SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1906.

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Progress in Cuba.

The Cuban situation shows encouraging signs. Governor Magoon is evidently profiting by his experience, and seems to have taken a firmer grip. During the first four weeks of his control there were numerous indications that his attitude was somewhat too indulgent toward a clamorous group on which excessive indulgence is worse than wasted. From various accounts recently received we infer that he has now reached a better understanding with these selfish aspirants for place and power. If this is so, the step has been wisely taken.

Our information is that the island is tranquil, and that the people are busy at their customary work. Here and there offences are committed, but they are not in any way political. Men of criminal tendencies have taken advantage of a disordered situation and have committed crimes, but such matters are for the police, and the police and the Rural Guards are attending to them. Even in Cienfuegos, which has been a particularly active centre of disturbance, there is a general restoration of law and order. The city is now under a new set of officials composed of men of property and standing. It is reported that their appointment has given widespread satisfaction. If that vicinity can be kept quiet for a while, the rest of the island will give little trouble.

The political pot continues to boil, of course. Without that element in its life the island would be unrecognizable. There is a growing appreciation of the fact that the present Administration is not a patron of any party. The Moderates are in a good deal of disorder and disagreement, while the Liberals, though somewhat at odds regarding men, are quite harmonious regarding measures. Some of the Moderates desire a comparatively brief American protectorate, while others favor a protectorate of indefinite or even permanent continuance. The Liberals are practically united on a policy of "Cuba for the Cubans." and desire a complete withdrawal of the Americans at the earliest possible time. With that end in view they are doing not a little to make possible an early withdrawal, and are thus forcing an issue with their opponents.

The value of the present Liberal policy must be measured with accuracy. We have certain work to do before we can wisely leave the island. Our responsibility will continue even after our departure. There is every probability that the Liberals would win heavily at an election. The earlier the election the larger would be their majority. Before an election is ordered there should be fair assurance of the good faith of that party. There should be no election and no transfer of government so long as there is any ground for suspicion that the probably successful party is on its good behavior only to induce our withdrawal and repeat the experience which

wrecked their opponents. Meanwhile the immediate reports are

The Latest News From Russia

According to a statement made at St. Petersburg on November 29 by the Strang, a semi-official organ, Premier STOLYPIN expects that the composition of the next Duma will be satisfactory to himself, and fitted to solve the problems with which the Government is confronted. Should the new Duma disappoint his expectation he declares that he will summon a third national assembly, which he guarantees shall be one of the kind that Russia needs in order to establish upon firm foundations a régime of law and order. Such a régime the country must have, he says, if it is to give the world a bond for the payment of its outstanding debts. This means, of course, that if the changes recently made by the Senate in the electoral law fail to secure a Government majority in the next Duma that body will be dissolved quickly on one pretext or another, and the conditions of the suffrage will undergo such drastic reconstruction as practically will restrict the franchise to the landowners above the mujik class, a state of things which may be said to have prevailed in England before the Reform act of 1832 became operative.

There is reason to think that Premier STOLYPIN is overconfident as regards the effect of his precautionary measures. That was at all events the opinion avowed at the meeting of the nobles held the other day at St. Petersburg, in -bich almost every province in Eurotean Russia was represented. That by the exclusion of a large part of the railway employees from the franchise and by regulations intended to deprive all workmen in Government pay of the suffrage the proletariat vote has been bureaucrats, also, have been warned that they will lose their places if they fail to support candidates having Ministerial approval. But, as was pointed out at the meeting of the nobles, only a weak minority of the constituencies could be affected in this way. Much doubt was expressed concerning the ence the passants who constitute so disposal is capable of achieving the re- ration, the Aqueduct Board, the Rapid

large a part of the electorate, and the nobles warned the Premier that nothing short of a radical readjustment of the suffrage on the basis of a tolerably high property qualification would assure to him the tractable assembly which he desires. 'The purport of Mr. STOLYPIN's reply to the appeal of the nobles seems to have been substantially this: "Not yet, but soon!" He will try once to obtain a

subservient Duma under the Witte electoral law as lately interpreted by the Senate. If he fails, a third Duma will be chosen under a materially different law framed by himself. It might have been foreseen that the

very steps taken by the Premier to diminish the number of his opponents in the next Duma would provoke a movement toward consolidation on the part of the anti-Government parties. Such a movement has already taken place. The conservative wing of the Social Democrats at a recent meeting of their party carried a resolution that in districts where there was no hope of returning a Social Democrat the party vote should be thrown in favor of the Constitutional Democratic nominee. There are signs of a disposition to bring about a coalition, under similar conditions, between Constitutional Democrats and Octobrists. By such methods of conciliation and compromise the Constitutional Democrats hope to retain preponderance in the coming national assembly, though

they admit that it will be diminished. The leaders of the Opposition also eem to have profited by experience and have determined to avoid the tactical blunders committed in the last Duma. They will give the Government no pretext for dissolving Parliament until they themselves shall have secured the confidence of the electorate by an endeavor to secure universal suffrage and a thorough reform of the system of local administration. If the Duma passes bills to that effect the responsibility for rejecting them will rest elsewhere. That is to say, the next national assembly will devote itself to constructive work before it resorts to obstructive tactics.

