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Mr. Cleveland and the Senate.

When in doubt play trumps. When in despair nominate Mr. Cleveland. Such seems to be the rule observed by certain eastern admirers of the ex-President, notably the New York World.

The democrats of New Jersey want a man to oppose Mr. Dryden for the Senate. Democratic prospects are not bright, as the state for some years has been going republican by substantial majorities. Still, as the republicans this year are having troubles, it is the belief of the more hopeful members of the democracy that a strong candidate for the Senate might defeat Mr. Dryden. Woodrow Wilson of Princeton University, Col. George Harvey's choice for President, was first mentioned, but he declined the honor. Now the New York World booms Mr. Cleveland.

There are two reasons why Mr. Cleveland would not enjoy the Senate, or fill the bill.

(1) He has never had a day's experience as a member of any legislative body. He is without knowledge of parliamentary law, and without capacity as a debater. This would make leadership for him impossible; and he is not constituted to be a follower. He is not a clubable man, and for that reason the cloak-room circles would not appeal to him. His eminence would embarrass him. Everybody would treat him with marked consideration because of the great office he has held, but on account of his inexperience and helplessness in legislative work he could offer little in return. The probability is that he would be bored to death by surroundings wholly out of line with his taste and talents.

(2) Mr. Cleveland, on a question of high importance to the democrats of New Jersey—in fact, to all the people of the state—is not in sympathy with local sentiment. New Jersey is a protection state. Mr. Cleveland is a free trader. The tariff bill of 1894, which James Smith, jr., a democratic senator from New Jersey, helped to stuff full of protective duties, was denounced by Mr. Cleveland on that account as representing "perfidy and dishonor." And yet nothing is better known than that Mr. Smith's course was dictated by his democratic constituents. Suppose, then, Mr. Cleveland in the Senate from New Jersey and a tariff bill under consideration. If he voted the sentiments of his constituents he would stultify himself. If he voted his own sentiments he would be execrated by the very people who had given him his office. His experience with the silver men in 1893 would be repeated.

Better leave Mr. Cleveland alone, as probably he desires, with his fishing tackle in summer, and in the enjoyment of his snug fireside in winter.

The School Teachers' Pay.

It is gratifying to all friends of the public school teachers of the District to find the controller of the treasury answering the questions submitted to him by the District auditor in such terms that the salaries of those whose status is in no degree of doubt may be immediately paid. There are only a very few, in comparison with the whole number of teachers, whose positions are not at this time altogether clear. Some of these are now on the pay rolls, but without exact definition of fiscal status, while others have been dropped from the rolls and are now endeavoring to establish their claims to reinstatement, or to payment falling favorable action by the board of education. It would have worked a serious and unnecessary hardship upon the teachers who are unquestionably entitled to their pay to force them all to wait until every question relative to the school pay rolls has been finally answered. The controller can now proceed to the consideration of the disputed points of the case without in any way injuring the hundreds of teachers who are dependent upon their stipends and upon whom a slight delay at this time of the year imposes a handicap.

Bryan in Indiana.

This proposition of the Indiana democrats to regulate Mr. Bryan's tongue while he is canvassing in that state is pretty impudent. It will not do at all. Have they forgotten the failure of those southern statesmen to revise the Madison Square Garden speech before it was delivered? That was a flat failure. Mr. Bryan listened, but kissed them off. When he took the stand he emphasized the very point his would-be mentors had proscribed. Let the Hoosiers beware. They are playing with worse than fire. In undertaking to classify and to limit the eloquent output of the peerless leader they have set for themselves an impossible task. As well try to plug up the crater of an active volcano with gun cotton.

The problem with the professional autoist continues to be how to get more speed out of the machine instead of how to make it safer.

Ireland cannot help wishing it had Cuba's chance at home rule.

Massachusetts and Moranism.

The Massachusetts republicans stand pat on the tariff. After declaring in good round terms for the policy of protection, and pointing out the immeasurable benefits this country has derived from it, and bestowing the proper credit for our present prosperity, they say:

"But no tariff law has ever been or can be perfect in all its parts; and, moreover, schedules necessary and wise at the time of their adoption may become unnecessary and unwise by changes in industrial conditions, and the law therefore ought not to be deemed to be above criticism or beyond improvement. We approve the action of our representatives in both houses of Congress at the last session in asking consideration of the tariff, believing it to be the duty of a republican Congress to examine with care at all times the operations of the tariff laws and to amend or revise them whenever the public interests demand.

"In any amendment or revision of the tariff laws we believe that the principle of protection should be kept constantly in view and applied impartially to all sections and all industries, that maximum and minimum tariffs to be applied under executive authority should be established as the surest method of securing just commercial relations with other nations and that the schedules of duties should be so adjusted that they will especially foster trade with the other nations and dependencies on this hemisphere."

