

PUBLIC OPINION.

Diogenes, Being asked of what beast the bite was most dangerous, answered: "Of wild beasts, that of a slanderer; of tame, that of a flatterer."

Pendleton Tribune: President McKinley differs from some "patriots." He hesitates before the horror of sacrificing thousands of good American lives.

London Telegraph: The idea of ridding Cuba of Spaniards has been threatened by American statesmen during the last half-century, but the merit of acting upon it, with all its tremendous responsibilities and risks—for it is a merit—belongs to President McKinley.

Ashland Tidings: The Republican State ticket, nominated by the convention at Astoria on the 14th inst., which appears at the head of these columns, is an exceptionally strong one and is composed of clean, tried and true men.

Carl Schurz: Where is our boasted Christianity when we blame the chief magistrate of the nation for trying to gain time to avert war? Is there anything in the history of the country more calculated to raise a blush on every American cheek?

Oregonian: Ex-President Harrison and Cleveland have shown commendable judgment in their reticence of opinion in regard to what course President McKinley should or should not steer.

Coast Mail: The Spanish will probably sweep away the existing dynasty if defeated in a war with the United States. It is a dark outlook for the Queen Regent and the boy King in any case.

Morro Castle Opens Fire. KEY WEST, April 23.—(Delayed in transmission)—The first shot from Spain was fired last night when Morro castle opened its batteries on the United States fleet. This news was brought here this afternoon by the torpedo-boat Ericsson, which left the fleet at 10 o'clock this morning, and reached here at 4 P. M. Captain Usher, of the Ericsson, was ordered out early last night on scouting duty.

The fleet was lying about eight miles off Havana. Lights were out and all hands were ready for action. The little craft rushed swiftly toward the enemy and brought up almost under Morro's guns, being enabled to reach such a close point because for the first time in years Morro light was then burning.

At 11 P. M. the Spanish artillery roared out its first welcome to the American fleet. The firing was done more in a tentative than as an attack. Not a shot found a billet, and the fleet, disdainful Spain's wretched gunnery, maintained a dignified silence.

Charles Emory Smith Succeeds Gary. WASHINGTON, April 21.—The President sent this nomination to the Senate today: Charles Emory Smith, of Pennsylvania, to be Postmaster-General, vice James A. Gary, resigned.

Cable Between Cuba and Spain Cut. New York, April 25.—A dispatch to the Herald from Tampa says: The United States has cut the Havana cable. The cut was made about 10 miles out of Havana, and the southern end of the cable is now on the Mangrove, which was recently converted into an auxiliary cruiser.

Rheumatism Cured. My wife has used Chamberlain's Pain Balm for rheumatism with great relief, and I can recommend it as a splendid liniment for rheumatism and other household use for which we have found it valuable.—W. J. CUYLER, Red Creek, N. Y.

FOREIGN.

LONDON, April 25.—Spanish 4s closed today at 84 1/2.

PARIS, April 25.—It is announced the Queen Regent of Spain still hopes for peaceful foreign intervention.

BERLIN, April 25.—It is announced semi-officially that Germany will not issue a declaration of neutrality, the idea being to preserve her freedom of action and "to be in a position to intervene if she considers it necessary."

LONDON, April 22.—The Paris correspondent of the Times says: There is not a single French paper, nor even, I believe, a single Frenchman, who supports the United States. The news from Spain indicates that the national subscription will total £30,000,000.

LONDON, April 22.—The Rome correspondent of the Daily Mail says: The leading papers publish violent articles against the "brutal highlandness and commercial greed of the United States in wishing to annex Cuba."

PORTLAND, April 22.—Just in the nick of time and simultaneous with the beginning of the war with Spain, two carloads of torpedoes for the protection of the mouth of the Columbia, arrived here from the east yesterday, and will be at once forwarded to their destination by Captain Fisk, United States engineers, who, in connection with his charge of the fortifications of the Columbia, will have to superintend the "planting" of them, and see that they are placed where they will do the most good by doing the most harm to the enemy.

STATE NEWS NOTES

POPULIST EDITORS SENT TO JAIL. TACOMA, April 21.—Editors A. P. Tugwell and F. A. Baker, of the Tacoma Sun, a Populist paper, were taken to Olympia this morning by a Deputy Sheriff to serve 100 days in the Thurston county jail, in lieu of paying fines of \$50 each. They were convicted of libeling the State Supreme Court in publishing a caustic criticism of a recent opinion validating certain Tacoma city warrants, once declared invalid. They will appeal to the Supreme Court of the United States.

AMERICANS MAY NOT GO DIRECTLY TO CUBA. WASHINGTON, April 24.—Secretary Sherman said today that it was his expectation that for the present and immediate future the insurgent army would do the greater part of the fighting in Cuba. He added the statement that there was no intention of taking the militiamen and new recruits into Cuba until thoroughly insured to the hardships of actual military life, and that probably the regulars would be held in this country until later in the season.

