The Call

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AMUSEMENTS.

Orpheum—Vaudeville.
Alcazar—"Quo Vadis."
Grand Opera-house—"The Beggar Student."
California—"On the Suwanee River."
California—Paderewski, next Sunday night.
Columbia—"Mr. Smooth."
Fischer's Concert House—"Faust."
Tivoli—"Manila Bound."
Chutes, Zoo and Theater—Vaudeville every afternoon and evening.
Olympia, corner of Mason and Eddy streets—Specialties.
Oakland Race Track—Races.

AUCTION SALES.

By S. Watkins—This day, at 11 o'clock, Horses, at 1515 Mission street.

WHAT PLAGUES US.

THE merchants and people of San Francisco are beginning to get returns from the false reports of plague in this city.

It may appear like a joke to the politicians who are responsible for the affair, but it is no joke to those who are carrying on the industries and the commerce which have been injured. As we said at the time Mayor Phelan's dispatch, falsely declaring that the plague had been here, did as much harm as the original false report of the Board of bad Health and the skeleton scare printed in Hearst's papers. It is not understood outside that a few kindergarten politicians were permitted to trifle with the sanitary reputation of this city to the damage of its commerce. There are places in the world where the health authorities have not only professional and technical skill, but also a proper and sober sense of their responsibility. The people who are served by such a Board of Health naturally come to think that all others are protected by equal skill and sense of responsibility.

As far as this city is concerned, this is a mistake. In the Board of Health and the Chief of Police San Francisco has not the protection of cool judgment and technical skill, and has suffered severely in consequence.

Something should be done by the citizens to relieve the city of the unbearable position created by our official representatives. Any further appeal to our public authorities will get no answer except a repetition of the original false report. There is no hope in that direction and we must depend upon ourselves.

We have published that cargoes already on board here have been ordered off, and the order canceled by wire.

Ships from here are quarantined in every port where they appear, and if this were Bombay or Calcutta it could not be more completely under ban.

The steamer Curacao, from Mexican ports, arrived last week, behind time, because she had been quarantined everywhere on account of the plague here! The loss to her owners in consequence of this was $4000 on the trip.

Shipowners and merchants will have many such returns before the good name of San Francisco is restored. The guilty politicians and the Mayor, to whose falsehoods and criminal folly such losses are due, do not feel the pinch of them. It is upon the merchants, the business interests and industries of San Francisco and the State. To stop the spreading belief that we are in the panic and distress of a pestilence, there should be the combined utterance of the commercial and industrial bodies of this city. Indeed, as the loss is finally distributed to the whole State and our fruit interest is especially threatened, organizations throughout the State should share in the cleansing of the sanitary reputation of this city. Every day adds to the losses, and spreads the false report farther abroad. The Mayor's telegram is taken everywhere as confirmatory of the existence of pestilence, and the further confirmation by the New York Journal has created a condition that needs prompt abatement unless we wish to see a serious diversion of commerce.

The French have offered a prize for any one who can invent a balloon-steering apparatus which will enable him to ascend in a balloon from Longchamps, make a trip around Eiffel tower and return to the place of starting within half an hour. The offer is good for five years, so there is plenty of time for any one with an idea on the subject to work it out, but perhaps sawing wood would be a surer way of making money.

Since the Russians are asking concessions all along the line from China to Turkey, the Japs have decided to follow suit and are now asking concessions for themselves in Korea. In the end the concession grabbers will get to fighting, and then China may have a chance to get her own back again.

It is now asserted there will never be peace and prosperity in Central America until the United States extends its protection over the whole isthmus, so it will be seen the "providential mission" increases rapidly and "benevolent assimilation" is going to keep us hustling for years to come.

It is very good of the Kansan people to arrange to send a free gift of a million bushels of corn to the starving people of India, but they should have remembered that we have colonies and troubles of our own, and sent the corn to Porto Rico.

NO EXPANSION ISSUE.

