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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts on with to have rejected articles returned, they

must in all cases send stamps for that purpose,

Lincoln on the Authority of the Fathers.

During the anti-slavery contest that rent the nation, the authority of the fathers of the republic was constantly and confidently appealed to by the supporters of the slave power as a justification of the doctrine that man could lawfully hold property in man. The early abolitionists and, later on, the leaders of the young Republican party were swift to discover in the writings of WASHINGTON, ADAMS, FRANKLIN, JEFFERson and many other Revolutionary patriots arguments equally effective and con-

vincing on their side of the great argument. ABRAHAM LINCOLN, for instance, in the first address that he made before an Eastern audience, delivered at the Cooper Institute in February, 1860, made a most elaborate analysis of the attitude on the slavery question of the men who framed the Constitution and proved conclusively that a majority of the "thirty-nine fathers" who appended their names to the organic law of the Union clearly manifested by their votes in the early Congresses that followed that they were opposed to the extension of slavery. That speech was never successfully answered by the champions of the slave power. In the same address the martyr President formulated a rule in regard to the binding force of the "authority of the fathers" which has special and forceful application at the present time when so many native and foreign-born anti-expansionists are delving into the mildewed archives of a century and a quarter ago to find arguments against the manifest destiny of the republic in the twentieth century. Mr. LINCOLN said:

"I do not mean to say we are bound to follow imdicitly in whatever our fathers did. To do so would be to discard all the lights of current experience-to reject all progress, all improvement. What I do say Is that if we would supplant the opinions and policy our fathers in any case, we should do so upon evidence so conclusive, and argument so clear, that even their great authority, fairly considered and reighed, cannot stand."

Mr. Lincoln was discussing slavery. He had established his point beyond all refutation that the majority of the fathers were opposed to carrying the peculiar institution into the Territories, but still while triumphantly quoting them on his side he was not willing to rest his argument on that ground alone, for to do so "would be to discard all the lights of current experience -to reject all progress, all improvement."

In his beneficent policy of expansion THOMAS JEFFERSON had the earnest support of Madison, who was then the foremost man in public life of all who had helpedito frame the Constitution. Madison was then called " the father of the Consti tution:" but the third President did not base his action in the Louisiana purchase upon the authority of his great Secretary of State and successor in the Presidency He carried his splendid project to comple tion because, to quote ABRAHAM LINCOLN, he was unwilling "to discard all the lights of current experience—to reject all prog ress, all improvement."

This Jefferson-Lincoln doctrine embodies the policy of the Republican party to-day While living up to the teachings of the majority of the "fathers" in enlarging the area and extending the power and influand beyond them it follows the higher law of progress and civilization.

Subjects in Dispute Between France and England.

It is said that negotiations are now going on between Lord Salisbury and the French Ambassador in London with the view of effeeting a general settlement of all the matters in controversy between Great Britain and France. We cannot accept this report without some qualifications, for inasmuch as the interests of the two countries seem irreconcilable in Egypt and in China, and even in other parts of the globe, it will prove extremely difficult to bring about an accommodation.

Credible enough is the announcement that the British Foreign Office is willing to concede a good deal to the French in West Africa by way of compensation for the shandonment of the fishery rights off the shores of Newfoundland given to France by the Peace of Utrecht in 1713, and confirmed by the Peace of Versailles in 1783. An authority on international questions, Sir CHARLES DILKE, formerly Under Secretary for Foreign Affairs, has often declared that, so long as the Newfoundland question re mained open, the maintenance of friendly relations between France and England could not be regarded as assured. In return for the surrender of the rights just mentioned, Lord SALIBBURY is willing, we are told, to cede Gambia and a part of Sierra Leone to France, thus materially strengthening the position of that country on the west coast of Africa. The consideration will be deemed adequate by impartial observers, for the Newfoundland fisheries have lost much of their former value for France, and it is chiefly the sentiment of national pride that has withheld her from parting with the last remnant of her quondam empire in

North America. In Africa, on the other hand, France has before her the prospect of creating a new colonial dominion in the vast region which lies south of the Sahara, and which stretches from the Atlantic to the western shores of Lake Tehad. What should constitute the eastern boundary of this dominion is, of course, one of the questions about which France and England disagree, the former country contending that, even if the occupation of Fashoda by Major MARCHAND be disavowed, her sphere of influence should include at least a part of the Babr-el-Ghazal district, so that she might have commercial access to the valley of the

Upper Nile. But the British Foreign Office has as serted that its sphere of influence in the Eastern Soudan extends westwardly to a meridian drawn along the eastern shore of Lake Tehad, and including the whole of the fertile tract watered by the Bahr-el-Ghazal and its affluents. It would appear that these conflicting claims might be compromised by a moderate concession on the part of Great Britain, such as, it is reported, Lord Salis- vitally dependent on the triumph of the

nuny is disposed to make. It will be more difficult, however, to reconcile France to which Portugal, it is understood, has covenanted to divide her possessions in Southeastern Africa between England and Germany. The French Foreign Office will undoubtedly argue that, by this transaction, the principles of partition laid down at the Berlin Conference have been violated. Technically, that may be true, but, as a matter of fact, France possesses, in her right of preemption with regard to the Congo State, more than an equivalent for the blocks of territory which Germany and England may acquire from Portugal. There is reason to believe that on the death of the present King of the Belgians the Congo State will be for sale, and France should be glad of an assurance from Great Britain that no resistance will be offered to the exercise of the French right of preëmption. On the whole there seems to be no reason to doubt that if the cause of incessant friction in Newfoundland waters could be removed a delimitation of the French and British spheres of influence in Africa might be made satis-

