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Weather Forecast for Friday.

Washington, April 7.—For Oklahoma, Indian Territory and Kansas: Fair; warmer in eastern portions; southerly winds.

For Missouri: Fair, except possibly showers in extreme northwest portion; warmer; southerly winds.

For Nebraska: Partly cloudy weather; possibly showers; southerly winds.

NOT FOR ANNEXATION.

The several forecasts of the president's message indicate that this important paper will be a vigorous summary of our case against Spain and that it will meet with the approval of a very large majority of the people of the nation.

That it will not recommend a recognition of the independence of Cuba at this time seems to be one of the accepted theories. If this prove true, it will be a disappointment to some, but the president can be depended on to accompany his advice on this point by some very sound reasoning. He will doubtless give some light on several points regarding such recognition that have escaped those inspired by impulsive patriotism and too little influenced by thoughtful consideration.

That the substance of the coming message means the immediate withdrawal from Cuba of the Spanish military, there can be no doubt; and that, after all, is the thing most immediately and imperatively desired by the people of the United States. Recognition of independence, if it does not come now, will come later. There is no occasion for hasty action on this point, for it can be attended to at any time.

It is gratifying to know that the president will advise in his message against annexation of Cuba. There is danger that the world at large might construe the elimination of independence from his demands as a preliminary to acquisition. The world should not be left in doubt as to the irreproachable cause in behalf of which we have proceeded and for which we still stand.

The temper of congress and the country in general yesterday was another illustration of the confidence reposed in the administration. The postponement of the long expected and vitally important message, upon the appeal of Consul General Lee, has been accepted in the best of faith and with the most earnest approval.

A PARTY TRIUMPH.

The pretense that the result of last Tuesday's local election was not a party victory is absurd and nonsensical. It possessed every essential feature of a party triumph and cannot intelligently be regarded in any other light. All the successful candidates—except the few Democrats who were elected to the lower house—were Republicans, they were nominated as such by the regular processes of the party machinery, the ballots which bore their names were all headed "Republican Ticket," the campaign was conducted under the direction of the regular Republican city committee, and the campaign orators and effective workers were all Republicans.

It is doubtless true that a number of Democrats who liked the mayor's policy voted for him, but there is no good reason to suppose that they voted for the rest of the Republican ticket. It is also true that a number of Republicans voted against the mayor for personal reasons; but nobody doubts that many more would have done the same thing if it had not been for considerations of party loyalty. Mayor Jones himself has been an outspoken and uncompromising Republican. He has never attempted to disguise the fact in the least that he was every inch a Republican and a partisan. He has made his official appointments exclusively from the Republican ranks, and has not hesitated to say that no Democrat or so-called "independent" need apply. Not even the ardent support of a mugwump newspaper has been sufficient to compromise seriously his Republican standing. It is safe to say that every man elected on the ticket, from the mayor down, would unhesitatingly declare that the result was a party victory.

Is anybody wild enough to imagine that Mr. Jones could have been elected if he had not been the regular nominee of his party?

THE PRESIDENT AND BUSINESS.

Of the many comprehensive expressions of confidence and approval that have helped to sustain the president in the discharge of the onerous duties devolving upon him since the destruction of the Maine, few have been so timely or so gratifying as those sent by the various commercial bodies of the country within the past few days.

President McKinley was elected on a platform that pledged him and his party to lift the country out of the depression and distress into which it had fallen under the last Democratic administration. Business considerations, especially those involved in the currency and tariff issues, were the dominant forces of the memorable campaign.

By the end of the first year of the present administration, the leading promises of the Republican party had been made good. Business has experienced a general revival, the conditions of all classes have improved and the country has been restored to substantial prosperity. However men may differ as to any or all of the causes that led to this improvement, every one admits its existence and enjoys its effects.

It is not strange, therefore, that the business men of the country, those who are most directly concerned for the continuance of prosperity, should be jealous of the better times that have come, and should very greatly deplore the menace of war. In case of armed hostilities with Spain, business condition would be unsettled, and while some lines might profit by the disturbance, business generally would suffer. War is a terrible thing in many ways. Its menace to business is a matter that becomes a natural subject for commercial consideration and anxiety. Ours is a business country; we are a business people. The greatness of which we boast and in which we feel so secure at this moment rests largely upon the enterprise and thrift of our people.

How appropriate, therefore, that the president, who has been an avowed advocate of peace, and whose course in the Spanish-American question has been based upon an earnest desire to avoid war, should be supported by the country's business interests!

The president has shown himself to be a great statesman as well as a great patriot. He has convinced the nation that, while he prays that war may be averted, he will not sacrifice one jot of national honor or yield one point of national right in order to prevent it. The business men of the country have made no recommendations to the president. They have made no appeal. They have simply indorsed his policy. The character and force of this approval may be best understood by considering the personnel of Kansas City's own business organizations, which were among those that gave formal indorsement to the president's policy. What is most gratifying, perhaps, is that these expressions of support have been sent from bodies both East and West, both North and South, and have had no tinge of political coloring or prejudice.

