# The Oregonian.

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TODAT'S WEATHER-Fair, cloudy in after

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25

TRADE WITH SIBERIA.

Count Cassini the Russian ambassafor at Washington, tells the correpondent of the Boston Herald that there are as great opportunities for American industry and trade in Siberia in China, if not greater. Yesterday's Oregonian, in its shipping columns, had very favorable account of present and prospective commerce between Portland and Siberian ports, What aberia will want from us is indicated by the cargoes already shipped, namey: Lumber, flour, provisions, feed and ruits. Our Eastern states are filling for Siberian shipment enormous orders of steel rails, locomotives and miscelaneous machinery. Mining, in various parts of that vast country, will, it s believed, soon have very extensive development.

Count Cassini says that Siberia is equal in area to Canada and the United tates, and he adds that the country affers the most alluring inducement to capital to assist in its development. It nust, however, be remembered that so met a proportion of the country lies within the frozen circle that no development like that which has taken place n the United States and Canada will wer be witnessed there; though doubtess localities will be found as favorable to development as even the best parts of Canada. Of course, the reseme between large part of Slberia and the great northern portions of Canida is very close, and no large popuation can ever exist in either.

To what extent Siberia may become a wheatgrowing country is yet a matter of conjecture, and therefore of dis aute. It seems probable, however, that Siberia at some time not distant will begin to contribute considerable quanlities of wheat and bariey to the outide world. This, if it prove true, will nterfere with our shipments of cereals, out it is probable that increasing ship ents of lumber will be steadily wanted. Yet it is admitted by Count Casini that while encouragement is nov freely offered to American enterprise and to importations from America, hese privileges are likely to hold good only until such time as the Russians in Siberia are prepared to undertake in instead of appointive. Public opinion armest the industrial development of has been enlightened to the importance ntry. "Open door" privileges and profit of continuing good judges in

mote the peace of the world as a substantial indication that Russia had sus- the forces south of Ladysmith for suppended for a time her policy of expansion in every part of Asia, from the Bosphorus eastward, and in the Balkan | trate their forces at the critical point of peninsula, where she cannot expand without menacing Austria and the whole Mediterranean region.'

A STAGE IN SELF-GOVERNMENT.

A serious proposal in congress that federal judges shall hereafter be elective instead of appointive leads on to many speculations. The proposal is sufficiently sure of rejection to excite no alarm, but it may serve to remind us that popular government is a thing of slow growth rather than an act of sensible and prudent, but the British special creation. It is a process in which we are moving towards a goal yet unreached, in as true a sense as Colonists, as well mounted, and as well the Cubans are, or the Filipinos. We are in advance of them, but we are not at the end of the journey, at the summit of the ascent.

When the constitution of the United States was adopted, it became a matter for careful consideration how far the American people had advanced on the way of self-government. Upon the answer to this question the grand old statesmen of that day divided. Some, like Jefferson and Wilson of Pennsylvania, had almost unlimited faith in the capacity of the masses for self-govern-

ris, distrusted them. Some were for lodging powers in president and congress that would permit little popular interference; others were for the widest possible application of popular sov-

ereignty. We know, without looking, what the result of such differences inevitably must have been. It was a compromise The people could elect representatives to the lower house of congress, but they were not trusted with election of the president. They could not elect the senators, as this was a very important matter involving all executive appointments to office and all treaties with foreign powers. Between the people and the senate were interposed the legislatures, and between the people and the presidency was interposed the electoral

college, which was created for no other purpose than to serve as a buffer between popular feeling and the momentous responsibilities of the presidency. Time has shown us that the people can be trusted to elect the president. Half the truth would doubtless be that the aristocrats of 1787 were too distrustful of the people, but the other half is that the people of today are more fit for self-government than those of Washington's time, when a popular vote might have resulted against the war for independence. Time now begins to show us that the people can also be trusted to elect the senators. Their fitness in this respect seems to be the

subject of general conviction among thinking men today, and the realization only waits upon removal of obstacles set in the way by red tape and political Burns, the warbler of beautiful, brook machines. As to the judiclary, however, progress has not been so rapid. It was recognized at once, when our government and the separate states themselves were formed, that the masses of the American people could not at that time be trusted to select courts that were to interpret laws. It is only in the most highly trained community that discretion can be guaranteed to withstand the

at large. Nothing would so much pro- already selected, and from which in ture. People who for some days past case of defeat they could fall back on have port. The Boers have made just resistance enough to allow them to concen-

> leaving General Buller the gloomy alternative of making a hopeless frontal attack or of beginning his flanking operation all over again, General Buller has done as well as possible for a man who undertakes to

turn an enemy out of a position that is at least as well armed as he is, and presents a front of intrenched mounted infantry against his army of infantry supported by not more than 3000 mounted men. General Buller has been will never win in Africa until they have superior mobility will win the day

intrenched army of mounted men an army of infantry not greatly superior in numbers.