As for Egypt, the French have no more right to object to the assertion of a British protectorate over that country than Englishmen have to the pursuance of a precise ly similar course by France in the Tunisian Regency and in Madagascar. It is improbable that Lord Salisbury will consent even to discuss the present and prospective status of the Nile valley. He may deem it judicious, however, to postpone the proclamation of a protectorate until the matters in dispute between France and England, to which we have referred above, have been arranged. It is also probable that he will insist upon leaving the respective relations of the two countries to China out of the question. English and French interests in the Far East would be, as we have said, irreconcilable, even if France were not committed to cooperation in the Russian programme, which contemplates the dismemberment of the Middle Kingdom. The irreducible minimum of the French demands in this quarter is the exclusive right of access by railway to the southwestern provinces of the Celestial Empire. That is something to which Great Britain will never consent, though she might not object to the French entering Yunnan by railway from Tonquin, provided there were given to her the corresponding privilege of penetrating the same Chinese province by an iron road from Burmah. In Siam also it is probable that England has reached the limit of her concessions, and that France will not be suffered to push her frontier in farther India westward.

So numerous, indeed, and complex are the subjects of controversy between France and Great Britain that a pacific settlement of all of them seems beyond the range of practical diplomacy.

New York Saved in Spite of Itself.

The swelling wave of prosperity which is now gladdening every heart in New York set in after the November election, and is a direct consequence of it; yet through the leadership of the Tammany organization at that election this city did all in its power to prevent the happy result by giving one of the greatest majorities of its history against the party of honesty and prosperity, and, consequently, directly against its own interest. Governor ROOSEVELT carried the State by a plurality of 17,786, but, as the official returns show, he had to overcome pluralities in Democratic counties aggregating 89, 198, to which total this city of New York contributed 84,530, or all except 4,668. The largest Democratic plurality in any other county was in Eric where it was furnished by Buffalo, the sec ond city in the State, but it was 2,242 only The remaining Democratic pluralities in outside counties were comparatively trifling -925 in Albany, 102 in Chemung, 52 in Hamilton, 604 in Rensselaer, and 743 in

The State outside of this city of New York voted for honor and honesty in the State and the nation and for the prosperity of both. This great city, by a plurality of 84,530, voted to arrest the current of prosperity which had set in so powerfully after the defeat of BRYAN in 1896. The financial and commercial capital of America destined to become the financial capital of the world, if still restrained by the political wisdom and patriotism of the rest of the State and nation, voted by a vast majority to send back itself and the whole country to the doubt, anxiety, depression, and

paralysis which prevailed in 1896. The essential importance of the last election, as was evident at the time and as has been demonstrated so completely since its occurrence, was in its bearing on the vital national question of the currency. Obviously, a Democratic majority in Congress meant business disturbance and disaster, a bear market, a winter of distress. Yet New York, the commercial and financial capital of America, rejected every outspoken honest money candidate for Congress and elected only candidates avowedly for free silver or ashamed and afraid to confess their opinions on the question, or to give any indication how they would vote upon it in Congress.

The city of New York in 1898 did all it could to destroy the effect of the victory over Bryanism in 1896, and it was so far successful as to reduce the sure sound money majority in the House of Representatives to a limit so small that immediately after the election false reports that actually it had been transformed into a Democratic majority sent a chill to every market. New York also voted by a vast majority for a Legisla-ture which would have elected a free silver Senator to the United States Senate, to increase the danger.

Nor was this great Democratic majority in the city of New York made up from the 'slums" of the town. It included practically the whole party as it now exists and most of the Mugwumps, its alliesbankers, bank Presidents, merchants, lawyers, men of property, men who pretend to be governed by reason and conservatism. All the same, they voted for depression and disaster, knowingly, deliberately, after a thorough understanding of the danger involved. The financial and commercial markets have celebrated their defeat ever since the 8th of November, for it has assured a period of financial prosperity probably more brilliant than any in our past history. Even the Democrats themselves are now participating in the blessings consequent on the fidelity of the outside State to sound principle, many of them in large measure; for "He maketh His sun to rise on the evil and on the good, and sendeth

rain on the just and on the unjust." Now, why was such a demonstration possible in the great centre of American commerce and finance, with all its interests

very political principles and policies to which it opposed its vast majority of nearly 85,000? Excepting the city of New York, the old Confederate South and the petty silver producing States almost exclusively, the whole Union voted for national prosperity. All the other great cities voted for it. Why was it that New York alone, more deeply concerned in that prosperity than any other American community, voted for national adversity, to arrest the progress of trade, and to send back the country into trouble and anxiety?

It had to be saved from itself, like a lunatic who would east himself over a precipice. If the Croker-Van Wyck party had had its way everywhere and salvation had not come to this city from outside, the period of unexampled national prosperity now begun would have been transformed into a time of doubt and confusion.

The Great Detroit Uprising Against Imperialism.

When the Hon. POTATO PINGREE and the Anti-Imperialist League unite to save the country, the country is mighty ungrateful if it refuses to be saved. If History is worth her salt, she will record in letters of brass that the Hon. POTATO PINGREE and the Anti-Imperialist League have so united, and also, alas! that the country declined to accept their obliging joint offer. When PINGREE wanted to save the country, he bld expense go hang. So he hired a hall in Detroit last week; imported, likewise at his own charge, a Boston contractionist shipped to him by the League; and sent out some 2,000 postal cards urging the citizens of Detroit to come and see the Mugwump

missionary rip up imperialism. Potato himself, one of the best known attractions in the West, was booked to preside at his meeting. We should have supposed that at least 5,000 persons would want to see an anti-imperialist drummer from Boston. There was every reason to hope for a grand popular rush to the show. The Detroit police must have been very anxious. The Light Guard, whose armory was to be the scene of the tremendous dem onstration, must have trembled for the safety of their building.