LEEDY'S REFORM HUMBUGGERY.

There has been only a languid sort of interest in the announcement from Governor Leedy that a special session of the Kansas legislature would not be called. The people of Kansas have never taken the governor seriously in regard to the proposed session. There has been such an utter lack of sincerity in his talk and actions that no one believed he really had an intention to call the legislature together under any circumstances whatever. The whole performance was so thin and superficial that it served no other purpose than to bring the governor into ridicule.

The history of attempted anti-railroad legislation by the Populist administration in Kansas is a familiar one. At the Abilene state convention a platform was adopted pledging the Populist legislature to the passage of a maximum freight rate bill. The Populist legislature proceeded to violate this pledge by defeating a maximum rate bill and adopting one which gave the railroad commissioners the right to fix rates. It was clearly to the credit of the Populist legislature that the Abilene demands were set aside, for they were calling for something that could not stand in the courts. It was the freely-expressed opinion of leading Populist lawyers that the defeated maximum rate bill was confiscatory in its character and therefore would be estopped by the federal constitution, and it was also their opinion that the bill adopted in its stead reached the extreme limit allowed in legislation against corporations. It may be said in passing that the adopted bill was identical with a bill intoduced and supported by Governor Leedy when he was filling a seat in the Kansas state senate.

This substitute bill was vetoed by the governor, who took the seemingly virtuous ground that it violated the solemn pledges of the Abilene convention. There are a great many people, however, who believe that the governor was influenced by circumstances more personal, and that he vetoed the bill because he did not wish any anti-railroad legislation at all; but the discussion of this theory will be confined to the governor's own utterances.

Following the adjournment of the legislature, the governor gave out two interviews, both of which were printed in his personal organ at Topeka. In one he declared that if he could find enough members willing to pass the maximum rate bill which had been defeated he would call the legislature into special session, for the people of Kansas must be relieved at once from the intolerable oppression of the railroads. We quote from the second interview verbatim as follows:

"The people finding that they are deprived of self-government—for no railroad commission is a success in this country, nor can any state law stand against the courts as they are now constituted—should build a railroad of their own to the Gulf and thus be able to defy even a packed bench."

How the governor expected to reconcile these two statements is a question past finding out except by those who are gifted with the art of Populist reasoning. In the first he demanded that the people be given immediate relief through a maximum rate bill, while in the second he declared that a maximum bill could not stand for a moment before the courts. And yet he appears to have been willing to put his state to an enormous expense simply for the purpose of passing an ineffective law.

But Mr. Leedy's inconsistences did not stop here. For a whole year he continued his bluster and bluff about a special session for the purpose of passing a maximum rate bill. At last, however, a change came o'er the spirit of his dreams. He awoke one morning to discover that he no longer believed in legislative maximum rates. The sorcerer who had touched him in the night left him very clear upon the point that what Kansas really needed was the bill which he had vetoed. So he prepared a measure identical in principle and operation with the vetoed enactment and sent forth word to all the legislators that if they would agree to pass it without amendment he would call them in special session. He well knew that even the Populist members of the lawmaking body would resent this insulting interference with their constitutional duties and prerogatives, and the whole performance was an illy-disguised subterfuge intended to draw attention from his own erratic and almost imbecile behavior.

Governor Leedy tells us that he secured pledges enough in the senate to pass his bill, and lacked only five in the house. If he desires the public to give credence to this statement he must publish the responses received from the legislators. Others besides the governor have taken a census on this special session question, and their returns differ widely from his. Many even of the maximum raters have resented his attempt to establish a despotism over the lawmaking body. Scarcely one out of the whole consented to waive the right of amendment, as Governor Leedy had stipulated they must. Not one-third of either body have expressed a willingness to vote for the bill as he sent it to them, and in claiming so near a majority for his crude and visionary measure he not only is speaking falsely, but, at the same time, puts a gross insult upon the intelligence and independence of his own party members.

But all that is over and gone, unless the governor again indulges in one of his lightning changes. And the next question is, what will the Kansas executive talk about now? In the midst of the prosperity which has visited all Sunflowerdom, will he dare risk his future in a campaign of calamity? Will he again go out among the farmers and tell them that they are starving because of the oppressions of the railroads? Can he talk about the clanking chains of plutocracy hanging about their necks? If he does he must prepare to quarrel with John Breidenthal, who declares that the Populist farmers own about 60 per cent of the entire value of Kansas and that he knows lots of them who have made fortunes in farming which range all the way from $20,000 to $300,000.

EDITORIAL PARAGRAPHS.

