The Kansas City Journal.

ESTABLISHED 1854.

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Weather Forecast for Saturday.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 16.—For Oklahoma and Indian Territory: Threatening weather; variable winds.

For Nebraska: Partly cloudy; southerly winds.

For Missouri: Threatening weather, with rain in southeast portion; southerly winds.

For Kansas and Colorado: Partly cloudy; variable winds.

THAT REFERENDUM.

As usual!

The Kansas Pops have given everybody the earache by their racket over the "initiative and referendum." Not many members of Leedy's flock have been able to pronounce these long words, fewer still have been able to spell them, and now we know that practically none of them knows what they mean.

The initiative and referendum means that representatives of the people shall propose a measure and then refer it to the people for their approval or rejection.

The Kansas Pops in their state convention proposed war on railroads. All through the campaign the Leedy chin whisker flickered in the breeze as he fulminated against the great red dragon of transportation. "Vote for me and the others," he screamed, "or the railroad men of the country will murder you, burn your homes, and sell your wives and children into bondage!" Some of the Leedyites out-Leedied Leedy in talk of this kind, and not a voter in the state had any chance to overlook the railroad question as a matter to be voted on.

One would naturally suppose this to be an "initiative" and a "referendum" in most perfect form. So it was. The people so understood it and cast their votes accordingly. They voted against the Leedy idea. They voted against the proposition to rip the railroads up the back. They voted against the proposition to put the railroads of Kansas again into the hands of receivers. They voted to let the railroads alone except as now regulated, and to turn the authors of this "initiative" out of office. This is how the people voted.

But what does Leedy care how the people voted? In Leedy's opinion the "referendum" is a humbug to be used only for bait. The people must be dehorned. They had no right to vote as they pleased. They must be hauled up with a curb bit. And so a special session of the legislature only thirty days before the regular session arranged for by the people!

Consistency, thou art no Pop!

STONE AND BRYAN.

William J. Stone is out with another emphatic denial that he has repudiated the Chicago platform and Bryanism. He protests that he has not fixed up a job with Richard Croker for the abandonment of silver as an issue—in fact, that he has never seen the Tammany boss.

If there is any one thing in the air calculated to show conclusively that Stone is no longer for Bryan, nor for Democracy as represented by Bryan, it is the evasive character of Stone's own disclaimers. It will be observed that in his latest denial he does not once indorse Bryan for a second nomination. He stands for the Chicago platform, principally because he helped make it, no doubt; but he does not vouch for Bryanism as it has developed since the last presidential campaign—as expressed by Bryan himself at this time. Stone's nearest approach to Bryan personally is to declare that the Democratic party of the United States is the same party that supported Bryan and that it still stands for the Chicago platform. This is cold comfort for Mr. Bryan, and does not prevent the addition to that platform of a Stone plank on expansion, with Stone as the nominee.

Stone and Bryan have drifted far apart, designedly or otherwise, and there are many who believe that the severance was due to the far seeing ambition and deliberate manipulation of Stone. But it is certain that Stone is emphatically for expansion and Bryan is uncompromisingly against it. It remains to be seen whose plank will go into the next Democratic platform. Meanwhile Stone cannot be for Bryan and expansion at the same time, and his weak pretense of friendliness to the ambitions of the Nebraskan is amusing, to say the least.

THE VOLUNTEER SOLDIERS.

There is likely to be little opposition to the mustering out of the volunteer soldiers at the earliest practicable moment. There is more danger that an effort will be made unduly to hasten the discharge of the men in this branch of the service. President McKinley, in his message, expressed sympathy for the volunteers who desired to return home, and believed it the duty of the government to muster them out as soon as possible, since their enlistment was only for the war.

There is no reason to believe, however, that the president contemplated any procedure that would dangerously weaken the armed force of the country. His recommendations for an increase in the regular army accompanied those for the return of the volunteers. Until there is a considerable enlargement of the standing army, volunteers will be needed to garrison the new possessions and to protect the country. Under a strict interpretation of existing laws it is in order at once to reduce the standing army from 55,000 to 25,000 men, the latter number being the quota provided for before the special war legislation. If this reduction be made, provision for permanent enlargement of the army must also be made before all of the volunteers are mustered out.

It is easily possible, too, that too much attention is given to the various instances of homesickness among the volunteer soldiers in the Philippines and the West Indies. There are many such cases, no doubt, and yet for every volunteer who wants to come home there are ten at home who would be ready and anxious to take his place. Hence there is no reason to make the duty of this service irksome, even if a comparatively large volunteer army must be maintained for some time to come.

UNCLE SAM HAS A DIFFERENT SYSTEM.