At last the fateful night came. The Boson contractionist had arrived safe and had been duly delivered to the consignee. Escorted by the beaming PINGREE, he made his way through the surging multitudes to the platform. PINGREE introduced him. I have been watching our good President," cried Potato, "and I must say that he has never uttered a word against trusts and monopolies, yet he is anxious to do something for humanity," whereas the tuber statesman is always uttering words against trusts and monopolies and is always auxious to do something for PINGREE.

And now the Boston delegate is swatting imperialism. Just as he is showing by unerring statistics worthy of the Hon. ALAD-DIN ATKINSON himself, that "for every dollar taken out of the Philippines twenty will be taken from the people of this country," we can throw a lead into the sea of faces:

Number of seats in the hall ... Number of seats occupied...

According to another enumerator, there vere only 200 people present, but we gladly accept the larger figure. We will not subtract one drop from that bucketful of faces or seek to diminish the significance of the great popular uprising in Detroit against imperialism.

It is not certain whether the 200 or 300 were hired or whether they were friends and heelers of the Hon, POTATO PINGREE.

The Outcome of the Massachusetts Contempt Case.

The editor of the Boston Traveler, who recently was sentenced to imprisonment in the Dedham jall for contempt of court, has acknowledged that the judgment against him was warranted by the laws of Massachusetts. This is his statement in reference to the matter:

"On Dec. 23 last I was sentenced to a term of im prisonment for contempt of court in publishing an article entitled 'A Servant's Responsibility,' which appeared in the Boston Traveler of Dec. 15, ever criticism of my attitude may have appeared in the public press, I desire to state that I have becor convinced that it is the law of this Commonwealth that during the progress of a trial no newspaper shall publish criticisms of or comments on the trial which may come to the knowledge of the jury, and which, if they do come to the knowledge of the jury,

y influence the result of the trial. As a law-abiding citizen it is my desire and inten tion to conform to the laws of the Commonwealth. admit that my sentence by the Superior Court, which sentence was affirmed by the Supreme Judicial Court was within the law, and as long as this continues to be the law of the Commonwealth I purpose to ob-TORREY E. WARDNER, serve it. "Editor of the Traveler."

The offending article must be read in full in order to appreciate the precise character of the alleged contempt. We copy it from the Traveler :

"A SERVANT'S RESPONSIBILITY.

"The public will await with the most lively interest the results of the trial now in progress in the Ded ham Court House, in which DANIEL W. GEICHELL appears to answer to the charge of manelaughter GETCHELL, it will be remembered, was the enginee of the second section of the New London train on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad which on Aug. 21 crashed into the rear end of the first section, causing the death of five persons and severely injuring many others. He was indicted by the Grand Jury on the charge of having 'feloniously and wilfully killed Franklin M. Waters of Somerville.' I is explained by the District Attorney that 'wilfully' does not mean 'with malice aforethought,' although what it does mean is not made clear,

"The prosecuting attorney expects to prove that Engineer GETCHELL :. "ed to attempt to check his train until it was too late to bring it to a stop and prevent the accident. To the ordinary citizen it would seem that it will not be an easy matter to prove this, and so shift the responsibility of the accident from the railroad corporation to a servant of the road, a thing which it is very desirable, from the standpoint of the corporation, should be done.

"It was brought out in the evidence that GET-CHELL's regular' duties consisted of running a shift-ing engine in the yard at Mansfield, and that he was put in charge of a heavily laden passenger train without having had much experience at that work and without familiarity with the road over which the train was run. It may well be imagined that it would be impossible for a man so circumstanced to be responsible, through inexperience and not through any fault or neglect, for an accident. But no one would fail to relieve him of moral or legal responsibility in such a case, and to place the blamwhere it would belong, upon those who intrusted

to an inexperienced man such onerous duties. "A witness who was on the engine with GETCHELL testified yesterday that he saw no red light or fuses as the train ran into Sharon station. The first in timation he had that there was to be a collision was when the engineer reversed his engine, and he could then see the rear end of the first section of the train this witness, as well as the fireman, testified that the application of the brakes did not seem to affect the train's speed. This renders certain one of two things: either that the brakes did not work well or that the engineer did not know how to operate them In either case who is to blame? Certainly not Engineer Gerenzel, for if he was inexperienced in the use of the air brake he is not to be consured, but the fault lies with the road cfficial who allowed him to

operate the train. From the evidence thus far given it is probable that the results of the trial will be in GETCHELL's favor. The responsibility may never be fixed."

In what did the contempt consist? The basis of the charge is the attempt to obstruct the due administration of justice. The crisis, right at hapd.

the view taken by the Massachusetts courts. was to influence the jury to decide the Getchell case one way rather than the other, upon considerations, and for reasons which were suggested in the article itself. It mattered not that the publication might never have come to the attention of the jury until after the end of the trial. There was the design to influence them in the lawful exercise of their functions and there was the attempt, although it proved unsuccessful. Under the law of contempt, as it exists in Massachusetts, this is enough to render the pubisher liable to punishment in a summary proceeding in which he is not entitled to a

ury trial. We look with extreme disfavor upon any exercise of the summary power to punish for contempt, except in cases where it is essential to insure the due administration of the law. It cannot be tolerated, however, that while a case is being tried in court before a jury, it shall daily be argued to the jury through the medium of newspaper articles designed to be read by the jurors. Attempts to exercise influence of this kind have become regrettably frequent, To check them effectively, the court must possess jurisdiction to proceed summarily against offenders; otherwise the certainty that punishment could only be inflicted at a remote date and after a jury trial would remove all sense of risk from the minds of writers or publishers, and every important case of public interest would be tried by

newspaper step by step with its trial in court. Upon the acknowledgment of his error and an expression of regret Mr. WARDNER was released from imprisonment by order of Judge Sherman of the Superior Court. by whom he had been adjudged guilty The disavowal in such a case of any intentional disrespect by the accused constitutes what lawyers call "purging himself of the contempt." This process usually suffices to secure the release of the offender where the offence consists of publishing improper comments upon a pending trial; but in some of the States the courts have refused to give such an effect to the disclaimer.