While the Americans are getting out of Cuba the Spanish would be wise to get out of danger by following their example.

It is almost time to begin planting corn, potatoes and Spaniards. Vegetation is sprouting, and Uncle Sam's dander is up.

An armistice is all well enough as far as it goes, but it is not a satisfactory substitute for freedom. Full surrender or fight is Uncle Sam's ultimatum.

We shall not annex Cuba, but we may find it convenient to take Porto Rico in payment of war indemnity. Modern ammunition is dreadfully expensive.

It is estimated that the Hon. Chauncey Depew has delivered more than 1,000 speeches. Nobody has been reckless enough to try to estimate the number of stories he has told.

The colored people of Kansas City are not likely to feel insulted by the reflections on their intelligence by the Times, for the reason that practically all of them are too intelligent to read the Times.

The business men of Kansas City still regard themselves as reasonably patriotic, notwithstanding the assertions of the Times that they are in league with Wall street to sell the country's honor.

An exchange remarks that the postmaster in Arkansas who is found to be short in his accounts is not a negro. No, the colored postmaster in the South is not troubled with short accounts, but with a shortness of breath.

The Kansas City Star is trying to make it plain that its support of the head of the Republican ticket doesn't mean that it has become a Republican paper. The Star's efforts in this direction will be warmly seconded by every intelligent Republican in the city.

The Spanish flotilla may or may not be headed this way, but the battleship Oregon is coming as fast as her machinery can carry her. It will take several weeks to complete the journey from San Francisco around Cape Horn. The Oregon is a formidable vessel and will materially strengthen our fleet at Key West.

Senator Quay's remark that our battleships ought to be sufficient to preserve the Americans in Havana from violence would be plausible if the Spaniards in Havana were all discreet and rational beings. But a mob of inflamed jingoes may arise at any moment and recklessly commit acts of ruffianism regardless of consequences. The only safe way is to remove our people from the island.

The Hon. William Vincent Allen, of Nebraska, is taking advantage of the extraordinary condition of affairs to give himself a little inexpensive glorification. Mr. Allen wants the country to understand that he is not only willing to orate, bloviate and occasionally filibuster for war, but he is also ready to shoulder his musket and meet the Spaniard in the gory field. He knows, of course, that there is not one chance in 19,000 that the services of a man of his age will be required by the government for military purposes, but the fact that Hon. William Vincent Allen valorously offered to go in person to the relief of Cuba would have an inspiring sound in a nomination speech at some future Populist convention.

KANSAS TOPICS.

Mr. Stocking, the new police judge at Neodesha, will no doubt sock it to all evildoers.

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The Iola Register says the voters down there went to the polls "like a quarry slave scourged to his dungeon."

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G. C. Clemens is so busy delivering socialistic lectures that he can not spare the time to prepare copy for a supreme court report long past due.

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Ben Rich says the best thing for the Populists to do is to retire Heflebower and Stryker and give their places to Democrats. Perhaps the next best thing for the Populists to do would be to wall up Ben Rich in his Western Kansas dugout.

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The Emporia Gazette says it knows what has become of John J. Ingalls. He is down in Cuba, stripped to the buff and posing for pictures of reconcentrados.

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How does Governor Leedy reconcile his statement that "President McKinley is not the man for the crisis" with his other statement that there is no crisis, and that the war talk is simply buncombe to carry a political point?

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The Topeka Capital is demanding the passage of an ordinance that will compel foot passengers to divide the sidewalks with the bicycle riders. The Capital is entirely too lenient with the unworthy class who persist in traveling afoot. They should be forced to deliver over the sidewalks entirely and keep in the middle of the road.

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If we understand Mr. William Morgan, Mr. George Gould expressed the deepest contrition for his negligence in the past and promised to devote the remaining years of his life to the single purpose of building up Hutchinson.

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New version of a couple of popular aphorisms as presented by the Lawrence World: "For years and years it has been an axiom that a rose by any other name was a rose still. . . . It has been further stated in song and story that you could break, you could shatter, the vase if you would, but the odor of the rose would be around it still."

* * *

Speaking of the ill fated Shawneetown, George Martin says it was the original "Eden" which Dickens satirized in "Martin Chuzzlewit." On Dickens' first visit to the United States he was induced to invest in some town lots there which proved a dead loss. By the way, Mr. Martin must be a good deal older than he looks. He says: "Sixty years ago we little boys in Pittsburg used to sing, 'Way down in Shawneetown, far, far away.'"

* * *

The Neodesha Register should take notice that while Lord Byron wrote pretty good poetry, he must have been mighty neglectful of his geography lessons in school—else why did he locate our enemy after such a fashion as this:

"Spain's an island near Morocco,
Between Egypt and Tangiers."

