The Evening Times

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Sunday, January 21	20,210
Monday, January 22	41,496
Tuesday, January 23	41,723
Wednesday, January 24	42,008
Thursday, January 25	41,920
Friday, January 26	41,716
Saturday, January 27	42,165
Total	271,298
Daily average (Sunday, 20,210, excepted)	41,848

TUESDAY, JANUARY 30, 1900.

Kentucky's Disgrace.

William Goebel will never be Governor of Kentucky. The news comes today that he has been murdered in the streets of Frankfort by an assassin or assassins, who presumably resented his designs on the gubernatorial chair, to which his Republican opponent had been temporarily elevated.

It would be hard to conceive of a more grievous crime against the State or organized society than the one we are compelled to disclose this afternoon. It will shock the world, as it will the decent sense of the American people. Abroad it will be held as a fair illustration of our political civilization, and a commentary upon the respect for law, order, and constituted authority prevalent in the nation which is the chief exemplar of free, democratic constitutional government.

It is too early to form opinions concerning the degree, if any, in which this hideous offence against liberty and humanity is chargeable to a pre-determined purpose on the part of any faction or individual to forestall the anticipated action of the Legislature and courts in deciding Mr. Goebel entitled to the office of Governor. The country has had reason to fear trouble and bloodshed in Kentucky, ever since it became known that the lawless mountain element of the Commonwealth had been summoned to its capital, under the open threat to use it violently against the Legislature and the courts in case they should declare the sitting State Government illegal, and decree its overthrow. Although there have been recent predictions that the problem of the succession would be solved by the assassination of the claimant, few people here have been willing to credit them. They are seen to have been well grounded, however.

A serious situation has been created by a crime which is likely to have many and bitter consequences. Our sympathies go out to the decent Republicans of Kentucky, who must be crushed by the awfulness of the load which the partisan bloodthirstiness of some one or more of their party organization has placed upon their shoulders. But chiefly we sympathize with the whole people of the State, in view of what they must expect to result from the crime. It is not probable, in view of the manner of men Kentucklans are, that such an outrage will be allowed to go unresented and unpunished, and it will be very surprising if the Blue Grass region is not the scene of more or less general internecine warfare during the coming weeks.

Missionary Work Among Chinese.

Some comment has been caused in Philadelphia by a young woman's death in an opium den. It appears that she became a teacher in a Chinese Sunday school and afterward contracted in some way or other the habit of opium smoking. Some of the remarks made on the subject imply that this is a consequence of the contact of Western civilization with the coolie class of Chinese, and that the less young women have to do with that class, in Sunday school or elsewhere, the better for them.

There is little doubt that missionary work in the Chinese quarter is not precisely the sort of religious employment in which young girls ought to engage, for various reasons, the most potent of which is that they have not the qualifications requisite to make it a success. Of course, one need not argue that all of them, or many of them, if busied in this work, would become opium fiends, and parents who have allowed their daughters to teach in Chinese Sunday schools have no reason for dire alarm. But the fact is that these schools do very little to change the ideas and habits of the Chinese population of America. The Mongolian is less responsive to the influence of an alien race than any other Oriental; he has his own religion, ingrained by countless centuries of hereditary tradition; he is attached to his own way of life and his own social and political ideals. In probably ninety-nine cases out of a hundred he hopes to return to China and spend the rest of his days in peace and comfort on the fortune acquired in America. If he does not cherish this ambition he desires to hold a respectable position in the Chinese colony of the city in which he lives. In almost no case does he contemplate abandoning the language and faith of his fathers and adopting American ways of living. The Chinese who have become thoroughly Americanized are almost as few as the Americans who have given up their own ways for those of the Chinese.

This being true, it seems as if whatever money and time there is to spare would be much better spent on more responsive subjects. Although the Chinese do not adopt American standards, they are for the most part honest, hard-working, law-abiding citizens. There is a certain percentage of our population likely to be dangerous to the state unless proper training is given it. Would it not be better to gather the waifs of the streets together, help them to grow up good and useful citizens, and let the Chinese population abide by the laws of Confucius? Would not a given amount of effort, spent on the actual criminal population of our large cities, result in more real good than it does when expended on the Chinaman?

Of course, there is something to be said from the Chinese point of view. The educated Chinese gentleman would probably say that what he wanted was not Sunday schools, but fair treatment. So long as he is protected from the insults and assaults of American hoodlums, and allowed to do his daily work in peace, he has all that he desires. It does seem a little queer that we should be sending missionaries to China, and endeavoring to "improve" the Chinese population in this country, when so many Chinese have been killed by Americans for the simple offence of coming here and working hard for small pay. It is stated on good authority that the number of inoffensive Chinese thus killed exceeds considerably the number of Americans killed in China, although the express purpose of many of these Americans was to upset the Chinese Government and destroy the national religion. Again, the Chinese may reply to the accusation that they have introduced the opium den into American cities by the statement that England, a Christian nation, was the chief instrument in spreading this vice in China, and that many opium dens in this country are conducted by Americans, not Chinese. In fact, the one in which the Philadelphia girl above mentioned met her fate had apparently not a Chinese connected with it, either as proprietor or patron. Furthermore, one of the pet arguments of Orientals against American and English civilization is that it multiplies saloons, and statistics show that this allegation is founded on fact.