THE SUN announces its deliberate conviction that the time has come for a radical and extensive change in the tariff policy of the country.

THE SUN seems how ready to accept an income tax.—Botton Daily Advertiser.

Two statements, neither of which is true

Having unlimited powers in connection with Cubs, the Administration will certainly do well to allow Gen. Wood to devote the customs receipts from Santiago to his plans for improvng the town. Santiago marked the first Span sh defeat in Cuba. The sooner it blossoms into complete order and healthfulness, to which Gen. Wood is guiding it, the sooner will the new spirit spread throughout the island.

Citizen Sambo Bowles of Springfield Mass., is getting warlike, and the watchman at the armory should keep an eye on him. He mells the warpaint, and there is going to be trouble. His heart bleeds for the downtrodden natives of Hollo, and he is liable to declare war against the United States at any moment. We warn the Federal authorities that Citizen Sambo Bowles is mobilizing himself and refuses to submit to arbitration.

To-day the Hon. JOE BAILEY will take the emperature of the Constitution every quarter of an hour, suppress Gen. Joz Wheeler, huri back three infamous lies, foss and gore the plutocrats, investigate the conduct of the war. reep over the Philippines and exhibit to the galleries the largest single acreage of shirt osom in the world. Beneath that shirt bosom beats the one heart that is true to the Constitution in a degenerate age. Well may Cooke county. Tex., rejoice in this noble young man There are few greater statesmen in Cooke

The Hon. ERVING WINSLOW, Secretary of he Anti-Imperialist League, will occupy Washington this week for the purpose of instructing the Senate to vote against the peace treaty. Mr. Winslow is one of the wisest men in the league, prophesies with great rapidity, makes statistics while you wait, has the gift of tongue, and carries a full stock of crisises. We trust that the Senate will receive n meekly and reverently. He is a great

THE LEE-METFORD RIFLE IN ACTION.

Terribly Heated and Inaccurate. The battle of Omdurman revealed defects in the Lee-Metford rifle, the weapon of the British infantry, into which it is reported that inquiry is to be made, and a series of experi ments is projected with a view to improvement. It appears that during the action the effective ness of the rifle was impaired by the rapid continuous firing. The men in the fighting line found it almost impossible to hold their overheated weapons, and it became evident that the flight of the builets was wild. While no doubt the overheating produced in the barrels of the rifles was mainly due to the great rapidity with which they were fired, a certain share of the result may also be attributed to the particular explosive employed. It is well known that cordite, with which the cartridges are charged, evolves a high degree of heat, which, added to the great frietion produced by the passage of the projectile through the barrel, would bring about the reported overheating described. The friction would increase with the inward expansion of the metal of the barrel, until at last the heat would be so great that the surface of the projectile would be fused or softened to such an extent that it would pass out of the barrel without having taken the grooves. Hence the inaccuracy of flight reported.

With regard to the improvement in the construction of the Lee-Metford rifle that would enable the soldier to hold his ovorheated weapont, there should be no difficulty; but it is questionable whether the causes of the erratic flight of the projectiles can be so easily overcome. tinuous firing. The men in the fighting line

The Pacific Cable-Hurry, or Rubber May Be Scarce.

From the Engineering Magazine. Assuming that the United States will subsidize a company to lay a cable from the Philippines to San Francisco, the first landing place would be in the Hawaiian Islands. The next possession of the United States is the island of Guam. in the Ladrones, which is about 3,100 nautical miles west of Hawaii. From this island to the mainland of Luzon, in the Philippines, is about 650 nautical miles.

The longest cable now operated is that from Brest to New York, which is 3,080 nautical miles in length. The cost of cables increases with their length in a geometrical ratio; the difficulty of working them increases about as rapidly. Remembering that the cost of the New York-Brest cable was greater than that of any other cable ever laid, it is readily seen that the construction of the American transpacific cable, involving the link between Hawati and Guam, may well be approached with caution. The solution of the difficulty is in the acquisition of an island of

the Caroline group.
In connection with the Pacific cable a very inter esting question arises. From whence is the percha for this gigantic cable to come? whisper of the construction of a transpacific line and bounds. The ruling price of the gum is the highest that has ever obtained. It is stated, on what authority it is hard to say, that the visible supply of gutta is insufficient for the task, and that if this cable is laid it will be the last-the last with gutta-percha insulation, at least.

A Congressional Directory Crisis.

From the Washington Tribune. In the Congressional Directory the names appear

" Burrows, Julius C.

* 1 1 1 Gorman, A. P.

The " means that their wives accompany them; the 5 the daughters, and the 1 "other ladies." When Representative Roberts of Utah arrives in Washing ton with his three wives, how will the editor of the Congressional Directory classify his ménage? Will Roberts dare file one of his wives with an * for publication, and put the others with I I? Here is :

THE WORK OF THEODORE ROBINSON. Wenkness in the Art Museum's Collec-

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The writer has just read in THE EVENING SUN of Dec. 29 the account of the rejection of the pieture painted by Theodore Robinson by the Art. Committee of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. the reason given being "that it was good enough in its way, but it wasn't quite enough of

Every one conversant at all with American art knows that Mr. Robinson is a painter of the impressionist school and a man who has made a name in his particular branch of art. The gentlemen also who have selected this painting are men whose judgment of the merits of a deture is well known, who stand in their profession at the head of some of the art schools and societies of art in this city.

