

Quill Points.

Emperor William accepts the responsibility with the confidence of a boy tackling a steam engine.

Smokeless power has at last been invented in the United States. Now if they will introduce the smokeless cigar for street car use the world can say it is making progress.

Massachusetts courts may refuse to permit women to be notaries public, but no court can prevent some of them from achieving public notoriety, which, it may be said, many deem a more desirable privilege.

The haste with which the government ordered the release of the *Pathfinder*, the re-captured sealing schooner, resembles the manner in which a man opens his hand when he discovers that he has grasped a thistle.

Villard is said to be converting the Oregon Transcontinental into an electric company. With all of Edison's patents he will never be able to give such an electric shock as he did the holders of Transcontinental stock in 1883.

Wonder if we could affect an exchange with the czar—give him all of our democrats who are opposed to compulsory education and take the czar's subjects whose education he opposes. How it would harmonize both countries!

The death of General Milroy calls to mind the fact that he, Fremont and every other general who dared to assert original ideas during the first three years of the war were made to suffer by the military autocrats and automatons above them.

The danger attending the efforts of a drunkard to reform was never more forcibly shown than a few days ago, when four men trying to smuggle whisky into Alaska in a boat during a storm, rashly left their whisky and took to water and were all drowned.

Oxford has beaten Cambridge in the annual boat race. It is too bad that the length of time required renders it impossible for American colleges to send over a crew that will show them what superb educational institutions we have on this side of the water.

Bartholdi is shocked at the idea of Bedloe's island being made a landing place for immigrants. His idea is that the island whereon stands his great statue should be dedicated forever as a hallowed spot. Mr. Bartholdi is delightfully idealistic, but he seems to be

unaware that Americans do not consider the shrine of liberty to be in New York City or anywhere near it.

If, as military critics say, in case of war with a foreign country we would be compelled to throw away our rifles and cannon and use another kind, to substitute for our powder another kind, to discard our book of tactics for another kind, and even throw overboard our regular soldiers and fight with another kind—volunteers—would it not be well for us to begin to get some of these necessary "other kinds" in readiness for use before the trouble begins?

The Pennsylvania idea that the internal revenue receipts be divided among the states for the making of good public highways, ought to receive the endorsement of the drinking roustabout. He might then have an opportunity of gaining back by honest toil "with pick and shovel" a portion of the money he squanders in the saloons. It would be a sort of mutual affair, in which the government acts simply as a receiver and distributor of pool funds for improvident drinkers.

And now it is the state treasurer of Maryland who is short in his accounts. Political bossism does not seem to produce a high class of officials of either the democratic or republican persuasion. Maryland democrats object to ballot reform, so do the New York politicians, and so, also, do the republican bosses of Oregon. Corrupt politics, no matter by which party they are managed, see in the ballot reform movement a serious blow to their power. No better argument in its favor can be asked for.

One count in the general public indictment of lawyers is that for money an attorney will bring all his learning and ability to the defense of a man he knows to be guilty, and to accomplish his object will even seek to publicly disgrace and malign the character of a virtuous woman or an honest man, as was done in the Flack case in New York, and still retain his high position in his profession and remain a respected, if not respectable, member of the bar. Granted that a criminal is entitled to a defense, it does not follow that in order to secure it respectable members of society should be slandered or that honorable men should be, by intimation at least, accused of crimes even greater than that laid to the charge of the man in whose interest this heinous act is being committed. The legal profession is itself responsible for the existence of a general belief that lawyers will do anything for money, no matter how base and despicable it may be.