THE EVENING STAR.
With Sunday Morning Edition.

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Politics 'Twixt Cup and Lip.

The enemies of Mr. Bailey are moving for his defeat for re-election on the allegation that since he was indorsed at the primaries, facts to his discredit as a man and an official have been discovered. They are asking the democrats of Texas to believe that the fees Mr. Bailey received from an oil company operating in that state were against sound public policy, and their present purpose is to present the matter to the Texas legislature when it meets next winter and goes into session for the election of a senator.

Mr. Bailey's friends express no fear of the outcome. They assert that the story is an old one; that Mr. Bailey met it in all of its essential features long before the primaries were held, and that the democrats of the state voted for him with full knowledge of what his enemies had charged against him. They believe that he will be triumphantly re-elected.

There is presented here, however, an interesting question. If between the holding of a primary and the meeting of a legislature a man indorsed for the Senate should become impossible by reason either of crime, or insanity, or be removed by death, the instructions of the primary would of course go for nothing, and the legislature would proceed in the old way. In such a state as Texas, which is a great empire, a new primary could not be held in time. A canvass could not be made.

A still more difficult situation would arise if between the November election day and the day for the counting of the electoral votes the successful candidate for President should die, or become insane, or be exposed as unworthy of the office by reason of an offense which had been hidden from the voters during the campaign. The natural feeling would be to bestow the office on the man who had been chosen Vice President on the successful ticket at the polls. But if he were a man who had been nominated more to placate a disgruntled factional sentiment in the national convention than because of high abilities and deserts, and did not in himself measure up to the requirements of the first place, dissatisfaction would undoubtedly show itself at the suggestion of his name. Both the successful party and the general public would feel unassured with such a man in the White House.

But what other course would be open? Friends of the men who had been defeated in the convention for the presidential nomination might feel quickened to action, but what could they do? What sort of pressure could be brought to bear on a college elected to do a specific thing and that thing now impossible?

Censorship of Posters.

Censorship of the billboard has been undertaken by the women members of the Civic League of Newport, R. I., and the corrective influence of their touch has already been felt. The crudely suggestive poster came first under their scrutiny. The league women finding that neither the bill poster nor the advertiser wished deliberately to offend the better sense of the community, an agreement has been made that henceforth all posters before billing will be submitted to an examining committee of the league.

The dispatch telling of how this came about follows:

NEWPORT, R. I.—The women members of the Civic League of Newport, in their efforts to preserve the natural beauties of the city, have formed themselves into a board of censors, with the suppression of objectionable billboard posters as their particular object. An advertisement which recently covered nearly every billboard in the city was considered improper, and they demanded that the bill poster cover the boards with "paper" which was not objectionable. The bill poster declined to do so until he was assured of the support of the league, the majority of which are wealthy. He was given the necessary promise, and it became known today that an agreement had been entered into whereby a committee of the league would hereafter pass upon all advertising litreature before it is posted on the billboards throughout the city.

They order the matter of posters better in a number of European cities than in America. Many municipalities on the other side tax posters, the tax being proportioned to their size. The poster is kept under immediate control of the city authorities and is a source of revenue.

The final records disclose the fact that the Washington base ball players have at least begun to climb.

Dr. Dowie's system of revelations is even more adjustable than that of the Mormon Church.

The Educational Value of Washington

The people of the states feel a steadily increasing regard for the capital. That fact has been evident for a number of years, and it is gratifying to the residents of the capital, who have labored for decades under a handicap. For some time after the establishment of the federal District a prejudice existed in the minds of dwellers in other parts, born of the feeling that their own cities should have been chosen for the honor. Then so badly did the early capital-makers do their work, after the first grand foundations were laid, that for at least half a century the District was a national joke as a municipality. It was rated as a city without prospects, a mud-hole without beauty, a place from which the government might some day remove all the machinery of administration and legislation. The civil war changed this feeling. That crisis in the national life made Washington the permanent capital beyond peradventure.

The work of evolving the ideal capital at this point was not, however, seriously undertaken by the government for some time after the close of the war. Thirteen years passed after the end of the struggle before Congress agreed to establish the District definitely and properly upon the basis of a partnership with the federal government. Even then precious time was allowed to elapse before the necessary hard work of capital building was undertaken. Apart from the White House, the Capitol and a few of the department buildings, virtually all of the great plant which here stands as the embodiment of the federal power and the national progress has been created within the past twenty years.

The Washingtonians of today are proud of the progress that has been achieved in these two decades, for they have had a large part in the work, contributing not only as taxpayers on the local side of the capital partnership, but as pleaders with Congress for the institution of the necessary enterprises of equipping the seat of government. These citizens are the more gratified now to find the effect of their labors appreciated by the people of the country at large. In a recent issue of the Portland Oregonian is an editorial expression of the new appraisement of the capital by the people of the states. Commenting upon The Star's suggestion that a visit to Washington is a valuable item of education to young Americans, the Oregonian says:

"Washington, properly visited, affords something of educational value to every American. The capital possesses peculiar interest which makes the value exceptional. It is not necessary to dwell upon the character of it, that is well understood. Young people fresh from school—and we may add a majority of older people whose school days have passed long since—have but a vague idea, at the best, of the scope of governmental activity that gives life and character to the city of Washington. To the person who has never been there there is but partial, and altogether inadequate conception of what the city reaches in the development of American architecture, in the countless suggestions of historical and political interest which are associated with one's familiar knowledge of the nation's history, to say nothing of the detail of governmental departments, the extent of which cannot be appreciated except by Washington contact.