The conclusion of the whole matter is that we should not overlook the fact that we, and not the Chinese, are mainly responsible for tragedies of this kind, which occur among the American population, especially if they happen in dens kept by Americans and known to the police of the city. We may be proud of our own civilization, convinced that it is superior to all others, and yet able to see that it is not absolutely perfect in all respects.

Do Not Throttle the Canal!

We are very glad to notice that the independent press of the country is beginning to speak out against the idea of starting the National Nicaragua Canal project with an appropriation of only ten million dollars. The Hepburn-Morgan bill, in its original form, appropriated one hundred and forty millions, more than enough to cover the cost of the work, and made the money available as it might be needed.

The paring down of this sum to ten millions is, we have reason to fear, the last ditch device of the enemy to obstruct and, if possible, to kill the enterprise. Ten million dollars will soon disappear in the heavy preliminary work, and then it will be the policy of the anti-canal lobby to fight, delay, cut down, and generally oppose further appropriations at each succeeding session of Congress.

Now is the time to nail the matter. The whole country is back of the movement. Its opponents are whipped. Let us keep them so. There are votes enough to pass the original appropriation. It should be pressed and passed.

The Filipinos' Last Card.

Aside from any question of morals or ethics involved in the phenomenon, it is true that to some extent the sentiment of sympathy for the Boers in this country is an honest one. This, of course, does not apply to the large number of sympathizers who care as much for Boers as for the wild men of Tibet, but supply that lack of affection by their hatred for England. Nor does it apply to another and much more obnoxious class whose only interest in the South African struggle is to make it a stalking horse for their desperate design to rob the American people of the fruits of the war with Spain by compelling the Government to haul down the Stars and Stripes in the Philippines and to abandon the archipelago to the whipped and hiding Aguinaldo, and his scattered bands of cutthroat Tagal bandits.

It is from the last-named class of domestic revolutionists both in and outside of Congress that we hear all the talk of American intervention in South Africa. Perhaps it is an interesting if not a suggestive reflection that, in the United States Senate, certain leading exponents of the demand that we should meddle violently in European affairs, their favorite "Farewell Address" to the contrary notwithstanding, are the self-same individuals who a few years ago vehemently denounced the very thought of intervention in Cuba for humanity's sake, as illegal, intolerable, and impious. One of the most vicious and conscienceless of the bolomen, who is now ranting and roaring for a chance to offer Great Britain a casus belli for future reference, a few months before the Spanish war was declaring that the wholesale butchery of women and babies by the fiend Weyler in Cuba, could furnish no reason in international law or in equity why we should do anything even to offend a friendly nation, or display an impertinent interest in its colonial affairs, policy, or practices.

We may be sure that it is not love for suffering humanity, or for people struggling for independence that actuates such persons in their fierce desire to involve this country in a step, the fatal consequences of which they know and appreciate, but which they would have it take for the promotion of their own sordid and traitorous interests. They are fully aware that interference by the United States in a foreign war in which one of the belligerents is a great European state, would establish a precedent which would give that or any other European state an equal right to interfere between the United States and any of its dependencies, or between it and any country of the Western Hemisphere with which it might chance to be at war. Moreover such action, uninvited by both parties to the contest, would be tantamount to a formal renunciation of the Monroe Doctrine.

The bolomen in Congress do not care for consequences, where the un-American interests of their backers and financial associates or contributors are concerned. Even at the cost of abandoning the Monroe Doctrine they would be delighted to force our Government into a position which, later, would give the concert of Europe an opportunity to intervene against us in the Philippines and make our possession of that Pacific Empire untenable. What is the Constitution, or humanity, or the honor of the flag and nation to men, whose whole souls are bound up in the single object of preserving their robber monopolies by the exclusion of territory capable of producing sugar, tobacco, or rum, in competition with their own "infant industries" on the American mainland? It is to such sources that the sympathy of the Congressional bolomen for the Boers is directly and obviously traceable.