But still no admission that tariff revision has been too long delayed, and that there is peril in the policy of postponement. The tribute to protection is a mere flourish. There is no war in the republican party anywhere on protection. That policy is safe in any event. Even in the democratic party protection sentiment now is strong. Mr. Hearst, with all of his audacity and contempt for old party ties and cries, bows to protection, and conjectures in part with its name.

Turning from the republican platform, it is refreshing to read this statement, which is taken from Mr. McCall's speech accepting a renomination to the House:

"My attitude upon the tariff is unchanged. There are undeniably important duties that are now too high for any just purposes of revenue or protection. The time to deal with an injustice is the very moment it becomes known, and the longer a public wrong is permitted to exist the more extreme will be the remedy presented when at last public opinion is kindled to the point of striking."

Here we have the sentiment of a good Bay state republican—one of the best—and an able man. He would tackle the inequalities of the tariff now. Indeed, he would have tackled them several years ago. He is one of the leaders of his party who accepted Mr. McKinley's last speech at Buffalo as a wise deliverance, and has regretted that it did not immediately bear fruit.

It is probably fortunate for the republicans of Massachusetts that a stronger than the tariff issue is before the people of the state in this year's campaign. Moranism is the twin of Hearstism, and must be met. That flamboyant and aggressive Boston lawyer who has elbowed all the veteran democrats off the stage, and now holds the flag of radicalism aloft, is so interesting a figure in this day of unrest that republican divisions on any issue are not likely to take a pronounced form.

The Union Station Plaza.

The plans for the improvement of the new union station plaza, which have been virtually agreed upon by the representatives of the railroads and the District government, commend themselves to the community as commensurate with the importance of the project. Here is a station building with a system of approaches which will cost, in the aggregate, probably over $15,000,000, and will transform Washington from a victim of railroad menace into the possessor of the finest terminal equipment in the United States. Everything about the station should be in keeping. The park approach should be worthy of a city of beautiful reservations. It should have many trees and broad lawn spaces, and architectural features, such as fountains and low walls and seats, in harmony with the beautiful building itself.

In one respect the action of the railroad and municipal engineers is of the utmost importance. Coupled with the other features of the plaza development plan is a scheme for the arrangement of the street railway tracks to give the greatest degree of public convenience with the least degree of disfigurement. According to the project as outlined the users of the railroad station will find it possible to reach that point easily from every part of the city and conversely to reach every part of the capital from the station with a minimum of delay. Washington should bind its two transit systems together into close harmony, having now the best street car equipment in the country, and soon to have the best steam railroad terminal.

The legislation required for the rearrangement of the street car tracks should have been enacted at the last session of Congress, but owing to the disposition in some quarters to attach certain drastic taxation features to the measure, it failed of passage. Had there been no such delay it would have been easily possible to work out the track changes so that the street car equipment would have been ready at the same time as the station. As the case now stands it will be necessary to secure the statute immediately after the opening of the session in order to enable the local traction companies to make even a showing of compliance with the new conditions. It has been estimated that this work will require eight months, owing to the difficulty of securing steel from the mills, but perhaps if the matter is placed upon the proper basis the urgent necessities of the capital may be met by the manufacturers in less time. In any case, the measure including all the provisions for the station plaza improvement should have the active support of all who are interested in the early completion of this great work and the final rescue of Washington from its old railroad handicap.

The Retiring District Assessor.

The District government loses a valuable official in Mr. H. H. Darneille, the assessor, whose resignation is announced in the news columns today. Mr. Darneille has grown up in the municipal service and has risen to the position he is now relinquishing as a result of his close attention to the interests of the community. He developed a natural ability for the line of work which was eventually given to him and his career as assessor and as a member of the boards connected with that office has been conspicuously successful. His position brought him into close relationship with the two houses of Congress, before the District and appropriation committees of which he was frequently summoned to explain matters bearing upon the local finances. The District has in the long run gained materially as a result of the tact, courage, and good sense displayed by Mr. Darneille in this work, and the taxpayers of the community have reason to be thankful to him for his services as a medium of communication between them and Congress on the fiscal affairs of the capital.

Mr. Bryan has doubtless concluded that, like free silver, government ownership is all right, only conditions have so shaped themselves that it is not immediately required.

Even in the absence of railway passes the mileage will be sufficient to leave congressmen a little margin after expenses are paid.

Even if it is not needed the presence of an army will make it seem a little more like old times for the Cubans.

The Parisians are getting so excited over the new law that they are unable to rest on Sunday or any other day.

The South American revolutionist usually insists that he is acting on principle when in reality it is only habit.

A few political sensations would be a relief from the monotony of divorce news.

A Congresslady.

A recent news dispatch reads:

Laura B. Payne of Fort Worth, in accepting yesterday the nomination on the socialist ticket for Congress in this district, comes out strongly for government ownership of railroads, and goes a step farther than Bryan in advocating government ownership of all packing houses. Miss Payne is the first woman to run for Congress in Texas, and says she will push her campaign vigorously. When asked what she would do if elected, she replied:

"The first thing I would do would be to accuse the grafters in Congress of their wrongdoings and arouse the public of the entire country to oust the rogues from the national legislature."