In a word, the electoral campaign in Russia is well under way, and the lines between the Ministerialists of all shades on one hand and the diverse components of the Opposition on the other are sharply drawn. The only element of uncertainty is the position that will be taken by the delegates of the peasantry. Meanwhile, there is a rumor that Count WITTE, who has bought the Slovo and made it his personal organ, means to come forward as a candidate for a seat in the new Duma, and that if elected he will be found among the Government's opponents. Stranger things have happened than would be the return of Count WITTE to power as the head of an Octobrist-Constitutional Democratic coalition.

The New Deal in Panama;

President Roosevelt's new reorganization plan in connection with the Panama Canal, now that it has been semi-officially disclosed, seems to bear a striking family resemblance to a former scheme, suggested by him to Congress nearly two years ago. The only difference between he two is that in the first instance he proposed to reduce the commission to a membership of three, giving it the character of an executive committee, and totally eliminating its character as an administrative and deliberative council: whereas now, compelled by the refusal of Congress to enact the proposed legislation to adopt another expedient. he achieves the desired consummation without disturbing the surface of the arrangement prescribed in the so-called Spooner law.

On the first occasion it was Mr. Roose-VELT's ardent wish to inaugurate a practical prosecution of the enterprise. He had had enough of solemn confabulation in the luxurious Washington quarters of the commission. It seemed to him that a body composed of seven commissioners of virtually equal powers and responsibilities, at least four of whom were engaged exclusively with blue prints (barring an occasional pleasant weather excursion to the Isthmus), could hardly be expected to construct a real canal within the limits of an ordinary generation. He wanted a triumvirate, two of whom were to have permanent offices on the Isthmus, and all three of whom were to address themselves to actual canal building, always maintaining order and good feeling in Panama-a consummation already achieved by Governor Ma-GOON. Congress, however, did not respond to the President's somewhat imperious overture. The Spooner 'aw remained untouched. Mr. ROOSEVELT'S seven commissioners stood fast upon the

payroll and the dirt didn't fly. Since March, 1905, many things have happened. Much light has been thrown upon the situation. The "dirt" is very much where it was two years ago: but a vast amount of preparation is now complete. After all, men are mere fallible and feeble human beings. It is conceivable that the working force will be far more effective now that we have provided sanitary housing, wholesome food, medical 'attention and other conditions of bodily comfort. Possibly these results might have been accomplished con- It is apparent, however, that they are currently with a vigorous and effective not worth paying salaries to, and that attack upon the Culebra monster; pos- | the maintenance of a religious annex by sibly not. Between the impetuous enthusiasms of President ROOSEVELT and the unbeautiful and homely counsels of

deliberation, who shall judge? But the President's latest plan of reof producing the very situation he unsuccessfully endeavored to create two years ago and at the same time avoiding conflict with Congress. Authority, initiative, power will now be concentrated in two or three men, as the President originally intended. There will be the usual number of "commissioners," no doubt, but their functions will undergo a process much reduced is undisputed. The minor of subjugation. So the President has had his own way once more. In everything save name, the new "commission will disappear, to make room for the "executive committee" he originally prefigured. There will be no more too wanted salaries for next year, which leisurely debating societies, no more serene and opulent excursions to the tion. Next the Dock, Street Cleaning, Isthmus at Government expense. So Water, Gas and Electricity, and Finance success of the Cabinet's attempt to influ- far as the material at the President's Departments, the Counsel to the Corpo

sult, we shall have "business" and nothing else henceforth

The President scores another victory, and this time, fortunately for the country, it is a victory in the interest of common sense and expedition.