MR. HOWELL of the Atlanta Constitution, in a long article in Harper's Weekly, states as by authority the Democratic position on expansion. He first sets up the Republican position, and calls it imperialism, and proceeds to antagonize it with a simon-pure article of Democratic expansion. He favors admitting Cuba and Porto Rico as States, regardless of our pledge as to independence of the former, and declares that he thinks his party will favor the complete conquest and subjugation of the Philippines, with the intention of conferring upon them a government and administering the same, until the people are ready to administer it themselves, when they are to become independent. Mr. Howell declares that the anti-expansionists, like Atkinson and Senator Hoar, are the cause of the Filipino war, and girds at them as savagely as any Republican. He also becomes deeply and benevolently religious in the matter, and says that our tropical possessions have fallen to us providentially and that he personally believes in always holding the Philippines as a divinely appointed duty.

The most careful reading of his paper fails to disclose any material difference between his statement of the Republican position on this issue and his declaration of what the Democratic position will be. If any appear, it is in favor of the Republican position, for we cannot believe that the American people will ever consent to admit these tropical islands as States, and their mixed races as citizens.

It is true that there is a glimmer in Mr. Howell's article of that false light which has deceived so many into the belief that our race is to colonize and populate these islands. He talks of markets and American push as glibly as John Barrett and Senator Morgan. The fact is that without some form of servile labor the tropics will add no surplus to the markets, and that American push evaporates and disappears under the vertical sun.

Mr. Bryan's platform on this subject is already written and published. Its expression lends itself readily to the ideas of Mr. Howell, and it is now plain that a reaction on the expansion issue will have no more chance for expression at the ballot-box this year than it had in California in 1898, when the parties stood about neck and neck on that subject.

It is daily becoming plainer that the commercial ambition of the Democratic South backs expansion more strongly than Northern sentiment. Two cents a pound advance on raw cotton will carry the South over to any proposition looking to expansion. It was cotton that held the South to slavery. That section put cotton above the Union, and now for the sake of cotton it is willing, according to Mr. Howell, to take into citizenship the unpedigreed millions of the tropics.

No matter what Mr. Bryan's platform may say on the subject, if his party get power it will be run by the section that furnishes its majority, and that means that it will be run as an expansion party, with statehood and citizenship attachments.

The general issue of expansion is therefore practically eliminated from this year's campaign. With Bryan's party girding at Atkinson and Carl Schurz for bringing on the Filipino war, and demanding that we take Cuba, and admit all this black-and-tan population to citizenship, the opponents of expansion and of every policy that grows out of it can have no choice of parties and will simply wait for that stormy and upheaving reaction which will come later.

Out of the burning of the Theatre Francais has come the disclosure that the firemen of Paris are not a body under municipal control and trained for fire service, but a set of soldiers detailed from the army and commanded by army officers, who have no special training in fighting fires. We are not proud, but evidently there are some things in which Paris would do well to take lessons from San Francisco.

AMENDMENTS TO THE CONSTITUTION

UPWARD of forty propositions for amending the constitution of the United States have been submitted at this session of Congress. A good many of them are virtually duplicates and cover the same subject, but still the variety of the whole is large. Most of them were submitted early in the session, and it seemed at one time as if Congress might spend the winter in high arguments on constitutional questions, for every Congressman who had an amendment vowed he would make the fight of his life to bring it to the front and keep it there until a vote was taken. Up to this time, however, nothing of note has been done with regard to any of them, and their only usefulness has been to fill a pigeonhole.

The amendment of most general interest is that providing for the election of United States Senators by direct vote of the people. It has been before several Congresses and has once or twice passed the House of Representatives. The arguments for it are strong, and every year new ones arise. The disclosures made in the investigation of the election of Clark add to the popular demand for a change in the system, and it is probable this amendment will eventually be adopted. At any rate something will have to be done to put an end to the evils of the present system, and up to this time nothing better has been devised than the proposed election by direct vote.