A woman in the House of Representatives would be a source of humiliation to those members who pride themselves on being fluent talkers. They would not even figure in the proceedings of the House. Talking, especially when she is expressing her opinion of men, is an exercise in which a woman has never been excelled. No man ever matches her in the use of language. The House is full of gentlemen who talk, not to enlighten their fellow members, but to impress their constituents, and who like to see their names in the Record almost as much as to see their pictures in the newspapers. The advent of a lady in the House would be a sore discouragement to these gentlemen. Then, the stenographers, rapid though they are, would have troubles of their own.

The presence of a lady in Congress would have one beneficial effect. Many members would learn the unvarnished truth about themselves and their conduct. How could they reply to her? Could they talk back to her? They would not get the chance, and if they did, what would be the use? A man always gets the worst of it. The last word is a game in which every woman is a champion.

Would any member dare to say disagreeable things to her? Not for the world. The mean things would not dare to. It would be uncourtly in the first place, and the man does not live who can compete with a lady in saying disagreeable things.

Would the Speaker call her to order? Never! Nothing like that would stop her. Could the sergeant-at-arms stop her? Most sergeants-at-arms are married men and are alive to the danger of interrupting a lady when her speech has begun to flow.

The rude men members of the House would have no way to protect themselves against the lady except by inviting her out to lunch.

It is almost past belief that the voters in Texas will be so ungallant as to cast their ballots against Miss Laura, and it is possible that she may occupy a chair on the floor of the House. It will be a rocking chair no doubt.

Another feature of all this is that Miss Laura must confess that she has reached the age of twenty-five years, for the Constitution reads: "No person shall be a representative who shall not have attained to the age of twenty-five years and been seven years a citizen of the United States, and who shall not, when elected, be an inhabitant of that state in which he shall be chosen."

Lone-Handed Highwaymanry.

A Yosemite stage was held up the other day by a lone bandit. This solitaire style of highwaymanry is not so unusual as to arouse particular interest. But there were features about this case that set it off from others of its category. In the first place the bandit secured only trifling sums from the passengers. The victims usually lose heavily in cash, in print. Maybe stage riders are taking warning and carrying only check books. The express company's safe was rifled. That is according to the traditional rules of the game. An interesting diversion was afforded by the snap-shotting of the bandit at his work by one of the passengers. This is real up-to-date work. The photographer lost $7.50, but he probably got ten times that much fun out of the episode, and his negative, if it develops well, should net him a handsome profit on the investment. One of the passengers was a United States soldier, who carried a loaded gun. Catching the robber off his guard, the soldier took aim and was about to fire, when he was deterred by the other passengers, who feared, it is stated, that his marksmanship was not good enough to risk a shot. Has the United States army so poor a reputation for gunnery that one of its representatives can not be trusted to take a shot at a thief within a few paces?

The Parachute Drop.

Another person maimed and most likely another life lost because of the unhealthy taste for dangerous performances! Every day gives an account of some fatality due to the disordered desire of a gaping crowd to be thrilled. It is a desire that so far from being stimulated should be repressed. Libertyville, Ill., sends this:

"A woman aeronaut fell 500 feet in making a balloon ascension at the Lake county fair, at Libertyville, this afternoon, and may die as the result of her injuries. The accident was due to the failure of the parachute to spread.

"Miss Schwartel, who is but seventeen years old, made the ascension after an unsuccessful attempt earlier in the afternoon, in which she fell twenty-five feet. She received a broken collar bone, and made the second ascent in a half-dazed condition. A crowd of nearly 5,000 persons witnessed the accident, and the young woman dropped into a struggling mass of men, women and children. A horse hitched to a phaeton broke through the crowd, three persons being crushed in the scramble for safety."

If parachute jumps could be made to serve any useful purpose there might be excuse for the venturesome pastime. They do not serve such purpose.

The town that has not had an earthquake, a fire or a race riot can afford to be philosophic and cheerful even under the petty annoyances of graft.

There are inquiries as to what Hearst stands for. The point that is really clear is that he will not stand for Tammany.

Neither the doctors nor the diplomats are ever able to pronounce the Sultan of Turkey absolutely out of danger.

A London scientist says people should now and then stop thinking. The difficulty, as a rule, is to begin.

It must seem novel to Senator Platt of New York to have trouble that is not of a political nature.

Annexation is no longer a threat. It is a reward of merit.

SHOOTING STARS.

A Surfeited Cynic.

"Remember," said the melodramatic man, "there are things in this life that money cannot buy."

"Yes," answered the impecunious person wearily, "but I had enough of them long ago. What I want now is a change."

A Success.