In treating the settlement made at Paris the Spanish papers are far less exercised over the loss of Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines than over the refusal of the United States to assume the Cuban and Philippines debt. In a long article the Epoca, of Madrid, gives a resume of every treaty signed since 1797 to show that the victor in every war assumed the debt pertaining to the ceded territory. Here is the list of treaties cited by this Spanish paper:

France assumes the debt of the provinces ceded to her by Austria in 1797.

France and Bavaria, 1801.

Denmark and Sweden, 1814.

France, Austria, Great Britain, Prussia and Russia, 1814.

Five other treaties belonging to the same epoch.

Mexico and Spain, 1836.

Belgium and The Netherlands, 1839.

Eight treaties between Spain and her lost South American countries.

France and Austria, 1866.

Austria, Prussia and Denmark, 1864.

Six other treaties down to 1878, when Bulgaria assumed her own debt on becoming independent.

We assume that the facts are as stated, and that in each of these instances the victor took over some portion of the debt issued on or secured by the territory ceded. But this does not alter the circumstance that the United States does not do business that way, nor the further circumstance that in a number of wars cited the victors exacted cash payments from the defeated. It has come to be an international usage that the victor is warranted in collecting from the defeated a large part or the whole of his war expenses, and it was through the application of this principle that Japan lately exacted from China, with the consent of all the nations of the earth, gold payments equal in amount to nearly or quite the sums expended in war on the Japanese side. An investigation of some of the treaties cited will show that the victors received cash payments in sums exceeding the amount of debts assumed, and if the United States had decided to exact from Spain the amounts expended in the war there would have been nothing in the performance contrary to international law. In the Franco-Prussian war Prussia exacted not only large grants of territory, but also the payment of $1,000,000,000, for which she returned nothing in the way of an assumption of national debt.

In the war with Spain the United States elected to exact nothing in the way of cash indemnity, but, on the contrary, to pay Spain for public improvements on the lands which rightfully might have been taken as the spoils of war. In the case of Cuba the United States asked nothing and got nothing except the knowledge of having released a neighboring people from the curse of tyranny. Every acquisition of territory which has come to the United States during the past century was through sale and purchase, and the deal with Spain whereby we purchase her rights in the Philippines and Porto Rico is not inharmonious with our national policy. The cheapness of the price has nothing to do with the principle, and history will record the transfer as a bargain and not a conquest.

All in all, it may be said that Spain got off cheaply from a war of her own provoking. The obligations which she calls the Cuban and Philippines debt were in reality a Spanish debt, incurred not for the advantage or betterment of these islands, but to enable the Spanish to force the natives deeper into slavery. Had they represented the sums expended in preserving a good island government or in developing the resources of these provinces, the moral aspect of the case would take a different hue and there might be some justice in claiming that they followed the transfer of ownership and authority; but when it is remembered that these obligations stand for nothing except the money spent by a corrupt government in maintaining a ferocious tyranny, there can be no feeling that Spain has been outraged by the Paris treaty. She danced, and now she must pay the fiddler.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Young Collins has confessed to so many lies that it is doubtful if the jury would believe him if he pleaded guilty.

The country is making a most creditable effort to feel as secure since Colonel Bryan's resignation as it did before.

Mr. Vest shows a disposition to use up all the congressional punching bags before the session gets fairly started.

President McKinley is taking occasion to put an extra coat of varnish on that last summer's job of sectional cementing.

Just what the Spanish term for "Merry Christmas" is we are not informed, but it will not be extensively used this year.

Those who are predicting a Democratic landslide in 1900 have got their terms confused. They evidently mean a toboggan slide.

Mr. Andrew Carnegie seems to have paused for reply. Is it possible that nobody is going to take Mr. Carnegie seriously?

Calvin Brice did large business and did it in a large way. He rarely higgled over the price of a branch road or an Ohio legislature.

Perhaps, after all, it is fitting that the public career of a man like John W. Leedy should end in an act of official folly and political infamy.

Congressman DeArmond has demonstrated that Speaker Reed is the same unpleasant thing to butt one's head against that he was last winter.

Kansas City police should be careful not to run over the humble footpads in their mad dash for unprotected gamblers. Some of these men have families.

"A dried-up little old man," is the way a correspondent describes General Wheeler. Congress would be much improved if some other Democratic members would dry up.

It is safe to say that if the country is to start the new century with a Republican president, those Georgia people would just as lief William McKinley should be the man.

General Shafter's reference to the recent unpleasantness as "a war with one of the great powers of Europe" can be charged up to oratorical license. Few popular orators—not even Mr. Bryan—are always accurate in statement.

Some of the Populist members of the Kansas legislature would be more enthusiastic over the special session call if they were sure Boyd and Toucher would be there.

Because he wasn't on the ground, or for some other reason, the Hon. Paramount Blount failed to respond to President McKinley's inquiry, "Who will haul it down?"

