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TODAY'S WEATHER. Occasional rate, with

PORTLAND, WEDNESDAY, FEB. 28

### IT IS A NAVAL PROBLEM.

Belf-interest is a controlling factor with the majority of human beings. Not what is right, but what is expediant from the material point, influences a great part of mankind. In this spirit "lusiness" the American people look upon the prospect of an isthmian canal, and since the negotiation of the Hay-Pauncefore treaty are endeavoring carefully to weigh the advantages and disadvantages, together with the possible dangers. Residents of the Pacific Slope have long dwelt upon the mood to follow the construction of a canal. Now that there is approach to realization of a long-deferred hope, trospection. Many find that while they want the canal, and want it very much, they desire it not so greatly as to favor a strictly internationalized waterway, guaranteed to be open even to the ships of a power with which the United States might not be at peace.

The Pacific Coast is now safe from seful attack, in case of war. It is dispracticable for any nation except Great Britain to operate against ou Western seaboard. Distance, time and lack of coaling stations forbid. A base of operations on the Asian coast would necessarily be from 7000 to 10,-000 miles away, with coal unobtainable except by British vessels to the north. Attack of the Pacific Coast from the Atlantic is equally impracticable. Not busing warships could duplicate the Oregon's steaming feat, and if vessels were equal it, by rounding Cape Horn to the Fuelfic Coast, the lack of coal at this end of the voyage would be fatal to effective work. It thus becomes plain that the Isthmus of Central America is a great defensive earthwork for the Pacific Coast, It is, in fact, a gigantic dam which closes out the warships of other nations as well as our Expensive and tedious as it makes the carriage of our wheat to Europe, it affords some compensation in making our coast secure from naval attack and invasion. Its mere existence increases enormously our distance from the great powers of Europe. And inly is the security of the Pacific Const certain, since our acquisition of the Hawatian Islands and the consequent inability of any European power to acquire a naval base nearer than of the great earthwork between North and South America, by opening a canal with guaranteed neutrality and no defenses, is viewed with a degree of Pacific Coust, who think that the Hay-Paumocefole treaty makes a concession greater than should be asked in reason. and who assert that the stipulations governing the Sues canal are not proporly applicable at Nicaragua, because

of widely different conditions. It is true that the neutrality of the Suez canal may come to nothing whenever Great Britain so desires, without breach of the guaranty, for reasons that will be plain to any one who examines a map of the region, # The Med-Herranean sea is an "English lake," which may be closed by Great Britain against an antagonist, because she commands the entrance at Gibraltar. Within this "lake" the islands of Malta and Cyprus guard the approach to the commands the Dardanelles. At the eastern entrance of Sucz is a like situation, where the British island of Perim Hes in the narrow path of shipping through the Red sea. The port of Adea, with a great fortress, is only 120 miles distant, while the southern coast of the Gulf of Aden is under a British protectorate, and Berbera, across the channel, is to all purposes a British part. The canal itself is through Egypian territory, whose relation to the limitish Empire is well known. Clearly linco, the British guaranty of the bentrality of the Suez canal will beome a farce to any power at war with Great Britain. The canal may be neutral, but under the British system of fortifications and naval stations at proper distances no power will likely he able to reach the neutral waters within a marine league of either end of In these circumstances, it is plain

that the Suez canal does not furnish any close analogy for the Nicaragua United States, of course, is the right to construct the canal and guarantee its resultably to all nations with which the United States is at peace. But it seems we are not to secure abrogation of the Navion-Bulwer treaty except by a customiy of the canal's neutrality to H momers. The question, then, is as to ts effect upon our national standing nd, in a narrower sense, upon the inerests of the Pacific Coast. The comercial value of the canal is known to the people of this coast, and it is well understood that it would greatly inrease the effectiveness of our navy by adding to its mobility. But we naturally want to know whether the advantages to accrue are of transcendent importance, and whether we desire the mittel so much as to guarantee safe meaner for vessels of a nation with which we may be at war. In short, would not the canal increase our danmora? Theoretically, yes, to some ex-