"Was your latest speech a success?"

"It was," answered the orator. "I managed to get through without saying a thing that would start a quarrel in my party."

A Literary Tendency.

If magazines continue
In this, their yellowish way,
Ere long they'll have to issue
Several extras every day.

"If de dollar dat you has," said Uncle Eben, "was sho' nuff as big as a dollar seems when you's broke, a man wouldn' be able to carry mo'n about six bits in his pocket at a time."

Advantages.

"Why does a man want billions," asked the philosophic citizen, "when he can get on with so much less?"

"Well," answered Mr. Dustin Stax, "when a man has a billion or so he can speculate or play the horses without causing comment. But when he's only a bank official he's expected to be more or less exemplary."

A Literary Comment.

Take away the almanac,
Tain't no good to me;
Used to want it on the rack
Where every one could see.
But on a blazin' summer day
'Twould tell us it was fall,
It got things mixed up every way—
It ain't no good at all.

It's jarred the peaceful life I've led—
I'm feelin' purty sore—
They've gone an' changed the jokes we've read
For twenty years or more!
Its medicines that used to be
So fine now makes me wuss;
This new one can't prescribe fur me—
It's too blame frivolous!

FIFTY YEARS AGO IN THE STAR

Presidential "Guards."

The President of the United States traveled about the country less in the middle of the past century than he does now, and with fewer precautions against annoyance and possible harm. When he left Washington the occasion was marked, as a rule, by unusual incidents. In The Star of September 29, 1856, is the following paragraph, which suggests that the people of this country were somewhat sensitive to the suggestion that the White House was putting on a military aspect:

"A telegraphic dispatch in the Baltimore papers says: 'The President will leave here (Washington) on Tuesday morning for New Hampshire. His mounted guard will escort him from the White House,' etc.

"This is the first time we have heard that the President has a mounted guard! Fortunately, such a period in our history has not arrived, and we trust will never come. The error in the announcement arises from the fact that there is a dragoon corps christened by themselves 'The President's Mounted Guard,' and they have declined to change the name, although Col. Hickey, the commander of the regiment of the District of Columbia, long ago suggested to them the propriety of so doing. The President has no more to do with these Mounted Guards than he has with the German Yeagers, or any other volunteer militia company. The name of 'The President's Mounted Guard' is merely complimentary to the executive office.

"The only guard created for the protection of a President is the 'Auxiliary Guard.' It had its origin in the days of President Tyler (who was insulted by a gang of inconsiderate persons for his political conduct). Senator Crittenden, as the debates will show, opposed the organization, looking upon it as the germ of a praetorian band, to be strengthened in time to come and threatening the overthrow of our liberties! But the business of the guard is merely for the protection of public and private property, and, relatively, to arrest disorderly persons and take them to the watch house."

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Musical Hercules.

Washington boasted of a musician half a century ago who was not only skilled as a devotee of Orpheus, but was noted for his physical courage and prowess, as the following paragraph in The Star of October 1 amply shows:

"As Mr. W. Henry Palmer, the eminent pianist, was quietly returning from his business late last evening, crossing F and 10th streets, two cowardly scoundrels set a large, fierce dog upon him. As the beast flew at him, Mr. Palmer, with great dexterity and presence of mind, caught the dog by the mouth, one hand in the upper and the other in the lower jaw, and in a moment literally tore the lower jaw out of its socket. Then turning upon the scoundrels, who were preparing to attack him, Mr. Palmer struck the nearest a left-hander in the face, and a valuable diamond ring catching in the flesh, cut the fellow's cheek open from his eye to his chin. The other ruffian had seen enough and bolted, but Mr. Palmer was the swifter runner, and in less time than it takes to write it he was caught and received as sound a thrashing as he could well get. We are glad to learn that Mr. Palmer was not injured."

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Smithsonian Institution.

The magnitude of the Smithsonian Institution today is a growth of many years. In 1856 it was but a small establishment, as the following statement in the news columns of The Star of October 1, that year, indicates:

"It appears from the tenth annual report (of the secretary) that a commodious room has been fitted up with the necessary appliances for original researches. A young chemist who has spent three years in Germany has now the use of the laboratory and is prepared to make any analyses which may be required. For the facilities afforded him he is to keep the apparatus in working order and to make such examinations of specimens as may not require much labor.

"Though the statement may excite surprise, yet the secretary, on the authority of Professor Baird, corroborated by the opinion of others well qualified to judge, states that no collection of animals in the United States, nor indeed in the world, can even now pretend to rival the richness of the museum of the Smithsonian in specimens which tend to illustrate the natural history of the continent of North America."

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C. and O. Canal.