An amendment which seemed likely at one time to go through both houses with a rush is that providing that neither polygamy nor polygamous cohabitation shall exist within the United States or in any place subject to its jurisdiction. When the Roberts case was before the public and constituted the chief sensation of the day this amendment was in high favor. Of late it has seemingly been abandoned. It may be that Congress has reached the conclusion that to press it just at this time would seem unfriendly to our fellow citizen, ally, subject or serf, whichever he may be, the genial Sultan of Sulu, and accordingly has shelved it for a time until the Sultan feels more at home with us and more ready to adopt our customs.

In both houses amendments have been offered giving Congress power to levy taxes on incomes, another grants to Congress power to deal with trusts. One proposes that the Presidential term of office be fixed at six years and that the incumbent be ineligible for re-election. An amendment which at one time was much discussed authorizes Senators or Representatives to hold seats in the Cabinet without forfeiting their seats in Congress. That would give us Cabinet representation in Congress and would be somewhat like the British system, but would hardly fit well with the rest of our form of government, whose essential principle is that the legislative and executive branches of government shall be wholly distinct.

Two amendments prohibit to the State Legislatures as well as to Congress the power to pass any law respecting an establishment of religion, hindering the free exercise thereof, or appropriating any money in aid of any religious denomination or any institution wholly or partly under ecclesiastical control. Another of considerable note, and which has been widely advocated, confers upon Congress the power to establish uniform marriage and divorce laws throughout the Union.

It will be perceived from the specimens of the whole lot of amendments offered that if all our reformers had their way we should soon have something like a new constitution. We may therefore be satisfied in the knowledge that it is not so easy to amend it as to propose an amendment. It is better that some needed reforms should wait than that our whole well ordered system should be thrown into confusion by constitution tinkering at every session of Congress.

The Americans who in their indignation declared the embalmed-beef scandals in our War Department would never be equaled in a European country evidently spoke too quickly, for it now appears that in the supplies sent to the British army in South Africa not only is the beef bad, but the boots are as bad as the beef.

THE LEAGUE CONVENTION.

BULLETIN No. 3, issued from the headquarters of the California League of Republican clubs, announces that the committee on transportation has arranged for reduced fares by rail or water to Los Angeles during the week of the convention of the league.

In setting forth the terms under which the reduced rates can be obtained, the bulletin says:

"From all points north of Mojave or Ellwood, on the Southern Pacific Railroad, tickets will be sold on the 'certificate plan.' That is, the attendant will buy a first-class ticket to Los Angeles, and will take a receipt from the railroad agent for such ticket on a form which will be provided. This certificate will state the course to be pursued in obtaining the one-third rate for the return trip from Los Angeles. It is essential that the attendant should have this certificate, which may cover more than one ticket, provided the additional tickets are for the attendant's family. The tickets for the going trip may be bought at any time within fifteen (15) days before, or during, the meeting. The certificate (upon which the one-third fare return-trip ticket will be issued) must be countersigned by the secretary of the convention and presented to the agent of the railroad company at Los Angeles with forty-eight hours of the close of the convention, who will thereupon sell a return ticket to the starting point at one-third first-class rates, which ticket will be limited to three days from date of sale. The blank certificates required can be obtained from Major M. T. Owens, chairman of Local Executive Committee, 130 South Spring street, Los Angeles, Cal., or from the secretary of your club."

It is further announced that an open rate of one and one-third first-class fare for the round trip from all stations in Southern California to Los Angeles and return, on either the Southern Pacific or the Southern California railroads, has been given; and the Pacific Coast Steamship Company makes a special rate of one and one-half fare for the round trip from all ports of call for its steamers in California to Los Angeles sea ports—Port Los Angeles, Redondo and San Pedro.

By reason of these arrangements the attendance on the convention should be considerably increased. The gathering is to be one of great importance to the party and it is desirable that every section of the State be represented. The committee on transportation deserves credit, therefore, for obtaining such a reduction in fares as will conduce to that end.