Southern Poetry's Banner Year. It is not admitted in the highest literary circles that REUBEN J. HOLMES, the poet laureate of Salisbury, N. C., has come up to his own standard in a recent rhapsody entitled "Capri." That the verses are of rare merit and contain the result of many noble and lofty thoughts is everywhere conceded, but all Southern lovers of really high class minstrelsy maintain that Carolina poetry reached its zenith in 1903, and has since declined upon a lower scale. It was in 1903 that our Appalachian troubadour rose up and smote his lyre to this effect:

Just a month ago in the Piedmont section. Where things are beautiful and not so slow, I had the pleasure of meeting Miss MARIONEAUX. And from the pleasant smile which she possessed was well satisfied that she was equivalent to

To say that this note of more than numan beauty touched every heart in Rowan county and enraptured all feeling persons within two hundred miles is to state the case with imbecile inadequacy. Those who still recall the almost uncontrollable ecstasy in which they throbbed and panted for weeks afterward are not ready to admit that "Capri' is a thriller of anything like equal power. It is generally conceded that the latter marks a distinct lapse from the fervor and the inspiration of three years ago. Nor have they forgotten another outburst of peculiar and compelling beauty which fixed a new and brilliant jewel in the crown of 1903. Elegy this time:

I was personally acquainted with Sister MURPHY And if Trinity record you'll search No greater worker among male or female Can be found in the A. M. E. Church.

She never did fall to do her duty to her Gon And to her church of which she love; But to-day where is dear Sister MURPHY? With the blood washed host above!

Sister MURPHY is happy now in the kingdom. She is singing with the redeemed; Look at her before the majestic throne Drinking from the placid stream!"

But this was not all the South had to offer in that immortal year, for 1903 brought to light the most colossal figure in the modern choir-the figure of LOUIS MICHEL of Baltimore. In him we find a master of melody and rhythm, of music, passion and exaltation. In him we also find more than all this; we find the prophet and the priest of poetry. He is the very prince of versatility, for while he is able to twitter, coo and caterwaul with the finest adepts in those lines, he can sound the clarion till the hillsides faint, and he carries thunder always on his person. It was in this more heroic and uplifting mood that, about three years ago, he wound the horn with these results:

A giant both in form and subtle mind Stands idoltzed brave THEODORE ROOSEVELT Before the world. No one can ever find A leader who his mission prompter felt.

No subtler mind than his could brightly end A fearful coal strike in a crisis great; No truer patriot could prompter send His fleet to Beirut in the days of fate

No braver man has ever kent his piedge As ROOSEVELT-spite glaring ridicule-For Cuba layeth a new ent'ring wedge Of two republics under golden rule.

For struggling manhood ever feeling kind And ever true to nations cultured law; Intensely good, yet he was never blind To our interests and New Panama.

America will perhaps never produce a poet so thoroughly equipped for success in every field. Wonders of his kind do not usually occur more than once in a century, and even at that rate only in scattered and far distant spots. We feel, therefore, that "never" is the word for the occasion, and shall continue to regard MICHEL as hors de concours-something phenomenal, not to say unearthly. Of REUBEN J. HOLMES, however, we may think as of a fellow creature from whose melting harp we have a right to expect further and, if such a thing were possible, still more ravishing delights. It is difficult to believe that he or any other mortal person will ever soar above the dizzy level of the ode to Miss MARION-EAUX and the obituary tribute to Sister MURPHY, but he will sing again and sing with more than ordinary sweetness. There is but one SHAKESPEARE, but every age and every generation has its MANRICO or its BLONDEL, and that is more than we, perhaps, deserve.

Four Thousand Dollars for Chaplains.

The Board of Aldermen on Tuesday adopted the recommendation of its Finance Committee and disapproved an appropriation of \$4,000 allowed by the Board of Estimate in the budget for 1907 to pay the salaries of four additional chaplains in the Fire Department. Four chaplains of the department now receive \$1,000 each. They have alarm bells in their homes and are taken to fires in department vehicles. What services of any particular importance they render at fires that could not be performed at least as well by others has never been clear. any executive is open to serious objection. When the department first appointed chaplains it was explained that they would cost the taxpayers nothing, and their duties were left vague and undeorganization possesses the twofold merit scribed. They were to attend such fires as suited their convenience, be of such use as they might, visit the fire stations when they wanted to, and otherwise enjoy themselves after the manner of all so-called "buffs."

The taxpayers made no objections to this innovation, and the making of the chaplainships salaried jobs was the natural result of the good natured tolerance with which it was received. When the appropriation was first allowed to go through it became a permanent item in the budget. The Police Department now has volunteer chaplains, and they the Aldermen properly refused to sanc-

Transit Commission, the Aldermen, the Board of Election—every officeholder on the payroll, will be taking thought as to the hereafter, and begging for official religious advisers. There will be no

dearth of applicants for the jobs, either. The Aldermen did a good job when they knocked out the appropriations of \$8,000 for Fire and Police Department chaplains. They made a mistake, due, probably, to no motive more reprehensible than good nature, when they allowed any money at all for the pay of religious mentors.