BURNS. Tonight our Scottish fellow-citizens will celebrate the memory of Burns.

ment. Others, like Hamilton and Mor-No other Christian people on the globe cherish the memory of any poet as do the Scotch that of Burns. England has no national poet whose memory is passionately reverenced by both peer and peasant. America's nearest approach to such a poet is Whittier, who fed his

young poetic impulses chiefly on Burns, Ireland did not find a true national bard in Moore, who was a bit of a tuft-hunter, which Burns never was, either in his days of transient sunshine or his last years of degradation and sorrow. The truth is that while Burns is easily Scotland's greatest poet, he is loved and worshiped by his countrymen not so much for his poetle genius as for the fact that his muse was so intensely Scotch. If Burns had devoted his great powers to the celebration of high poetle themes that were not essentially instinct with the provincial life and color of Scottish history, social habits and traditions, he would not be the pet poet of the Scottish people today, any more than Pope or Gray or Cowper or Wordsworth or Tennyson is peculiarly dear to the heart of the whole English people. It was because Burns was a great Scotchman, who from first to

last always worshiped Scotland, that all Scotchmen worship the memory of Burns. The Scotch are an intensely intellectual people, but they are not peculiarly a poetic-minded race. Many Englishmen and Americans are more enthusiastic admirers of the astonishing versatility of the poetic genius of Burns than the majority of Scotchmen, but English and Americans admire simply