"No better prize could be offered any successful scholar or group of scholars in the public schools than a visit to the federal capital under the proper guidance and preferably at the proper time, namely, when Congress was in session. We venture to say that no single event in the student life would bring such rich results.

"But aside from the consideration of schools and students, it should be a matter of pride, if not of duty, with every American to visit the capital city of the country at least once in a lifetime. A much greater percentage of Americans can afford to do this than avail themselves of the opportunity and privilege. 'See America first' is a splendid slogan. But as a part of American education that ought not to be neglected 'See Washington at least' is a bit of supplemental advice not to be overlooked."

Such words go a long way to cause Washingtonians to forget the slurs that have been cast upon the capital in the past. They encourage the citizens of the District to continue their good work, for they indicate a spirit abroad in the land calculated to render Congress more appreciative of its duty in the premises as the guardian of the federal District and likely to vote in the future more eagerly for the improvements which are in truth making Washington one of the most important items in the whole American educational scheme.

Mr. Bryan's Gate Receipts.

The Enid, Oklahoma, Events says:

"Bryan raked in about $2,000 hard cash on his week's trip through Oklahoma. Not a bad week, eh? Bryan is out for the coin with as much tenacity as any Rockegould that ever lived. He likes to finger it, count it over and see it placed on deposit. It cost the Garfield County Fair Association $250 for his democratic political speech here, and cost a number of cities over Oklahoma from $200 to $400 for making stops."

Well, now, this is simply ill-natured. Mr. Bryan's time is his own, his talents are in demand, and why should he not make terms that assist in swelling the size of his bank account? Those fair associations, we may be sure, reaped a good harvest. He continues to be a great attraction, and crowds flock to hear him everywhere and on any subject.

It is when considering this feature of Mr. Bryan's activity that we discover an important feature to him of the Madison Square Garden reception. For a time at least he has suffered as a politician by reason of his speech on that occasion, but as a lecturer, an entertainer, he has markedly benefited. The racket raised over the declaration in favor of government ownership of railroads has given him a wide and fresh advertisement, and communities where he had spoken and was now no novelty quickened again at the mention of his name, and sent him invitations for another visit. He has probably more invitations than he can accept, and there is no trouble about the price of his eloquence. His own figures "go," and both sides are satisfied.

It is a mistake, too, to represent Mr. Bryan's tongue as a trust. So far from that, it is only one of many bidders for business. The amusement market is open to all, and the peerless entertainer does not seek to close it. Every fellow with a piece to speak has Mr. Bryan's permission to fire away if he can find an audience. If Mr. Bryan is the most attractive of the whole bunch, and secures more engagements and more money for them than any of his competitors, that is the public's tribute to his superior gifts. His tongue is oily, but not Standard Oily. His motto is, talk, and let talk. All talkers are his brothers, and have his good wishes.

Mr. Bryan is making money, and making it legitimately. He is already rich after the standards of his section. We sometimes hear that as a rich man he makes a less forcible appeal to the public than when he was poor and leading the hosts of the democracy. But we must remember that there is as much difference between the public of this day and that of 1896 as between the Bryan of this day and that. The public of that day was poor, with thousands of men tramping the big roads hunting jobs. The public of this day is prosperous, and lives comfortably at home, and has money in the bank. Mr. Bryan as a rich man today is simply in the fashion.

The placidity which prevails despite the exchange of comment between Crane and Bailey proves that Texas has at last gotten to be a regular evening clothes and crush hat state.

Spelling reform would be more popular if it embraced some system of elucidating the breezy chat which some of the sporting writers offer.

Sometimes Mr. Weaver of Philadelphia does not exactly know whether to remain a hopeful aggressive reformer or turn pessimist.

One of the penalties of wealth is the liability to have to pay attention to some very prosy and prolix indictments.

That old-time question, "Is marriage a failure?" has again been taken up in dead earnest in Pittsburg.

The "Aisle Hog."

Will not some of our very oldest inhabitants come forward and tell us whether the stage coaches of their young days, which furnished the "rapid transit" of six or seven decades ago, were patronized by human imitations of the pig? Were there in those days such abominations as "end-seat hogs?" Did men of that period insist upon blocking the platforms and steps of the public conveyances? Did they stand in the aisle—if there were aisles—in such a manner that later comers had to struggle to get space in the body of the coach?

In short, is the "aisle-hog" a product of our own times, a resultant of our strenuous pace of living? Are selfishness and lack of consideration for others, and indifference to the rights of the majority the inevitable fruits of this wonder plant that is called American development?

Of all the nuisances conspicuous in the life of today the aisle-hog is one of the worst. He enters a car of which all the seats are filled. He stands in the passageway close by the door and forces all who enter after him either to halt or to squeeze past him to the middle point. He is indifferent, indeed, alike to his own comfort, as well as that of other people, for he puts himself directly in the way of the stream of passengers and must be jostled by them. His processes of reasoning are beyond understanding. He is simply stubborn and selfish.