A Great Reform

The momentous question of spelling reform cannot be settled by a paltry and hidebound sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations. The Publie Printer is already an object of enlightened public sympathy, nearly torn into pieces as he is by the neo-orthographers and the cacographers. The Supreme Court of the United States. whatever veneration may have clothed it in former days, is known to have made erroneous decisions which do not commend themselves to the living present and President. In these as in other matters there is a final authority, a sovereign and an irrefragable court of appeals. The people expect much, and have the happiness of getting sometimes more than they expect, from that ultimate and inexhaustible source.

Mr. ROOSEVELT does not need anybody to hold up his hands in this or any other emprise; but his assurance is doubly sure with Professor BRANDER MATTHEWS and Lord Rector CARNEGIE at his back.

It may be said that there is no popular demand for reformed spelling. There was no popular demand for the railroad rate law. The demand came from the source of supply. The people had but to know what was wanted and they wanted it at once. So will it be with spelling reform.

Crises are thick. Problems press for settlement. Congress will be busy. But no diplomatic, no economic concern should be permitted to keep spelling reform waiting. At present that reform is merely officious. It should be made official. Unnecessary letters should be discharged at once and without honor.

In 1870 the sugar consumption of the Inited States was 35.3 pounds per capita. It is now a little in excess of 70 pounds. The per capita expenditure remains about the same, for the reason that while the quantity consumed has doubled, the price is a little less than half what it was in 1870.

The country is now taking about 2,800,000 tons of sugar for its yearly requirement. About 1,800,000 tons are imported and about 1,000,000 tons are of domestic production including the crops of Porto Rico and Hawaii. The strictly domestic product, excluding that of our non-contiguous territories, shows a material increase. The output in 1890, the beginning of our beet sugar era, was 219,000 tons, in comparison with the 576,000 tons of 1905. The percentage of strictly domestic supply, in its relation to total consumption, shows a fair increase. In 1890 the home grown output formed about 15 per cent. of the total requirement, and in 1905 about 20 per cent.

There is little or no probability of any material change in prices for the coming year. The estimates show a probable reduction of about 7 per cent. in the European beet sugar output, which now represents not far from 60 per cent. of the world's total supply. The probability is that this small Th oa other sources, but that increase is not at all likely to be large enough to result in price reduction.

Two million eight hundred thousand tone of sugar is a heap of sweetening.

The Star of Montreal makes the subjoined editorial comment on Canadian inter-

est in the Monroe Doctrine: "America will be British and 'American' as long as these two Powers can keep it so. Any attempt to plant another outside Power in this hem would be resisted by the whole force of both the empire and the republic; for both the empire and the republic are behind what is called the Monroe Doctrine. There are those in Canada who some times allow themselves to speak as if this doctrine were hostile to us, and as if we would profit by its urtailment or destruction. But this is a strabismie view of the situation. The Monroe Dectrine favors the present position of Canada, and binds a great nation to defend it. It also keeps away from this continent any other Power which might concelvably think of encroaching upon Canadian rights or territory—sometaing that Canada should be interested in. No one will gain more than ourselves from the policy of making of this hemisphere

Our esteemed contemporary continues its

not persist in the United States after it has reached an industrial strength which makes it nore hungry for outside markets than fearful about the home field; but the Monroe Doctrine will only cayed."

This view is neither strabismic nor myopic.

Not a Protestant Sect

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Your corre atisfaction, some questions concerning the au thority of the legally and shamefully miscalled "Protestant Episcopal" Church to define heresy and its power to deal with it. His queer conclu sions are reached by assuming it to be a Protestant

Your correspondent's premise is historically wrong, and therefore his conclusions are faise The Church which he has attacked is not a Protestant sect, but a living part of the great Anglo-Catholic communion, founded in apostolic times, with an unbroken descent in apostolic succession to the present day, and possessing the apostolic priesthood, sacraments and faith committed to per by ner Divine Founder, Christ. She is there fore a divinely appointed guardian of the Catholic faith, and has divine authority to define that faith and power to state what heresy per be is, to expose and to reject that heresy. The assumption contained in your correspond

ent's closing question is denied by two-thirds of Catholic Christendom. JOHN F. W. FORTESCUE-COLE.

The Wisdom of a Sage. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: The average American in trying to save time loses it. What I mean is that he shortens his life. This seems to be an irony of the gods. FESTINA LENTE. YORK, December 1.

It's Good to Be Alive I have herded with the smot lered In the sweating subway cars; But I've breathed the mountain breezes indermeath the Alpine stars. I have fought the flaming fever Where the tropic fungi thrive But I've swum in cooling rivers. And it's good to be alive!