with a European power, the conflict must be upon the seas. We must be ready to fight, and to fight on either cean, or in the Gulf of Mexico. would avail nothing to race away from battle and slip through the canal, shutting it against the warships of the enemy. That would but leave one coast or the other at the enemy's mercy. Besides, if we are too weak to face the

enemy, there are many harbors to run into. If we cannot fight successfully, a closed canal will be of small benefit, and the riches of seaboard cities would become the spoil of our foe. We must close the canal to the enemy, not by wrecking its gates or sinking a vessel in it, but by benting the foe and keeping its warships away from the entrances, as England is prepared to do at Suez. This will present more difficulties, perhaps, than Suez presents to England; but the situation will also present vastly more difficulties to the enemy. Already our navy is stronghow strong we do not know. It is easy but we have learned that fighting quality is of chief importance. We are already vastly stronger on the water, in

to compare tonnage and size of guns, all probability, than any of the European powers but two or three. Our Government now has over sixty war vessels, of all types, under construction, including a number of first-class battle-ships and cruisers. It is probable that within ten years the United States navy, in fighting quality, will equal or surpass any navy of the world, with the possible exception of Great Britain's. With that nation we shall probably remain at peace. She is our best customer for agricultural staples, and we afford her a sure source of food

supply. In case of war with another

at the worst, and might become our

ally. All these circumstances point to the conclusion that we must be able to maintain a neutral canal, and yet keep an enemy's ships from using it. We shall be compelled to do so. We cannot have a valuable thing without paying the price. If we reap the commercial advantages of the canal, we must be a world power in fact, with ability to ommand our searcesets without erecting great forts at either end of the canal. We could not win in a war by keeping our vessels away from the enemy. Furthermore, naval commanders do not like to take their vessels into waters of the foe. Our citizens would operate and patrol the canal, and the vessel which entered it could be definitely located, and would have to take the chances of accidents such as happen when blood is at war fever. We ould not deem it safe to have our ships in a "neutral canal" that was in the hands of a foe, and with the memory of the Maine in our minds would fear disaster. An enemy would have a similar dread of the canal, even though guaranteed safe conduct, and would regard it as a most undesirable place, where at best the United States would have it under critical observation. With the aid of secret agents, telegraphs and couriers, we should learn much that the enemy would not want

us to know. Apparently, it would be hald and unspeakable impudence to ask that an enemy's war vessels be guaranteed safe passage through the Nicaragua canal. Of course, we should not do it. War suspends all conventions. We should occupy the canal with a sufficient number of our own warships and hold it. Again, no enemy of the United States would expect safe passage for his warships, through the canal, and would not risk them there; nor for coal ships, or other ships of supply. Besides, we must make the conditions such as exist beyond the entrances to Suez. By proper treatment of Cuba we can secure to ourselves that key to the Gulf; and, moreover, we must be prepared the China coast-always excepting the to defeat the enemy beyond the marine British station at Esquimait. But the league limit, off the canal. Our fleets as Admiral Dewey says, must be our sufficient guaranty of the safety of the canal in time of war as well as in struggle. The Boers are of fighting peace. We could not use the canal for apprehension by many citizens of the passage of our vessels, in any event, unless we could do that; for our vessels would be intercepted and never would reach the canal. It is a naval problem chiefly, or altogether.