That low, rumbling sound you hear in the dark hours of the early morning is the noise of police wagons bringing in the piles of dead footpads slain by the police during the night.

In Governor Leedy's opinion, the initiative and referendum are all right as platform decorations, but are entitled to no respect whatever as guides to executive and legislative action.

As soon as those Chicago aldermen who were frightened into being honest can quit quaking they will begin to boil over with indignation that anybody should suspect them of moral weakness.

The report that Colonel Bryan has gone to Washington for the purpose of expounding the constitution to congress is hardly creditable. Colonel Bryan knows that Statesman Bailey is at his post of duty.

KANSAS TOPICS.

There is a restaurant in Topeka where most of the professional and business men congregate to take their midday meal. The sturdiest eater among them all is ex-Chief Justice Horton. He can tackle mince pie or pate de fois gras with equal assurance of immunity. And yet up to the age of 35 Judge Horton was sick most of the time and had to nurse his stomach as tenderly as a house plant. Now, at 61, he can eat like a hired man and at all times enjoys the best of health. There must be a moral in this somewhere, but Judge Horton says it just happened that way and is based on no system of diet or habit.

* * *

Bent Murdock says that if he had the job of reforming the taxation laws of Kansas he could make them all right by the addition of matter not exceeding three sticks of type, said matter to contain the provision that all property must be taxed at its cash value. Inasmuch as the laws of Kansas already provide that property shall be taxed at its cash value, Brother Murdock will be permitted to pull down his stack and bet it on another card.

* * *

When a thing can't happen anywhere else it happens in Newton, as hereinafter set forth by the Republican: "Miss Alice Strain, a waiter at the Clark hotel, is suffering to-day from an overdose of hasheesh, which was taken by mistake. About 8 o'clock this morning she took three tablets, each containing an eighth of a grain of hasheesh, under the impression that they were pills. In a short time she was affected by the powerful drug and seemed drunk from its effects. At times she appeared to be sleepy and at other times seemed to see visions. No bad results will follow."

* * *

Which reminds us of another story. In Topeka there is a Christian Science doctor who writes pieces to the effect that drugs have no power at all, and that their apparent effects are simply the product of fancy. The other night he got up to get a drink of water and by mistake seized a glass containing a mixture of water and carbolic acid. The neighbors say that from the noise this scientific gentleman made about that time he must be possessed of a very exuberant fancy.

* * *

Of the girl stowaway who accompanied the Twentieth Kansas to Hawaii, the Honolulu Star says: "Miss Sadie White, the young woman who dressed in a soldier's uniform and came down on the Indiana, has gone to work at the New England bakery and will live with Mrs. Hopkins, on Vineyard street. Miss White is a native of Illinois, but has been away from home since she was 14 years of age."

* * *

The-bear-is -gone,-so -come -out- of-the-brush item from the Emporia Gazette: A good many girls in Emporia who have received letters from Evan Griffith, offering them marriage, will be glad to learn that he has at last found a wife. He was married in Admire to Lizzie Shaffer. Mr. Griffith has probably proposed to half the girls in Emporia. He returned to this place with his bride yesterday and went to the home of his mother, two miles west of Soden's bridge, where they will live.

* * *

"Does the lieutenant governor of Kansas get a vote in the state senate?" queries a Kansas correspondent. Section 12, article 1, of the constitution says: "The lieutenant governor shall be president of the senate and shall vote only when the senate is equally divided." Section 13, article 11, says: "A majority of all the members elected to each house, voting in the affirmative, shall be necessary to pass any bill or joint resolution." In reconciling these sections the supreme court has held that the lieutenant governor may vote in case of a tie during parliamentary proceedings, but that he has no vote on the final passage of any bill or joint resolution.

* * *

Our correspondent continues as follows: "What I want to know is this: The senate being composed of forty senators, can twenty Populist senators, with the Populist lieutenant governor, pass a bill?" This question is answered by the second constitutional clause quoted. Every bill must have the affirmative vote of at least twenty-one senators.

* * *

It has been asserted by Governor Leedy, Taylor Riddle and John Breidenthal, and all the rest of the state house crowd that the purpose of calling the special session of the Kansas legislature was to enable the Populist majority to pass the laws pledged to the people by the Populist platform of 1896. This platform contained just nine pledges, as follows:

Maximum freight rate bill.
Taxation of foreign judgments.
Prevention of convict labor competition.
Stronger penalties for usury.
Reduction in rates of interest.
Taxation of all credits.
Anti-Pinkerton law.
Exemption of wages from garnishment.
Election of railroad commissioners by popular vote.