A few years ago an offer was made to the Metropolitan Museum of Art of one of the most historical coaches of America, a coach or calcehe of about 1784 in perfect order. The offer was refused because there was no room for it, the museum at the time making a large collection of sarcophagi, to which ample room was given. Soon after one of our well-known artists, a painter of American historical subjects, feeling the great need of a place for himself, as well as others, where he could make studies from the real data of American historical objects of all kinds toid one "high in authority" his idea of a colonial room in the Museum of Art, saying he would willingly give dresses, faces and many other articles of historical value which he owned, besides his time and personal supervision.

He was advised to write to Mr. Marguand, and sent his letter through the one who advised him to write it. It was received, but never noticed.

In all European museums the first thing one calèche of about 1784 in perfect order. The

and sent his letter through the one who have vised him to write it. It was received, but never noticed.

In all European museums the first thing one notices is that everything pertaining to that partisular country has been collected, and generally is the nucleus of the collection. If an artist or writer wishes to represent some historical fact he can go to the museum and be sure to find what he wants. Here he must go to some brother artist to borrow or hunt through some old illustrated book. Would a picture by Whistler, who is American only by birth, or Monet, who is a Frenchman, be refused, both of the same school of Mr. Robinson? A great deal of room is given to cheap Italian marbles; "the work of tenth-rate Frenchmen or eleventh-rate German professors" is accepted. A large sum of money was paid by the Museum for a collection of glass (iridized), of which a few specimens were sufficient. Would the committee of the Museum of Art do the favor to the public to define what class of work would be acceptable? Could they not answer if they would: Anything but American?

ARTIST'S WIFE.

The Robinson Picture-A Card from Mr. Will H. Low.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In regard to the controversy which has arisen concerning the picture by Theodore Robinson which has been offered to the Metropolitan Museum of Art by the Society of American Artists, and which has been, by common report, refused by the Museum, it is most unfortunate that an unauthorized partial view of the whole matter has done been disclosed as yet in the public prints. Pending the conclusion of the official action of the Society of American Artists taken at its annual meeting on Dec. 13, and an equally official action on the part of the Metropolitan Museum of Art which will naturally follow, there is perhaps no reason for controversy or liscussion in the press. As the Chairman of the Committee of the So-

ciety of American Artists appointed to purchase a picture by Theodore Robinson for presentation to the Metropolitan Museum of Art. I nay say, however, that the invitation to subscribe to the fund was addressed exclusively to the members of the society and to a few persons known as possessors of Mr. Robinson's works. In two instances these latter were gentlemen who, as individuals, had made valued donations of pictures to the Museum. The subscription to the fund was very general, and represented fairly every shade of opinion in the society, which embraces painters of varying schools. This should dispose of the assertion that the subscription was one made by "a few friends of Mr. Robinson." It was an official act of the society, and in its spirit conformed to a precedent established by the presentation to and acceptance by the Museum of works by other deceased members of the society. The picture was the most important work of Mr. Robinson's available for the purpose, and more important, by reason of its previous exhibition at the society and at an exhibition in Cleveland, where it had taken a prize as the most meritorious landscape in the exhibition, than the picture chosen by the Pennsylvania Academy of Fine Arts from the sale of Mr. Robinson's works. gentlemen who, as individuals, had made val-

emy of Fine Arts from the sale of Mr. Robinson's works.

A member of the Committee on Painting of the Metropolitan Museum was invited to join the President of the Society of American Artists in the selection of the picture, and the failure of the gentleman thus invited to be present at the meeting for this purpose does not affect the intention of the Society of American Artists to show every possible courtesy to the committee of the Museum. It is a principle so well established that a museum which admits the works of living or recardly deceased painters should receive the work of men of distinction in all schools of painting, regardless of the individual preference of members of a committee, that it goes without saying that the two gentlemen who of members of a committee, that it goes without saying that the two gentlemen who have chosen in this case to reject the picture might, without sacrifice of dignity, vote for a reconsideration of their action. It is quite possible that, occupied in other directions, they have hardly realized that Theodore Robinson lived his too brief life, acquired a reputation and was the recipient of such honors as we have to bestow on our artists in such a manner that a large number of his fellows, representing in many cases principles of art at variance with those of Mr. Robinson, unite in demanding that a small though worthy example of his work may help to perpetuate the memory of his faithful service to art on the walls of the Museum of the city where his chief honors were won.

Museum of the city where his chief honors were won.

That such a reconsideration may be had as the result of the recent unanimous action of the Society of American Artists, and that the bremature disclosure of the existing misunderstanding may help rather than hinder such a solution, must be the sincere hope of all who have pride in our achievement in any walk of art.

Chairman of the late Committee of the Society of American Artists for the presentation of a work of Theodore Robinson for the Metropolitan Museum of Art.

Bronxville, N. Y., Jan. 3, 1839.