Such people cause delays in traffic and accidents. They render difficult the working of cars by conductors. They spoil tempers and aggravate the instinctive resentment of the traveling public against the traction managers, who are often blamed for conditions which are due in large measure to these thoughtless or deliberately blockading passengers.

There is no remedy easily available for the "aisle-hog." He must be borne with by the harassed public. The average man dislikes to quarrel with his rude and inconsiderate neighbor, and will endeavor to avoid an encounter with him when he finds the aisle of a car uselessly broken. Women are at his mercy. He can only be set down as a nuisance and possibly reformed. But the process is long and difficult, and meanwhile the public sighs for the good old days when, according to common belief, good manners prevailed in the public vehicles as well as in the drawing room.

The Kaiser and Bismarck.

If it is true that the kaiser, stung by the story given in the Hohenlohe memoirs, will prepare an account himself of his break with Bismarck some "mighty interesting reading" is on the cards. As the world sees the matter now, the break was inevitable. The great chancellor undoubtedly underrated, as the world at large did, the young emperor at the start. He did not realize, as the world did not, that a man with very large talents for public affairs had come upon the scene. He regarded himself as a fixture—the man indispensable—as the world did. This must have betrayed him into actions and language which a proud man on a throne would find it difficult to tolerate in any subject. At the same time there will probably always be a good deal of sympathy for the greatest German since Frederick the Great, who was turned out of office in his old age, and who spent his last years in a moody resentment at very hard fortune.

Mr. Van der Does der Bye.

A young man who carries around with him the name of A. J. J. Van der Does der Bye has been elected captain of the Cornell "soccer" foot ball team for this year. Probably when his name is spelled out in full it is more entertaining than thus stated. But even as it is, consider the situation from the point of view of the excited foot ball spectator when the captain of the team makes a clever play. It would seem that young Mr. Van der Does der Bye's family had been over from Holland long enough to get the name acclimated a trifle. Consideration for the younger generation might at least operate to drop a capital letter or two out of the patronymic.

The report that Silveria was in hiding in New York may have been due to a suspicion that he would naturally gravitate to the place where so many men congregate who have gotten away with other people's millions.

The fact that so many current novels are disappointing may be due to the manner in which they are advertised. Very few novels can live up to the publisher's announcement.

Despite the frequency with which poisoning cases and suicides appear, it remains easy for any irresponsible person to secure deadly drugs.

Mr. Hearst should have been warned that an expert like Mr. Hughes could tell a corporation as far as he could see it.

New York republicans may be tempted to lower the betting odds so as to lessen the danger of over-confidence.

It looks very much as if the question in New York were one of judgeships rather than of a governorship.

Cubans have not yet gone so far as to ask for a list of generals in order to make a selection.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Useful Discovery.

"Have you invented anything recently?"
"Yes," answered the sensational scientist. "I have invented a new way to get to the north pole."
"Is it good for anything?"
"Certainly. It's good for ten pages in a magazine."

The Rattle of the Radiator.

He moved amid the battle's din,
He heard the cannon roar,
Where ruthless warriors strive to win
A name that's writ in gore.
Then came a glad awakening—for
'Twas but an autumn dream
At 6 a.m. The janitor
Was turning on the steam.

Philosophic.

"Your one idea seems to be money," said the critical friend.
"Well," answered Senator Sorghum; "that condition has one advantage. You don't have the usual difficulty in getting people to accept your ideas."

"De fact dat de gran' jury 'casionally goes after a rich man," said Uncle Eben, "ain' no excuse foh you, son, to go aroun' satisfied to be broke."

Sympathetic.

"You want to be careful about that dog," said the sharp-featured woman. "He's cross."
"Your dog?" asked Plodding Pete.
"Yes."
"Allus eat here?"
"Of course."
"Well, you gave me somethin' to eat once. I don't blame him fur bein' cross."

Bacteriology.

Dey tells me dar's a lazy germ dat's allus hangin' 'round.
I reckons dat I's got one, though my general health is sound;
But I can't help doin' nothing cep' a-lookin' 'roun' to see
Ef de kind o' weather's comin' dat's agreeable to me.
But dar's another germ—it's wusser dan de lazy kind:
It's de industrious germ dat makes a person disinclined
To take his res' an' do his bes' to loaf de hours away.
If dat ar' microbe gits you, you keeps jumpin' night an' day!

You's out whitewashin' fences or you's carryin' in de coal,
When once it gits you goin' you can't stop to save yoh soul;
You's totin' in de water an' you's choppin' up de wood,
An' you's out a doin' errands foh de intire neighborhood!
A friend dat has dem germs mus' stop his friendliness wif me,
'Cause germs is mighty ketchin', leas'ways dey is said to be.
Dat lazy germ is bad enough, but I won' make no fuss;
I'm glad it ain' de one dat makes dem folks industrious.

Why Not "Timmie" or "Fingy?"

From the Springfield Republican.

Timothy L. Woodruff has amplitudinous visions of a United States senatorship coming his way, if he can only beat "Fingy" Conners as a campaign manager. Mr. Conners also has senatorial ambitions, it is understood. Why not?