In these days of swift land transportation and the general decadence of canals as a means of good conveyance over sections suitable for railroading, the following paragraph in The Star of October 4, 1856, is suggestive of the immense development of the country in recent years:

"The Chesapeake and Ohio canal—as is but too well known to the stockholders—has for many years yielded little, if anything, over and above the sum necessary to keep it in repair, notwithstanding the advantages available to make it a profitable source of revenue. To say nothing of the coal mines, agriculture, by means of that channel of inter-communication can always find a good and ready market, while it serves to connect the west with the shipping on the Atlantic. The improvement of the Potomac river suggested by General Washington was designed to effect a transit now more effectually furnished by the canal. Energy, tact and economy, however, are necessary to place it in such a condition as to fully answer the great purposes designed; and hence we are gratified to learn that it is the purpose of the board to put every part and point of the work into first rate order for the opening of navigation in the spring."

NEW YORK POLITICS.

From the Rochester Herald.

The Brooklyn Eagle refers to "Fingy" Conners as a blatant wind-bag, which is rather a conservative statement, we should say.

From the Providence Journal.

The arguments of Mr. Hearst make up in billingsgate what they lack in logic.

From the New York Post.

The campaign is well begun. Mr. Hughes has set the pace which all must follow. With him, we have only to set before the people the issue of decent and honest methods in the conduct of public affairs.

From the Indianapolis Star.

Hughes has shown that he is a fearless and sincere champion of the public welfare against strong and unscrupulous private interests.

From the Baltimore American.

Hearst is still being compelled to make a wry face when he reads the nice things he said about Hughes some time ago.

From the Baltimore Sun.

Charles E. Hughes claims to stand for everything American except the "New York American." He can't stand for that.

From the Los Angeles Express.

Willie Hearst evidently believes that money makes the campaign mare go, anyway.

From the Memphis Commercial-Appeal.

If Murphy does not elect Hearst he will have to resume the stripes in the columns of the New York American.

From the New York Press.

We have been unable to verify the rumor that Mr. William Jennings Bryan will place the name of Mr. William Randolph Hearst in nomination for the presidency before the democratic convention two years from now.

From the Brooklyn Times.

Being asked what he thought about the nomination of Hearst, David B. Hill qualified as a democrat in good standing by saying, "I do not think."

From the New Orleans Picayune.

Mr. Hearst, of all the public men of any prominence in the United States, is the most radical, the most daring and most prominently in the public eye as such. He controls great wealth, and he is able to attract to his standard a horde of the most desperate, unscrupulous and able political bravos.

THE AUSTRO-ITALIAN CRISIS.

A Frail Partnership.

Austria and Italy are allies, but the alliance is as thin and non-resistant as the paper on which the pact is written. The political conditions, besides, are aggravated by the racial animosities, which are implacable, and the recent outbreaks at Fiume and Zara between Croitians, Austrian-Hungarian subjects, and Italians are characteristic and a constant source of alarm for the governments at Vienna and at Rome. That the danger of a conflict is imminent the recent events on the Istrian coast of the Adriatic are the apparent storm signals. But, aside from these, there are other notes of warning from Vienna and from Rome.

A cable, dated Vienna, October 2, declares that the minister of national defense announced in the lower house of parliament that day a proposition to increase Austrian armament by the creation of fifteen new field and fourteen fortress batteries, but that the credits would not be asked until it was ascertained whether Austria and Hungary would bear the expense in common, and if both should not increase their artillery. The significance of this action is manifest, in view of the troubles in Fiume and in Zara, both largely composed of Italian settlers. In the former city the Austro-Croitians sacked the house of the mayor, an Italian, and pillaged villas. To this aggression the Italians replied by cries of "Fuori i Croati!"—"Out with the Croitians!"—and there were pistol shots and bloodshed. The excitement at Vienna and Rome was great.

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The Italian View.

A journal at Turin, the Stampa, publishes an article dated Rome, October 2, which is interesting because of its semi-official character. "The Italian minister of foreign affairs, M. Tittoni," says the Stampa, "has refused the invitation to take part in the proceedings of the international peace congress which was recently held at Milan. It was impossible, for a fact, for our minister of foreign affairs to join with those who come to preach peace in Italy, when we are breathing air that is anything but pacific on the Austro-Italian frontier. Such action on the part of M. Tittoni would have furnished arms to Italian socialists for their anti-militarist propaganda.

"Besides, it is reported from absolutely well-informed sources that M. Tittoni will address Count Goluchowski an official note, complaining of the aggressive acts of the Croitian population of Fiume and Zara against Italians and demanding reparation. The Italian government may not make diplomatic claims against the want of tact of our Australian ally for the warships which came to maneuver so near the Italian coast that the bathers at Bellovia were endangered. But at Fiume and Zara Italian subjects of King Victor Emmanuel have been shorn of their rights of person and property, and as soon as the Italian consul shall have made an official report at Rome the minister of foreign affairs will send his note to Vienna." And the Stampa adds:

"For a long time Italians have been aware of the gravity of the situation. They know that the arming of Austria-Hungary is directly aimed against Italy. It is said at Vienna, it is true, that they have little confidence in the stability of the Italian ministry and they fear that the war party may come suddenly in power and make trouble. But Italy fears that Austria, in increasing her armaments against Italy, hopes to reduce her to immobility and inaction in anticipation of the day when Austria is ready to march upon Salonica.