These are all of the pledges made in the Abilene platform of 1896, and but two of them were redeemed by the legislature of 1897—one being the taxation of judgments, and the other an anti-Pinkerton law, the first of which has been declared unconstitutional and the second of which is of no consequence whatever. It might be supposed, then, that the special session was called for the purpose of redeeming the seven remaining pledges. On the contrary not a single bill has been proposed up to this date which has for its object the fulfillment of one of these pledges, unless it may be the measure which provides for the election of the railroad commissioners by popular vote. It is understood that Leedy's star chamber railroad bill provides for this proceeding, but in every other respect it violates the pledges of the Abilene platform, which declared unequivocally for a maximum rate bill, while Leedy's measure provides for something else. The Populists have announced their intention of passing a long line of bills on banking, insurance, civil service, prohibition and other of the most important interests of Kansas, about which no plank has ever appeared in any political platform and which therefore have never been passed upon by the people. In addition to bills upon new subjects which have never been under discussion it is proposed by this special session to pass bills which have been condemned by a large majority of the people of Kansas in their sovereign capacity. Thus we find Governor Leedy demanding the passage of a railroad bill which was voted down by the people of Kansas at the election of 1896. The Populist platform of 1898 presented this railroad bill as its most important issue and the people of Kansas declared against it in no uncertain tones. The vote which condemned Leedy and the rest of the Populist ticket condemned the very bill which is now about to be forced upon the people, and if Leedy should call out the militia and by sheer force of arms retain himself in the governor's chair he would be guilty of no greater violence against the spirit of our institutions than is the deed which he is now urging on the legislature.

But anti-railroad legislation is not the thing which the people of Kansas have most to fear. There is a power above the legislature of Kansas which is able to protect the railroads against the imposition of injustices, and they may be trusted to care for their own interests. But there is no power to protect the people of Kansas from the reckless legislation which they may impose upon themselves. In yesterday's news reports we were coolly informed by Bank Commissioner John Breidenthal that within three days after the assembly of a special session it would pass his banking bill, making the state of Kansas responsible for all the deposits in Kansas banks, good banks, bad banks, wildcats and all. When and where have the people of Kansas had an opportunity to measure and weigh this proposed legislation? At the best it is but the hasty product of the mind of a single man, whose career has not been of a character to inspire the public with confidence in his financial ability, and yet he proposes to shove this one-man measure through the legislature without debate or amendment, and denies arrogantly the right of any citizen to raise objection. And what is true of this banking bill is also true of most of the measures we find exploited in the published programme. For the greater part they seem to be the product of prejudice run mad. They could never become laws in the cool judgment of any people, and to get upon the statute book they must appeal to the vengeful recklessness of a legislative mob.

MISSOURI POINTS.

St. Louis judges, according to the Springfield Republic, are now compelled to keep an arsenal on their desks to protect themselves against the wild and woolly lawyers of that city.

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Joy over the near approach of the gladsome Christmastide in Rich Hill is tempered somewhat with apprehensive dread. A home talent company threatens the local public with a presentation of "Hamlet."

* * *

Missouri's senior senator is keeping very quiet during the "imperialism" travail of his colleague, but intimations from Washington are to the effect that the garden seed industry is being pushed with unremitting vigor.

* * *

One of Cameron's prominent lawyers ought to be in a suitable frame of mind for enjoying his Christmas turkey. He recently received a fee of $3,000 in cash and nearly 2,000 acres of land as pay for his services in an important Texas law suit just determined.

* * *

Bethany's patriotic and enterprising populace gathered in one of the churches Sunday afternoon for the inauguration of a movement for aiding in the erection of a suitable monument to the fallen heroes of the American army and navy. General Prentiss, of Shiloh fame, presided and eloquently urged the forwarding of the good work, and he was ably seconded by Judge Alvord and other prominent citizens. The sentiment of the assemblage was unanimously favorable to the project, and a handsome contribution was secured.

* * *

Here is a suggestion by one of its country correspondents in the Bethany Tribune which would beyond doubt have driven the "wise men of Dawson" to drink, if not indeed to distraction, had it reached the ears of those distinguished savants at the time they were wrestling with Pudd'nhead Wilson's "dog" proposition: "George Cornelius has traded his corn crop of twenty acres to John Triplett for a yearling mule. We think George had better trade a half of the mule for feed to keep the other half alive until grass comes."

* * *

George Trigg, of the Richmond Conservator, casts his eagle eye over the between-the-devil-and-the-deep-sea situation that confronts his Democratic brethren with reference to the expansion question, and sizes up one interesting phase of it thus: "Ex-Governor Stone is an expansionist, or was at the Springfield convention, and W. J. Bryan is an anti-expansionist. One or the other will have to surrender his opinion or the two Willies will have to part blankets. The country will watch for further developments and see which one flops." In the meantime the genial George, personally, shows no disposition to abandon his more or less comfortable roosting place on the fence.