# MACRUM AND HIS LETTERS.

There has appeared in various newspapers a facsimile of an envelope on which was printed "State Department, U. S. A.," malled, as it appears, through the American Consulate at Cape Town, which was opened by the British censor at Durban, and then forwarded to Consal Macrum, at Pretoria. This facsimile is published in order to prove that the British censor did actually open an American Consul's letters, destined to a country with which the British are wistern entrance of Suez, while Crete at war. It has not been doubted that such letters had been opened; but Secretary Hay says that Macrum did not notify the State Department about it, and has not yet done so. He did, how ever, give out the statement to the newspapers, keeping the envelopes in his own hands, evidently to serve as a basis of sensational attack on the department. But he made no official report on the facts, and the department never heard of his complaint till he had

given it to the newspapers. Then the department made inquiries about the matter, and a correspondent now learns that the British government had no knowledge of any interference with Macrum's mail, and moreover that such interference was contrary to instructions. We shall look in a little time for a disavowal by the British government of the act of its official, and an apology for it. If this should not be sufficient-if we are determined not to be appeared-we can take the counsel of our bellicose fellow-

citizens and declare war. The British censor was probably a known to be an ardent sympathizer with a people with whom the British are at war; and the former seems to have thought, in the excess of his loyalty, that he ought to intercept letters

addressed to him. What Macrum wanted was to come ome, tell about the outrage that had been perpetrated on himself as a repesentative of the United States, advise the Government what course it ought pursue in reference to the South African war, achieve notoriety and return to Pretoria in triumph-all at the public expense-with a reputation of commanding importance in two hemispheres. Hence his importunity to be ordered home. At last he was told he could come; and his name was then

dropped from the Consular list. Our country probably will be satisfied Theoretically, res. to some exwith an apology from Great Britain:
and no doubt such apology will be satisfied would be so great as to be almost insuperable and the work and no doubt such apology will be call within the past few years in the United States shall be at war made. But if we refuse to be mollified, every agricultural section of the coun-

ar will satisfy our honor, we may de- as an impertmence the effusive Turks and infidels till we get our revenge. For, in spite of the accursed gold standard, we still retain our right as a nation to be our own judge of our cause or provocation of war!

### A RISTORICAL QUESTION.

The origin of the Monroe Doctrine is subject on which a correspondent calls in question a statement heretofore made by The Oregonian; and he requests further and more specific information from The Oregonian, in suport of its former statement, if this ournal is prepared to give it.

Writers admit that there may be some ground for the contention that the so-called Monroe Doctrine had grown into a sort of national tradition before it was formulated by the President whose name it bears. But the suggestions drawn from statements made by Washington, Jefferson and Madison are little to the purpose; for those statements were uncertain, in-definite, and even nebulous. The late Charles Francis Adams claimed the policy for his father, John Quincy Adams, who records that at a cabinet neeting held May 13, 1818, it was disussed "whether the ministers of the United States in Europe shall be instructed that the United States will not join in any project of interposition between Spain and the South Americans which should not be to promote the complete independence of those provnces." This was communicated to the British government, in the following power, England would likely be neutral

John Quincy Adams was Monroe's Secretary of State, Spain was rapidly osing her American colonies through revolution, and the rulers of Continental Europe, under the inspiration of the Holy Alliance, were considering whether they should not help Spain to recover and hold them. Great Britain declined to follow or assist the Continental powers in this undertaking, and George Canning, then at the head of the British ministry, recalling the communication made by our government in 1818, proposed (September 19, 1823) to our ambassador at London that the United States should co-oper ate with England in preventing European interference with the revolted American colonies of Spain. This was communicated to our government at Washington. Following this (December 2, 1823), Monroe embodied in his message to Congress the statement ce known as the "Monroe Doctrine." While the doctrine is claimed by Charles Francis Adams for his father, John Quincy Adams, Charles Sumner insists that Canning is entitled to the credit; and Canning himself, in speaking of it afterwards, proudly declared; "I called the New World into existence to redress the balance of the Old," The fantastical method of trying to find history in Sibylline leaves and Delphic oracles is not a favorite one with The Oregonian, especially in cases where it finds plain, natural and unimpeachable narrative.