BROTHERLY LOVE MUST BE PROTECTED. PHILADELPHIA, April 24.—Submarine mines have been placed in position for the defense of the Delaware River for 40 miles from this city. No vessels will be allowed to pass through the channel between sunset and sunrise.

THE ORIGINAL ORGAN GRINDER. When barrel organs, once the usual accompaniment of the magic lantern, came into use, a native of the province of Tende was one of the first who traveled about Europe with this instrument. In his peregrinations he collected money enough to enable him to purchase from the king of Sardinia the title of count of the country where he was born—for which, probably, in a time of war he did not pay above 1,000 guineas. With the remainder of his money he purchased an estate suitable to his rank and settled himself peacefully for the remainder of his days in his mansion.

IN THE NEW YORK DIRECTORY FOR 1815 is the entry, "Peter Cooper, machinist, 98 Elm street." Elm street was then one of the poorer localities.

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ELY'S CREAM BALM CURES COLD IN HEAD CATARRH ROSE-COLD HEADACHE BRUISES HAY-FEVER RHEUMATISM SORE THROAT ELY BROS. NEW YORK

DANGER INDOORS ON A SHIP.

Steamship and Battleship Bulkheads Not Worth as Much as They Seem. On all first class passenger steamships and on all large warships a great percentage of the total cost is spent directly and indirectly on bulkheads or on what these bulkheads necessitate. No passenger would willingly make a voyage in a liner which was not known to have a cellular structure, and no government would think of building a battleship or cruiser without bulkheads. Yet it is a fact well known, at least to all seafaring men and shipbuilders, that these bulkheads, strong and perfect in themselves, are precisely as safe and efficient as the doors in them and not a whit more so.

The doors as at present constructed and operated are notoriously bad and dangerous. They have been the direct and known cause in the loss of many lives and many good ships and are doubtless chargeable with many more ships on the list of "missing and unaccounted for." It is astonishing to the expert to see the general public and even seafaring men so ready to accept the prevailing superstition about the safety of bulkheads. The best possible bulkheads without equally good doors, operated on a safe system, are about as good as a chain with a link missing. The history of marine disaster has taught us this if it has taught us anything, and yet we go on crossing the Atlantic in liners of much vaunted safety and bragging about invulnerable battleships, apparently with implicit confidence in this bulkhead fetish.

There should be as few doors as possible, and some very able experts contend that there should be none. On the other hand, most captains and chief engineers say they must have doors. Manifestly the only way out of the difficulty is to get safe doors, safely operated. The number of watertight doors and hatches on a first class battleship is over 350, and there are nearly 800 valves and gates connected with ventilating, draining and flooding the hull and involving the safety of the ship. It will therefore be seen that the systematic control and operation of these devices is a matter of no mean importance.

It takes about 110 men to look after these details alone in response to a collision alarm under the present conditions, and it is a matter of very grave doubt on the part of those best informed as to whether the supreme efforts of these 110 men can attend to doors, hatches and valves quickly enough to save the ship.—Cassier's Magazine.

STARTLED THE OLD MAN. The acoustics of Statuary hall in the capitol at Washington are a matter of wonder to tourists, and many are the tricks played upon them. An exchange tells of a youth employed in one of the departments who was visited by his father recently and took the old gentleman to Statuary hall. There is a block about the center of the circular hall where, if one stands and faces the north, a sound uttered from the doorway, 40 feet in the rear, seems to be immediately in front of this block. The youth managed to get his father on the block and, attracting his attention toward a statue in front, slipped to the rear and said: "What time have you? My watch has stopped." The father drew out his watch and was half through giving him the time when he looked around and saw that he was standing alone and that the sun was nowhere to be seen. He was bewildered and looked like the man from beneath whose coat collar the magician has just extracted a live goose. Presently the son stepped forth from the pillar where he had been in hiding, but it required many explanations to restore the old gentleman's serenity.

WILLIAM II'S TOAD TALISMAN. The house of Hohenzollern possesses a family talisman. Since the time of the Elector John Cicero, who flourished toward the end of the fifteenth century, each ruler has, when possible before dissolution, handed to his successor a sealed packet. This contains a ring in which is set a black stone said to have been dropped by a huge toad on the coverlet of a princess of the family just as she had given birth to a son. Frederick the Great found the ring in an envelope, which also inclosed a memorandum written by Frederick I, stating its value and its mode of transmission. Schneider, the librarian of William I, declares that he saw the packet handed by Geiling, the treasurer, to his royal master on accession, and further asserts that he read his account of the talisman to the emperor, who fully confirmed it.—St. James Gazette.

NOT MUCH TO BE PROUD OF. Clara—I wonder how Mrs. Youngling can have the face to always keep boasting about her family. Gladys—Why? I thought she pretended that her ancestors were good people. Clara—So she does, and yet she admits that one of them came over with William the Conqueror. I've just been reading about that crowd, and, goodness, but they were a hard lot!—Chicago News.