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

Vandalia's Exploit.

In the following extract from The Star of October 7, 1856, reference is made to an incident in the naval history of the United States which has been practically forgotten by the American people. The U. S. S. Vandalia had shortly before returned to the United States after an absence of four years, having remained nine months of that time at Shanghai, assisting in protecting foreign residents during the war between the Chinese imperialists and the insurgents. The Star says:

"This ship also assisted to exterminate the hordes of pirates that infest the Chinese waters. Upon one occasion, while lying at anchor, becalmed, in the delta of the Pearl river, near Hongkong, some of these miscreants were seen boarding and plundering trading junks, almost within range of her broadside. The boats were instantly lowered and manned by a party of seamen and marines, under command of Lieut. John Walcutt, who went in pursuit. The pirates, laden with booty, took to an island about two miles distant, where they ensconsed themselves behind some precipitous rocks and kept up a continuous fire upon the advancing boats. The Vandalia's boats dashed on through a shower of grape and musket balls, landed, scaled the rocks, routed out the nest of rascals and killed and wounded an unknown number. The work of destruction was then completed by burning their junks and houses in the vicinity. Two prisoners were taken, who were afterward delivered to the Chinese authorities. In this affair gallant Lieut. Walcutt had only one man killed and one wounded."

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Cuban Revolt Suppressed.

With a revolution in Cuba just succumbing to the influence of the United States, the following extract from The Star of October 9, 1856, makes highly interesting reading at this time: "The New York Sun announces the disbanding of the Cuban junta, originally formed in that city for the purpose of redeeming Cuba from Spanish rule. At one time the junta had prepared a powerful expedition for that island, but their hopes were blasted by the premature invasion of Lopez, together with the intervention of the United States authorities." The Sun says:

"It is true that the Cuban junta is extinct. Spanish grace has blotted out this revolutionary institution. Gaspar de Betancourt, its president, has received and accepted pardon for his rank and thrice aggravated rebellion. His confiscated estates, amounting in value to hundreds of thousands of dollars, have been restored to him and he has taken passports for Paris, there to enjoy a life of aristocratic ease. The old revolutionist has succumbed, and for the remainder of his days he will take his walks and smoke his cigarettes on the boulevards of Paris, attend the opera, mingle with the elite of French society and abjure all democratic associations. Farewell, friend Betancourt, to us and to Cuba forever lost! Kindhearted and suave in manner thou wert, but not the stuff of which daring and stern revolutionists are made."

* * *

Disgraceful Conditions.

The work of rescuing Washington from the mire of congressional indifference had not been accomplished half a century ago, and the city was, in consequence, struggling with its own problems without the means to solve them. The Star was constantly reminding the citizens and the higher powers of government of their duty in the premises. In the issue of October 11, 1856, 1 san example:

"We have frequently recorded from time to time the additions made to the metropolis—the stately mansion, the commodious and extensive places of business, the public buildings and the numerous tenements erected for the accommodation of persons of small pecuniary means or limited incomes. This is no longer a 'city of magnificent distances,' but one, the 'chinks' of which are fast filling up with substantial piles of brick and mortar. All this is gratifying, to say nothing of the 'green spots' handsomely inclosed. The city is very far, however, from being finished, fenced in, and the palings painted.

"We have never known a public square to be so extensively 'improved' as that which is occupied in part by the Center market. The old building was erected more than fifty years ago, and hence we marvel not that the 'city fathers' should be so interested in preserving it in its present beautiful proportions! But as if to relieve the aforesaid Center market from its white-washed sides and moss-covered roof prominence, a number of enterprising men have been at work dotting the square with little shanties, some of them on wheels—to be removed from place to place when necessary to avoid damage by the continual alterations of the grades. This is a good idea and worthy of a patent. Thus 'New-town' has risen with the demands of the times, and as suddenly as many a western village. The councils should, however, require the owners of those classically fashioned bazaars and tenements to whitewash or stain them with ochre; for without such appliances the modern settlement is incomplete."

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Printing Paper.

Evidences of the growth of this country and its governmental machinery are so numerous and so striking that it is futile to adduce statistics to show the differences between conditions today and those of half a century back. Nevertheless an eloquent commentary on the comparative insignificance of one of the branches of the public service is afforded by an advertisement running in the columns of The Star at this time fifty years ago, calling for bids for paper for the government printing office for the ensuing year. The call was for both printing and writing papers. Of the first class, of various qualities, the public printer expected to have need during the twelve months of some 20,500 reams, which, according to the specifications, would weigh about 975,000 pounds.

During the fiscal year just passed the public printer used, in all the branches of his work, paper aggregating the weight of 18,800,000 pounds.

ADELAIDE RISTORI.

From the Detroit Free Press.

In her death Ristori, the aged tragedienne, triumphs, for now only does the knowledge of her continued existence reach the attention of this critical art period.

From the Boston Traveler.

Only those who have passed the three-score mark will remember Adelaide Ristori in her prime, and it is now twenty years since she visited this country for the last time. She was one of the great actresses of history, the greatest that the Italian stage has produced; a good, charitable woman, who, in addition to devoting her life to her art, gave freely of her time and talents to works of charity for the benefit of her country.