Such as Fate to all men sends. But I've found that each one showed me Just whom I could call my friends, So let kings and raging rebels For their petty powers strive For a little child just kissed me. and it's good to be alive

I have suffered great misfortunes.

MARS AS A PLACE TO INHABIT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: What can we know or confidently presume or reasonably guess as to the present existence of intelligent beings upon Mars?

It is natural to us to believe that this one

little globe is not the sole theatre of reason in the vast multitude of the heavenly bodies and what it is natural for us to believe about any practical matter, concerning which error might imperil the continuance of our race, can hardly fail to be, at least vaguely, true. Mind seems to us to be utterly unlike anything else; and if it really be so its appearance anywhere would seem to argue a tendency in it to spring up everywhere, though that there are some prerequisite conditions to be satisfied is evident from the fact that it is not everywhere actually found. It may possibly be that among the countless orbe in space there is some other than this earth where there live white men just like ourselves and speaking the English language. But it does not seem likely, because the conditions requisite for the formation of our language have been so very special. Now, it may be that what we think of as intelligence is almost equally special; so that just as the Greeks regarded those who did not speak Greek the so-called barbarians—as hardly rational, we make a great mistake in thinking that what we call "intelligence" is the highest form of being. So it may be; but there are philosophical reasons for thinking that it is not so, and that reason really is something peculiar, unlike anything else, and therefore, since it is found somewhere, would be found everywhere where suitable conditions of a very broad kind were fulfilled; and the chances are as billions to one that such conditions are in fact fulfilled on many celestial masses.

But as to the planet Mars, the most minutely observable body outside the orbit of the moon and at the same time of all known to us the one on which conditions are most like those on the earth, is it not possible that we may reach more definite conclusions? If so, we must reason by analogy; and therefore the very first step upon which every competent reasoner must and will insist as precedent to all others will be to examine the respects in which the analogy between Mars and the earth fails. By far the most important of these respects is the smaller size of Mars. Its dimensions are only 0.53 those of the earth. Naturally, therefore, the material is less compressed, the mean density being only 71 per cent. of that of the earth. The con-sequence is that gravity on the surface of Mars is only 71 per cent. of 0.53, or threeeighths of gravity on the surface of the earth. The pint of water that on the earth weighs a pound would on a spring balance weigh but six ounces on Mars. In all terrestrial things the momentum of a body at any given velocity is strictly proportional to its weight. We have no familiar experience with any different state of things. Yet any moving body, say a flood of water, on the surface of Mars has the same momentum as it would have upon the earth, while it presses down on the ground with only three-eighths of its terrestrial weight, and is therefore retarded by friction by as much less. Hence anything which is projected with any force along the surface of the planet Mars must move much further, other things being equal, and along much straighter path, and this will in particular be true of any streams of water. Another consequence of the same facts is that the mass of Mars is only 71 per cent.

of the cube of 0.53, or about one-tenth of the earth's mass; so that the force of gravity at any distance from the centre of Mars will be only one-tenth of the gravity toward the centre of the earth at the same distance. Or, since gravitation varies inversely as the square of the distance, in order that a body should be attracted to Mars as much as an equal body is attracted to the earth the distance of the former from the centre of Mars est not exceed 7/1/10 of of the latter from the centre of the earth. Consequently were the temperature the same the upper limit of any given gaseous constituent of the atmosphere would only one-third as high above the centre of Mars as it is above the centre of the earth. Now, since the very surface of Mars is much higher than one-third the height of the top of the earth's atmosphere, if Mars has any oxygen atmosphere at all it must owe this to the fact that the temperature of the upper atmosphere is lower than about the earth. Possibly, for example, the oxygen is there solid. We may suppose that Mars originally had relatively as much atmosphere as the earth had. If so, it has lost the bulk of it through the weakness of its attractive force; and it probably now retains excessively little except what is composed of substances partly congealed and so without expansive energy. In view of this slight atmosphere, very little erosion of any of the kinds that are familiar to us on the earth can be active on Mars. Erosion of a different kind there must, however, be; for the direct radiation of the sun on the surface of Mars must have a heating effect fully quadruple its effect on the solid surface of the earth; since, if we remember rightly, the late lamented Langley showed that nine-tenths of the sun's heat is cut off in the upper air (we may have the precise value wrong) Mars is half as far again from the sun as the earth is, and so receives on a given area only four-ninths as much heat. This refers to the top of the atmosphere. That of Mars absorbs hardly at all, that of the earth at least eight out of every nine parts; hence at the solid surface the sun's radiation has four times the power on Mars that it has on the earth.