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A brochure, by Mary Foote Henderson, the gifted wife of ex-Senator J. B. Henderson, of Missouri, on a proposed new White House, to be located on Meridian hill, has been distributed at the capitol. It presents, a Washington paper says, a half-tone of the proposed structure, the entrance combining certain features of that of the capitol on the west side and the entrance of the new library of congress. The style of the White House, as designed, would be classic, or rather the American adaptation of the Roman classic, as first evolved in the capitol, the Seventh street general postoffice, and more recently in the congressional library. One wing of the building would be devoted exclusively to the president and the other wing for the entertainment of visitors. The entrance to the mansion would be in the center of the building, bringing one into a broad, vaulted hall, whose arches are gracefully sustained by columns. On one side the entrance three reception rooms open from the hall and lead into the East room, following a tradition of the old White House. The plans are made in detail for an elaborate structure. Beside the outline of the plan, which is addressed "To the Congress of the United States," nine large drawings and two large paintings have been sent to the committee rooms of public buildings and grounds. The site proposed, between Fourteenth and Sixteenth streets and between U and Huron streets, is said to have been favored by Senator Foote, of Vermont, a distinguished senator of war times, who was often active in debate and who was once chairman of the committe on public buildings and grounds.

* * *

Senator Vest, in his anti-expansion crusade, misrepresents a very large number of his Democratic constituents, without question. Thousands think as does Colonel Barbee, of the Ash Grove Commonwealth, who says: "As for us, we have ideas of our own. Our duty is to our people and not to a lot of old line politicians, be they Democrats or Republicans. The man who can't see the dawn of a new era, of a greater United States, each sovereign in its reserved powers, but all more powerful in the world's affairs. We can't take a backward step if we wanted to. Lift up the gates of the heathen and the oppressed. Send to them the lights of liberty and justice. Human gratitude will open the door for civilization and trade."

* * *

Among the fifty or more prisoners in the Jasper county jail, at Carthage, there are several men, the Press says, who rank much above the average of those outside the prison walls in mechanical skill, educational attainments, etc. One who is confined on a charge of forgery is a born sculptor. With broomsticks, cows' horns and small gas pipe for material and a jack knife, a file and a few scraps of sand paper for tools, he carves canes that are really artistic. The walking sticks are sometimes decorated with pictures of beautiful faces, the models for which are cut from the metropolitan Sunday dailies. Little does a fair society girl, of Carthage, whose likeness recently embellished the social columns of a St. Louis paper, think that her sparkling eyes and dimpled cheeks will next appear on a broomstick cane, fashioned by a prisoner awaiting trial on a charge of felony. The canes make queer additions to curio collections, and the maker finds ready sale for his work. The proceeds go toward buying tobacco and little table delicacies that do not come in the regular jail menu. Another prisoner, also held for forgery, is an adept with a shading pen, in fact upon the use of it depended his livelihood before he went wrong. With inks of many hues he prints scrolls containing advertisements. The trusties carry them out for him and sell them to the merchants; several of them may be seen in the windows of Carthage business men. He thus makes a good many dimes while doing time. Deputy Sheriff Jeff Plummer has a shining star which was made from a silver dollar and presented to him by his Carterville friends when he left that city and came to Carthage. It bore the inscription, "J. D. Plummer, Deputy Sherriff." One of the prisoners, who is something of an engraver, has polished the star down and has neatly re-engraved it and spelled "sheriff" correctly.

Some Timely Suggestions.

From the Chicago Post.

The beautiful season of the year is at hand when we are made to realize that it is more blessed to give than to receive, though it may be a trifle more inconvenient. In view of the acknowledged fact that the annual Christmas holdup will be very extensively observed this year in consequence of the extreme rosiness that proclaims the dawn of prosperity, it may be well to keep in mind a few general and important rules. First of all, in making presents to dear friends do not mark or disfigure them in such a manner as to prevent exchange. Have the consideration so to adapt your gifts that in case Mrs. Jones does not fancy the token she receives Christmas eve from Mrs. Smith she may send it Christmas morning to Mrs. Brown. Be particularly careful in the manner of gifts of books. Do not cut the leaves or write the friend's name on the fly leaf, as this will prevent him from exchanging a book he does not wish for a book he very earnestly desires. We know a book lover who received one Christmas morning three copies of the somewhat expensive "Book Hunter in London," and all were spoiled for exchange purposes by elaborate inscriptions. Send your book to your friend with your card, and if he wishes your autograph he will request it with proper formality. Inasmuch as we have reduced this Christmas business to a practical basis we should carry it to its logical conclusion. A book is the riskiest gift one can make, although with proper care it is the best. With what joy the reading man receives $5 or $10 worth of books on the blessed Christmas day, knowing that, while he would not have them at any price, he will have the delight of exchanging them for other books conformable to his tastes! For what are the delights of Christmas shopping as compared with the happiness of after-Christmas swapping?