The Contest of 1900.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The suggestion of Henry Watterson of the Louisville courier-Journal that the Democratic party nominate Admiral Dewey and Gen. Fitzbuch Lee as their ticket in 1900, on the platform "the Stars and Stripes, God bless them "does credit to the heart of that gentleman, undoubtadly, but less to his knowledge and judgment In the first place, Admiral Dewey is not a Democrat and has no motive for lifting the Democratic party out of the slough in which it is now. In the second place, the ideas and convictions regarding the expansion and progress of America which are his, and have been expressed by him so emphatically, are directly opposed to the policy of the Democratic party as announced by both Bryan, the leader of one branch of it, and by Cleveland, the exponent of the reactionary spirit of the other branch. In stead of Col. Watterson's impossible ticket for 1900, a more truly representative Democratiticket would be Bryan and Gamaliel Bradford, for instance, or Edward Atkinson, or Charles Eliot Norton, or Theodore Bacon, the glorious Citizens' Union hero of two thou votes in the last campaign in this State. Neither Godkin nor Schurz can go on it, for

they are of alien birth. Of course, the sentiment of nationality, of progressive patriotism, will be represented in the campaign of 1900 by William McKinley. and it cannot have an opposing representative The contrary and reactionary sentiment, which has always existed in a small minority of this country from the time of the outbreak of the Revolution, being then known as the detestable Tory sentiment, will demand representation. and should have it, on the ticket which will be defeated overwhelmingly by William McKinley. Progress and prosperity will again oppose and overcome retrogression and adversity.

NEW YORK, Jan. 3.

After a Bryan Speech.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: After reading Mr. Bryan's speech at Lincoln against expansion I feel that this nation should be grateful to the God of our fathers that W. J. Bryan is not President of the United States in this crisis.

His statesmanship is pratile, and very poor prattle, MOUST VERNON, Jan. 3.

Hurt Boots.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUS-Sir: Hurt Boots Celia, Heaver county, is one of our subscribers, OFFICE OF THE EVENING TELEGRAM,

The Thomas B. Clarke Collection. The rumor that Mr. Thomas B. Clarke was roing to sell his collection of pictures has been verified. The sale will take place for the pictures at Chickering Hall on the evenings of Feb. 14, 15, 16 and 17, an average of ninety pictures each night, and Mr. Thomas E. Kirby of the American Art Association will be the auctioneer. Before the sale there will be an exhibition beginning in the first days of February. It is needless to say that the exhibition will attract crowds of visitors. Mr. Clarke began collecting years ago, paying for his acquisitions with

hard cash, and supporting by his purchases the native school of painters. Sometimes he bought close and sometimes he bought high, but the result was a collection of pictures that no other collector can duplicate. It includes groups of landscapes by the great master Inness, thirty-five in number; by Homer Martin, by Tryon, twelve: Wyant, seven; by that other master, Winslow Homer, thirty works in oil and water color, including the famous "Eight Bells" "The Life Line;" by John La Farge. William M. Hunt, C. H. Davis, Picknell, Murphy, Dearth, Thomas Allen, Ochtman, Coffin, Bolton Jones, Reid, Hassam, George Fuller, Abbott Thayer, Eastman Johnson, Thomas Moran, Eakins, Dewing, Dielman, F. S. Church, Blum, Volk, George De Forest Brush, Millet, Jaul, Abbey! Sprague Pearce. Dannat, Blashfield, Shirlaw, Elihu Vedder, Charles X. Harris, Freer, George H. Bough ton and Alfred Kappes. There are groups of figure works by Louis Moeiler, Siddons Mowbray, Curran, George Butler, Francis C. Jones, Hovenden, Henry O. Walker and Horatio Walker. Further back in the history of American art we find represented in the collection the names of McEntee, Kensett, Gilbert Stuart, F. E. Church, and Homer Martin.

The objects of art will be sold at the galleries of the American Art Association in the afternoons, the same days as the sales of the picture at Chickering Hall. Greek vases, statuettes and iridescent glass will come up the first day. On the second day will be sold the Hispano Mauresque, Indian and Persian plaques and other objects of art. On the third day the antique Chinese porcelains and curios will come under the hammer. On the fourth day of the sale the French, Russian, Dutch, Spanish and Oriental metals, plaques and vases will be sold.

Among the Greek art pieces may be specially nentioned a collection of most beautiful vases. dating from about 660 B. C. to 200 A. D. The most notable statuettes are those of laplus and Hygea," the "Kneeling Muse," and he celebrated Farnese family piece, a vase in black and red, found at Apulia in 1783. It s about 3 feet 6 inches in height and is one of the finest specimens ever brought to light. A notable antique statuette is a Venus arranging her headdress tengraved in the De Charmiac Musée de Sculpture) of the art period belonging to the time of Nero. This statuette was presented by the King of Naples to the Empress Josephine, and the Empress kept it for many years at Malmaison. She afterward gave it to the Count Portales, and it was sold n his collection at Paris in 1865.

There are exquisite specimens in the Chinese collection, such as the small vases in bluand white. These form the keynote in Mr. Clarke's collection, so to speak, for they reveal the love of the true collector, t would be impossible to imagine anything finer. After these come the lustrous plaques of Hispano-Mauresque manufacture, mostly of the sixteenth century. Mr. Clarke has been collecting them for some fifteen years orlonger. His Persian, Indian, and Turkish things came in large part from the former United States Minister to Persia, S. G. W. Ben-

This sale will be the most notable one of the year. The owner of the collections is an amateur, whose influence has been for good wherever he has exerted it. He is Chairman of the Union League Club Art Committee, likewise of the New York Athletic Club He has organized exhibitions at the Manhattan and "The Lambs." He has presented to various clubs during his career some \$20,000 worth of pictures, including a collection of single color porcelains, to the Union League Club, and a frieze painted by H. Siddons Mowbray, called 'The Month of Roses," to the New York Athletic Club. To "The Lambs" he has given some 300 mugs and flagons, endeavoring to bring art within the range of daily vision. for it is not often that one shakes off one's lethargy sufficiently to make a visit to the Metropolitan Museum, where the best of these things may be seen and admired. In short, Mr. Clarke has pursued a long career of ness as a collector and it will to see his treasures when they are exposed to view next month.