like songs, the great humorist, the The overwhelming republican majority trenchant satirist; while to Scotchmen in Pennsylvania is sufficient to stamp Burns is passionately dear because he this utterance as of profound national was a great-hearted Scotchman, first significance in tariff discussion. and last and always, subordinating his great powers to the glory and praise of The Indianapolis Journal recalls i Scotland. Burns' heart was always as paragraph in President Polk's second responsive to Scottish life, sympathies annual message to congress, December and memories as was the Highland 8, 1846, as follows: brigade at the battle of the Alma, when The war has been represented as unjust and unnecessary, and as one of aggression on our part, upon a weak and injured enemy. Such stern old Sir Colin Campbell rode along appeals of demagogy and the arts of the line of battle and cried "Old Scotpopularity. Clamor might remove the erroneous views, though entertained by but few, have been widely and extensively circu-hated, not only at home, but have been spread throughout Mexico and the whole world. A land forever, boys." That intense pajust judge and elevate the unjust. triotic feeling was always expressed Progress has been made, and now it eloquently by Burns, and because of has become the rule rather than otherthis he is as dear to the heart of Scotore effectual means could not have been de wise for state judiclary to be elective vised to encourage the enemy and protract the war than to advocate and adhere to their cause, and thus give them "ald and comfort." land as if he had fallen at Flodden. sword in hand, fighting for his country and his king. In other words, if Burns An excellent account of the proceed-ings of our "antis" of the present out and pushed over a corpse that did not know it was dead. Perhaps a corpse of a Scotchman a greater poet, he would not have been time, and a very effective reply to so enthusiastically worshiped by the them, Scottish people. -It was because Burns sang Scotland Oregonians returning from visits to so tunefully and eloquently, and sang nothing else so nobly and so long, that Scotland in its intense patriotism woreteries of that city, is neglected, and shipstoday and always will worship the has been for two years. It is a natural memory of Burns. Burns was a wellresult of the mistake that was made read man in the poetle literature of his when interment of this distinguished day, without being a severe student or Oregon soldier and statesman was university scholar. It was fortunate made in California instead of Oregon. for his fame that he was not a man of severe scholastic culture, like Milton, Self-government is an employment for if he had been he would probably for which only the trained are fit. It have lost his charming spontanelty Shakespeare, Byron and Burns are disis as logical to make a republic out of tinguished for a certain rush, vigor and the Filipinos as to make a man a carfreshness of movement and manner penter by putting a plane in his hand. which was pointed out to Wordsworth by Walter Scott when he wrote him: Men like Senator Hoar denounce the establishment in the Philippine islands 'You and I have to toll and work hard over our poetry, but Burns and Byron of the authority of the free government were born poets: they bubbled forth under which we live, as the creation of brook-like songs or wrote verses that a despotism. make you think of a mountain torrent." This is not the exact language of Scott Puerto Rico's population has generbut it is the substance of his thought. ally been set down at 800,000. The cen-Burns was not unlike Byron, who was sus, therefore, shows that the previous half Scotch, in some respects. He had estimate has been too low by some the same mixture of strong, vigorous 200,000. understanding married to a noble imag-Anglo-Saxon-Celtic Dominancy. ination. Both were strong reasoners in verse; both keen and vigorous satirists; Toronto World, For now 500 years the Anglo-Celticboth were natural radicals at war with Saxon race has preserved its identity, in church and crown; both were generous, loyal, brave and truthful men; openspite of all sorts of admixture from other hearted, open-handed, affectionate races. It absorbs, it assimilates, but not friends. Burns was probably a man of yet has any amount of admixture materisweeter and healthier mind and spirit ally changed it. The little leaven of that people which sent the bowmen to Crecy than Byron, for Byron's paternal ancestors were aristocrats of vitiated leaveneth the whole lump. blood, while his mother had a violent The course of such a race is not like the enemy's intrenched line at Magers- temper soured by trouble; so that that of a purling brook-rather it is like a Burns had the advantage at least of thundering torrent. Often it has dashed having had good parents on both sides, | itself upon immovable obstacles; often it mounted brigade seized the Springfield and he was not a man of morbid spirit. has spread desolation in its path; its hisbridge and Potgleter's drift. On the Had Burns been born a poor English tory is no more free from crime than is 16th inst, a British brigade crossed lord he would probably have behaved that of other races; it has done evil as neither better nor worse than Byron, well as good, and very likely it will conand had Byron been born of plous tinue to be human and imperfect to the the next day. The British met with Scotch peasant stock, he, would prob- end of the chapter. But all such objectlittle or no opposition from the Boers ably have been very much such a man tions to it are beside the mark. This race as Burns. Byron's birth and breeding was invested by Providence with one imkept him from being a vulgar tippler, mense mission, and in the main it has and he was a man of sound business been true to its destiny, is still true. No or easily intrenched. General Buller's quality, which Burns was not. Byron matter what may be said to the contrary, made good bargains with his publishers no matter what adroit appeals there may for every line he wrote, while Burns, be made to the sentiment for the under in a spirit of literary Quixotism, redog during the present wars in the Transfused to accept pay for a great deal of vaal and the Philippines, the fact remains his best work in the matter of song- that the issue between the Anglo-Saxon writing. With Byron's business sense, and the rest of the world, from the day of Crecy to the present hour, has been the Burns need never have been in pecunlary straits. The greatest glory of maintenance of a stream of political tend-Burns is the brightest feather in Byency which culminated in those immortal words which declare that "government of ron's plume, and that is that he dedi-Buller planned to have General War- cated his genius to the defense and the people, for the people and by the peo exaltation of the primitive rights of ple shall not perish"-shall not perish, no the people, as contrasted with the ac- matter what his sins, so long as the Anglo-Saxon heads the world, tacked in front by the brigades that quired artificial rights of caste, class and aristocracy. Burns, like Byron, General Buckner for Expansion. skinned and scalded the heartless, Jeneral Simon B. Buckner in Interview at Chihypocritical hierarchy of his day, a cago daring act, for which he not only never "The democratic party has no future was forgiven in his life, but it was until the element now in control has been wiped out, and this promises to be done at the elections of this year. Expediency, remembered to his prejudice long years after his death. not principle, is the motto of this ele ment; the energies of its leader, Mr. Bryan, are engaged in hunting for an Oregon climate may generally be de pended upon to regulate liself in the ssue which he hopes will attract votes. and not in the promulgation of those interests of agriculture and horticul-

been vexing themselves and wearying others with doleful prognostications of overlush grainfields and premature budding of fruit trees were properly rebuked by the sharp frost of attack, and there they have stopped, Tuesday night, succeeded by a chill atmosphere which has in it no suggestion of spring. They now content them selves by looking dubious and hoping the cool weather will continue until all Philippines."

danger to the fruit is over. It probably will.

Dispatches from Birmingham, Ala., show that there was a great increase in the amount of pig-iron and cast-iron pipe shipped from the Southern iron field in 1899. The official figures, just published, show the total shipment of Horn. pig-iron from Alabama and Tennessee a mounted force of 25,000 British Cape in 1899 to have been 1.571.570 tons, an increase over 1898 of 218,600 tons; from armed as the Boers. Given equal arms the Birmingham district alone shipand equal steadfastness under fire, and ments were 945,969 tons, an increase over 1898 of 86,690 tons. Cast-iron pipe every time. The Englishman is a brave shipments from Alabama and Tennesman, but he cannot expect to beat an see in 1899 were 146,687 tons, an increase over 1898 of 19,237 tons; from equally well armed with himself, with the Birmingham district alone shipments were 57,239 tons, an increase of 12,708 tons. Expert iron shipments

from the Southern field (practically all from the Birmingham district) were 167,003 tons, a decrease from 1898 of 34,-675 tons. The decrease is very small considering the extraordinarily brisk domestic demand, and would have been much greater but for the booking of a large number of export contracts before the domestic boom set in.