National Honor at Stake.

From the Philadelphia Press.

With the signing of the treaty of peace, the United States comes into the full responsibility of keeping order and protecting life and property in the annexed islands south of this country or in the Pacific.

Past annexation brought no such burden. The acquisition of vast stretches of uninhabited waste involved no risks and no fears of disorder. The territory of Louisiana, of Florida, of Oregon and that from Mexico could be safely left to its own development. The United States never pretended to police these vast tracts. The settler was left to do that. Indian wars came from time to time; but, as the West knows far better than the East, Indian tribes often went on for years with their depredations before they were rounded up. A responsible police over its territories this country has never had. No country has ever done so little to keep order over its waste tracts. Australia, Canada and Great Britain, over thinly settled areas in South Africa and Malaysia, have done far more.

All this easy fashion is now over for the United States. Our new possessions are not empty, but full. If Tagalo insurgents are torturing friars near Iloilo the United States is responsible and has got to stop it. If Malay proas are returning to piracy along Palawan in the absence of Spanish gunboats, it will be henceforth our business. If there are bandits in Porto Rico or bands of armed men in Cuba who precipitate riot, as nearly happened at Havana, the entire civilized world will bring this country to its bar and condemn it as disgracefully unable to discharge the duties of a civilized power, which, when it takes territory, has not the ability or conscience to keep it in order.

This disgraceful thing will happen if congress does not promptly enlarge the army and provide native troops. There is no reason now why these native troops should not be raised, armed and paid from local revenues. Every other country with dependencies has such troops, and this country should. But sufficient white troops are a necessity which congress must provide. Long delay over the army bill will be fatal. It will breed a national disgrace. It will begin a habit of brigandage not easily suppressed. Any day there may come in the Philippines or in Cuba—scarcely in Porto Rico—some appalling outrage due to insufficient forces, for which this country, and this country alone, will be responsible before the world.

Books That Sell.

From the Chicago Record.

If the proof of a book is in the reading and the number of books read can be estimated from the number sold, there is a curious value in the list of "best-selling books" published from time to time by an Eastern literary journal. A recent list, for instance, shows that in two cities of the Union there was a greater demand for Anthony Hope's "Rupert of Hentzau" than for any other book. In New York, Boston and Philadelphia, Mrs. Humphry Ward's "Helbeck of Bannisdale" came well up toward the top of the list, while the other books which were selling well were Kate Douglas Wiggin's "Caleb West, Master Diver," Richard Harding Davis' "The King's Jackal," and "The King's Henchman," by William Henry Johnson. Miss Wilkins' "Silence and Other Stories" was having a fair sale, but neither that book nor S. R. Crockett's "The Standard Bearer" was in so much demand as the other works named.

There could hardly be a wider divergence of taste than is denoted in this incongruous assortment. It is a big jump from the ascetic problem-hunting of Mrs. Ward to the tin salers and comical heroics of Anthony Hope. It is quite as long a leap from the arid romance of the Davis book to the exceeding naturalism of Miss Wilkins. Taken altogether, moreover, it is highly improbable that any one of the works mentioned, barring possibly Mrs. Ward's book, will loom very large on the literary horizon when the whole year's output is taken into consideration. At first glance it would seem that they attained their popularity for no particular reason to be deduced by logical processes. Leaving out of account the readers who are sure to buy any book so long as it is talked about, the reading public would seem to have made its choice haphazard.

The truth is that the phrase "reading public" is a misnomer. There is no reading public; there are several reading publics, and it is the difference in their tastes which makes it possible for Rudyard Kipling and Laura Jean Libbey, Thomas Hardy and Anthony Hope all to flourish and sell their wares at the same time. Any list of "best-selling books" may be regarded as having more value as an indication of the queer variety of these elements than as a sign of the intrinsic merit or importance of the books themselves.

Moth-Eaten Massachusetts.

From the New York Sun.

While the Boston and Springfield anti-imperialists are passing their days and nights in signing petitions and writing letters to Mr. McKinley, those ancient enemies of Massachusetts, the gypsy moth and the brown-tailed moth, are preparing to expand and ravage. It is a sad fact that Massachusetts, which is always trying to save the rest of the country and the world, cannot save herself. Gypsy and brown-tail are too much for her. She howls for help. Her state board of agriculture will ask the legislature to ask congress for an appropriation to destroy gypsy and brown-tail. It is an old habit of Massachusetts to let the moths eat her up while she is lecturing, then to appeal to congress.