Private citizens, affected by the idea that the soldiers fighting under Joubert and foreign mercenaries like de Villebois-Mareuil, de Brialmont, and Albrecht, are "sister republicans," may be virtuously sympathetic with them; but we are not prepared to believe that the creatures who were once wont to stand up in the National Legislature and laugh at the piteous appeals of the starving reconcentrados are anything of the kind. They have but one purpose in view, which is to embarrass the Government and to open the way for European intervention in our affairs; hoping thereby in some manner to weaken the hold of America upon her, by them, hated colonial possessions. They will fail, as they ought to fail. If both Great Britain and the Dutch republics should at some future time see fit to ask the good offices of the United States in an effort to bring about an equitable and honorable accommodation of their differences, we might feel compelled to accede to the joint request. But even that would be embarrassing, as our manifest interest and policy are to keep out of European entanglements where that may be possible with dignity and self-respect. Any truculent attitude toward either of the belligerents at this or any other conceivable point in the contest would be dangerous to and ridiculous in us.

Sailors in Our Navy.

Some time ago the statement was made that American sailors were hard to find, and that even European seamen were becoming scarcer. The natural deduction from this state of things is that Americans do not find it worth their while to enlist in the navy or serve in the merchant marine. The argument which follows is that if the United States Government wants American seamen—and it assuredly does—it must offer some inducement to them.

Some facts have come up in this connection which may serve to explain the scarcity of naval recruits. It is said that the sailors in our navy are obliged to pay for the clothes they wear, while soldiers are furnished with uniforms by the Government. Furthermore, the sailor has to pay something for medical attendance, while the soldier gets his—such as it is—for nothing.

If all this is true, it is time that conditions were improved. This country cannot afford to ignore in anyway the services of its navy. Edgar Stanton Maclay, one of the best-known writers on naval affairs, has made some interesting statements about the importance of the little American Navy in the war of 1812. He says, among other things, that our sea forces captured several times as many men as the land forces did, and with less expenditure of life and money. It is evident that in any war of the future the navy must play an important part, since our long line of seacoast can hardly be adequately protected except by this means, and any aggressive movement on our part would certainly require the aid of the navy. It is surely necessary that we should have as many trained seamen of American birth as possible, in anticipation of such an event, and it is equally certain that even in time of peace it would be better to have Americans than foreigners in the majority in our crews. Loyal and brave as foreign-born sailors proved themselves to be in the late war, it is still desirable that American youth should not be crowded out of American ships by seamen of any other nationality whatever.

As might have been expected, the Queen's speech on the opening of Parliament today, did not go into details of war history or of other things. An American President in similar circumstances would have considered it his duty to address Congress in fourteen thousand pages of closely typewritten narrative, recommendation, apology, and admonition. Her Majesty, on the contrary, contents herself with a very few words, regretful of the awful struggle in South Africa, praising her devoted soldiers, thanking her colonies for their loyalty, and the gallantry of their volunteers, and expressing confidence that her Commons will provide means for continuing the fight to a satisfactory finish. There is much to be said in favor of Victoria's speeches from the throne, in comparison with Presidential messages, so long that nobody ever reads them.

The average American citizen, after reading the arraignment of Secretary Gage in the House yesterday, by Messrs. Richardson and Sulzer, will come to the conclusion that Mr. Grosvenor was wrong two weeks ago when he considered the incident of the Treasury scandal closed. The Sulzer resolution has gone to the Ways and Means Committee. Republican members of that coroner's jury may regard such a disposition of it as tantamount to death and burial, but such a view is a mistaken one. The question: "Why did Mr. Gage allow the Standard Oil Bank to reserve fifty thousand dollars from the pretended payment for the Custom House, if not for the purpose of doing the State and city of New York out of taxes and assessments?" will have to be answered. The American people will not bury the matter, whatever the slaves of the Rules and Ways and Means committees may be compelled to submit to in the House of Representatives.

The Philippine insurrection having been crushed, it is the wise and humane purpose of President McKinley shortly to issue a proclamation of amnesty to the misguided rebels who have been in arms against our flag and sovereignty. They will be required, of course, to accept it and thereafter to behave themselves peaceably. Those who reject its benefits and refuse to assume the obligations it will impose, will understand that, after a certain date, they will be treated as bandits and outlaws, and will be strung up when caught. This punitive provision no doubt will bring a howl of anguish from Pettigrew, Wellington, Hoar, and the other bolomen; but it will go, just the same.

Inconsistent.

(From the Philadelphia Record.)

The action of the Republican leaders in Philadelphia in putting up a large sum of money to buy poll tax receipts and lay the foundation for future election frauds while at the same time they are haggling over the stipulated payments toward National Convention expenses and instituting shabby litigating delay in making good the forfeited bail of the ballot box stuffers does not look well. The machine assesses without scruple; it should disburse without discrimination. It isn't fair to speculate in poll tax receipts and leave its supporters and its "heelers" in the lurch.

Undeserved Pension Payments.

(From the Savannah News.)

If the truth could be obtained it would appear probable that hundreds of millions of dollars in pensions have been paid out by the Government to persons not entitled to anything from the Government. Doubtless many of the examiners are indifferent about their work, much preferring that the applicants shall get pensions even though not justly entitled to them. There are 4,500 of these examiners, and it is hardly reasonable to suppose that all of them are careful of the interests of the Government.

