire Department of a central alarm station in 176th street, in The Bronx, and for the placing underground of the wires of that borough, $655,000 for the construction of a new main sewer at Bay Ridge, and $464,443 to compensate the Jerome Park reservoir contractors for reducing the work day from ten hours to eight.

NOT ROOSEVELT'S ORDER.

President Had Nothing to Do With Opening Oyster Bay Post Office on Sunday.

WASHINGTON, July 28.—It was stated unofficially at the Post Office Department to-day that President Roosevelt had nothing to do with the order for the opening of the Post Office at Oyster Bay for an hour each Sunday. Following is the order issued at the Department for the opening of the office:

"From representations to this Department that the interests of newspaper correspondents and others at Oyster Bay, N. Y., are suffering through lack of postal facilities on Sunday, it is evident that the public convenience requires the opening of the office for a short time on that day. It is therefore ordered, in compliance with section 234 of the Postal Laws and Regulations that the Post Office at Oyster Bay, N. Y., be kept open for one hour on Sunday before or following the hours of public worship."

OFF ON ADIRONDACK JUNKET.

The Legislative Investigation Committee Starts on Its Annual Trip.

ALBANY, July 28.—The Adirondack Investigation Committee of the Legislature, headed by Speaker Nixon, left for Utica this afternoon on the annual summer junket tour. The committee represents the Assembly only, but the members were accompan