From the Columbus Dispatch.

Adelaide Ristori, the great Italian actress who has just died, was born to the stage, her parents having been comedians, but the great successes for which she will be remembered were made in tragedy in such roles as Mary Stuart, Queen Elizabeth and Lady Macbeth. Of her three visits to the United States the last was made in 1884-5.

From the Buffalo Commercial.

It is twenty-one years since Ristori appeared on the stage in this country. Were she living now and in full possession of her power as a tragedian she probably would draw very small houses. "We have changed all that." Possibly she might get a chance in some one-act appearance in vaudeville.

From the New York Times.

Adelaide Ristori won plaudits and admiration and court decorations during a long and well-spent life and deserved them. She was a great woman of whom her country is rightly proud.

From the New York World.

Rachel has been described as the high priestess of art, compelling her audiences to follow her into a region purely ideal. She gave magnificent exhibitions of passion, but they were intellectual in their appeal, exciting no emotion. Ristori, Rachel's great rival, was the interpreter of nature. Her characters were the sublimate of actual existences. Whether she expressed joy, sorrow, anger, hatred or fear, her acting had the verity of life itself. Hers was the art that served nature.

THE ANGLO-RUSSIAN CONVENTION.

Marriage and Diplomacy.

Following the announcement of the marriage of the Grand Duke Michael of Russia, brother of the czar, to Princess Patricia, niece of the King of England, although denied in some quarters, there comes the news of diplomatic negotiations between St. Petersburg and London, which, in the form of a convention, is about to be signed by Nicholas II and Edward VII.

Although England and Russia are secular rivals, it should be recalled that there is a tie of family relationship between these two powers, whose politics until now have been divided by an abyss assumed to be impassable. The Emperor Nicholas, by his marriage with the granddaughter of Queen Victoria, the Princess Alice of Hesse Darmstadt, became the nephew of Edward VII; besides his mother is the sister of Queen Alexandra of England, and his aunt, the Grand Duchess Marie, daughter of Czar Alexander II, married the Duke of Edinburgh, brother of King Edward.

It has been said that "there are no miracles in politics," but the rapprochement of England and Russia is a strong refutation of the assertion.

The correspondent of the London Telegraph makes the announcement, which appears to be authorized, that the principal questions treated in the new convention refer to the orient. "That which referred to India was commercial; that to Tibet was political or religious. And this was so because when either of the governments dispatched a Buddhist bonze or a scentific explorer the rival interpreted the act as preliminary to annexation."

The principal point of the convention, says the correspondent, submitted for the signature of the czar, is non-intervention in the affairs of Tibet. "Great Britain undertakes not to use for her benefit any advantage which might accrue from her recent military expedition to Tibet. The protege of Russia, the Dalai-Lama, formerly powerful, will now be left to his own resources.

* * *

The Persian Problem.

The question of Persia is difficult and the principle of non-intervention cannot be applied because of the real and indisputable interests in that country of both England and Russia. "This being so," adds the correspondent, "the only solution is the adoption of the regime of spheres. Russian influence extends north of the Iran, and that of Great Britain in the south. The next Persian loan will be arranged conjointly by England and Russia. When these questions have been finally settled it will be found that Russian war vessels will no longer be excluded from the Dardanelles." The negotiations have been conducted by Sir Arthur Nicholson, British ambassador at St. Petersburg, and M. Isvolsky, minister of foreign affairs, both acting in accord with the wishes of the czar.

The immediate reason for the Anglo-Russian rapproachement may be found, although the Telegraph does not say so, in the fact that Germany has entered the field and is contesting British influence in Persia. The recent establishment of a German bank in Teheran, aside from the Turko-German railway operations in the south, constitute a direct menace to British interests in Persia and in India.

The finances of Persia, so far as can be ascertained, are not in a very satisfactory condition and the entry of Germany at this moment as a competitor for spheres is the more significant in that it is based upon the support she will receive from Constantinople. In May, 1892, the British government concluded with the Imperial Bank of Persia a contract for the issue of a loan of £500,000, the product of which should serve for the payment of an indemnity to the Tobacco Regie Company of Persia. The loan guaranteed by the customs receipts of southern Persia and the Persian gulf were repayable in eighty half-yearly installments, together with 6 per cent interest. Yearly installments and interest were paid until the redemption of the loan in 1900.

In January, 1900, the Russian imperial government permitted the Russian Banque des Prets of Persia to take up a loan to be issued by the Persian government to the amount of 22,500,000 roubles under the designation of "Five per cent Persian gold loan" of the year 1900. The payment of interest and the redemption of the loan in the course of seventy-five years is guaranteed by all the Persian customs receipts, with the exception of the revenues of the custom houses of the province of Fars and the parts of the Persian gulf. The Persian government undertook to redeem all its foreign obligations out of the proceeds of this loan and not to conclude, without the consent of the bank, any foreign loan before the liquidation of the five per cent gold loan. The Persian government also leaves it at the discretion of the bank to place on the market, if it considers necessary, bonds of the Persian loan to the extent of the balance of the debt owing to the bank, these bonds in such case to enjoy the full guarantee of the Russian imperial government. The English 1892 loan was redeemed in 1900. In March, 1902, the Russian bank agreed to grant a further loan of about 10,000,000 roubles on the same conditions as those of the first and the whole amount was paid by the end of the year.