"However this may be, the hypothesis of a possible conflict with Austria remains the great menace of the hour, and it is certainly not the moment to make a propaganda of anti-militarism by fine speeches in the international peace congress at Milan."

* * *

Peace Talk.

On the other hand, one might imagine that the millennium of peace had already arrived, judging by the unanimity with which the peace congress at Milan approved on September 19 a motion to the effect that all nations should form popular federations and unions to be united in one great international federation. And this resolution was given emphasis by a telegram from the popular and sympathetic Victor Emmanuel, King of Italy, greeting the congress and congratulating it on its "sublime aspiration for universal peace."

These manifestations for peace are highly creditable to the participants and doubtless serve in many ways, not immediately clear, the interests of mankind. So long as "the human heart is sinful and above all desperately wicked," and daily contact with the most approved human species indicates that it will be thus to the end of time, war will continue to be a necessity. The writer in this connection recalls an incident. He was seated in a cafe in Alexandria, Egypt, one day when two persons engaged in angry colloquy entered and sat near by. The question at issue between the disputants terminated in this wise: "Know," said one, who was the stronger, "that in this world there are only wolves and sheep; robbers and robbed. You say I am a robber; that you are the robbed. I grant it. I am the wolf, you are the sheep. Take a glass of wine and let us drink that you may have better luck," and he added sarcastically, "that you may be a wolf." The victim accepted the wine, remarking that "it was the best he could do" or words to that effect. Whenever the writer reads of war and peace conventions the recollection of the conversation between Greek and Armenian arises as an object lesson of the real conditions of human society.

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A Dangerous Situation.

The Italian government, recognizing the gravity of the situation, has done whatever it could to mask the actual conditions and with this object in view sent to Vienna recently on a friendly mission the chief of the general staff of the Italian army, Gen. Soletta, which act proves that while the diplomatic relations between the two governments are correct, the popular relations are most hostile and dangerous. La Tribuna referring to certain anti-Austrian manifestations at Florence, announces that the authorities in consequence suspended on the 15th instant the public concerts, which were to be given on the Place Victor Emmanuel in honor of the anniversary of the crown prince, lest at that critical moment the public might seize the occasion to insult the Austrian flag.

The Queen Dowager Margherite is traveling incognito in an automobile in France at this moment under the name of Countess Slapingi, accompanied by a lady in waiting and a chamberlain. On the 30th ultimo, while forty officers of the garrison of Autun, a city of 15,000 inhabitants, near Macon, were dining at the principal hotel of that city, an automobile in which several persons were seated stopped in the court of the hotel. The occupants descended and requested breakfast. They were given a table near that occupied by the officers.

The lady gave an order to the maitre d'hotel, who a few moments later appeared laden with numerous bottles of the choicest brand of champagne. "Will you please say, maitre, to the president of the mess, that Queen Margherite of Savoy asks the pleasure of offering champagne to his valiant comrades." The astonished officers, accepting, arose and raised their glasses while the queen offered a toast to the French army. Later when the royal automobile left for Bourges it was amid the deafening acclamations of officers and the garrison.

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Austrian Conditions.

Austria and Italy, in view of their strained relations, may confront each other at any moment in battle. It will prove interesting, therefore, to the reader to review their respective situations—historical, political, economical and military.

Austria-Hungary, whose historical conditions were recited in The Star of October 1, 1905, under the title of "Tribulations of Hungary," is composed of many races, chief of which are German, Slav and Magyar. But there exists in the empire other groups: Italians in the Trentin, Friioul and Istria; Roumanians in Transylvania and Bukovinia, Croates separated from Hungary by the Drav and from Bosnia-Hersegovinia by the Tav. The Croatians are scattered between three cities, Agram, Fiume (free port) and Belovar. Rudolph of Hapsburg was elected Emperor of Germany in 1273. Bohemia and Hungary were inherited and Transylvania added in 1522-1699. Slovenes and Croates were annexed after Mohaes, where Louis II of Hungary was beaten in battle and killed by Tolmain the Magnificent in 1526 and where Charles of Lorraine defeated the Turks in 1699. The first and third partitions of Poland added Galicia in 1795, Illyria, Dalmatia, Lombardy and Venice in 1810. Austria thus occupied a preponderant position in the Germanic confederation, which was first diminished by the loss of Lombardy in 1859 and Venice in 1866. Crushed by the victory of Prussia at Sadowa and excluded from the Germanic confederation in 1866, Austria adopted a dual constitution with Hungary and thereafter were known as the Austro-Hungary empire. The population of Austria proper, exclusive of Bosnia Herzegovinia, has an area of 115,908 English square miles and a population, according to the census of December 31, 1900, of 26,150,708.