The insane rancher of Clatsop county goes to the asylum with a murder

booked against him. There is probably no doubt that he is mentally unbal-anced through hereditary taint, to a degree that renders him a dangerous from San Francisco. We are talking about reviving the rang of vice-admiral man in the community. This being true, the opinion of Dr. Beckman, of the examining board, to the effect that this man should never again be allowed his liberty, is strongly to the point. When the cause of insanity is one that it is impossible to eradicate, any recovery of the mental balance may justly be deemed temporary, and its victim may very properly be permanently restrained of his liberty. Society has an undoubted right to protect itself, both from this man and his possible posterity, by keeping him in confinement during the remainder of his natural life.

The Pennsylvania Editorial Associa-

tion has been so affected by the dealings of its members with the paper trust that at its annual meeting in Harrisburg, on Tuesday, it adopted a resolution declaring that "if trusts are honestly organized to reduce expenses and consequently the cost of products they should depend on their own business sagacity, and not upon protection given to them by the government," and appealing to congress to "repeal such tariff duties as seem to protect the lant captain of the Oregon.

trusts in their extortionate charges."

In this free country, where everybody is at liberty to think as he pleases, peo-ple may sympathize with Boers or Brit-

who have given the matter the most thought and study seem to agree that the best interests of the world will be served by the success of the English. That is the firm belief of the Courant. But there are still other considerations for the honest and fair-minded American. Selfishness is stronger than sympathy and gratitude, considered sometimes a senti-mental impulse, has often a quality of duty. When we fought Spain, we reached

great principles on which the democratic that collapsed in the seven-days' battle. party rests. With his dereat, which prom-lses to be more overwhelming than in S. S. Cox answered him in a speech that kept the country laughing a month. Among other things Cox said that Gurley 1896, there is reason to believe the conservative element of the party once more will come into power. The controlling element of the party today would comhad faith to believe that the pearly gate of heaven would be write enough to ad mit the rebel General Humphrey Mar-shall, who weighed 400 pounds, but he mit it to opposition to expansion, when expansion was the essence of Jeffersonian shall, who weighed 400 pounds, but he could not find sufficient faith, though less democracy. As a practical proposition, there can be no doubt in my mind as to than in the estimation of a grain of mus tard seed, in bulk, to place in the only Union general who had yet achieved a the wisdom of this country retaining the military success of moment. That was humor.

CLARK, OF THE OREGON.

Department.

Brooklyn Eagle.

## TACITUS AND GIBBON.

#### He Has Been Neglected by the Navy Selected From "History." by James Ford Rhodes, in February Atlantic, We approach Tacitus with respect; we

not two years since the eyes of rise from reading his annals, his histor; and Germany, with reverence. We know the whole country were fixed upon the Oregon on its wonderful trip around Cape that we have been in the society of a The name oftenest in the hearts gentleman who had a high standard of morality and honor. We feel that our of Americans was that of Clark, its gallant captain. Even the fall of Manila and the apotheosis of Dewey, which folguide was a serious student, a solid think-er, and a man of the world; that he ex-presses his opinions and delivers his judglowed, did not slacken interest in Cantain Clark's voyage up through the South ments with a remarkable freedom from prejudice. He draws us to him with sym-Atlantic ocean nor lessen the prayers that he and his splendid ship might join the squadron patrolling Cuban waters in safepathy. He sounds the same mournful note which we detect in Thucydides. Tacitus ty. Well, they got there, the ship in such fine condition that she did not need dock-age and repairs after her long race against deplores the folly and dissoluteness of the rulers of his nation; he bewails the misfortunes of his country. The merits we time. Her engineers said she did, but Captain Clark said she did not, and ascribe to Thucydides, diligence, accuracy, love of truth, impartiality, are his. Th desire to quote from Tacitus is irresistible proved it by the speed she made in pursult of Cervera's flying and fated squad-"The more I meditate," he writes, "on the ron. That was because not a gallon of events of ancient and modern times, the more I am struck with the capricious salt water had been allowed in the Ore gon's boilers to crust the valves, although Captain Clark had to keep his men on uncertainty which mocks the calculations of men in all their transactions." . . From a thinker who deemed the time "out a short allowance of fresh water to feed the ship. We were all singing Clark's praises then and glorying in his reported

of joint," as Tacitus obviously did, and who, had he not possessed great strength of mind and character, might have lapsed dispatch to the secretary of the navy not to confuse him with orders, and add DAVY into a gloomy pessimism, what noble words are these: "This I regard as hising that he was ready to fight the whole Spanish squadron if he met it. That was two years ago. What have tory's highest function, to let no worthy action be uncommemorated, and to hold out the reprobation of posterity as a terwe done for Clark, of the Oregon, in the meantime, and where is he? Other ror to evil words and deeds." The mod officers have been promoted, but he stands two numbers lower in the scale of precedence than he did when he sailed esty of the Roman is fascinating. "I of what I have related," he says, "Much shall have to relate, may perhaps, I am aware, seem petty triffes to record. . . .