Maryland's Sunday Laws.

(From the Baltimore Sun.)

Both the wide-open Continental Sunday and the old Puritan Sabbath are objectionable and hurtful, and neither would be advocated by any large number of people. They are the two extremes which are equally to be avoided. But there is a conservative method of dealing with the subject which will prevent flagrant evils and abuses without prohibiting things innocent and harmless. Just where the dividing line should be drawn is for the legislature to decide, but it should certainly revise the Sunday laws at its present session in such a way as to bring them up to date both in spirit and letter.

Bovine Sport in Chicago.

(From the Chicago News.)

Three Texas steers which ran amuck at the stockyards yesterday succeeded in tossing, kicking, and generally mauling three cowboys and half a dozen ordinary citizens before they could be surrounded and recaptured. People who yearn for the excitement of a Spanish bullfight and are contemplating trips to Mexico or Madrid should put away their money and engage seats upon the stockyards fence at the earliest opportunity.

BULLER'S PRECARIOUS POSITION.

Some but not full additional light on the situation of Buller's army in Natal is furnished by our war despatches today. If we could accept all the suggestions of the news as a guide it would be difficult to think otherwise than that the British forces are by no means yet out of the woods. It seems to be settled that Dundonald's cavalry brigade is safe with Warren's division south of the Tugela. As Buller's latest message was dated at Spearman's Camp, it is presumed that he has not yet abandoned his positions in the neighborhood of Potgieter's Drift, and this view is further supported by the understanding that Lyttleton's brigade has not been moved. These facts or assumptions would indicate that, at latest accounts, the British line extended from Zunckles, the point to which Warren probably fell back, to Mount Alice and Zwarts Kop, and so on to the right held by Barton at or near Chevetey.

An analysis of the new line situation would seem to show that the British army is in a position of imminent peril. It may be assumed that, when Spion Kop was attacked the bulk of Buller's available force was at and beyond Springfield. As far as we can judge the troops under Barton, holding the right at Colenso, could not have amounted to more than two brigades, and there should have been another between Barton and Lyttleton to support either as might be required. As we have seen, Buller's left was crushed and compelled to retreat. In case that disaster were considered reason for a general retreat such a movement would be hindered and hampered by the congestion of the transport and ammunition trains, drawn by oxen and mules, on the Frere and Estcourt roads, only one of which might be available east of Springfield in view of a possible attack on the British right from Colenso. The British infantry with its unnecessarily heavy equipment is always slow. So, even an unopposed retrogression would not be rapid. We can hardly believe that it would be or is being unopposed, judging from the tactics hitherto displayed by de Villebois-Mareuil.

Buller's left being defeated and driven back with frightful loss, and the army being encumbered with its wounded and campaign supplies, it would be the most natural thing in the world for de Villebois-Mareuil to rush every available reserve down to Colenso and strike Barton, with a view to defeat the British right and either cut it off from the main body, or rout it; in either case securing command of Buller's rear and communications. The success of such a movement would bag the British commander on two difficult roads, blocked with impedimenta of all kinds, and render an attack upon him in reverse an attractive operation. He could then be forced to fight on two if not three fronts; for, with the Boers swinging around from Colenso to Springfield, their right would be in a position, even without a supporting movement from Dewdrop, to strike Lyttleton at Zwarts Kop, while it is to be presumed that some force would move around by Acton Homes and harass if it did not give battle to Warren on the British left.

The statement, in our despatches, that large bodies of Boers have been seen moving down the road from Dewdrop to Colenso, the short parallel to Buller's roads to the rear; and the report that Villebois-Mareuil had gone there to take command, appear to be sufficient evidence that a movement such as we have outlined has been indeed planned by the Boer tacticians, and it would be very strange in the circumstances if it were not attempted. One cannot be sure in matters of this kind. As we have often remarked, positive knowledge of strictly local military conditions is not to be had at this distance. We can be certain, however, that an American general, after smashing one of his enemy's wings and loading him up with several thousand wounded soldiers, in a difficult country with exposed communications, would not be apt to sit down on his partial success and call it a holiday. On such general reasoning it is within bounds to conclude that another battle will be—perhaps has been—fought, before the net results of Buller's attempt to relieve Ladysmith, by turning the Boer right, can be determined.

It would be useless at this hour to attempt to theorize about Ladysmith. The expressions of some military writers in the London press today strike us as little short of wild. The idea that Sir George White would think of trying to cut out by way of the railway to Colenso is simply foolish, if we know anything about the conditions on that line. The railway, as it has been described in reports and letters, winds through a narrow gorge dominated by precipitous heights, and a small force could barricade and hold it anywhere against a large one. It is possibly true that White, rather than capitulate and surrender his guns, ammunition, and stores, may destroy most of them and make a sortie en masse; but there does not appear to be any reason for supposing that the effort would be successful in bringing him into juncture with his friends. Apparently his best chance for a cut-out appeared when Dundonald and Clery were around the Boer right between Acton Homes and Tintwa. If it were impossible for him to take advantage of it, we cannot see that the same movement would be feasible now, with the British left whipped and pushed back below the Tugela. Probably the only advantage White could gain by a sortie would be the destruction instead of the surrender of his armament and so on; but it must not be forgotten that the cost in life would be terrible, and the surrender in the field of a shattered remnant of the garrison would follow, as it seems, inevitably.