Congress will be obliged to tell the worthy old petitioner to help herself. Turn against the moths the energy and the funds which the Anti-Imperialist League and the Massachusetts Reform Club are now turning against the Philippines. Form an Anti-Moth-Expansion League. Stop worrying about the brown Malays and fight the brown-tailed moths. If the legislature will appropriate a small sum and authorize the Hon. Aladdin Atkinson to furnish a daily table d'hote dinner to the moths, they will leave the state at once. Better emigration than torture.

Massachusetts has packed herself away among the old clothes of old prejudices, while the rest of the country is marching on. No wonder she is moth-eaten.

A Proper Precaution.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

If the Hon. Joseph H. Choate has written any poetry it should be carefully investigated by a committee of engineering experts and boiler inspectors before he is sent to the court of St. James. We must not disturb the concert of Europe with any more "Jim Bludsoe" versification.

In the Language of Flowers.

From the Atchison Globe.

In sending floral offerings to the Populist funeral in Topeka next Wednesday, an anchor will be most appropriate; there is no question that the Populist party has struck bottom.

Not an Aching Void.

From the Chicago News.

Judged by the way he talked after leaving the army, Colonel Bryan has a few political motives left in him.

When Dewey Comes to Town.

When Dewey comes to town, you bet,
There'll be a hot old time,
For drums'll beat an' horns 'll toot
An' welcoming bells 'll chime;
We'll wine him an' we'll dine him
An' take him up an' down,
Till he won't know what he's up against,
When
Dewey
Comes
To
Town!

Oh, the hero of Manila
Is a modest kind of peach,
An' like enough he'd stammer
If he had to make a speech;
But when it comes to fighting
He's entitled to the crown,
An' the folks 'll make him wear it,
When
Dewey
Comes
To
Town!

—New York Sun.

A Back Bay Maiden.

From Puck.

"Mine at last, and forever!" he exclaimed.

She suffered herself to be crushed in his warm embrace, somewhat sadly.

"Do you think these grants in perpetuity strictly consonant with the highest considerations of public policy?" she faltered, with charming naivette.

A Gentle Answer.

From the Harlem Life.

Mrs. Spatts (nee Gotrox)—"you're a perfect brute! I actually believe you married me simply because of my money."

Mr. Spatts—"Well, my dear, you'd hardly expect a man to take such an important step without some reason."

Santa Claus to Darktown.

From Truth.

The Pastor—"Well, Sissy, I hope yo' done got some Christmas presents?"

Sissy—"Oh, yes, sah! Santa Claus done brought dis hyah soap box an' daddy done fix it on de ole sled so de baby kin git a ride."

Brainy Men.

From Pick-Me-Up.

Lady—"Do you really think men have more brains than women?"

Man—"Some men, madame."

Lady—"Some? What men, pray!"

Man—"Single men."

Theological Discussion.

Yabsley—"Do you believe that heaven is a place of eternal rest?"

Mudge—"I don't know anything about it. I know, though, that eternal work would be—it wouldn't be heaven."

The Usual Question.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

The medium—"The spirit of your husband is here, if you wish to ask him any question."

The widow—"I want to ask him where he has been."

LOVE'S BLINDNESS.

Now do I know that Love is blind, for I
Can see no beauty on this beauteous earth,
No life, no light, no hopefulness, no mirth,
Pleasure nor purpose, when thou art not nigh.
Thy absence exiles sunshine from the sky,
Sees Spring's maturity, checks Summer's birth,
Leaves linnet's pipe as sad as plover's cry,
And makes me in abundance find but dearth.
But when thy feet flutter the dark, and thou
With Orient eyes dawnest on my distress,
Suddenly sings a bird on every bough,
The heavens expand, the earth grows less and less,
The ground is buoyant as the ether now,
And all looks lovely in thy loveliness.

—Alfred Austin, in National Review.

ELDER BLOSSOM AND BOBOLINK.

As I went up to beechwood, the bobolinks were singing
From elder blossom to elder blossom, along the bowered dells:
I breathed the bridal scent, and I took the merriment
Running into a rapid ripple and tinkle of falling bells;
For I knew I should return, and the sun was on the fells.

As I came back from beechwood, the bobolinks were singing
From elder blossom to elder blossom, and the melody broke my rest:
Bird and flower seemed to me tears and breath and memory;
Elder blossom and bobolink, like a grief, I took to breast,
For I knew I came no more. There was thunder in the west.

—J. Russell Taylor, in the Century.

CRISIS.

The surgeon tells me death is very near!
The feeble pulse still flutters with the same
Dim human fire—while one may almost hear
The Moving Finger searching for the name.

WILLIAM GRIFFITH.

OF CURRENT INTEREST.