Instances of badly injured men being taken by the police and locked up as drunks are becoming altogether too frequent. Since civil service examinations are all the rage, why not require policemen and police surgeons to show before their appointment that they know enough to distinguish between a broken skull and intoxication.

THE EUROPEAN COAL FAMINE.

ONE of the economic conditions of the time, out of which far-reaching results may be expected, is the so-called "coal famine" which now prevails in Great Britain and Germany. The famine does not mean an exhaustion of the coal mines, but only that in those countries a point has been reached where the mines in many cases cannot be profitably worked at the present price of coal. Thus there has been brought about a famine in an economic sense, and its effects have been almost the same as if the mines had given out.

The situation is not very bad in Great Britain, owing to the facilities that country has for importing coal, but according to reports from Germany the shortage there has been disastrous. Thus we read that in some localities not only have the factories closed for lack of fuel but even the schools have been shut during the cold days of winter for the same reason. Moreover, it is said to have checked the work in the Government shipyards, and according to some estimates has caused upward of a million men to be thrown out of employment.

There is doubtless a good deal of exaggeration in most of these stories, but that there is a large and growing need for coal in Europe is made evident by the immense orders recently placed with American coal dealers for a supply. Thus it is said that a single order has been recently given by a British syndicate for 2,000,000 tons of Alabama coal, to be delivered at New Orleans for export within two years.

The situation is full of promise for the United States, for as industry is now carried on, a shortage of coal will mean a decrease in all kinds of industrial power. With cheaper coal than Europe can obtain we will have a great advantage in manufacturing of all kinds, and the effects will greatly augment our industrial wealth. There is no danger of any shortage here for centuries to come, for according to one authority there is a single mountain in Alabama containing enough coal to supply the whole world at the present rate of consumption for over one hundred years.

There is another aspect of the matter, though, which is not so favorable to ourselves. The lack of coal has set the Germans to developing electrical energy by water power and transmitting it to manufacturing centers. By devoting energy and money to such enterprises under the stimulus of necessity and the certainty of great rewards for success, it is likely the Germans will be carrying on most of their industry by cheap electrical power while we are still relying upon steam because coal is cheap. Thus what appears to be a disadvantage to the Germans may be turned to advantage by science.

It has been stated that while each horsepower of mechanical energy developed in the United States by steam costs an average of $20 per annum, the Niagara Falls Power Company furnishes an electrical current equivalent to one horsepower day and night for less than $10 a year. An immense saving is therefore possible by the development of electric power from waterfalls. The present hard times in Germany may thus be for them the beginning of a new industrial era, and perhaps we shall ourselves have to turn to the same source of power in the end, instead of relying upon our abundant and cheap coal for industrial supremacy.

THE STORY OF QUEEN VICTORIA'S PREVIOUS TRIPS TO IRELAND

By J. J. Tobin.

THE present visit of Queen Victoria to Ireland is the fourth since her accession to the throne in 1837. She was 42 years old at the time of her last visit, now she is almost 81. It is officially announced that her visit this time is in recognition of the skill and valor of her officers and soldiers in the present Boer campaign. General Roberts—"Fighting Bobs"—now in chief command, is an Irishman and takes his title of Lord Waterford from his birthplace. Generals Kitchener, French, Kelly-Kenny and White are all Irishmen and her Majesty wants to pluck a shamrock from the soil that gave them birth. The heroism displayed by the Connaught Rangers, the Inneskilling Dragoons, the Dublin and the Irish Fusiliers at the crossing of the Tugela and Modder Rivers and storming of Kimberley and Bloemfontein touched the heart of the Queen as no other event since the charge of the Light Brigade at Balaklava in the Crimean war. Instead of "hanging men and women for the wearing of the green" the Queen directed that her brave Irish soldiers should be privileged to wear the shamrock on St. Patrick's day. For the first time in history the Irish flag waved over the Mansion House in London. The nobility and officials of the crown, following the example of her Majesty, outhibernicised the Hibernians in celebrating Ireland's national festival.