ANTI-USURY LAW SUSTAINED.

The Minnesota Statute Upheld in the United States Supreme Court.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- The statute of Minne ota, similar to laws in Arkansas and New York. intended to prevent the lending of money as surious rates of interest, was sustained in its proadest, application to-day by the Supreme Court of the United States. The opinion was announced by Justice Shiras.

A trust company of Kansas made a loan of \$1.070 to Theodore M. and Louise Krumseig, taking as security ten notes of \$300 each, payable in monthly installments of \$30, a policy of insurance on Theodore Krumseig's life and a mortgage upon a piece of property in Duluth. After paying \$1.230 the Krumseigs sued for a cancellation of the notes and mortgage on the ground that the contract was in violation of the Minnesota law against usury, which provided for cancellation as a penaity. The defendant took the case to the Federal Court and resisted the petition of the plaintiffs upon the rule of equity 'that a maker of a usurious contract cannot maintain a bill to cancel the same for usury without first paying or offering to pay the principal sum borrowed with lawful interest."

The Circuit Court held that this rule of equity was abrogated by the State statute and that it was obligatory upon the court, when the usury is established, to annul and cancel the contract, with all conveyances given to secure performance of it, without requiring the plaintiff to ray any part of the usurious debt or interest. This decree of the Circuit Court was affirmed by the Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit, and in turn by the Supreme Court to-day. Justice Shiras said:

If the cause had remained in the State Court, where it was originally brought, the compalainant would have been equitied, under A trust company of Kansas made a loan of \$1.970 to Theodore M. and La

Shirns said:

"If the cause had remained in the State Court, where it was originally brought, the complainant would have been entitled, under the public policy of the State of Minnesota, to have this usurious contract cancelled without tendering payment of the whole or any part of the original indebtedness. The defendant could not, by removing the case to the Federal Court, deprive the complainants of such a substantive right. With the policy of the State legislation the Federal courts have nothing to Uo."

MAYOR'S CALL TO SCHOOL BOARD. He Says There's No Reason This Year Why There Shouldn't Be Lots of Schools.

cular letter to every School Commissioner in the five boroughs of the city:

Mayor Van Wyck has sent the following cir-

the five boroughs of the city;

DEAR SIE: The erection of sufficient school buildings to accommodate every child in this city entitled to public education is an imperative duty. Other matters have claims on your time and attention, but there are none more important than this.

The Board of Estimate and Apportionment has provided in the budget for this year for the issue of bonds for schoolhouses and sites to the amount of \$7,073,640, and these bonds will be issued on proper requisition made. There is no reason why, with energatic action on the part of those administering school affairs, there should be any lack of accommodation for all who present themselves for administration at the opening of the schools in the present year.

This cannot however he accommissional to

This cannot, however, be accomplished by This cannot, however, be accomplished by merely perfunctory action in selecting sites and drawing plans and awarding contracts for the erection of buildings. It can only be attained by vigorous and constant attention on the part of those representing the public to see that condemnation proceedings are progressed and that contractors pleasure, but according to the provisions of the contracts themselves, especially as to the time fixed for the completion of the work.

I desire to bring these matters to your personal attention to insure your personal energetic action and to make plain the fact that with the facilities available a failure to supply the accommodations for pupils-required at the opening of these charged with the administration of school affairs. Respectfully yours.

ROBERT A. VAN WYCK.

DEWEY'S SWORD OF BONOR

The Splendid Weapon Voted the Admiral

by a Grateful Nation. The sword of honor voted to Admiral Dewey by joint resolution of Congress last June is now completed and will be on exhibition for three days, beginning to-morrow morning, at the store of Tiffany & Co., by whom it was made. It is said to be one of the handsomest weapons ever made in this country. Pauld-

ing Farnham is its designer.

The sword, with the exception of the stre blade and the body metal of the scabbard, is entirely of 22-carat gold. On the pommel are carved the name of the cruiser Olympia and the zodiacal sign for December, the month of Admiral Dewey's birth. Circling these, there is a closely woven wreath of oak leaves. Continuing down the metal work giving the proper form is a gold collar on the front of which are the arms of the United States with the blue field of the shield in enamel and below them are the arms of Vermont, the Admiral's native State, with the motto and Unity," and the colors of the shield in

and Unity," and the colors of the shield in enamel. Stars decorate the plain part of the collar, and this part of the hilt terminates in a narrow band of oak leaves. The grib is covered with fine sharkskin bound with gold wire and inlaid with gold stars.

The guard is composed of a conventional casle, terminating in a claw clasping the top, the outsprend wings forming the guard proper. The eagle holds in its beak a laurel wreath which serves as a protection, covering the point of the beak, and at the same time preserves the proper outlines of the guard.

The scabbard is of thin steel, damascened in gold with sprays of a delicate sea plant interlaced in the form of a series of cartouches withla star in the centre of each, while dolphins fill the outer spaces. Surays of oak leaves and acoms secure the rings and trappings of the scabbard, is a raised monogram in diamonds entwining, the letters "G. D." and immediately under them are the letters "U. S. N." surrounded by sprays of the seaplant. The zerrule, or lower end of the scabbard, terminates in entwined gold dolphins. The sword blade is damascened with the insertiction:

The Gift of the Nation to Bear Admiral George Dowey, U. S. N., in Memory of the Victory at Manula Bay, May 1, 1898.

A Phoenician galley representing the first craft of the navies of the world supplies the rest of the navies of the world supplies the rest of the ornament on this side of the blade. On the other side is shown the flight of the engles of victory, bearing festoons of laural to the four quarters of the earth.

The mountings of the belt and the trappings are the regulation buckles, pierced slide rings and swivels, all of 22-carat gold, and ornamented with the oak leaves and acorns. The bullion tassel and embroidered belting are succially made, and will be much superior to those usually-employed.