My labors are circumscribed and unpro to reward two of the heroes of Santiago ductive of renown to the author." It is more than a strong probability that and to avoid the possibility of an ugly political quarrel. What is the matter in diligence, accuracy and love of truth, Gibbon is the equal of Tacitus. A comwith a commodore's star for the man who saw his duty and did it and who mon edition of the "History of the Deciln has left the politics of the navy depart-ment to less war-like spirits? There was and Fall of the Roman Empire" is that with notes by Dean Milman, Gulzot and a conference of captains engaged in the Dr. Smith. Niebuhr. Villemain and Sir battle of Santiago at the White House recently to discuss the proper award of James Mackintosh are each drawn up for criticism. Did ever such a fierce light honors for that victory. But the case of Clark stands apart from that of the beat upon a history? With what keen relish do the annotators pounce upon misothers. They never brought their ships takes or inaccuracies, and in that portion around Cape Horn in racing time and then did their full share of fighting, too. of the work which ends with the fall of the Western empire, how few do they find! It is true, they did not have the chance, but they never did the work and that, as Would Tacitus stand the supreme test better? There is, so far as I know, only Lord Charles Beresford pointed out, is one case in which we may compare his the real test in the case. The matter is now before the house committee on naval annals with an original record. On bronze tablets found at Lyons, in the 18th affairs. For months Captain Clark was century, is engraved the same speech made a naval hero second only in the popular Emperor Claudius to the senate mind to Dewey. Once let the notion prethat Tacitus reports. "Tacitus and the vall that he has been overlooked or under-rated in the distribution of awards and tablets," writes Professor Jebb, "disagree hopelessly in language and in nearly all the dissatisfaction would react powerfully upon the men responsible for such an inthe detail, but agree in the general line of argument." Gibbon's work has richly deserved its life of more than 100 years, justice. This is not a plea for the promotion of Captain Clark so much as it a period which I believe no other modern history has endured. Niebuhr, in a course of lectures at Bonn, in 1829, said that Gibis that the committee on naval affairs and the navy department do justice and give fair play, as much for their sake bon's "work will never be excelled." At the Gibbon centenary commemoration, in At and the country's as for that of the gal-London, in 1894, many distinguished men among whom the church had a distinct representation, gathered together to pay hon or to him who, in the words of Frederic Harrison, had written "the most perfect book that English prose (outside its fiction) And Thereby to Show Very Good

# Where to Begin.

possesses."

New York Journal. ish as they prefer. The majority of those President Hadley is a wise man, but in teaching the Yale idea to shoot in this direction he is not doing justice to his things would President Hadley ostracise the trust kings? From church? Look at the bald, bowed heads in the Fifth-avenue houses of God on Sunday. They are all worn have with trust schemes. nations from trust magnates support the

> ministers. From social enjoyments? Go to the

NOTE AND COMMENT.

General Warren has a name that ought to make him a game fighter.

Aguinaldo is noted for speed, but he has ever been able to stand fast.

The sultan of Sulu may lead a happy life, but he will never get to congress.

Senator Mason, it is said, is a poor man. Everyone knows that he is a poor thing.

St. Louis is on the road to fame. Henceforth ahe will be known as the largest city on the Chicago sewer.

If President Hadley succeeds in abolishng millionaires it is to be feared that there will be fewer students at Yale.

Now Kipling has been accused of writng "David Harum." It is singular that to one has charged him with the authorship of "Hamlet." -0-

It is better for the public to leave a man a candidate, for then he is supported only by his friends. Elect him and all the taxpayers must support him.

Having all the prosperity they can stand and no taste for anti-imperialism, the Southern senators are obliged to jump once more on their colored brethren in order to get support.

Th

As showing the increased cost of plumbers' supplies, a local firm sends The Oregonlán a statement received this week from one of the largest manufacturing

oncerns at the East, as follows: The following percentages show the actual norcesse in costs of raw materials, which enter argely into the manufacture of our lines, over

prices current, spring of 1809: Per cent. Per cent.

Pig-1ron	Bolts
Steel	Asbester
Copper	Piter 184
Tin-plate TH	Pine fittings
Wire	Plusta 110
Nalls	Citiz Tour
Lomber	VIII SECTOREMENTALISM
Additions and and and	

Nothing has been heard this season of he wood trust, doubtless owing to the mildness of the winter. A year ago the fact was freely stated that all of the woodfealers, even including the sinawood men, had combined to raise the price. The wood-choppers, however, grumbled more than usual, alleging that the city handlers eceived all the benefit of the increase and the producer was left out in the cold. This winter, so far, much less fuel has been required to keep a house comfortably warm, and the dealers appear satisfied to sell all they can at the best price obtainable, everyone on his own hook.