In recent cablegrams we are told that "the Queen has ordered a court garden party to be held in Dublin in the second week in April when she will be present. The Mistress of the Robes has ordered for her Majesty a unique gown of Merionac velvet with designs in shamrocks and a sunshade of Irish silk, ornamented with green silk shamrocks, with five of the four-leafed variety at the top." If the weather should turn out as unpropitious as in the years 1853 and 1861 when the Queen was in Dublin she will need an umbrella rather than a sunshade whose shamrocks would be likely to run into six or seven leafed variety through the action of drenching rain. During her previous visits to Ireland Queen Victoria was accompanied by her devoted and dearly beloved husband, the Prince Consort. Now she goes as a widowed sovereign, and many a spot she is likely to revisit will remind her of the deceased Prince. Her first visit to Ireland was in August, 1849, when, with Prince Albert and her four children, on her royal yacht the Victoria and Albert, she first landed at the cove of Cork. In honor of this event the name of cove was changed by her Majesty's command into Queenstown just as Dunleavy was transformed into Kingstown when George IV visited Dublin. The royal yacht steamed up the beautiful River Lee to the city of Cork amid the plaudits of countless thousands. The Queen was overwhelmed with the enthusiastic reception she met with in a part of Ireland which she was told teemed with disloyalty.

Before the Queen left England, the London Times, Punch and other great journals predicted direful disaster to the royal party at the hands of disaffected Irishmen. According to them, the royal visitors would surely be mobbed and would be lucky if they escaped with their lives. The Queen, with the proverbial pluck of the Brunswick family, proceeded on her journey despite the awful predictions of alarmists. The same newspapers and the same type of bell wethers are shouting danger ahead to-day. Scotland Yard, we are told, is in a terrible state of alarm and commotion. Between 9000 and 10,000 policemen, including 1500 plain-clothes detectives, will watch out for the safety of her Majesty in Dublin. Already several regiments of cavalry and infantry have been forwarded to strike terror into the hearts of the Fenians who may be lurking in the neighborhood. All the Queen's officers and all the Queen's men, especially those of Scotland Yard, will pass sleepless nights until she is safely back on English soil. It was not on Irish soil that Queen Victoria heretofore incurred any danger or suffered any insult; it was in her own capital—London—and not far from her own palace. Edward Oxford, a potboy of 17, in 1840 fired two shots at her as she was driving up Constitution Hill with Prince Albert. Two years after a man named John Francis attempted her life in the same manner and in the same place. A hunchback named Bean pointed a pistol at Queen Victoria as she was leaving Buckingham Palace, but it was knocked from his hand before he could pull the trigger. A third attempt upon her life was made on Constitution Hill in 1849 and in 1850. Robert Pate, an ex-lieutenant of hussars, in 1850 struck her on the face with a walking stick near the residence of the Duke of Cambridge. This does not complete the list, but it is sufficient to show that it is in London and not in Dublin that Queen Victoria requires protection.

Of course, the Queen, in 1861 as in 1900, would not undertake such a journey without due precaution for her personal safety. Her Ministers saw to it that the coast was clear and her military escort sufficiently strong. Lord Clarendon, then Lord Lieutenant of Ireland, wrote to Lord John Russell, Premier of England that "Agitation in Ireland is extinct; repeal is forgotten; seditious associations are closed up; the priests are frightened and the people are tranquil. Everything tends," said he, "to secure for the Queen an enthusiastic reception and the one drawback, which is the general distress of all classes, has its advantages, for it will enable the Queen to do what is kind and considerate to those who are suffering." This last sentence is a lurid commentary on England's methods in dealing with Ireland. It is on the principle of "Do evil that good may come from it." Knock a fellow down that you may show how good you are by extending a hand to help him up. Queen Victoria soon discovered that no matter how disaffected the majority of Irishmen were they do not assault nor insult women. A poet of the time well expressed the feelings of the Queen:

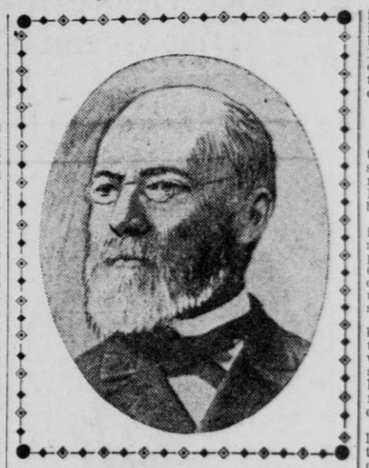
A thousand anxious cares I had,
A thousand doubts and fears—
Would Ireland meet me wildly glad
Or darkly drowned in tears?

Both fears alike I now reject;
One day has testified
Enough to Irish self-respect
And Irish manly pride.

In Cork, Waterford, Dublin and Belfast, which she visited on this trip, sailing from place to place on her royal yacht, she was greeted with marked enthusiasm.

When the royal party sailed into Waterford harbor they saw near the entrance Duncannon Fort, historic as the last stopping place in Ireland of unfortunate King James II, the last of the Stuarts. After his defeat by William, Prince of Orange, at the battle of the Boyne he abandoned his brave Irish soldiers and took to his heels. This was the King who early in the fight, when he saw the Irish soldiers prevailing against the red coats, cried out, "Oh, spare my English subjects!" It is said that the Irish officers were so disgusted at his poltroonery that they expressed a desire to exchange commanders and fight the battle over again. King James fled to France with the maledictions of the Irish upon his miserable head.

If disaffection lurked in Dublin it did not show its head during the four days' celebration over the royal visit. On his return to Windsor Castle Prince Albert wrote to his friend and mentor, Baron Stockmar: "Our Irish tour has gone off well beyond all expectations. Of the enthusiasm that greeted us from all quarters you can form no conception." In this connection it should be remembered that at the time Ireland was but just emerging



from one of the most appalling famines that ever decimated a country. It lasted four years—1846-47-48-49—during which about a million people

Died down in the ditches,
Wild, howling for bread.

For the moment the people forgot their misery, and the London Times had it that when the royal cortege was passing through the streets of Dublin one enthusiastic woman cried out to her Majesty, as she sat in her open carriage with her children: "Och, Queen, dear, make one of them Prince Patrick and all Ireland will die for you."

The Queen did not forget, for she soon after had her third son, the Duke of Connaught, christened Patrick, and she also created a new title for the Prince of Wales—that of Earl of Dublin. She tells us in her book, "Leaves From My Diary," that when she was leaving Kingstown harbor she climbed to the top of one of the paddle-boxes of her yacht and, standing by the side of the Prince Consort, bowed and waved her handkerchief repeatedly to the cheering multitude.

Some twenty years before the Queen's uncle, George IV, when leaving the same place, is said to have shed tears of regret at breaking away from his loyal and loving subjects. What a contrast betweeen the characters of these two sovereigns of the House of Brunswick.

Thackeray, in his "Four Georges," says of him: "We cannot get at his character. Will men of the future have nothing better to do than to unswathe and interpret the royal old mummy?" Tom Moore has his fling at him when at breakfast table with

"Tea and toast,
Death warrants and the Morning Post."