The steel blade of the sword is from the Government arsenal at Springfield, and the entire weapon is so made as to be of practical value should an enemy ever get within reaching distance of Admiral Dewey. The sword box is of white cak inlaid with black velvet and, at the centre of the cover has a gold shield surmounted by an eagle and inscribed with a single star and the words "Rear Admiral George Dewey, U. S. N." The sword will be sent to the Navy Department on Saturday.

DEBT STATEMENT FOR DECEMBER Increase in Customs and Internal Revenue Receipts for the Last Six Months.

Washington, Jan. 3 .- The debt statement ssued by the Treasury Department to-day shows that in the month of December the lebt of the United States was increased by \$1,702,799. The interest-bearing debt inreased \$3,819,350; that bearing no interest increased \$275,784, and the debt, on which interest has ceased decreased \$4,430, while the eash in the Treasury increased \$2,387,905. The debt on Dec. 30 stood: Interest-bearing debt. \$1,040,215,030; debt on which interest has ceased, \$1,237,200; bearing no interest,

\$382,487,801, a total of \$1,423,940,981. The cash in the Treasury is made up of the following items: Gold, \$281,729,435; silver. \$503,212,854; paper, \$50,253,207; other cash, \$95,235,855, Total, \$930,431,351. Against this there are outstanding: Gold certificates, \$33,-808,000; silver certificates, \$399,430,504; certificates of deposit, \$20,685,000; Sherman notes, \$90,523,280; other liabilities, \$82,218,-

872, leaving a balance, including gold reserve, of \$294,764,605. The receipts of the Government for the month of December were \$41,404,793, and for the six months ended Dec. 31, \$245,761,880, an increase of \$13,381,925 and \$86,116,955 respectively over the corresponding periods of last tively over the corresponding periods of last year, with the transactions with the Pacina railroads excluded. The receipts from customs for the six months show an increase of \$33,-220,810 compared with similar months last year, while the receipts from internal revenue in the six months operations of the War Revenue act show an increase of \$52,868,136 over the corresponding period in 1817.

The expenditures for the month of December were \$41,844,807, and for the six months \$329,681,311, an increase of \$14,230,715 and \$121,471,100 respectively over those for corresponding.

ber were \$41,804,807, and for the six months \$329,081,311, an increase of \$14,230,715 and \$121,477,100 respectively over those for corresponding periods of the previous year. The expenditures for the army in the six months, compared with the similar months of 1897, increased \$111,085,183, and for the navy \$19,-343,843, making a total of \$130,429,000 chargeable during that period to war expenditures.

The circulation of national bank notes on Dec. 31 was \$243,735,103, an increase of \$1,033,067 for the month, and an increase of \$1,033,067 for the month, and an increase of \$1,033,067 for the month, and an increase of \$1,033,067 for the total, \$214,015,987 was secured by denosit of Unified States bonds, an increase of \$17,808,844 for the year, and by lawful money \$20,719,118, a decrease of \$3,045,070, for the same period.

The total amount of United States bonds deposited with the Treasurer by national banks at the date named was \$311,266,770, of which \$71,323,320 was to secure deposits of nublic money. Of the \$200,000,000 of war bonds recently issued, \$75,029,420 have been deposited by banks to secure circulation or public funds.

CUBAN HINTS FROM JAMAICA.

Robert P. Porter's Report on the Measures Adopted by the British Government.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 3,-A report has been made to the Secretary of the Treasury on the industrial and fiscal conditions in the British island of Jamaica as they apply to the Prorisional Government just established in Cuba. It embodies a full account of the observations f Robert P. Porter, special Commissioner of the United States to Cuba and Porto Rico, who also visited Jamaica.

Mr. Porter reciews the administration of the British Government since it took the island "as a trust and not as a possession in 1834." He shows that despite the fact that by far the greater number of people in the island are blacks, the advance in industrial prosperity and social conditions has been remarkable. and social conditions has been remarkable. He gives figures estimating the conditions which would probably have resulted in Cuba if the Island had been ruled by the British, as in Jamaica, instead of misruled by Spain. The fact that a majority of the people in Cuba are whites, Mr. Porter says, insures prompter success for American government in the Island than was possible for the British in Jamaica. The recommendations made by the British at the outset, Mr. Porter says, are of interest for the United States Government in Cuba. These recommendations were: ecommendations were:

1. Settlement of laboring people on small

1. Settlement of laboring people on small plots of land.
 2. Establishment of minor agricultural industries and the improvement of the system of cultivation.
 3. The improvement of means of communication between different islands.
 4. Encouragement of the trade in fruit with New York and London.
 Commissioner Forter urges a liberal expenditure of the Cuban revenues in building good roads in Cuba, following the example of the British in Jamaica.

PRIVATE TALK ON CITY 'PHONES, City Will Pay No More Bills for Conversation with the Suburbs. Henry S. Kearney, Commissioner of Public Suildings, Lighting and Supplies, sent a letter to the Council yesterday saying that he had notified the New York and New Jersey Telephone Company not to answer any calls for phone company not to answer any cause for out-of-lown connections coming from tele-phones in nublic buildings. Mr. Kearney said that the bill for long-distance calls for last year had been enormous, and that he is satisfied that all or nearly all of them were for private

"Patria's" Work Is Done.

Patria, which has for seven years been the official organ of the Cuban revolutionary party. ended its successful career with yesterday's number. The paper was founded by José Marti, who also organized the Cuban Junta. When he went to Cuba he was succeeded as editor of Fatria by Gonzalo de Quesada. The first number of Fatria, published in 1891.