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Germany's Designs.

An Anglo-Russian entente implies, it goes without saying, the abandonment of all ambitions looking to a Russian succession in India. The results of the war with Japan and the apparent anarchical conditions in Russia render this conclusian, not a choice, but a necessity. Germany has been a candidate at the same time for the hand of Russia and of England and has endeavored to drive the latter into her meshes almost by brute force, holding as a menace her army and a population of 61,000,000. The London Times of recent date contains an interesting article on the Machiavellian overtures made by Prince Bulow in a recently reported interview. It says:

"The crux of the matter lies in the contention stated, in almost menacing form, that England must choose between two alternatives, that of adopting toward Germany the policy which might easily be disastrous of an Anglo-French counterpoise, or of extending the circle of its friendships to include Germany. * * * The entente between France and England represents the first occasion on which a third power has ventured to maintain that a friendly relationship between two powers must be construed as hostile to a third power unless that third power be allowed to convert a menage a deux into a menage a trois.

"It is necessary to use plain language. We do not believe that German solictations in London will affect our relations with France, any more than German threats in Paris affected them a year ago. Those relations are based upon considerations of common interests and of general policy which have commended themselves equally to the governments and the people of both countries. We see no reason whatever why we should quarrel with Germany, or why Germany should quarrel with us, but we do see many reasons why our relations with Germany cannot in present circumstances acquire the same character of intimacy which our relations with France have now happily acquired. To modify these relations, whether by addition or subtraction, at the bidding of Germany would be, to recognize a sort of German hegemony in Europe; and history is there to tell us that England's greatness is based upon her resistance in the past to similar claims of hegemony, whether they were put forward by a Charles V. or a Louis XIV., or a Napoleon."

The National Review for October in its summary of political events, says: "Germany having secured her supremacy on land, and being relieved of further military anxiety, can henceforward devote herself to the development of her sea power until she reaches the British level. This is now the avowed semi-official program, and it renders our disarmament-mongers supremely ridiculous.

* * *

Double Rivalry.

"The chronic friction between Great Britain and France had brought almost as much grist to the German mill as the traditional antagonism between Great Britain and Russia. Indeed, the whole superstructure of Bismarckian diplomacy depends on the preservation of this double rivalry.

"There was an additional cause of vexation. The German emperor, though exceedingly astute in playing on the vanity of individuals, especially Anglo-Saxon individuals, is a poor judge of the temper of communities, and he had refused to regard the negotiations between London and Paris seriously up to the very moment of their completion in April, 1904, being animated by the fixed idea that the incompatibility of temperament between England and France rendered their differences insoluble. He failed to realize the educational effect of the tardy discovery on both sides of the channel that the tertius gaudens was the sole beneficiary of Anglo-French friction. Therefore the diplomatic coup of the British and French foreign ministry came with all the force of a thunderbolt. Hence the fireworks on the frontier. Count Bulow was, however, able to persuade his sovereign to bottle his wrath and bide his time, and the imperial chancellor publicly expressed official approval of the Anglo-French agreement in the reichstag. The emperor had not very long to wait for an opportunity of testing the solidity of Anglo-French friendship, which he was convinced would crumble at the lightest touch. The appalling disasters of Russia in the far east reacted on the political and military position of her French ally and enabled the emperor to pay his theatrical visit to Tangiers, which he swiftly followed up by demanding of the French government the head of M. Delcasse under a threat of immediate invasion. France was taken completely unawares, being totally unprepared for war."

And the National Review continues and makes some frank confessions, which render still more lucid the comprehension of British politics as practical formerly: "It is no exaggeration to say that up to the day of the resignation of Prince Bismarck the latter was for all intents and purposes British foreign minister. We have no desire to dwell upon the more painful episodes of the Anglo-German era which is represented in the present cabinet (the Potsdam party) by Mr. Haldane, Lord Loreburn and Mr. Bryce.

"Our betrayal of the Danes in 1863 and our conduct toward France in 1870 were equally marked by imbecility as regards our own interests and treachery toward our neighbors. That a British foreign minister, and a liberal to boot, should actually have exercised his influence in order to restrain Austria from espousing the cause of stricken France, is one of the most disagreeable diplomatic revelations of our time, of which the less said the better."

* * *

Russia and France.

The Review has a word to say about France, which, as Russia's ally, is not without its lesson. Briefly summed up, it says: In 1905 the collapse of Russia left France in a dangerously exposed position. She was inferior in numbers on land and sea. The German staff was quite ready for war and expected a debacle similar to 1870-1871. The French were divided and torn by internal dissension; their character had been weakened by pacifist agitation; stores were insufficient; the reserves could not be incorporated before the corps went to the front; the French efficiency was 10 per cent below the nominal figure; the German's was in excess; the transition to two years' service had deranged the French organization, as it was charged by its opponents it would do, and that German heavy artillery and superior rifle and bullet compensated for inferiority in field guns. The Review rakes Mr. Haldane, the British minister of war, at the same time, and charges him with folly by striking 40,000 British reservists from the army list, cutting down several battalions of infantry and batteries of artillery and by entrusting the defense of England to county councils.