In the Hands of Strangers.

(From the Ohio State Journal.)

The old "Harrison homestead," where one President lived when elected, in 1840, has been sold to a party outside of the historic family. This famous property is at North Bend, Hamilton county, Ohio, and has just been purchased by Mrs. Olive O. Hall, of Kokomo, Ind., who is now in possession of the old house, so long the Mecca of patriotic tourists. The mansion is somewhat the worse for age, but the grounds with their green, wooded hills and winding river, are as beautiful as ever.

Somewhat Surprising.

(From the New York Commercial Advertiser.)

Miss Ellen Terry was lately implored by a lady hairdresser for a testimonial for some hair wash, and kindly consented to supply one. Imagine the surprise of the hairdresser when she received a large portrait of the great actress as Marguerite in "Faust," with the traditional long plaits supplied by the wigmaker, with the autograph inscription underneath, "Ellen Terry, after one application of Miss Blank's hair wash!"

An Interrupted Confab.

(From the Detroit Journal.)

The hero and the dram an in the Wagner trilogy fell into a discussion while they stood waiting for the heroine to finish singing her aria.

"One would imagine," observed the hero, "from the way you scowl and emit fire from your nostrils that you are not altogether happy."

"No," replied the dragon. "To be perfectly candid, I do not find the strenuous life by any means what it is sometimes cracked up to be."

At this point further conversation, except by the society people in the boxes, was rendered impracticable by the obtrusive floridity of the orchestration."

POLITICAL NOTES AND GOSSIP.

In re Roosevelt.—Some of the Administration fugelmen have given a new twist to the Vice Presidential question within the past three days. The humorous Col. Henry C. Payne has not brought out a candidate for fully a week, but meantime the industry has been kept thriving by other members of the machine. Somebody is responsible for the booms for Senator Elkins and Postmaster General Smith, and while the pendulum is swinging on this side of the line, which marks the division between the East and West, Governor Roosevelt again comes cantering to the front as the Administration's "first and only" choice for the second place on the ticket. It is, of course, suspected that the Platt machine gave the Rough Rider a prod which sent him forward with a rush. At any rate, the governor's candidacy is again the talk of New Yorkers. Probably had Roosevelt not been so stubbornly insistent upon unloading Lou Payn, it is thought he would not now have to grasp desperately at the Vice Presidency like a drowning man at a straw. Platt has threatened him with the Vice Presidency all along, as the penalty for unloading Payn. Three months ago the governor was given fair warning that he would have to abandon hope of re-election if he continued his fight on Payn. And now it is said he is being made to realize that the Platt forces do not make idle threats. His Vice Presidential boom is again rolling and surging over the land, and close friends say that actually it is no longer objectionable to him. If this is all true, it means that the Administration has gone back to the original programme mapped out by the Platt machine—that is, the Hon. Cornelius N. Bliss has been dropped, and Roosevelt's name has been reinserted on the slate. The Hon. Timothy L. Woodruff still is maintaining a bold front in the race, and has already captured the Florida delegation; but it is understood that Woodruff can very easily withdraw at any time with the utmost satisfaction to himself, and throw his support to Roosevelt, in return for the gubernatorial nomination. On this point Mr. Platt is said now to be considerably worried. While cutting the ground from under Roosevelt's renomination ambition, the "Easy Boss" employed the services of State Chairman B. B. Odell very freely, and Odell acquired a good deal of strength for the gubernatorial nomination. Odell, it is stated, now has an earnest desire to succeed Roosevelt, and it is thought that Mr. Platt has a harder task ahead of him in composing the differences between Woodruff and Odell than he had in relegating Roosevelt to the race for the Vice Presidency.

Proctor Against Quay.—An apparently well authenticated report has gained considerable credence that Senator Proctor has been doing some very effective work against the Hon. Matthew Stanley Quay for the past week or ten days. It is stated that he has brought around to his view of the case nine of the Republican Senators who voted, as he did, to seat Corbett, which case is being used by both sides as a criterian in the Quay case, despite the fact that the merits of the two contentions are quite dissimilar. The Vermonter, it is stated, talks very freely to his colleagues against the seating of Quay, though he sternly refuses to discuss the subject for publication. If Senator Proctor has made the headway against Quay that is claimed it appears certain that the Pennsylvanian stands a very poor show. And yet the omniscient "Uncle Joe" Sibley grows red in the face when anybody in his presence expresses the least doubt of Colonel Quay's complete triumph. "Uncle Joe" has finally come out in a published statement laying down the law and the facts. He declares that Quay not only will win his contest at Washington, but also will be triumphantly re-elected when the Legislature meets at Harrisburg. These asseverations have led the astounded Sibley critics to the comforting conclusion that that versatile statesman, in his recent marvelous gymnastic feats, has swung himself past both the Democratic and Republican parties and is now forming a new party around the fame and achievements of Quay.