* * *

Captain Price, of Wichita, has just returned from a visit to the Comanche reservation in the Indian Territory. He says he was astonished to hear the Indians discussing the impending war as if they knew all about it. When he jokingly informed an old buck that the government intended to send all the Indians to battle, the old fellow shrugged his shoulders and said: "Indian no good on big water, but heap fight on land."

* * *

The City of Mexico Herald declares that war has already broken out in that vicinity. After relating that three young Americans, one of whom was a Kansas man, of course, had been out for a walk in the suburbs, where they met three Spaniards in a carriage, the Herald says: "Some abusive epithet must have been used by the Spaniards, for one of the Americans, turning back, confronted the natives of the peninsula. The only reply he received was a loud slap on the face from one of the Iberians, accompanied by the exclamation 'Por Espana' (for Spain)! A battle royal then ensued, which was only stopped by the approach of the police, for then the combatants dispersed in different directions. The Spaniards got the worst of the encounter, as one of them was sent flying by a vigorous blow into a neighboring ditch and another received a black eye."

* * *

Speaking of the new cruiser, Kansas City, the Atchison Globe expresses the hope that in the very first battle the Spaniards will shoot off the word "City."

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Clem Neal says that when Abraham Lincoln was in Atchison in 1859 he played a game of billiards on a table with a wooden bed at the old Massasoit house. Mr. Neal remembers that Mr. Lincoln was the poorest billiard player he ever saw handle a stick.

* * *

It remained for a Kansas paper to discover that the government will not enlist men who smoke cigarettes. As a rule men who smoke cigarettes will not want to enlist, and there you are.

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It is explained by the Wichita Eagle that when Senator Peffer saw a wave of fire and blood coming down the dawn of the twentieth century he had reference to a battle between Herr Most and Vanderbilt and not between Uncle Sam and Alfonso.

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A Salina man who now lives in New York sent his wife and children all the way home to Kansas because he belonged to the militia and thought he would be called into service.

* * *

The impending war will disclose no more inspiring instances of men dying game than those on exhibition at Topeka yesterday when the sheriff raided the joints. While the sheriff's men were carrying out the liquors to load in wagons the barkeepers continued to sell to their customers until the last bottle was gone.

* * *

The Iola Register says that a few days ago the devil in that office went out to a store and bought some crackers. On the smooth surface of one of them he found this penciled: "Miss Gertie McIntyre, Kansas City, Mo., care Mount Cracker Company. Age 16. Write soon." And the Register intimates that this was the beginning of an epistolary romance that may bring the devil a wife.

* * *

Your Kansas old soldier is mighty touchy about any reference which seems to reflect upon his bravery. The other day the Iola Register related that on one occasion Captain Tim Stover, late assistant secretary of state, had escaped capture in a rebel charge only by throwing away his gun and running like a whitehead. To this Captain Stover responds as follows: "You say I had thrown away my gun. Now you do not perhaps understand as well as the old soldiers what an unpardonable offense that would have been. I was in a pretty tight place and got out on the best time I could make, but I didn't throw away my gun. My position at that time did not require me to carry a gun, so I had none to throw away. I am not at this late day going to say what I would have done if I had had one."

* * *

Grandpap West is the familiar name of an Abilene man who celebrated his 90th birthday with a party last Monday. To a reporter he said: "In May of 1830 I was on the English police force, and on the night that King George II. died I was stationed at the door of St. James palace. I was still on duty at sunrise the next morning when William IV. was proclaimed king from the balcony. I remember seeing the Princess Victoria, who was then but 11 years old, riding in a carriage.

"I landed in New York on January 3, 1831, after being refused enlistment in the Scotch Greys because I lacked half an inch of being six feet tall. I took out naturalization papers as soon as the law would allow. I have voted either the Whig or Republican ticket at every election, except once I voted for Henry Litts, a Democrat, for sheriff of Dickinson county, and I expect to vote the Republican municipal ticket April 5, 1898, and let it go down to posterity that I have endeavored to cast the right vote for my adopted country. I worked on the first railroad built in the United States, the Germantown & Philadelphia road. I walked twelve miles to attend the funeral of Horatio Winterbottom, who was killed by the cars and was perhaps the first man ever killed in the United States by a railroad train. I was then living at Germantown, Pa. My uncle, Thomas West, was a major in the celebrated English regiment known as the Coldstream Guards. He and his wife were in the battle of Waterloo, she always accompanying him. They were separated during the battle and she searched three days among the dead to find him, and at last he came to her uninjured."

* * *

"It has been noticed for some time past," says the Atchison Globe, "that a certain Atchison man on reaching home puts on his slippers, which are set out on the front porch, and walks on tiptoes around to the back door; that the children are not allowed to play near the house, and that the milkman doesn't ring when he stops at the back gate. No one is sick in the house, but the situation is worse; the oldest daughter is preparing her commencement essay, and the utmost quiet is insisted upon in order to allow her brain to work undisturbed. The poor helpless thing has worn a wet towel on her head every minute that she is out of school for three weeks past; the children have been sent to bed at dusk to keep them quiet, and the mother and father have stepped outdoors when they wanted to speak to each other, but with all these precautions and care, the girl has gotten no further than her text, which is 'No Obstacle Insurmountable.'"