Every spring, when a few sacks of early otatoes from California, and, perhaps, some early onions and vegetables are brought to this market, cutting remarks the heard about the lazy, shiftless Oregon farmers, who do not raise potatoes enough to supply the home demand. For the past three months every steamer leaving Portland for San Francisco has carried away an average of between 6000 and 7000 sacks of potatoes, and a corresponding quantity of onions, and Monday night the steamer nok away about 10,000 sacks of potatoes and 1000 sacks of onions for the California market. There are thousands and housands of sacks more to go, and pretty nearly almost always it is ever thus. It yould be in order for Californians to berate the laziness of their farmers, if it would do any good, for not raising potatoes enough to supply their own state, but the fact is that even in favorable seasons, good potatoes can only be raised in a few sections of that state, and the

potatoes raised along the river bottoms here are not to be compared with the Oregon product, either for eating or keeping. The Oregon farmer, like everybody else, has his faults, but the amount of potatoes and wheat he manages to turn out yearly brings an amount of money

into this state which might serve its a

# THE MORNING OREGONIAN, THURSDAY, JANUARY 25, 1900.

statement, from such a source, may suggest to us that we should not bank heavily on the permanence of Siberian trade; for we shall probably see these narrow local circles, where charthe time when Siberia will apply the ioctrine of protective tariff in a very tigorous way. The Russian minister of the judiciary can be relied upon to ndeed is entirely frank about this; sence his statement that there are at present great opportunities of trade with Siberia which the United States ought to improve is subject to a somewhat discouraging limitation. But he mys our people ought to go there, take eading part in the industrial developnent of the country and get the bene its of the protective policy that is to some. This invitation is not alluring mough to attract much attention in America-unless there should be great gold discoveries, and perhaps not then. for the Russian government might be expected to outdo even the masterful solicy of Uncle Paul Kruger, in absorp

ion of the proceeds of the mines. It is British policy alone that supports open trade in Asia-that is Great Britsin alone, of Old World nations. stands for the "open door" in Asia tha s essential to the Pacific commerce of the United States. Of Russian excludveness we have, indeed, no right to omplain, since the like policy has long been our own. But it will not be advantageous to us to find, as the outome of changes now going on in Asia, Russian policy ascendant there.

Anunalysis of the Russian budget for 900, made by the New York Journal of Commerce, shows that the ordinary and extraordinary expenses are estinated at \$905,000,000, or \$7,000,000 less than in 1898, and the ordinary and extraordinary receipts are \$822,000,000, making a deficit of nearly \$82,000,000. This is an advance over 1898, when the ieficit was \$51,062,457. As the famine grows and much of the Siberian railway will need to be rebuilt, owing to iefective material and had location, the leficit estimated for 1900 will, in the fournal's opinion, be largely exceeded. Hence the indisposition of capitalists to end more money to the czar's government, the idea being that the Rus sian debt is already heavier than Russin can safely bear, M. Witte, the inance minister, attributes the monetary stringency and difficulty he encounters in getting money to a general apprehension of war, which, he thinks, yould not exist if other governments shared the czar's pacific sentiments. M Witte has personally done much to counteract the ambitious schemes of he military element in Russia. He is friend of peace and orderly finance He is probably aware, though he cannot say so, that Russia's enormous armaments are the cause largely o Surope being today an armed camp "If the pacific scaliments of the czar," says the Journal, very correctly, "would only restrain Russia from adding to ts already large forces in a locality where they menace China and Japan, and from pressing forward its slow absorption of Persia and from threatning Afghanistan, they would have very much greater value for the world to remain on the defensive in positions

then will probably be withdrawn. This office. In every community the names of elected judges in supreme and circuit courts, retained till death or honored retirement, are household words. In acter and attainments of incumbents can be known of all, popular control an extent that is manifestly impossible in wider political subdivisions, where votes are controlled by partisan impulses. Whenever the day comes that the masses can be depended upon to select the judiciary with care, and continue judges during life or good behavlor with the same certainty that now obtains under appointment, the change will be made. There will be no resist-

ing it. These interesting phenomena of race development are instructive to all who realize that human institutions, selfgovernment among them, are products of slow evolution from rude beginnings up to a beautiful, harmonious prime. They have no concern or value to those who hold that self-governing communities are miraculously born, complete in stature and mature in powers, from the womb of time. They are unintelligible to those who hold that a congeries of semi-civilized tribes in the Philippines can, through a form of special creation, be made a republic by simple bestowal of a name.