"Cuba Libre."—A gentleman of high character and intimate acquaintance with conditions in Cuba has just returned to Washington from the Island and brings back an interesting report. Because of personal interests he objects to the use of his name in the publication at this time of his observations and conclusions, but if his name should be used the statements quoted would bear the stamp of authority. "I learned the Cuban character well before we drove the Spaniards off of the Island," he said today to a Times representative. "I went back to Cuba after this Government took possession and remained there eight months. I speak the Spanish language well, and therefore am able to understand fully what is said in my presence by Cubans. At the close of the war there was a strong sentiment among the best element of Cubans for annexation to the United States. That sentiment is now exactly reversed, and on my recent visit I heard nothing but stern, resolute demand for the absolute independence of the island. I know Gen. Leonard Wood well, and I know that he now realizes that an impossible task has been given to him by the Administration. He was elevated to the Governor Generalship for no other purpose than to use his great diplomacy and popularity with the Cubans to bring them around to annexation. If he carries out this task he will accomplish a miracle. And General Wood himself smilingly told me at Havana two weeks ago that he was not a miracle worker. The Cubans are going to be patient with us. The hotheads among them will continue to break loose and rave every once in a while; but the great conservative element—the farmers and planters—do not and will not follow their lead. But this element is going to insist before long on the withdrawal of American troops and all other signs of American authority. If their demand is not complied with there will be trouble, and heaps of it. I believe General Wood has already made some very plain representations along this line to the Administration."

Mortality Among English Officers.

(From Scribner's Magazine.)

At 1 o'clock this morning the flying column began marching out of camp. The men carried nothing but their arms, their water-bottles, and a waterproof rug and blanket for each. The officers were similarly equipped, actually carrying rifles, so that they can be in no way distinguished from the men. Something must be done to reduce the terrible mortality of officers experienced in the first two fights in Natal. In reality, the high percentage of officers killed is due to the fact that they must of necessity expose themselves more than the men under their command, and with the enormous amount of lead poured into an advancing force by the modern magazine rifle, the officers who are standing up to direct their men run a tremendous risk of being hit. In small skirmishes, however, it is possible that the good rifle-shots on either side can pick their men carefully, so that the absence of a distinctive mark may prove to be of value to officers. In any case there can be no harm in making the experiment of arming them with rifles, though in the long run their losses are not likely to decrease to any extent. It is one of the myths of war that the enemy pick off officers, just as it is a common legend that the enemy, whether he be Boer, Spaniard, Turk, or any other infidel, is in the habit of aiming at wounded men and using explosive bullets.

SEEN AND HEARD AT THE CAPITOL.

One of the most active men in the Senate for one of his years is Mr. Cockrell of Missouri. He is an indefatigable worker, and in addition to the great amount of brain work done by him, takes every opportunity of getting physical exercise. His favorite attitude while walking is with his body bent slightly forward, and both hands behind his back. He walks with a long swinging stride that carries him rapidly over the ground, and with a spring that is proof of an amount of energy not indicated by his grey hair and beard.

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A large majority of the witnesses in the Clark bribery enquiry speak in such low tones and mumble their words so that members of the committee find difficulty in hearing the answers to questions put by counsel. Many men, big, muscular, and apparently in perfect health, have found it impossible, or at least inconvenient, to raise their voices so that their words might be audible three feet away. Members of the committee admonish witnesses many times during each session to "speak up." One of the reasons assigned for this is that in the mountainous parts of Montana the atmosphere is so rare that men do not have to exert the vocal force to make themselves heard which is necessary where the atmosphere is comparatively dense. Another reason assigned is that a large number of the witnesses in appearing before an august Senatorial committee are nervous.

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Postmaster Henry Robinson, of Concord, N. H., was at the Capitol yesterday, and paid his respects to Senators Chandler and Gallinger. He also called on Representatives Clarke and Sulloway. Mr. Robinson's mission to Washington is to secure action by the Postoffice Department in the matter of the extension of the free delivery system, an increase in the number of letter carriers, and the consolidation of certain postoffices.

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Senator Tillman is one of the most vociferous speakers in the Senate. Yesterday during his speech on the Philippine question he could be heard by persons in the corridors and the committee rooms opening into them.