MISSOURI POINTS.

"Saloons and churches did it," declares the Springfield Republican in explanation of the defeat of the Republican city ticket there Tuesday.

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A town wherein is possible such a publication as the prosperity edition issued by the St. Joseph News Wednesday unquestionably has sufficient warrant for indulging in a jubilee now and then.

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Carthage drank more whisky while it voted, Tuesday, the Press declares, than it ever did before on an election day in its entire history. Naturally there was a shrinkage in the Republican vote.

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St. Joe is reveling in another rumor, "which it is believed has good foundation," that the Armours have bought forty acres adjoining Swift's there, on which they purpose erecting a big packing house.

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There will be three of a kind if a practical railroad man is elected railway commissioner this fall. Of the holdover members Commissioner Flory is a former conductor, and Hennessey an engineer.

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Ed S. Austin, who for several years was prominent in Jefferson City newspaper circles, and who recently has been city editor of the Springfield Republican, is now telegraph editor of the Kansas City Times.

* * *

Trenton's disposition to push along a good thing when opportunity offers was made manifest the other day in the election by a unanimous vote of Colonel Rogers, editor of the Republican, as a member of the school board.

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The widespread reputation for excellence achieved by the proprietors of an extensive tool factory in Pike county for their output was responsible for the receipt the other day of a big order all the way from Amsterdam, Holland.

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To-day as Arbor day will be celebrated at the Girls' Industrial home in Chillicothe in an elaborate programme, which includes literary and musical features, an appropriate address, and the planting of trees by the inmates of the institution.

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Miss Ella Harrison, of Carthage, president of the Missouri Equal Suffrage Association, goes to Iowa Saturday, where she expects to spend two months in an effort to convince the people of the Hawkeye state that they ought to permit the women to vote.

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So many indorsements were given General Dick Horne, of the Marshall Democrat-News, by his brethren of the state Democratic press, in connection with the manly stand he took in opposition to the governor with reference to the Fulton asylum scandal, that he found it necessary to issue a special edition of his paper in order to reprint them all.

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The Greene county court house at Springfield is on the market at $30,000, the purpose being, if it can be disposed of, to erect a modern and more expensive edifice which shall be suited to the demands and worthy the resources of the prosperous people who do business therein. Thus far, however, $27,000 is the best recent offer, although $35,000 was once refused by the county court.

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In an interesting letter to the Pike County News, Judge Fagg, who has just assumed the duties of postmaster at Louisiana, bids formal adieu to the practice of the law, in which he had been engaged for more than fifty years. The judge thus ends an honorable professional career which had included within its wide range an experience reaching from a modest beginning to capable service on the supreme bench.

* * *

Dr. Edgar Thompson, whose home is in Springfield, but who for two years has practiced medicine with much success in St. Louis, stood an examination as one of a large class of applicants for an assistant surgeonship in the United States navy the other day in New York, and was given the highest grade of any of them, and the first appointment. Dr. Thompson is yet under 25, but is a professor in Beaumont Medical college, and is the editor of one of the leading medical journals. He was a member of the class of '91 at Drury college, Springfield.

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Mr. T. S. Chandler, of Lexington, who is a Mexican war veteran and has fought Spaniards, says that they are a fearless people, but easily whipped by well drilled troops. Individually, they are very bold and foolhardy, and when angry will strike a man, although they know that the blow will result in their death. They hate all "Americanos," and never lose an opportunity to insult them. They are treacherous, vindictive, ignorant and egotistic, Mr. Chandler tells the News, and though they sometimes fight well in battle, they easily become panic stricken, and often flee when no man pursueth. Mr. Chandler thinks it would be right to drive them out of Cuba.