### GENERAL BULLER'S MOVEMENT.

General Buller's movement against the Boer army on the line of the Tugela river is reported to have to come to a halt, even as that of General Methuen did after crossing the Modder river and suffering severe repulse in attacking fontein. This movement was really begun on the 11th inst., when a British Potgieter's drift in the evening, and the remainder of the column crossed in their passage of the Tugela river, the latter retiring about five miles from the river to positions already fortified forces consisted of General Warren's division, on the extreme left, which crossed the Tugela river at Trichard's drift, about six miles west of Potgieter's drift, where Lyttleton's brigade had crossed, followed by Hilyard's at the Springfield bridge.

This turning movement of General Buller's, directed against the Boer right. flank, was sound strategy. General ren's division envelop the right of the Boer position while they were atcrossed at Potgleter's drift. The plan was sound and prudent, and probably would have been successful if executed by infantry against infantry, but, executed by infantry against equally wellarmed mounted infantry, it was foredoomed to difficulty if not to failure The Boers offered no serious resistance to General Buller's advance across the Tugela, because their tactics were

San Francisco say that the grave of Senator E. D. Baker, in one of the cem-Where would we be today? Probably

should not be expected to know anything. Now, suppose that, with defenseless coasts and old-fashioned guns and an insufficient navy, we had had to face a live nation armed with the latest invented arms deeper in trouble than ever before in our history. Everybody knows that this ex-panding republic is not popular abroad. An excuse for intermeddling between Spain and us would have been quickly found, and we should have been involved in a quarrel whose extent only the imagination can measure if it had not been for one factor, and that factor was England. She stood

A CHANCE TO KEEP STILL.

Sense.

Hartford Courant.

firm and by her attitude prevented foreign Intervention. With everything prospering here and

with the American people standing as spec-tators of the great struggle in which England herself is now involved, it seems incredible that so short a time ago it our own country that stood on the brink of troubles far more serious even than are hers now. But so it was, and it was England that saved us.

Watch the fight, have sympathy with the "struggling Boers" if you feel that way, but for your own self-respect, keep your mouth shut and avoid the expression your mouth of an ingratitude that is altogether discreditable.

### Imports and Exports.

The following table shows the total mports and exports in calendar years from 1869 to 1899, and at the same time furnishes an index of the industrial progress of the country:

Year.	Imports.	Exports.
1869	\$438,455,894	\$337,375,988
1870		403,556 010
1871	573,111.099	46 ,252,088
1872		468 837,948
1873	595,248,048	567,857,867
1874		519,872,553
1875	508,152,986	510,947,422
1876	427,347,165	590,526,629
1877		630,302,412
1878		737,092,073
1879		765,169,523
1880		\$89,683,422
1831	670,209,448	883,549.127
1882		767,281,946
1883		795,209,316
	629,261,860	749,366,428
1885		£88,219,778
1886		713,404,021
1887		715,301,044
1888		691,761,050
		827,106,847
1890		857,502,548
1891		970,507,616
1892		938,420,650
18:3		\$76,108,781
	676,312,941	\$25,102,248
1895		824,860,126
	681,579,556	1,005,837.741
1897		1,090,709,045
1898		1,955,494,8 8
1899	799,834 6.0	1,273,456,641

#### Wit and Humor,

#### Louisville Courier-Journal.

Weshington .- The professional humorist never had any standing in congress-in the American congress. Tom Corwin, "Sunset" Cox and Proctor Knott were anything but professional in that behalf. They were spontaneous. So is John Al-len. John Randolph was a wit; so is Thomas B. Reed, and the critics say there is a difference between wit and humor. One day Springer came marching down the aisle like a whirlwind, and, in terrupting Thomas B. Reed, exclaimed

"I'll inform the gentleman from Maine that I would rather be right than president." To that Reed replied, quick as a flash: "But you will never be either." That was wit. Years ago, Gurley, a preacher of the Universalist faith, a men ber of congress from a Cincinnati district, made a speech criticising General McClellan, who was then about to set out on his campaign against Richmond

triarchs, the high and howling functions at Delmonico's or Sherry's or the private palaces along the Applan way. Trust magnates bob and skip and smirk and beam in mutual regard. How, then, the would President Hadley ostracise trust rulers? Will the colleges cast the first stone by refusing to accept donation from trust sources?

From a Debtor to a Creditor Country New York Tribune.

The most remarkable annual statement of commerce ever made by the United States treasury has just been issued. In 1899 the exports were not only larger by about \$20,000,000 than in any other calenda year but were larger by about \$44,000.000 than in any fiscal year of the country's history. The nation hung out no red flag to invite cheap buyers last year. It sold only what other countries wished to buy strongly enough to pay more than th most active domestic trade, and the lar-gest home consumption ever known were paying for the products of industry. Is to this fact mainly that the record 1899 will owe the distinction which in com mercial history it will have of definitely changing the relation of the United States to the rest of the financial world and transforming this from a debtor to a cred-

itor country.