Philadelphia is soon to have a club that, it is claimed, will lay in the shade anything in the unique line that any other city can show. It is to be a "pipe-smoking" affair strictly, and the nearest approach to it is a club recently organized in New York city, but which tolerates members who smoke cigars and cigarettes. The Philadelphia organization will bar from membership any person who uses cigars as a steady thing, and as for cigarettes they are relegated to the very lowest depths of depravity by the constitution, and by the oath taken by every member who will join the club. The object is to scientifically learn the use of a pipe, and how to burn tobacco properly. Every week a meeting will be held, and new brands of tobacco will be discussed, and the merits of this or that mixture will be considered. Those who have taken the matter in hand declare that in less than a year the clubroom will be fitted up with pipes from every quarter of the globe, and the rooms will not only be a cozy comfort, but will be of great historical value. Several of the proposed members have collections of pipes in their possession at present, which will form the nucleus of the new club's collection. The person who at the end of the first month submits the most readable and valuable essay on pipe smoking and tobacco will be chosen president. This competition will be open to all.

"The death of General Garcia will recall many incidents of his career as the leader of a forlorn hope, which are not generally known," remarked a Florida man the other night. "He was a man who had a tender side to his nature. A nephew of mine, who became imbued with the war spirit soon after Garcia's return to Cuba, served under the old veteran for nearly a year. One day a party of insurgents, with Garcia at their head, were riding along a rough road near Holguin, when they overtook an old woman bearing a heavy load of wood upon her head. The general saw her, and in a moment he had dismounted and taken the burden from the old woman. Despite her protests, he helped her upon his horse, and, calling to two of his soldiers, ordered one of them to carry the wood and the other to lead the horse. Then the party moved forward, and five miles further on the old woman was set down safely at the door of her humble home. She was profuse in her thanks, and offered the general half a dozen potatoes from her scanty stock of provisions."

Dust brought from the garden of Gethsemane three months ago was sprinkled the other day upon the grave of DeWitt C. Cregier, in Chicago. The ceremony was conducted by Apollo commandery, Knights Templar, of which Mr. Cregier had long been a member. The dust was used in much the same manner as at Gladstone's funeral, but hereafter at burials of the commandery's members an hourglass full of the imported earth will be placed in the coffin, and at the proper time, by the release of a spring, part of the contents will fall upon the grave. Emperor William took some of the precious dust with him when he left Palestine, but the sultan is said now to have forbidden the removal of any more. Apollo commandery is probably the only organization in America possessing the dust for regular use.

The American Economic Association will hold its eleventh annual meeting at New Haven on the 27th, continuing to the 29th of this month. Professor Hadley, of Yale, president of the association, will read an address at the opening on the relation between economics and politics, and other important papers will be presented by Professor Taussig, of Harvard, on the United States treasury situation from 1893 to 1897; by Professor J. C. Schwab, of Yale, on prices in the South during the war, and by Dr. Willoughby, of Washington, on the study of labor problems in France. The American Historical Association will hold its annual meeting at the same time and place.

Captain Sigsbee has a watch that has been submerged in salt water three times. It went down in Japanese waters years ago. At Bahia Honda, in 1878, when a Spanish pilot grounded his vessel, the Blake, it had another salt water bath, the vessel being flooded to prevent her pounding to pieces on the rocks. At Havana it went down with the Maine, but was recovered by a diver. When the war broke out and Captain Sigsbee took command of the St. Paul, he wisely left this watch at home, thinking it indiscreet to risk it again in Cuban waters.

Joseph Jefferson, when asked the other day why he never brought his dog "Schneider" upon the stage in "Rip Van Winkle," replied: "The public could not pay me a higher compliment than to want to see a dog it has only heard of. It shows interest in me. But I dislike realism in art, and realism alive, and with a tail to wag at the wrong time, would be embarrassing. Hold the mirror up to nature, if you like; but don't hold nature up. Give us a reflection of the thing, but not the concrete thing itself."

Rev. Dr. John Henry Barrows, the new president of Oberlin college, who once was a Congregational preacher and a county superintendent of public schools in Eastern Kansas, says of his younger days: "We never stayed long in one place, because my father, a preacher, was too strong an abolitionist to keep his views out of his sermons. Prejudice was as strong in Michigan as in Kansas."

Colonel Roosevelt will be the youngest Republican governor New York has ever had. He has just turned 40, while John A. King, the first Republican governor of New York, was 49 years of age when inaugurated. Edwin D. Morgan, his Republican successor, was 47; Reuben E. Fenton was 45, John A. Dix was 73, Alonzo B. Cornell was 47, Levi P. Morton was 70, and Frank S. Black was 43.

Calixto Garcia II., a 13-year-old son of the Cuban general who died in Washington last Saturday, has entered the West Chester, Pa., state normal school. For the past three years he has been a pupil in the public school and a boarding school in New York.