The ethnical elements of the population of Austria on the basis of language in 1900 was as follows:

German, 9,171,614; Bohemian, Moravian and Slav, 5,955,483; Polish, 4,252,483; Ruthenian, 3,381,570; Slovene, 1,192,780; Servian and Croatian, 711,380; Italian and Ladin, 727,102; Roumanian, 230,963; Magyar, 9,516.

The Austrian army is based upon a compulsory military service. The special army, the Austrian landwehr and the Hungarian honvedseg, the levee in mass landsturm or nepfolkeles.

On a war footing the Austro-Hungarian army for field service consists of 980,000 men; the landwehr, 600,000; the landsturm, 1,000,000; total, 2,580,000.

The Austro-Hungarian navy is mainly a coast defensive force, maintained in a state of high efficiency, and including a flotilla of monitors for the Danube. The headquarters of the fleet are at Pola on the Adriatic.

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American Relations.

The Daily Consular Trade Reports of the 3d instant contains suggestions from the United States consul general at Vienna with reference to the trade relations between America and Austria. The consul general says that American trade is not properly pushed, and business is badly handled; that American houses employed Germans or English to transact their affairs; that Americans suspect the honesty of the Austrian merchants. The consul general cites numerous articles for which there is an open door, but Americans fail to profit by the opportunity.

The fact is the American's commercial education is confined to insufficient schools which are incapable of giving him the instruction necessary to meet the present conditions. The remedy may be found in the organization of a system of commercial geographical societies in which Congress shall become interested in the interest of trade development. The national government should be required to send a representative to the monthly or bi-monthly meetings of the societies. Consuls, consuls general and ministers who have acquired a knowledge of the commerce and language of the country to which they are accredited, should be permitted at certain inervals to return to this country and, under the surveillance and orders of the Secretary of State (and if need be the Secretary of Commerce), instructed to appear before the Commercial Geographical Society for the purpose of giving information upon the commerce and industries of the countries whence they come. The suggestion is not new, but is practiced in the interest of trade development of every country except our own. The writer, an active member of the Commercial Geographical Society of Paris and Bordeaux, submitted the proposition to organize such societies to the former Secretary of the Department of Commerce. He appeared before the board of trade of Baltimore and outlined the scope and purpose of such commercial societies. The board of trade was suspicious that the proposed society was a rival to boards of trade and chambers of commerce. Not so, it was explained; it is only an adjunct. It proposes to popularize commerce and incorporate as members the one hundred thousand traveling salesmen who come to Baltimore as a sort of commercial cross roads. Some one in the board of trade, or some one who read a report of the meeting, caught the idea, in part, with the result that Baltimore possesses at this moment a society which is partially of the proposed character, under the title of the "Merchants and Travelers' Association." Let Washington, Greater Washington, take note.

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Across the Border.

The history of Italy is merged into that of Rome, the capital, once mistress of the world. In the sixth century the last of the Lombard kings is dethroned by Charlemagne. Italy then possessed three capitals: Rome, residence of the popes; Ravenna, seat of the exarchat; Pavia, seat of the Lombard domination. In the twelfth century the bloody struggle between Guelphs and Ghibellines; the French invasion in 1494; that of Spain maintained during two centuries. The foreign princes imposed by the treaties of Utrecht (1713), Rastadt (1714), Vienna (1738). The kingdom of Italy was founded in 1806, but the treaty of 1815 surrendered it to Austria, and so remained until the intervention of Napoleon III in 1859, who gave Italy to the King of Sardinia. It was an epoch for Italy, whose unity was prepared by Cavour and definitely consummated by Victor Emmanuel in 1870.

Italy has a population of 32,500,000, in which are included 300,000 non-Italians or Germans, Slav, Greeks, Albanians, Calabrians, Catalins, Maltese, Jews, Armenians and Bohemians.

The Italian army on a war footing, including its reserves, consists of 3,285,637. The navy possesses ships of remarkable caracter, both as to speed, armor and armament, and the personnel is considerable.

The commercial relations between America and Italy are important. Italy besides furnishes America with vast numbers of her laboring population, who, when properly colonized and encouraged to cultivate vines and figs in their new homes will surely serve to solve the present perplexing American labor question.

CH. CHAILLE-LONG.

MASSACHUSETTS.

From the New York Sun.

In a time so rich in jackassery the competition for the first honors is severe, but can even envy deny to Mr. John Butin Moran the glory of being the foremost posture maker, busybody and clown of the world?

From the Hartford Times.

Moran is in alliance with Hearst, and the ambitions of the latter conflict somewhat with the leadership of the "Peerless One."

From the Springfield Republican.

