

THE SPOUTSPRING TIMES.

50 cents a year.

We are here to help Spoutspring, the surrounding country and ourselves.

J. E. Burgher, Jr., Publisher.

VOL. 3.

SPOUTSPRING, ESTILL COUNTY, KENTUCKY, SATURDAY, MAY 14, 1898.

NO. 16.

THE SPANISH CORTES.

Constitution and Characteristics of This Body.

There is a Vast Difference Between the Upper and Lower Houses—Tournaments of Speech.

The cortes are not, as generally supposed, merely the lower house of Spain's parliament, but comprise both chambers, the literal translation of the word "cortes" meaning "the courts." They may be said to owe their origin to King Joseph Bonaparte, who, in 1812, first provided the Iberian peninsula with a constitution, modeled on that of imperial France. Repealed on the Bourbon restoration, then revived again, suspended once more, and then recalled into vigor, it received its present form in 1876, on the restoration to the throne of the late King Alfonso. The lower house is elected by what is practically universal suffrage, and in the proportion of one deputy to every 50,000 male inhabitants, the qualification as a voter being held by every male Spaniard who is 25 years of age, who is in the enjoyment of his civil rights, and who has been a citizen of a municipality or rural community for two years.

The lower house is composed of about 450 deputies, who, unlike their fellow-legislators in every other country of Europe, save England, receive no salary, and are debarred by the terms of the constitution from holding government office or drawing pensions, the only exception made being that in the case of the members of the cabinet. It need not, from this, be imagined that the members of the lower house are prompted by purely patriotic motives to concede their time and their energy to the service of the nation. There are many pickings and prerogatives; besides which legislative influence is quite as profitable an article of barter and sale in Spain as in other more enlightened countries. Indeed, the vast majority of the members of the lower house are men who have gone into politics solely with the object of spoils in view.

The upper chamber, or senate, is infinitely more representative of the nation than the lower house, although it can scarcely be described as owing its origin to the suffrages of the people. It is composed of three classes—namely, the senators by their own right, that is to say: "Senadores de Derecho Propio," who must not exceed 80 in number; secondly, 160 life senators, nominated by the crown, and, thirdly, 180 senators elected by the so-called corporations of state, that is to say, by the communal and provincial assemblies, by the church, the universities, the academies, etc. The elected senators, therefore, equal in number the life senators nominated by the crown and the senators by their own right put together. The "Senadores de Derecho Propio" are composed of the heir-apparent to the throne, if he happen to be a man, the sons of the sovereign and members of the grandezza, titled or untitled, who can prove that they possess an annual income derived from land of at least \$15,000.

This practically restricts the senators in their own right to members of the reigning family and to the great landowners of the old aristocracy, that is to say, to people who may be regarded as having big material interests at stake, and who are in no sense of the word carpet-bag politicians, as are most of the members of the lower house. The second class of senators who owe their appointment to the crown are the captains-general of the army, the admirals of the navy, the cardinals and archbishops, the presidents of the council of state, of the supreme tribunal, of the tribunal of Cuentas del Reino, of the supreme councils of war and of marine, and of such other dignitaries of the kingdom as the sovereign may appoint

with the consent of the cabinet of the day. The other half of the senate, that is to say, those who owe their seat in the upper chamber to election, must be renewed by one-half every five years, and by totality every time that the monarch dissolves that particular part of the cortes.

The cortes are, in one sense of the word, the most characteristic of all Spanish institutions. The oratory is superb. Indeed, it may be doubted whether there is any people in the world that is possessed of such magnificent and soul-stirring eloquence as that of Spain. But it is not practical. To parody the old French saying: "It is magnificent, but it is not business." Words take the place of deeds. Tournaments of speech cause the people to lose sight of the practical objects at stake, and to such an extent are the debates in both chambers of the Cortes academic, and regarded in the light of a dramatic performance rather than actual business, that those who listen to the speakers, no matter whether from the seats of the members or from the galleries, actually lose sight of the real issues which are being discussed. Moreover, the effects of these streaks of eloquence, of these flights of oratory, are merely of a transient nature.—St. Louis Globe-Democrat.

Anthony Sauce.

Boil one medium-sized well-cleaned white onion ten minutes in water, remove and chop fine, then place the onion with half tablespoonful butter over the fire; add half bay leaf, one clove, six whole peppers; cook three minutes without browning; add half tablespoonful flour; stir and cook two minutes; add one cupful strained tomatoes (take canned tomatoes and rub them through a sieve); season with one-quarter teaspoonful salt, the same of sugar and one-eighth teaspoonful pepper; cook six minutes, rub the sauce through a fine sieve into another saucepan; mix the yolk of one egg with half cupful whipped cream and stir it in the sauce; stir a few moments over the fire and serve.—Brooklyn Eagle.

COMMON BLESSINGS.

They Are Not Sufficiently Appreciated by Most People.