In the spring of the Martian year (of 688 days) lofty ice caps cover its pole, and probably there are other places where ice has collected on mountain tops. Under the blaze of the sun, instead of glaciers breaking off icebergs from their bases as on our own planet, avalanches of ice must come thundering down from the summits. If they did not find channels ready cut for them by myriads of former such masses they would begin themselves to cut such channels. But they must find them cut, and once cut owing to there being so very little air, the surfaces of these channels must remain smooth and perfect. The almost frictionless ice, with a specific gravity only one-third that which water has here, must slide along this channel, rapidly melting as it goes and carrying vegetative life beyond the equator. At the same time, owing to the absence of ordinary erosion and to the small gravitative attraction, the ice masses must at certain points be liable to strike rocks which sharply deflect those that happen to serice them, and thus furcations must occur in these channels. So much for what as it would seem mus

happen. Now, what is actually observed? In the first stace no kind of observation is so excessively difficult as the observation of the face of a planet. Not owing to defective instruments, but to the lack of sufficiently fine observers, it was not until 1877 that anybody saw anything that seemed to indicate the presence of a channel on Mars. Mr. Percival Lowell above all and a number of others have now been able to discern not the waterways themselves. but dark bands apparently of vegetation along the borders of unseen channels. These bands appear in the Martian spring,

and reappear yearly in the same places. To Mr. Lowell, unquestionably the observer of them, they have looked decidedly artificial, owing to their extraordinary straightness, to the smoothness and uniformity of each one, and to their radiating from special points. But the first two of these three characters must be in part illusions, due to well known and incluctable laws of psychology. Beyond that the straightness must be largely due to the small gravitation on Mars as above explained. Since we do not see the channels themselves, but only the vegetation stimulated by the streams, and since vegetable growth is a natural process, one does not easily see how the apparent uniformity of the dimly made outmarking can be any evidence of artificiality. If they radiate from special points we may naturally suppose that there are mountains or places where for some reason ice is piled up in winter, unless, indeed, there be evidence of design in the location of these centres. The appearance of artificiality will strike everybody; but it will convince different people according to the quality of self-criticism which they apply to their reasoning. There is another feature of the channels that suggests artificiality, yet to which I have seen no other allusion than three words in biologist Morse's book, Mars and its Mystery," page 142, where he speaks of their "angles of approach. They certainly seem to cross one another at angles such as one does not expect to see in natural streams. This may ever, be partly illusion and partly the effect of the ice masses of little weight but great

If these channels are artificial, how shall we eventually be convinced that they are What phenomenon will-point unequiv ocally to their artificial origin? The intelligent race, if there be one, must either be multiplying or, more likely, dving out. In the former case we ought to be able to detect some subservience to a purpose or to a convenience in the location of the oases, or vegetative spots; and the canals should multiply as the years go by. If on the other hand the race is dying out, the oases and the channels should, some of them, fall into desuetude; and those that remain should naturally form a clustered collection. Nothing of all this has, however,

momentum striking on certain faces of

It may be that there is intelligence on Mars without its having produced any effects that man can as yet observe. It may be that there has been intelligent life on Mars but that it is now forever extinct, as that on this earth is going to be perhaps before another millennium has flitted by It may be there never was and never will be an animal on that planet guided by anything but irreflective instinct. Is not reason, by the way, for the most part a rather futile makeshift? Mightn't a good sound instinct answer the purpose better?

As has been intimated above, a book has lately appeared on this subject of the habitability of Mars by a biologist-a fair observer of the old school, a writer of superabundant emphasis, but very little of a reasoner. His book is amusing, owing to the impertinence with which he treats everybody who deliberates at all or is not cooksure that Mars is inhabited by an intelligent race at this day. It is good for a augh, at any rate.

Guilty, Until You Have Proved Your

Innocence. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: It appears to me that the tomfool phrase "a conspiracy of silence" should be omit ed rom further official reports on the ville case. A large portion of the troupers of the three summarily discharged bat-talions were in bed asleep; if one of these s called upon as a witness, what o earth can he say, and tell the truth, except "I do not who did the shooting"? truth that a portion of the discharged .en do not know. Why are they accused of e tering "a conspiracy of silence" when they Garlington and Nettleton want them to say,

anyway? If any soldier had said "I know, but ! will not tell," or had refused to answer any question whatever, then those who thus comported themselves might justly be ac-

cused of cons iracy.

While I am an ardent admirer of the President, I do not subscribe to the theory that he is infallible. In this case it appears clear to me that the principles of justice have been reversed, and an entire body of me i have been declared to be "guilty, until you have proved your innocence." Every other m n n the United States except a soldier is held to be innocent until he is proved guilty. COLUMBUS, Ohio, November 30.