District Attorney Moran has captured not only the democratic nomination for the governorship, but also the organization of the Massachusetts democracy. As was to have been expected, the tiresome fight made by Mayor Fitzgerald the night before the convention availed only to offer one more offensive example to the up-country delegates of the domination of the Boston gang. It was nothing more than the intrusion into state politics of a local machine fight, and the Boston machine is not of such a complexion itself as to lend any good color to the democracy of the state. The radicals have won, and in the look ahead this is undoubtedly for the good of the Massachusetts democracy.

THE CUBAN SITUATION.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Cuban flag continues to float, as a concession to the sentiments of a proud-spirited people. But the stars and stripes are there for business purposes.

From the Springfield Union.

The Cuban revolutionary junta has closed up its office in New York and gone out of business. Its members realize that there is no chance for such an enterprise to continue its work with Uncle Sam running things in the island.

From the Hartford Times.

Cuba has now acquired a nucleus for the question that used to be discussed in the United States during the dull seasons: What shall we do with our ex-presidents?

From Harper's Weekly.

It is at the same time true, though many Europeans will hear the assertion with incredulity, that we are very far from desiring to annex Cuba. It is, indeed, very doubtful whether a project of annexation, even though it should be advocated by President Roosevelt, would be sanctioned by both houses of Congress.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

[In this column will be answered all questions of a proper nature submitted to The Star. Inquirers should write on one side only and address their letters to "Uncle Jasper," Star office. In case of difficult conundrums answers may be delayed for a week or two. Consequently it may be advisable for all questioners to watch this column carefully.]

BELLE.—Do you consider that marriage is evidence of insanity in man? A.—After looking over the brides' pictures in the society news in other cities than Washington, we are unable to account for marriage in any other way.

INQUISITIVE.—Why is Boss Murphy supporting Hearst? A.—We did not hear the amount mentioned, but suppose it was large.

ARISTOCRAT.—I am thinking of joining the Society of the Descendants of Colonial Convicts. You believe in blue blood, don't you? A.—We don't believe in blue blood any more than in blue milk. Indigo is all right in a dye vat, but out of place in an artery. It's glorious color in a maiden's eye. But when a man insists that his blood is blue it is a safe bet that his blood is pale pink with a yellow streak in it.

IRONY.—The President spoke in the rain at Harrisburg. Was this another instance of Roosevelt luck? A.—Oh, yes! Rain, slush and mud with thunder and lightning constitute the President's favorite weather. You see, the President likes rough riders, rough weather and rough house.

AMBITIOUS.—I am a working girl. How can I make myself solid with my employer? A.—This is easy. Laugh at his dullest joke till salt seas surge from your pretty eyes. Don't notice his stupidity. Never question his superiority, because he knows this. He has no doubt of it. Marvel at his wisdom. Anybody with money is entitled to the reputation of acumen, foresight, etc., even though he hasn't brains enough to mix mud for a brick machine.

LITTLE DEAF.—Is it true that money talks? A.—It seems to have a way of making itself heard, though it is not on speaking terms with us.

CENT PER CENT.—When a man says, "Purely a matter of business," what does he mean to convey, and what are "business principles"? A.—When a man does something that he knows he ought to be ashamed of he tries to justify the wrong by saying, "It is purely a matter of business." The phrase "business principles" is rather hard to define, because it is often so hard to find the principles. A great many unprincipled things are done on strictly business principles.

GENEALOGIST.—My ancestors were pure Puritan stock. I take great pride in this and write to ask you if you can furnish me with a few fakes for my family tree. A.—"Pure Puritan" is something which many persons would consider tautology, and others would believe impossible. The Puritan character was a very fine thing; especially in the books written by Puritans. Personally, we consider that the Puritans were only human beings, though, of course, some of them did not act like it. You are perhaps right in your attentions to your ancestors. Some persons take a great deal better care of their ancestors than of their poor relations.

RHYMSTER.—Do you think there is an opening in this campaign for an ambitious political poet? A.—One of the best ever offered is to be found in New York, where a bright young man with a rhyming dictionary may turn out yards of doggerel without having to stretch his personal views very far. He can find plenty of good rhymes for both candidates. Hughes—"news," "abuse," "skiddoos" and "lose" are instances, while Hearst's name fits nicely with "first" and "worst." Why not send a few samples on to both committees, Rhymie?

The man who goes away from work
And plays for several weeks
Is apt to find on his return
He gets more than he seeks.
He hears a lot of kindly words,
His heart with gladness thrills;
But in the mail piled on his desk
He finds six dozen bills.

I. C. N.—Do you think Secretary Taft's avoirdupois will be a handicap on him in the presidential race? A.—Only so far as it may cause doubt in some minds whether, as President, he can find as competent a lid-holder as he is himself when he takes a trip out of Washington.

SEISMIC.—Has any one yet learned where the big earthquake noted by the weather bureau the other day was located? A.—Proof positive has been found that it occurred in Washington and New York and was caused by a simultaneous dumping of a lot of campaign dollars into