The vast majority of people are apt to depreciate their blessings and exaggerate their misfortunes. All persons in health of mind and body must admit, whenever temporary sorrow may be theirs, that their blessings have been far greater than their misfortunes. It can be demonstrated to the most obstinate misanthrope that the greatest need of most persons is not greater blessings, but the power to appreciate the blessings we have. The things which refine and ennoble a nature, which lift the thoughts toward Heaven in a perpetual flood of gratitude are absolutely free. The love of the family, the joy in the company of sister, mother, father and brother are the greatest joys of the humblest and greatest among us. The infinite beauty of nature lies an open book for every one to read who can. The glory of shifting clouds and azure sky, the loveliness of the colors of the wild flower or of the lichen, and the song of the wild bird are absolutely free. It is only the grossness of our own natures and the hardness of our own hearts that are at fault if we fail to heed them.

God has given us these things free to refine our natures and win our hearts from selfish desires and gross worldly fear. These things that are free are full of infinite joy and infinite interest when we are able to understand them even in part. They are most valuable in lifting up the nature to the highest plane and teaching us to love those things that God loves rather than anything that wealth can buy or obtain. It is time to seek culture through other means when we have made best use of the means of culture which are spread out everywhere in the natural world. Wealth will not give us that pure heart that sees God in every part of the natural

world—in the grass beneath our feet and the creatures that fill the spaces of His universe.

We do not often think what a coarse, unloving world this would be if wealth was evenly distributed so that every one would have enough to gratify all his coarse tastes, and thus blot out the glory of the natural world. It is a fortunate thing that wealth is limited, even if it does not always seem to fall into the best hands. Such a power put into many hands would make sad havoc with the natural world. What we call enterprise has already done enough to destroy natural beauty, to uproot the wild flowers and drive away the wild bird. Wealth is in no way essential to a life of the greatest refinement. No man of wealth ever lived a life of such keen enjoyment and refinement as Thoreau in his lonely cabin in the Maine woods.—N. Y. Tribune.

THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN.

Said to Be Fast Disappearing in This Age of Specialists.

Another thing that must hurt the doctor's trade here is the passing of the family physician. Specialists abound in New York, but family physicians are fast disappearing, and promise presently to be as rare as hairy elephants. When you have a family physician, and like him, you call him in whenever there is anything the matter, and even if there is not much for him to do, you have the fun of advising with him and being reassured. But when you go to one wise man for croup, to another for gout, to another for dyspepsia, to another for headache and to half a dozen others for ailments too intricate to be set down, it's a different matter. You don't go to a specialist until you are sure there is something the matter. You have to wait until the symptoms get some development before you know what specialist to go to, and often enough, while you are waiting to find out, the whole disease peters out and mends itself.

In old times in New York when there were family physicians, when you suspected you were going to be ill, but were not sure, the family physician got the benefit of the doubt, but the specialist does not. Everyone who has had experience knows that that is true. To call in a familiar friend is one thing; to call in a distinguished but unfamiliar gentleman is another. The things that cause us most anxiety are things that never happen. The illnesses that brought physicians a large part—perhaps the most—of their pecuniary reward were illnesses that didn't really materialize. The family physician got the benefit of the vis medicatrix naturae. He got there in time to stand by and see it work. It was his friend and ally. The specialist benefits by it in less measure, for he is less promptly summoned and it is liable to finish up the job before he gets there.

The London Lancet has lately expressed its regret at the signs of the waning prestige and influence of the medical profession. That looks as if embarrassments had beset it in London also. There seems to be some reason to anticipate a time when New York families will contract with a syndicate of physicians—comprising a complete set of necessary specialists—for the supervision of the family health at a fixed annual price.—Harper's Weekly.

The Drink a Man Needs.

An average man requires 59 ounces of food per diem. He needs 37 ounces of water for drinking, and in breathing he absorbs 30 ounces of oxygen. He eats as much water as he drinks, so much of that fluid being contained in various foods. In order to supply fuel for running the body machine and make up for waste tissue he ought to swallow daily the equivalent of 20 ounces of bread, three ounces of potatoes, one ounce of butter and one quart of water. The body is mostly water. The body of a man weighing 154 pounds contains 96 pounds, or 46 quarts, of water.—Chicago Chronicle.

We Sell Goods

For a Profit

but the profit is so small that you can buy

Dry Goods, Notions, Shoes, Hats, Groceries, Hardware Tin-ware, Queensware

or anything we handle, for a great deal less money than ever before.

Our buyer has just returned from the city where he purchased a Complete and Select Line of goods and will make the Low Prices we have made sell the goods.

If we haven't got what you want, give us your order and we will get it for you.

Try our 10 and 12 cent Coffee.

Produce Always Wanted.

J. W. DAWSON & BRO.,

SPOUTSPRING, KY.

For**

All Kinds of

→JOB PRINTING←

see THE

TIMES

→OFFICE←

Quality of Work and Prices

Guaranteed.....