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State Treasurer Collins, of Montana, was enlightened this morning by Senator Chandler, Chairman of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections, as to the authority possessed by that committee. Mr. Collins brought to Washington the $30,000 which was turned over to the Montana State Legislature, purporting to be money that had been used in the alleged bribery of various members of that body. After this money had been examined by the committee it was placed in the hands of the disbursing officer of the Senate for safekeeping. At the end of last week's sessions of the committee a transcript of the testimony of the various witnesses was given to Mr. Collins that he might compare the description of the bills turned over to the legislature, as given by these witnesses, with the originals. When the testimony was being made up for printing at the end of last week Senator Chandler found that Mr. Collins had gone to New York, taking the transcript with him. He accordingly gave the clerk of the committee written authority to see the bills and they were examined in the disbursing office. When Mr. Collins went to get the money this morning he found that the envelope in which it was had been opened, and was informed that it had been done by authority of the chairman of the Elections Committee. He then went to Senator Chandler and objected to the "liberty" which he said had been taken. The reply came forcibly and quickly. Senator Chandler informed Mr. Collins in very plain terms that he had no desire to discuss with him his authority for the action he had taken and added that for his future guidance it would be well for him to understand that the authority of the Senate Committee on Privileges and Elections is equal to that of any court of law.

THE PASTOR TALKED OF WAR.

A Canadian Congregation Disagreed and a Row Resulted.

TORONTO, Jan. 20.—Differences over the Boer war have caused trouble in the Presbyterian church at Laskay, a village in King township, near here, and developed dissension and difficulty. Two Sundays ago the Rev. Joseph Watt, the pastor, made some remarks about the war which B. O. Harvey, one of the congregation, considered unpatriotic. Harvey stated his opinion, and the congregation demanded an apology. Harvey, when called on by the pastor, began to read a statement which, according to some, only added insult to injury. He was interrupted and a disturbance followed.

Harvey claims that Pastor Watt took him by the arm to prevent him finishing the statement, and that a member of the congregation hit him on the nose with a church hymnal, and that he was charged by two other members present with telling lies. Harvey threatens an action for assault.

THE FLAG LIKE A FLOWER.

A Cuban Bloom the Model for the National Emblem.

(From the New York Tribune.)

There is now on exhibition in the conservatory of Prospect Park a flowering plant which is known in Cuba as Blanco Estrella de Cinco Puntas. This plant is particularly interesting, as the Cubans originated the design of their flag from the flower of the plant. The box of plants was received by Park Commissioner George V. Brower, with the regards of Capt. W. Attwood French, who is stationed at Crisbo, Cuba. Captain French, in his letter which accompanied the box of plants, states that the Cubans derive the emblematic star in their national flag, in color and the number of points, from the flower, which is a white star with five points. The star emblem is used by the Cubans on all the buttons of their uniforms, in stick pins, in brooches and jewelry worn by women. Continuing, the captain says:

"The plant is, truly speaking, a la Cuban in almost every particular, except, of course, color, as no one ever saw a Cuban lady as blanco as is this flower, except after cinco o'clock p. m., when she sallies forth with blanco powder (thick), accompanied by her chaperon (in all cases), usually a little brother or the old grandmother, who is on the watch to see that she does not notice the young Cuban beaux and blush the blase coloring away, and give them encouragement. They are exceedingly shy and reserved, and never look at anyone while taking their daily afternoon promenade."

CURRENT HUMOR.

Extra Sympathetic.

(From Judge.)

Warwick—England keeps getting friendlier than ever to us since she got into trouble with the Transvaal.

Wickwire—Yes. She now claims that she sympathized with us in our war with the Hessians last century.

Circular Reasoning.

(From the Chicago Record.)

"Everything has gone up in price."

"Yes."

"Why is it?"

"People are able to pay more."

"Why are they able to pay more?"

"Because everything has gone up in price."

Inured to Hardship.

(From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.)

"I see that Mrs. Kruger always cuts Oom Paul's hair."

"Say, you can't expect such a man to be afraid of anything on earth, can you?"

Philological Talent.

(From Life.)

Teacher (to class)—What is an octopus?

Small Boy (who has just commenced to take Latin, eagerly)—Please, sir, I know, sir; its an eight-sided cat.

Most Particular.

(From the Chicago News.)

New Wife—I wish to get some butter, please.

Dealer—Roll butter, ma'am?

New Wife—No! We wish to eat it on biscuits.

NOTES OF THE DAY.

An electrically operated whipping device has been introduced into some of the penitentiaries in France.

Within five years Russia will have at least a million freight cars in service, there being about 500,000 now in use.

The Canadian Government has finally completed the great ship canal between Lake Erie and Montreal, at a cost of $70,000,000.

A Hartford (Conn.) fire insurance company has purchased the house in that city which, in 1794, was the first in this country to be insured against fire.

A crematory has been built in Rouen and others are in course of construction at Havre and Marseilles. Last year 4,512 bodies were cremated in France.