A CONFUSING ORDER. "We get ridiculous letters from customers sometimes," said a bill clerk in one of the big wholesale houses. "Here is a fair sample of the manner in which some rural retailers send in an order: 'Messrs. — Please send me 600 pounds of sugar as quickly as possible. 'P. S.—Never mind sending the sugar. I have just found some in the back room.'"—Sioux City Journal.

HOT WATER. Much suffering might be avoided if people could only be made to realize that a cupful of hot water, a hot bath or hot applications of any kind are among the most useful forms of medication known to the human family, and if resorted to will almost immediately remove any of the violent symptoms of disease.

Hired Webster For a Week.

Of course Webster was in demand by those who could afford to pay for his services. A sharp Nantucket man is said to have got the better of the great defender of the constitution in an amusing way, however. He had a small case which was to be tried at Nantucket one week in June, and he posted to Webster's office in great haste. It was a contest with a neighbor over a matter of considerable local interest, and his pride as a litigant was at stake. He told Webster the particulars and asked what he would charge to conduct the case.

"Why," said Webster, "you can't afford to hire me. I should have to stay down there, he whole week, and my fee would be more than the whole case is worth. I couldn't go down there for less than \$1,000. I could try every case on the docket as well as one, and it wouldn't cost any more, for one case would take my time for the entire week anyway."

"All right, Mr. Webster," quickly responded the Nantucketer. "Here's your \$1,000. You come down, and I'll fix it so you can try every case."

Webster was so amused over this proposition that he kept his word. He spent the entire week in Nantucket and appeared on one side or the other in every case that came up for hearing. The shrewd Nantucketer hired Daniel out to all his friends who were in litigation and received in return about \$1,500, so that he got Webster's services for nothing and made a good profit to boot.—Boston Herald.

An Unbiased Charge.

A group of lawyers were telling stories in the corridors of the city hall the other day, when one related a tale of a justice of the peace in one of the southern states where the narrator lived in his earlier days. A case was being tried before a jury in the justice's court, there being a large number of witnesses on both sides. The lawyers contended fiercely and the trial dragged on until the taking of evidence and the arguments before the jury had been concluded.

"Well, gentlemen, are you through?" asked the justice, addressing himself to the lawyers.

Upon their reply in the affirmative he then addressed himself to the jury, saying:

"Gentlemen, it is now the duty of the court to say something to you. You have heard the evidence of many witnesses and have heard what the lawyers have said. I will say that I know all the witnesses and know them to be such respectable persons that it will not be necessary for you to pay any attention to what they have said even under oath. Not one of them is to be believed. As for the lawyers, they are such scoundrels you need pay no attention to what they have said, and as for the two litigants, they are so mean it doesn't make any difference which one of them gets the worst of your decision. Retire and deliberate."—Washington Post.

Lincoln and the Battery.

A story of Lincoln told me by the man to whom it happened (since dead) is as follows:

At the breaking out of the civil war Captain Tompkins of the battery of artillery, state of Rhode Island militia, stationed at Providence enlisted with his entire command and left at once for Washington. Soon after his arrival his battery, together with other troops, was reviewed by the president in front of the White House, and Captain Tompkins, proud of his battery, brought it past the president in the very best shape he was capable of doing and at once returned to be presented to the president, as was done with all the other officers. When the captain was presented, Lincoln said loud enough for all near by to hear, "Captain, your battery is certainly a very pretty battery—in fact, the prettiest battery I have ever seen," and then in so low a tone that no one but the captain heard him, "but I must say, captain, I have seen very few batteries."—New York Times.

Queerest Town in England.

The most curious town in England is Northwich. There is not a straight street nor, in fact, a straight house in the place. Every part of it has the appearance of having suffered from the visitation of an earthquake. Northwich is the center of the salt industry in Cheshire, England. On nearly all sides of the town are big salt works, with their engines pumping hundreds of thousands of gallons of brine every week. At a depth of some 200 or 300 feet are immense subterranean lakes of brine, and as the contents of these are pumped and pumped away the upper crust of earth is correspondingly weakened and the result is an occasional subsidence. These subsidences have a "pulling" effect on the nearest buildings, and they are drawn all ways, and give the town an extremely dissipated appearance.—New York Sun.

He Was Actually Clean!

Colonel Ibbetson, who died recently in England, was a capital whist player and an insatiable reader. In the interval between games he invariably plunged into a book, never indulging in futile discussions about the plays. He was the hero of the last sensational elopement to Gretna Green. Forty-four years ago he ran off with the Lady Adela Villiers, daughter of the Earl of Jersey. They were never fully pardoned, as it was thought that she had been guilty of a grave misalliance. Indeed the story is told that when they got back to town Lady Adela was reported to have exclaimed to her sister, "I had no idea till I married that the lower orders were so clean in their habits."

Robert Morris' Bank of North America, founded at Philadelphia at the end of the year 1781, was the first banking institution founded on the American continent.

The Roman penny was valued at about 15 cents.

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