The Ethics of Extra-Judicial Testimony. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Is the law, one for school children, newsboys, bootblacks, the race that is having such a tussle to become as good as white folks-that it is honorable to tattle? Does he wish it to be understood that if he had been in the ranks of that degraded battalion he would have squealed"? Many people are waiting to

know. AN OLD SOLDIER.

The Martyred Students at Havana TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In your ditorial in to-day's SUN, under the heading "They Would Not Squeal," you make a misstatement of facts about the cause that nade martyrs of the Cuban medical students whose tomb in Colon Cemetery bears the inscription "Innocenta

A group of medical students of the University of Havana were unjustly accused of having desecrated the tomb of a Spanish editor who had been killed by a Cuban. They were innocent of any such description, as t was a trumped up charge of the Spanish Volunteers of Havana, who wished these children executed to satisfy their hatred of the Cuban. They had their own way, as they intimidated the Spanish officials, with the exception of one Captain Capdevila, who defended them before the court-martial. These children were handed over to their executioners, being guiltless of any wrongtoing, and not, as your article says, that they vented their hatred of a Spanish official by

Some years after, on opening the grave of Castanon, his son declared in a public document that his father's grave was intact. The poor victims had been innocent of any wrongdoing and their names were added to the longlist of Cuban martyrs.

O. A. ZAYAS, Consul-General. NEW YORK, November 30.

Relations and Relatives.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Which is the referable term for one's cousins and aunts, relatives or relations? My little bobtail dictionary admits both, apparently, and seems to be sustained by common practice, for we say "poor relations," and then limit invitations to relatives and intimate friends. Such indeterminate usage, however, is puzzling and causes a hesitancy in one's flow of speech not becoming in the designation of one's kinsfolk.
"Relation" conveys to my mind the id.a, more exclusively, of a state of connection, walle "relative is more clearly suggestive of a concrete mass-the descent of one's relatives on Than sgiving Day for instance. J. W. E. for instance NEW YORK, November 30.

Flatter - Do you have any trouble with the heat? Knicker-None whatever; but we have considerable with the cold.

Stella-Does she look at him through rose colored

Bella-No, auto rorgies.

TO RELIEVE GENIUS.

There Should Be an Endowed Bureau for the Reading of Manuscripts.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN -Sh: The verage manuscript submitted for reading does not receive proper attention. Some-times it is read and sometimes it isn't. If it should be read and doesn't please the "reader," that settles it. Back it goes with the stereotyped "regret." The effect of a few experiences of this kind on a sensitive young man of genius is to disgust him with the business of authorship. "To the deuce with it!" he cries, and takes to anything that will yield him a certain living.

I contend that it is the greatest mistake to suppose that rejected young writers of genius will "struggle on." Only the fellows who think they are geniuses struggle on. Perhaps this will account for the oceans of dulness and inanity with which we are del uged. The situation for literature is serious. is there any remedy? We cannot hope, I hink, to reform the editorial sanctum. And I freely admit that the expense of a proper examination of manuscripts submitted (whose name, alas, is legion) would be more than the average magazine could bear. What then? Here is a remedy that has occurred to me: Let some of our multimillionaires who are given to endow colleges (which are so prolific in the production of medlocrity) divert a little of their money to the endowment of a literary institute or bureau. The function of this would be to pass thoroughly upon literary compositions, reject the worthless and grant a certificate to the deserving. Furnished with this a writer could not fail to receive proper consideration at the hands of pub-lishers or magazine editors, and the risk of the world of letters losing a man of genius yould be vastly minimized.

THE TOO ACTIVE POLICE. Officiousness Charged Against Some of the

'Move On" Men. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: Last

Wednesday night, being unable to get a general admittance ticket to hear Caruso in "La Bohème," I was sauntering northward from the opera house, when I ran into an acquaintance of mine, a young law student. quietly talking together on the sidewalk north of the Metropolitan when a peppery individual, with a small, bristling dark mustache, and dressed in a policeman's uniform, rushed up to me and with wild exclaimed: "Now, move on there! I have old you to move on. How many times must I tell you?" I told the fellow that that was the first time he had said anything to me. He stammered something or other about "showing me what he could do," and started o touch me, but evidently thought better of it (I am six feet one and not easily excited). expediency of so doing. My friend, younger han I, and not quite so cold blooded, did not take very kindly to his repeated hints (?) to move on faster, as we were walking away at an average gait, and turning said: "Oh, hold on there: I will walk just as slowly as I please. Your buttons weigh too heavily on you." Rather inoffensive words these, but too much for our worthy representative of law, who started after us, threatening to lock us up and do other dire things. I had said nothing except to quiet my friend. We had reached the carriage entrance by this time and were crossing the street, when our peppery friend was reenforced by another, who also threatened us with arrest.