Silk stockings did not come into vogue until the period of Queen Elizabeth of England. It is reported of her that she wore the first silken hosiery knitted by hand.

An order for forty-one locomotives for the Southern Railway, recently placed with a locomotive works in Richmond, Va., specifies that all the engines shall have electric headlights.

The number of women attending the universities in Germany during the last six months was 510. In Berlin, 179; Bonn, 45; Breslau, 27; Goettingen, 29; Heidelberg, 13; and Halle, 17.

The North Carolina supreme court has sustained a decision, rendered in Burke county, imposing $1,000 fine on the Southern Railway for giving a free pass to a doorkeeper of the legislature in 1897.

Chicago is 300,000 tons of coal short this winter, which it expects to make up during the winter by all-rail shipments. Hard coal is plenty enough along the northern lake ports, but bituminous is very scarce.

The big live stock shippers throughout the Southwest have gotten together to plan to ship stock East without touching Chicago, to avoid a charge of $2 per car for switching, decreed by Judge Kohlsaat.

The Russian photographers have a strange way of punishing those who, having received their photographs, do not pay their bills. They hang the pictures of the delinquents upside down at the entrance to their studios.

The national dish of Bolivia and the common food of the masses is "chupe," a sort of first cousin to the Irish stew. It is a conglomerate composed of irregular constituents from the animal and vegetable kingdoms.

Cheese owes its flavor to the presence of bacteria and is probably the only instance of a food increasing in value as it spoils. America does not import so much cheese as formerly, because it is made here in increasing quantities each year.

The Mount Whitney power-house, in California, which has just started, already irrigates 8,000 acres at a price which the farmers can afford to pay. Power is obtained on Mount Whitney, one of the loftiest peaks of the Sierra Nevadas, 14,502 feet above the level of the sea.

Stoves of the Bolivian Indians are curious things. A hole is dug in the ground about eighteen inches deep and a foot square, and over this is built a roof of clay, with holes of different sizes to receive the various cooking pots. Roasting is done on spits passed through the holes.

Genius in Massachusetts has patented a single-rail system of railway, which has a car slotted through the middle nearly to the top, with wheels in the upper surface of the slot to rest on the rail, the passenger compartments being separated from each other and reached by individual doors.

Ordinary bicycles can be changed into tandems by an Illinois man's invention, comprising an auxiliary frame, with a spindle for insertion in place of the front fork, the latter being placed in the front place of the auxiliary frame, and the second seat post is inserted in the first head.

A new bishopric is to be created in London out of the part of the metropolitan district included in the diocese of Rochester and the archdeaconry of Kingston. This means all of London south of the Thames. The diocese will be called Southwark and the cathedral will be St. Saviour's Church.

The suspension bridge that is to connect New York with Hoboken will be the longest of its kind, having a span of 2,750 feet. It is estimated that the bridge, with its approaches, will cost $60,000,000—and it will not be met by John D. Rockefeller or Andrew Carnegie either, but by the plain people. Probably the bridge will be double-decked and provided with a carriage road, a foot-path, a bicycle path, and four trolley car tracks on the upper deck, beside the six tracks for regular steam railroad, freight, and passenger trains on the main deck.

One of the most remarkable shooting stories told by the Dead River guides up in Maine this year is that about E. G. Ward, of China. The first day out he secured a small doe. Several days passed without success on his part, but the day before he started for home he saw a doe break through the underbrush and run. He watched a clearing a short distance farther on, and when the doe leaped into that he fired. The doe dropped dead, and when he went to secure her he found that the bullet had passed completely through her and had struck a fawn by her side, which he had not seen. The fawn was badly injured, and the guides say, Mr. Ward was obliged to kill it. He then found himself with three deer on his hands, one more than the law allows.

Trading names and sentences is a practice in Pennsylvania prisons, according to the "Philadelphia Press." It is known by the officials of the prisons and of the courts, but a way to prevent it is yet to be devised. A prisoner sentenced to a short term of imprisonment changes places with a long-term one. Of course the short-term man must agree to the proposition and carry out to the letter his part in the deception. This he does for a money consideration. An instance of how easily prisoners can exchange their identity was witnessed a few days ago, when James Sullivan, who was sentenced to fifteen months' imprisonment, took the place of James Reilly, whose term was for two years. The mistake was not discovered until long after Reilly had been liberated, after serving Sullivan's sentence. Opportunity for this deception is afforded in the way in which convicts are received at the prisons. They go their in groups, under the care of a tipstaff, who seldom knows them. The dockets of conviction do not identify them, and when they are lined up before the warden it is a simple matter for one prisoner to answer to the name of another. To prevent anything of the kind occurring prison officials say that a photograph of each prisoner, together with his name and description, should be furnished by the warden, and that the prisoner should be identified at the time he enters the prison.

Salt Lake City "lieth four-square," says Rollin Lynde H