The writer on a previous occasion has referred to Prof. Schiemann, who has come to be considered as the mouthpiece of Emperor William, who, when he desires to say something umbrageous or menacing, sends for Schiemann. The latter has recently delivered the following oracle: Germany has less reason than any other country to be troubled over the present situation; the European powers which possess colonies in Africa and Asia will lose them; Russia and France will have difficulty in maintaining their protectorates in the extreme orient; England in one or two generations will no longer laugh at the news of the crowning of a Hindu as sovereign of India; in South Africa the Boers will replace the English; even in the United States the Anglo-Saxon element will be absorbed and annihilated by another element (it would be interesting to know what element but Schiemann does not state); finally the struggle in the Balkans is imminent and will be the field of a formidable struggle. But then Schiemann is an indifferent sort of oracle, else he might have told his master that his trip to Tangiers would precipitate a rapprochement between England and France and Russia.

* * *

Oriental Trade.

M. Rene Pinon, in an article in the Revue des Deux Mondes, entitled "The Evolution of the Question of the Orient from the Congress of Berlin," says: "What is to be the role of the great powers in the solution of this question?" There are but two solutions for a fact—one to precipitate the ruin of the ottoman empire in order to appropriate the pieces; the other to maintain the Sultan and his states in the hope of exercising a preponderating influence or exclude their rivals. For Germany the Turk is now a necessary ally, a collaborator without whom she can neither acquire nor hold the commercial outlets of the orient and the roads to Asia."

The whole question is contained in the above. Great Britain must protect these outlets and roads at whatever sacrifice. No great power will be permitted to establish itself at Constantinople, in Armenia, in Syria, or in Persia. The Anglo-Russian convention is an act of supreme defiance aimed at Germany, and it will be known very soon if the challenge is accepted.

M. Notovitch, in a book on English and Russian relations, in which he clearly foreshadows the Anglo-Russian convention, expresses the hope that Russia, England and France will form "one body and one soul." He resumes the history of Anglo-Russian relations by showing how much the accord of two great nations, of the orient, and the occident of Europe, almost continual during several centuries, has been salutary for the repose and liberation of the world; how much on the contrary have their passing differences been fatal to the happiness of all.

CH. CHAILLE LONG.

A TOUCH OF WINTER.

From the Nashville Banner.

The good old summer time lingered longer than usual this year, but it appears now to have suddenly let loose all holds and dropped.

From the Providence Journal.

Cold weather is threatened by the weather bureau. Now is the time to soak the coal man, according to his own plaintive admissions.

From the Cleveland Leader.

Wonder if the slush and snow we weren't expecting will be marked up on the credit side by old King Winter when he makes up his weather schedule a little later.

From the Chicago Record-Herald.

One snowstorm doesn't make a winter, but it is likely to make things rather disagreeable.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

'Tis an ill frost that brings profit to none. The cold snap in Kentucky has ripened persimmons and spare ribs.

BASE BALL APOTHEOSIS.

From the Kansas City Times.

Twelve thousand tickets at double the usual rates were sold for the first game yesterday between the Chicago teams of the National and American leagues to determine the base ball championship of the world. What greater joy can come to a base ball fan than attending a great series at which the "home team" can't lose?

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

It would be overstating the case, during the championship series, to say that business is being carried on as usual in Chicago. The proper way to say it would be that business is being carried on as well as the absence of the office boys will permit.

From the Rochester Post-Express.

Chicago does not care now what rivals say of her. The possession of two base ball pennants is salve enough for any civic wounds.

From the Topeka State Journal.

Having won two base ball pennants in one season, there isn't room for any other sort of flag in Chicago just now.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

[In this column will be answered all questions of a proper nature submitted to The Star. Inquirers should write on one side only and address their letters to "Uncle Jasper," Star office. In case of difficult conundrums answers may be delayed for a week or two. Consequently it may be advisable for all questioners to watch this column carefully.]

TOODLES.—What, in your opinion, is the most striking passage in literature descriptive of great wealth? A.—Some critics assert that the following lines from Shakespeare's "King Richard III" present the most convincing picture of vast fortune:

"Wedges of gold, great anchors, heaps of pearl,
Inestimable stones, unvalued jewels,
All scattered in the bottom of the sea."

But modern needs, of the existence of which we have personally no doubt whatever, suggest that the most vivid description of the true Golconda is that which is conveyed by these lines, from—well, let us remain anonymous:

"Lumps of coal, great mounds, heaps of fuel,
Uncountable tons, unmeasured wood,
All scattered in the cellar of the house."

FISCAL.—Who is now Secretary of the Treasury? A.—As this page goes to press Secretary Shaw's seventeenth consecutive resignation had not shown symptoms of taking, and he was reputed to be still signing his name to warrants.

HISTORY.—If there is any precise difference between the words revolution and rebellion, which would be properly applied to the late uprising in the Island of Cuba? A.—Stop splitting hairs, Hissie, and accept results. Let's call it a common or garden case of disorderly conduct and let it go at that.