Charles Dickens sets forth his meanness, selfishness and pomposity in the character of Mr. Turveydrop. Irishmen look back with pain on the scenes of loyal servility enacted at that time in the Irish capital by leading Irishmen. They resolved "not to obtrude their grievances upon his Majesty during his stay in Dublin." The great Liberator, Daniel O'Connell, presented him with a huge bunch of shamrocks. All this was done with the idea of conciliating the King so that afterward he would be disposed to favor measures intended to advance the interests of Ireland. In these views they failed utterly. What could they expect from one whom Thackeray describes as "heartless and treacherous." In Mitchell's History of Ireland we are told how King George IV "was hailed with tumultuous hurrahs in the city of Dublin wherever he passed, and in return he directed his secretary to write a letter recommending the people to be united." Lord Byron, in his poem called the "Avatar," lashes the toadies and sycophants who fawned upon this "simulacrum of a King."

Aye, shout in his train, let thine orators lash
Their fanciful spirits to pamper his pride;
Not thus did thy Grattan indignantly flash
His soul o'er the freedom implored and denied.

Spread, spread for Vitellius the royal repast
Till the gluttonous despot be stuffed to the gorge,
And the roar of his drunkards proclaim him at last
The fourth of the fools and oppressors called George.
Shout, drink, feast and flatter. O Erin, how low
Art thou sunk by misfortune and tyranny, till
Thy welcome of tyrants hath plunged thee below
The depth of thy deep, in a deeper gulf still.

Queen Victoria paid a second visit to Ireland in August, 1853, just four years after her first. This time she came direct to Dublin to see the Industrial Exhibition, which owed its existence to the liberality of a single Irishman—William Dargan—who refused a baronetcy at the hands of the Queen. Again the people

Climbed up to walls and battlements,
To towers and windows, yea to chimneytops,

to see great Queen Victoria pass through the streets of Dublin. Again they shouted themselves hoarse with cries of "Long live the Queen." All this ebullition of loyalty took place while the heavens were drenching soldiers and "peelers" and rabble. The royal party were amply protected in closed carriages, through the windows of which they enjoyed the fun. Some of the royal juveniles described it afterward.

The third visit of Queen Victoria to Ireland was made in 1861, and again in the month of August. This visit lasted eight days. Accompanied as on the two former occasions by Prince Albert and some of the royal children, she again visited Dublin direct from England, and after a short stay proceeded by rail through the central parts of the country until she reached the far-famed Lakes of Killarney.

There she was entertained by Lord Castlerosse and Herbert of Muckross. Fortunately, the weather was all that could be desired and the Queen was ecstatic over the beauties of the scenery. It was believed at the time that she would establish a summer residence there, either for herself or for one of the royal Princes. Forty years have passed since then and neither the Queen nor any of her offspring has a lodge or any kind of dwelling in the Emerald Isle. Oh, no; the Queen's heart is in the Highlands wherever she goes. The "land of brown heath and shaggy wood" is the land for her. Queen Victoria's love for Scotland may be attributed to the fact that she came near being born in Scotland. Her father, the Duke of Kent, had intended, a short time before her birth, to take up his domicile in Lanarkshire, a county in Scotland, but the fates declared otherwise. Queen Victoria once said to Sir Archibald Alison, "I am more proud of my Scotch descent than of any other. When I first came into Scotland I felt as if I were coming home." Balmoral Palace, in Scotland, is her favorite abode. She is ever impatient to go there and loath to leave it and she far prefers it to majestic and historic Windsor. Scotch servants are her favorites. The Scotch gillie, John Brown, was her faithful servitor—ever ready at her beck and call—for thirty-four years. At his death her grief was so profound as to astonish the nations. Honors and rewards are lavished upon the soldiers who wear the tartan and the kilt.

Per contra, Ireland has always been treated to the "cold shoulder," "the icy hand," by not only her Majesty Queen Victoria, but by all the Majesties who preceded her. She has been treated as the Cinderella in the happy or unhappy family which constitute the British Isles. It has often been said, "If the Queen had built years ago a palace in Ireland at Killarney or in lovely Wicklow or in some other picturesque spot in the green isle things might have been different. Who can tell?"

Of all sad words of tongue or pen,
The saddest are "It might have been."