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An interesting and pathetic incident of the battle of Wilson creek, the historic engagement that occurred just outside the present boundaries of Springfield, at the outset of the war, as related by an Illinois corporal who took part in the battle and was captured by the Confederates, appears in "Women of the War": "The day before the Illinois regiment was ordered by General Lyon to march toward Springfield, the drummer of the corporal's company fell ill. There was no one to take his place, and while the captain was wondering how he could supply the lack, a pale, sorrow stricken woman appeared at his tent door, asking an interview. She brought with her a boy of 12 or 13 years, whom she wished to place in the regiment as a drummer boy. "Captain," she said, after the boy had been accepted, "he won't be in much danger, will he?" "No, I think not," replied the officer. "We will be disbanded in a few weeks, I am confident." The new drummer soon became a favorite, and there was never a feast of fruit or other hardly procured dainties that "Eddie" did not get his share first. The soldiers were stirred by the child's enthusiastic devotion and declared his drumming was best. After the engagement at Wilson creek, where the Federals were defeated, Corporal B—, who had been thrown from his horse, found himself lying concealed from view by a clump of trees. As he lay there with his ear to the ground, he heard the sound of a drum, distinct but rather faint. In a moment he recognized the stroke of Eddie, the boy drummer, and hastened to the spot whence the sound proceeded. In a clump of bushes, propped against a tree, he found the boy. His drum was hanging from a shrub within reach, and his face was deadly pale. "Oh, corporal," he said, "I'm so glad you come. Won't you give me a drink of water, please?" The corporal ran to a little stream close by and brought the child a draught. Just at this moment there came an order for the retreat, and the corporal turned to go. "Don't leave me," said the little drummer. "I can't walk. See!" and he pointed to his feet. The corporal saw with horror that both feet had been shot off by a cannon ball. "He said the doctors could cure them," continued the boy, pointing to the body of a Confederate soldier who lay dead beside him. "He was shot all to pieces, but he crawled over here and tied my legs up—so they—would—wouldn't bleed so." And Eddie closed his eyes wearily. The corporal's eyes were blinded by a mist of tears as he looked down. The Confederate soldier, shot to death, and in the agonies of his last struggle, had managed to take off his suspenders and bind the boy's legs above the knees. As the corporal bent down to raise the child a body of Confederate troops came up and he was a prisoner. With a sob in his voice he told the story, and the Southern soldier tenderly lifted the wounded drummer on his own horse, swinging the drum before him. When the little cavalcade reached camp Eddie was dead, but the little drummer's last call had aroused the noblest feeling in the heart of one who was his foe, one whose last act was an effort to comfort and save the boy enemy who had been faithful to his duty.

Marriages That Might Be Void.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

A decision has just been rendered by the supreme court of Pennsylvania on the subject of valid marriages that may be of interest to some persons in other states.

The general rule of law is that a marriage which is valid in the state where it is solemnized is valid everywhere. Under this general rule many persons who would be restrained from entering upon marriage because of prohibitions in the statute of the state where they reside have been in the habit of going to some other state where such prohibitions do not exist, and there getting married, afterward returning to their own state.

For instance, the statute of Illinois forbids marriage between cousins of the first degree. This law was passed in 1887, why or wherefore nobody has ever quite understood, for that relationship does not come within the Levitical degrees. Since this statute has been in force first cousins desiring to marry have gone to Wisconsin or some other state where this prohibition does not exist, had the ceremony performed and then returned home. They thus thought "to whip the devil around the stump" and accomplish by indirection what they could not do directly.

But if this Pennsylvania decision is good law they have simply fooled themselves, for it declares that "where persons domiciled in the same state and subject to an absolute statutory prohibition against their marriage, on grounds of good morals and public policy, leave the state of their domicile and enter another where their marriage is not prohibited, and are there married for the express purpose of evading the laws of their own state, such marriage is void."

The question in Pennsylvania arose out of the law prohibiting divorced persons from remarrying, but if the principle is sound it equally applies to any prohibition.

It is certainly a question of momentous interest to a great many persons, involving as it does the legitimacy of children and the right of estate.

In this state it applies only to persons both of whom being domiciled in Illinois go to another state for the express purpose of evading the Illinois statute. It would not apply to a case where only one of the contracting parties was a resident of the state and who married the resident of some other state where the prohibition did not exist.

We are not aware that the supreme court of Illinois has ever passed on this question.

The Cuban Junta.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

It is reported that the Cuban junta is opposed to armed intervention in Cuba without recognition. This committee should be made to understand that the United States is not acting in its behalf or under its direction. It is composed of gentlemen who represent no faction of the American people and no American sentiment. While General Gomez and his associates have been in the field fighting these gentlemen in New York have been devoting themselves to intrigues. They never have had much influence on American sentiment and have been a hindrance when it came to action by the government. The Cleveland administration would undoubtedly have been more favorably disposed toward Cuba had it not been that the president knew too much of the Cuban junta.

The people of the United States are not now aroused through any efforts of the junta. Feeling among the people against the Spaniards in Cuba is based on the reports of men like Mr. Calhoun, Senator Proctor and other Americans. The American sentiment against Spanish rule in Cuba is based on a knowledge of the iniquity of the Spanish system, on the brutal methods of persecution resorted to under the name of war, on the destruction of the Maine through connivance or by the act of the government, on the danger of present conditions in Cuba to the United States. The people are demanding intervention that will make an end of Spanish rule in Cuba, that will exact reparation for the destruction of the Maine, and that will give independence to the Cubans, and they are not to be advised or dictated to by the Cuban junta.