#### Fish Killed by Lightning. Indianapolis News.

The Pennsylvania fish commission ha ard tales that the brown trout with which some of the streams of the stat were stocked were particularly susceptibl to destruction from lightning, so they be gan an investigation, and they now an

ounce that the stories are true. It is the habit of the brown trout to swim cl to the bottom of the stream it frequents, and though he is not literally struck by lightning, the electricity is conducted to the bottom of the streams which have rocks containing a considerable amount of iron in them, and so reaches and kills the trout, while it does not affect the fish that swim higher in the water.

#### Why News Dribbles. Cincinnati Times-Star,

To understand the complete slience in South Africa it must be remembered that Kitchener is there. The correspondents who accompanied him to the Soudan 106,347 502,548 507,616 were permitted to publish their observations in book form after the campaign  $\begin{array}{c} 007, 636\\ 430, 660\\ 108, 781\\ 102, 248\\ 860, 126\\ 837, 241\\ 709, 045\\ \end{array}$ was over, one correspondent cabling his book from Cairo, but the newspapers had to accept the mere announcement of the final victory after maintaining men with the forces for months. His railroad to Omdurman was well under way be-494,818 fore he disclosed to the war office his in tention to build it

#### A Feat of Mnemonies.

The speech of Senator Beveridge, of Indiana, was a remarkable feat of me it contained about \$000 words, but Mr. Beveridge repeated it entirely without notes, and so thoroughly had he memor ized it that, although he spoke for over an hour and a half, he rarely departed from the text of the printed copy pre viously supplied to the press. At no time, however, did the effort seem to be other than extemporaneous.

It Is Very True.

Kansas City Star. But the fact remains that if the admiration of Senator Hale, of Maine, for the Boer republic should tempt him to take up his residence in the Transvan he would not be permitted to vote or to exercise a voice in the government of which he has become the advocate and defender.

mantle to cover a multitude the whole, the Oregon farmer is at least as much sinned against as sinning. And when it is remembered that "the farmer feeds us all." and also all the cattle and pigs and poultry, and the birds of the air, he ought to be spoken of with respect.

#### Epitaphs. leman's Magazine, Gentleman's

The following is to a momber of Ortal college, Oxford:

Randolph Peter

Of Oriel, the Eater, Whoe'er you are, tread softly, I entreat you, for if he chance to wake, be sure he'll est you, On John Adams, of Southwell, a carrier, who died of drunkenness:

John Adams lies here, of the parish of Southwell.

A carrier who carried his can to his mouth well; He carried so much, and he carried so fast, He could carry no more-so was carried at last; For the liquor he drank, being too much for one, He could not carry off-so he's now carri-on.

### Manila's Nautical School,

Philadelphia Telegraph. An important movement has been started at Manila to educate a portion of the mative population for a scafaring life. It come that the Spanish government was maintaining a nautical school when the first native insurrection broke out. The nstitution was then closed and has so emained. Now it is to be reopened on ractically the original lines, but it is to American naval control, of e under ourse, and after June 1, 1901, a knowledge of the English language is to be required on the part of the students.

#### Mr. Kipling Explains,

New York Commercial Advertiser. In reply to a letter from a woman at New Haven, England, asking for a defini-tion of the term "Absent-Minded Beggar." Mr. Kipling's secretary writes: "Mr. Kip-ling desires me to say, in answer to your letter, that the term 'Absent-Minded Reggar' is one used by private soldiers themselves when they have forgotten any small duty, and beggar is a generic term of an-dearment."

#### Canada's Small Immigration. Philadelphia Times

Though Canada has been making special forts to increase her population by nears of immigration, they seem to be in vain. The last census showed that emigration for the period covered by the enumeration exceeded immgration 300,000, and the papers are inclined to admit that the next census will not show much improvement

#### Thirty-Six Mills.

There's many a wold and siver mine, And some details of trade are neater, But for a trade that's extra fine, Commend me to the goy taxenter. He breather the air with head up high. While poor inapagent broathe a sigh

He seems to us by heaven sent He seems to us by heaven sent To train our nerves when reachis fire at Our Patience on a monument, That's smilling at a smooth-faced pirate. He smiles and smiles while men cry "foul,

And honest farmers raise a howl.

Are these the fabled mills of Zeu That grind so fine and grind so slowly? Ab, no; they're real, it is no use, We togs the sponge, we're vanquished wholly. Then we insist, take all for grist, And let the landlord but exist.

Now Portland furl your royals free At anchor near the rivers' junction, Fil send, ere you will well the sen, My P. P. C., hefore the function When taxes drop and spiendor flares, 1 shall have climbed the golden stairs. Portland, Jan. 24. -H. P. Rodney.