We do know, however, with sad certainty, on the authority of the eminent statistician Mulhall, that the present reign has been the most disastrous to Ireland since the days of Queen Elizabeth.

The number of deaths from famine during Queen Victoria's reign is 1,225,000; number of emigrants, 4,185,000; number of persons evicted from their homes, 3,668,000. The population of Ireland has decreased nearly 50 per cent, while the population of England has increased at the same ratio.

In reading over the literature penned by the Queen very little reference is made to Ireland or the Irish, and if her voice was ever raised to stay or modify repression or coercion, when recommended by her Ministers, as often they did, it has not been heard outside of the council chamber.

In writing about her first visit to Ireland her Majesty paid a high compliment to the beauty of Irish women. "The beauty of the women is remarkable—such beautiful dark eyes and hair and such fine teeth. Almost every third woman was pretty and some remarkably so."

During Queen Victoria's long reign of sixty-three years—1837 to 1900—she has spent less than one month in Ireland, although the distance is only a trifle between Holyhead and Kingstown. Naturally, the Irish people feel resentful at this. Nevertheless she will receive a cordial reception. Irishmen know how to differentiate the sovereign and the woman. In the beginning of her reign Daniel O'Connell declared that if it were necessary he could get "500,000 brave Irishmen to defend the life, the honor and the person of the beloved young lady by whom England's throne is now filled." Some Irish Nationalists declare that the Queen's visit is intended as a bribe to Ireland to abandon the national for the imperialistic idea. Others declare that she comes with a shamrock in her bonnet to do the work of the recruiting sergeant and induce stalwart young Irishmen to fill up the depleted ranks of her Irish regiments. Many give her the credit of coming with the view of conciliating Irish opinion so that there would be brought about a union of hearts as well as of hands between Irishmen and Englishmen. Although past four score, still "while the lamp holds out to burn," etc., and so the Queen's diagnosis of Ireland's ills may bring about a change of prescription that "blesseth her who gives and her who takes."

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"Yes," explained the old family servant, "Marse William died er dissapp'intment. Dese new, col' winters in de South is what kill him. W'en he see his whisky froze, en he had ter swaller it in cracked ice, he heave a deep sigh en give up de ghos'."—Atlanta Constitution.

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A MINT MARK—A. S., City. The letter "D" as a mint mark is found only on gold pieces of the United States and that letter indicates that the coin was minted at Dahlonega, Ga.

TO SOUTH AFRICA—A. P. C., San Mateo, Cal. There is a line of steamers from San Francisco that will by transfer convey passengers to South Africa. A person can also go from San Francisco by rail to New York and go to point of destination by steamer direct from that port.

INCORPORATED SOCIETIES — M., City. The law of this State, section 307 of the Civil Code, provides how directors of an incorporated public or private corporation shall be elected. Section 308 says: "Immediately after the election the directors must organize by the election of a president, who must be one of their number; a secretary and a treasurer. They must perform the duties enjoined on them by law and the laws of the corporation." This section clearly defines the powers of the board to elect the officers named.

THE CABINET—Subscriber, Cranmore, Cal. The members of President McKinley's Cabinet are: John Hay, Secretary of State; Lyman J. Gage, Secretary of the Treasury; Elihu Root, Secretary of War; John W. Griggs, Attorney General; Charles Emory Smith, Postmaster General; John D. Long, Secretary of the Navy; Ethan Allen Hitchcock, Secretary of the Interior; and James Wilson, Secretary of Agriculture.

MAJORITY AND PLURALITY—Subscriber, Cranmore, Cal. In announcing the result of an election if the statement is made that John Smith received a majority of 4000 that means that he received 4000 more votes than the aggregate of the votes cast for all other candidates for the same office. If there was but one candidate against him it would be proper to say that he was elected by a majority of 4000. If it is said he was elected by a plurality of 4000, that means that he received 4000 more votes than the next highest candidate for the same office, there being more than one candidate in opposition.