The members of the junta misunderstand the situation. The Cuban question is now beyond their control; it is an American question, and the people are urging the administration to deal with it in a straightforward American way. It is not a time for pronunciamentos from any one, least of all from the Cuban junta.

Commodore Schley and the Navy.

From the Chicago Record.

It is a gratifying reflection that in case this nation does come to a war in which the action will be largely naval, it can place confidence in the splendid material among its naval officers. It is now generally conceded that the brains which guide one of the great warships must be the important factor between fairly well matched fleets. In no other branch of the fighting service is there such a high intellectual grade as in the navy. The officers have ability and experience. Most of them at one time or another have traveled throughout the world, and they are familiar with all phases of life. They have studied not only the details of the art of naval warfare and strategy, but the requirements of diplomacy. There are times when a naval officer, cut off from communication with his home government, must act on his own responsibility, bearing practically the whole burden of critical affairs of state.

Some of the leading officers are amply qualified to fill these requirements, and as a type of the best of them Commodore Schley may be mentioned. Schley entered the naval service when he was barely 17, and he has stayed in it ever since. During the period of the civil war he was at various times assigned to different vessels of the nation's antiquated navy, and in 1862 he was lieutenant, receiving his commission as lieutenant commander four years later. He was with the Asiatic fleet in 1871, took the rank of commander in 1874 and became captain of the Baltimore in 1889. Now he is commodore of one of the most important fleets in the American service, with every prospect of winning high honors.

In his case, as in that of many other naval officers, promotion has been a matter of long service and long waiting. But his example furnishes an illustration of the devotion of the average naval officer to his business.

The Deacon's Determination.

From the Atlanta Constitution.

"No," said the old deacon, "I ain't gwine in de war—not of I knows it! I got a duty ter perform right heah. Dat duty is ter de Lawd; en de Lawd mus' be served fust. It ain't gwine ter be sich a easy war ez you think fer, en it's gwine ter take a heap er stiddy prayin' ter make de Americans win right off; en ez prayin' is my business, I gwine at it, en I'll keep it up twell de war come ter a cend."

"But," suggested a brother deacon, "s'pose dey ketch you a-prayin', en try ter rush you ter de front?"

"De man whut does dat," said the deacon, with emphasis, 'will git his d—n head chopped off—dat's whut!"

Her Strong Touch.

From the Chicago News.

"My daughter's music teacher says she is making fine progress now. At first we were afraid that she wouldn't have strength enough but she's developing a wonderful muscle."

"Yes, I heard her practicing this morning and it struck me then that you had made a wise choice when you decided to have her become a pianist. You see, if she doesn't succeed at that she can turn to the tub and make a good living any time."

A Coming Terror.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Strong-minded woman (pointing to article in paper)—"Sir, did you write that?"

Terror-stricken editor—"Y—yes, madam. I—I wrote it."

Strong-minded woman—"It meets my approval exactly. It is seldom one meets a person of your sex capable of such just discrimination. Will you marry me, sir?"

Placing Him.

From Truth.

"Yes, grandma, when I graduate I intend following a literary career—write for money, you know."

"Why, Willie, my dear, you haven't done anything else since you have been at college."

What He Thought He Thought.

From the Chicago News.

Chapleigh—"I think that I can think better when I have a cigarette in my mouth."

Cantor—"Perhaps you can, but that certainly doesn't make other folks think better—of you."

War Discussion.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

Weary Watkins—"Friend, what is coal bunkers?"

Hungry Higgins—"I dunno, less'n its blokes that bunks in coal bins."

A Plaint.

"I would, indeed I would, you know,"
The youthful husband said,
"My wishes had an equal weight
With Evalina's bread."

—Indianapolis Journal.

APRIL IN NEW ENGLAND.

Now while the pale arbutus in our wood
Wakes to faint life beneath the dead year's leaves
And the bleak North lets loose its wailing broods
Of winds upon us, and the gray sea grieves
Along our coast; while yet the Winter's hand
Heavily presses on New England's heart,
And Spring averts the sunshine of her eyes
Lest some vain cowslip should untimely start
While we are house in this rude season's glom
In this rude land,
Bereft of warmth and bloom,
We know, far off beneath the Southern skies,
. . . Flush blossoms mock our drifts of snow,
And the lithe vine unfolds its emerald sheen
On many a sunny hillside there.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich.

THE BALLAD OF THE BOAT.

The stream was smooth as glass, we said, "Arise and let's away";
The Siren sang beside the boat that in the rushes lay;
And spread the sail, and strong the oar, we gaily took our way.
When shall the sandy bar be cross'd? When shall we find the bay?

The broadening flood swells slowly out o'er cattle-dotted plains,
The stream is strong and turbulent, and dark with heavy rains;
The laborer looks up to see our shallop speed away.
When shall the sandy bar be cross'd? When shall we find the bay?