OCTOBER.—Please give me an accurate explanation of why the leaves change color in the autumn. A.—Nothing easier. This is the one we commonly employ in conducting our nature talks with the children at home: When the atmospheric temperature falls to the point of the congelation of the hydratic components the acidulous contents of the venous structure of the leafy efflorescence are transformed by synchronous sequence into pigmentary elements which, imparting their chromic characteristics to the fibrous tissues, produce a series of variegated colorations often running the gamut of the spectric scale.

METEOROLOGIST.—Do you think we are going to have a hard winter? A.—Certain natural signs suggest that we are. The pocketbook is wearing its belt very tight this autumn, for one thing. Another indication is that the last time we passed our coal dealer on the street he looked happy and prosperous. Still another sign is that we noticed the other day while browsing through the nether regions of our palatial domicile that the brand-new snow shovel we bought last February is missing. But the most convincing token of all is that the mistress of our wardrobe discovered the other day that our overcoat, which we have been cherishing fondly for seven seasons, has been pre-empted by a large colony of claim-jumping moths, and is now fit for use as a colander. Alas, Metty, we have no doubts whatever that we are booked for a long and arduous spell of weather.

TIMOROUS.—Whenever I enter an elevator I begin to think of what would happen if it should fall from the top story. What can I do to overcome this tendency of mind? A.—The best remedy we know for this particular brand of ingrowing nerves is to build an elevator well in the backyard and practice sudden drops. A few fifty-foot falls in a barrel will absolutely allay your unpleasant apprehensions.

C. M. D.—I wish you would explain to me, Uncle Jasper, what is meant by a "hunch." A.—It is always a pleasure to enlarge the useful knowledge of sincere inquirers. By a "hunch" you mean the feeling that you have got to pay out money to a gas company when you see a man tuck a long yellow slip under your door just before the end of the month.

LEX TALIONIS.—Don't you believe that public sentiment is against capital punishment? A.—No, indeed; capital punishment is the hue and cry. The President, Mr. Bryan, Mr. Hearst and others would be dead 'uns if they didn't favor the punishment of capital.

MEDICUS.—Do you think that health is to be found in greater quantities in Europe than in this country? A.—We do not think. We know, though, that many persons take an ocean voyage when they ought to take a pill. You know many Chinamen work abroad in order to spend their money at home, and many Americans work at home in order to spend their money abroad.

BEAUTY SPOT.—Is there any sure way of telling whether a lady's complexion is doctored? A.—Yes. Here is a formula:

Put your arm around her waist
And the color'll leave her cheek.
But upon the shoulder of our coat
It'll show up for a week.

X.—What is charity? A.—With most persons it is a noun of three syllables. Some persons who give away what they do not want are called charitable. Most persons are ready to lend a hand, but the hand is empty. Some persons give away things just as a sop to their own consciences. Charitable charity with many persons is a lost art.

ARISTO.—What is the use of pedigree in this republic anyhow? A.—Ah, Aristo, pedigree oft gets a man a job he otherwise would not have got.

UNCLE JASPER.

THE FIRST DEAD LEAF.

I saw a dead leaf fall today
And shiver at my feet,
And thus I knew that summer time
Had turned in full retreat
In robes embroidered with ripe corn
And crowned with yellow wheat.

I heard the wind sigh in the reeds
A melancholy note
As southward birds in hurried flight
In skyey realms remote
Piped plaintive lyrics of farewell
From many a feathered throat.

I saw a silver spider web
Swing broken in the breeze,
Where marigolds in rich array
Were tempting drowsy bees
And purple asters, royal blooms,
Were nodding 'neath the trees.

I saw a garden where the rose
Had reigned in early spring;
The bower hung with clinging vines
Where thrushes used to sing,
Now silent save where fading leaves
Were softly whispering.

I saw a dead leaf fall today—
The vanguard of them all;
It fluttered idly like a waif
Against the garden wall
And told me Summer time had fled
And left the fields to Fall.

—Chicago Chronicle.

UNCLE THOMAS ROTT'S ADVICE.

Have you got a friend to do?
Do him now.
Should you wait a week or two
Some low brow
Of a "con" man may draw near,
Skin your friend and disappear.
So I'm giving you this steer—
Do him now.

When you get a coin that's bad,
Mashed or sawn,
Make some other fellow glad;
Pass it on.
Do not be a selfish mug,
Got a dollar with a plug?
Stifle conscience with a shrug—
Pass it on.

When a chap is going down,
Lend a hand.
Drink on him around the town;
Try to land
The poor numskull in a sty;
You can do it if you try;
Listen to your uncle's cry—
Lend a hand!

—Louisville Courier-Journal.

THE BOY OUTSIDE THE FENCE.

Outside the high, obstructing fence
The anxious urchin stands;
The knot-holes have been firmly plugged;
He waits with eager hands
For some one to send out the foul
The gateman grim demands.

He hears the roar and longs for just
One little peep inside;
He cannot climb a pole, for all
The poles are occupied.
And all the roofs are black with men
Who scorn him in their pride.

If I had Rockefeller's wealth
I'd gladly hurry there,
And each of those poor boys without
I'd lift from his despair.
And God would give me sweet rewards,
I know, some time, somewhere.

—S. E. Kiser, in the Chicago Record-Herald.