We paid no attention but continued crossing the street, when one of the policemen rushed up behind my friend and deliberately pushed him forward. It then became my pleasant duty to quiet my friend and pacify the bluecoat. I did not care to be the centre of a small riot, for such it might easily have become, as the crowd was evidently on our side, and the large number of Italians among them were in such a frame of mind that they would only too readily have caught up any excuse to get at the representative of the police—the persecutors of their beloved Caruso.

We, however, got safely out of the mess. move on faster, as we were walking away

We, however, got safely out of the mess, and had reached Broadway again, when a good looking foreigner came up to my friend and the following conversation occurred:

"Are you a foreigner?"
"No," answered my friend.
"Are you an American?"
"Yes: why do you ask?"

"Yes: why do you ask?"

"You are an American, and you stand such treatment! Well, I have nothing more to say," and he moved on, shrugging his shoulders in a most significant fashion.

I have been in much worse crowds than last night's, but have never before met such inefficiency on the part of any policeman. It was more good luck than anything else that more serious consequences did not follow such a display of lack of self control.

How long must we submit to such officious treatment from the "guardians" INDIGNANT.

NEW YORK, November 29.

The Chinese Optum War Indemnity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN-Sir: In THE SUS hibition of Opium." In which it is said that "the first attempt resulted only in fastening the trade upon her and involving the country in a costly was with Great Britain. The result was had to pay a fine of \$6,000,000 for kicking up such

Although this amount is technically correct se representing what China paid merely for traders' oplum destroyed, yet it is misleading in that it gives one the impression that \$6,000,000 was the otal of indemnity that China paid to England for the opium war (1839-1843), whereas Mr. Justin McCarthy, in his "History of Our Own Times." temizes the indemnity as, in the first place, \$4,500. 000, and for traders' oplum destroyed, £1.250,000, or in all. £5.750,000.

In addition to the foregoing, China was com-pelled to cede the entire island of Hongkong to England in perpetuity, and was also compelled to open the five ports of Canton, Amoy. Foo Chow Foo. Ningpo and Shanghal to British traders, and to allow Consuls to be established in these five

The foregoing account shows that the \$6,000,000 presents only a small fraction of the total amount of money and of valuable territory China was comsurrender as a penalty for her fruitles attempt to keep the English oplum tra ers out of China. To emphasize the unfairness of England's attitude toward this opium affair Mr. McCarthy uses this illustration:

"The State of Maine, as every one knows, prohib-its the common sale of spirituous liquors. Let us suppose that several companies of English mer-chants were formed in Portland and Augusta, and other towns of Maine for the purpose of brewing beer and distilling whiskey and selling both to the public of Maine in denance of the State laws. Los us further suppose that when the authorities of Maine proceeded to put the State laws in force sgainst these intruders our Covernment here took up the cause of the whiskey sellers, and sent as iclad fleet to Portland to compel the people of Maine to put up with them. In the case of such a nation as the United States nothing of the bind

SPRINGFIELD. Ohlo, November 29.

Prosperity of the South.

The South is getting rich by leaps and bounds. Here is part of what she has gained in only a quarter of a century. The partial schedule following efers to the fourteen Southern States, namely, Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maryland, Mississippi, North Carolina South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia and

Assessed value of prop-\$6,679,440,423 \$3,549,000.000 Factory capital, total ... \$1,500,000,000 \$1,243,000.000 Factory product, yearly \$1,750,000,000 \$1.293,000.000 Capital cotton mills..... Annual cotton crop \$680,000,000 \$367,000,000 Raw cotton used yearly, 2,163,000,000 bales... Lumber product, yearly, \$250,000,000 \$211,000,000 Foreign exports, yearly. \$555,000,000 \$294,000,00 \$1,090,000,000 Farm products, yearly. \$1,750,000,000 Railroads, miles 60,000 42,316,000 Petroleum, barrels. 42,495,000 \$53,800,000 Capital cotton oll mills. . \$54,600,000 Cotton spindles..... 9,205,000 8,538,000

Trade Opportunities in Vladivostok. The for Irn trade of Vladivostok was suspended for eighteen months during the war, but is again full operation, says Consul R. S. Greene. The country needs farm machinery and implements and machinery for mines, flour mills and saw mills. American agricultural machinery has an excellen start in Siberia, but most of the flour and saw mills are of German or European makes. typewriters, sewing machines, scales, arms and photographic apparatus are popular, and there is a spiendid opening for American shoes, barbed wire, rubber goods, leather, carriage tires, lamps