Now are the clouds like fiery shrouds; the sun, superbly large,
Slow as an oak to woodman's stroke, sinks flaming at their marge.
The waves are bright with mirror'd light as jacinths on our way.
When shall the sandy bar be cross'd? When shall we find the bay?

The moon is high up in the sky, and now no more we see
The spreading river's either bank, and surging distantly
There booms a sullen thunder as of breakers far away.
Now shall the sandy bar be cross'd, now shall we find the bay.

The seagull shrieks high overhead, and dimly to our sight
The moonlit crests of foaming waves gleam towering through the night.
We'll steal upon the mermaid soon, and start her from her lay,
When once the sandy bar is cross'd, and we are in the bay.

What rises white and awful as a shroud-enfolded ghost?
What roar of rampant tumult bursts in clanger on the coast?
Pull back! pull back! The raging flood sweeps every oar away.
O stream, is this thy bar of sand? O boat, is this the bay?

—R. Garnett.

AN APRIL PRAYER.

Lord, to thy signal-light the trees
In leaf and flower reply:
Let not my heart, more dull than these,
Alone unwakened lie.

—John B. Tabb.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

A prominent New York Episcopal church announces that it will not use Easter lilies for decorative purposes this year. The notice naturally created a stir. It was explained by a member of the church, who said that every Easter for several years past one or more women who were members of the choir had fainted in the course of the services and had to be taken from the church. These attacks had been attributed to the heavy, sweet odor of the lilies which were placed in the chancel. To avoid a repetition of such scenes, it was decided not to decorate the church with Easter lilies as formerly.

Here is Richard Le Gallienne's description of the way he got through the New York custom house: "My wife had but one new hat—she said. She was sure there could be no need to examine that! Oh, but our Mark Twain of an exciseman was just dying to see it. 'And I'm sure,' he said, 'you're just longing for a sight of it yourself, after all this time and your terrible passage across.' How could one deny him? 'Well, it's a beaut,' he said, 'a perfect beaut! Now I'm sure you're grateful to me for another look at it.' And I'm sure she was. So did we pass the dreaded American customs."

In future all students and servants of the University of Freiburg will be insured against any accident that may befall them within the precincts of the university, or in any excursion undertaken under the auspices of the professors. In case of death the scale of payment reaches as much as 15,000 marks; temporary disablement is provided for by suitable allowances, and the policy covers risks incurred even through gymnastics or dueling. The explanation of this appears to be that Freiburg has lost much of its old popularity, owing to theological squabbles.

The new spring stationery, it is said, is exactly the opposite in every respect to that of last autumn. The sheets are long and narrow; some are ten inches long by five wide; the envelopes are square. The colors are all pale or natural tints. Certain patriotic dealers are selling white linen paper, each sheet decorated with tri-colored pennant, each quire tied up with red, white and blue ribbons. The boxes in which the paper is enclosed are large, solid, white affairs with a colored picture of some ship of the ex-white squadron on the cover.

Mr. Gladstone has invented an excellent thing for the library—half screen, half bookcase. It is described as holding "the maximum of books in the minimum of space." It is made of light wood and enameled white, has shelves in front for holding 400 books, and the back is covered with tapestry like an ordinary screen. It is easily movable and is exceedingly useful in limited quarters.

One of the most peculiar effects of the present tension was noticed by the president of the American Spirits Company in New York the other day. He declares that there is an unprecedented demand for spirits for drinking purposes, and he attributes the increased thirst of the masses to the continued excitement over our trouble with Spain.

One of the curiosities which will be exhibited at the Omaha exposition is a handkerchief owned by Miss Helen D. Williams, of Louisville. It was intended originally as a present for the Empress Eugenie, and the two Swiss women, who were forced to use a microscope in its manufacture, went blind after completing the handkerchief.

Literature says that Dr. Conan Doyle is busily engaged on a dramatic version of "Sherlock Holmes," which is destined for production at the Lyceum theater, with Sir Henry Irving in the part of the great detective. The play will not adhere rigidly to the lines familiar to readers of the stories.

As a recipient of gifts the Chicago university continues to lead the procession. At last week's quarterly convocation announcement was made in quite ordinary course that further sums aggregating $320,000 had been left to the institution. One gift of over $140,000 came from a donor whose name was kept back.

The true story of Thomas A. Edison's deafness has recently been told. When a young lad the inventor was watching a freight train at a railway depot. As a joke one of the train crew lifted the boy off his feet by his ears, which resulted in rupturing both ear drums and causing incurably defective hearing.

Harry L. Freeman, a negro of Cleveland, has composed several operas of considerable merit, as well as other music. At the present he is engaged upon four operas, all linked together in story and music. Freeman will go to Europe shortly to attend the big conservatories.

There seems to be a wide difference of opinion as to the severity of the California earthquake, but the fact that the twenty and twenty-five