British citizens have a right to be ibilant over the capture of General Cronje and his command on the anni-versary of Majuba Hill; but let them bear in mind that it does not end the conflict in South Africa. Less than a week ago an Englishman at Cape Town sent out a warning against the belief that one or two British successes would close the war. He declares the Boers "a foe most dangerously subtle and powerful in methods"—an estimate to which British Generals will agree-and expresses his belief that a satisfactory settlement of the war can be brought about only by vigorous and unflagging prosecution of the campaign from all directions. Undoubtedly he is right. Relaxation of activity, temporizing stock, contending for a system of civlization and government that is in natural antagonism to the British system. They are in deadliest carnest, and the more vigorously the British make war the quicker and more surely will there come peace to South Africa, Cronje's defeat is not decisive of the struggle, and in all probability bloody battles are yet to be fought before equality of rights for Boer and Briton is established.

The fact as developed by recent inrestigation at the Agricultural College at Corvallis, that chickens may and do have consumption is another incentive o vigilance on the part of those who ave charge of consumptive patients in rural districts. The destruction by ourning of the sputum of persons sufering from this disease is the only safeguard against infection. This process is not difficult, but it requires constant care, both on the part of the patient and his or her attendants, and hould be insisted upon by the attending physician as of vital moment, not only as a means whereby direct infection may be surely prevented, but of secondary danger through the infection of animals the fiesh of which is in common use as food. In the case brought to the attention of the public, Professor Pernot, bacteriologist of the experimental station at Corvallis, and Dr. Withycombe, vice-director, are of the pinton that the chicken examined had ontracted the disease from a consump tive patient, through the only possible means, a statement that sounds a warning which prudent, cleanly persons having a person afflicted with this disease in charge can scarcely fail to heed.

The Farm Journal lately asked a series of questions, which are summed up as follows: "Why have a mortgage superserviceable fool, of the type of on the farm, an empty pocket, and a Macrum himself. The latter was skeleton in the house?" There might be a good reason for putting a morton the farm. Many a sagaciou man borrows money with a specific purpose, the results of which justify his ction. But with good health and willing hands there is no reason why the nortgage should not be paid off. There is too much of a tendency to regard the holder of a mortgage as an oppressor, anxious to swoop down upon and take the farm, whereas it is probable that the accommodation Was eagerly sought and that the lender would be very glad to receive his money instead of the land when the term of the mortgage expires, the interest, of course, having been paid according to agreement. To be sure, things may be managed so that the mortgage will beome a skeleton in the house that will growd the inmates out; but, as the rec-

still burn with anger and destructive try prove this result is not necessary, wrath, and feel that nothing short of Farmers as a class very properly resent clare war and send peace to sleep with that talks to them of "empty pockets" and other matters of private business as they feel abundantly able to take care of themselves.

> The health authorities of Astoria urge the citizens of that place to engage in a general rat-killing as a precautionary measure against the intro-duction of the plague into that port, The idea is a good one, but it may be feared that general response to the command, "Poison the rats," without more specific directions for procedure than are embodied in these words, will not prove altogether satisfactory. Polson, as every one knows, should be put out for vermin with the greatest caution, and with a proper degree of intelligence. The well-known proneness of rats that have partaken of poisoned food to die in the most inaccessible places-under the floors, between partitions, behind cellar walls-any place where in their wretchedness they can crawl away and hide-is conceded, and if this order is generally obeyed, the nose will soon become a sentinel conspicuously in evidence throughout the city, warning the people of danger from polluted air that may carry fevers and other disorders into their homes. It is all right to kill the rats, but unless terriers, cats or clubs are used, specific directions as to the manner of procedure should be given.

Raising Angora goats will, without loubt, soon become an important industry in sections of Oregon wherein the clearing of land must precede agricultural operations. Cheapness is a prime requisite in making lands that are in a state of nature ready for the plow, or for seeding to pasture grasses. Experiment has proved that a flock of goats combine for land clearing purposes cheapness and thoroughness, and furthermore, that they pay their way and more during the process. According to estimates presented at the industrial convention held at Dallas last week, the practically waste lands of Western Oregon are capable of sup-porting 1,000,000 Angoras without infringing upon any other industry, whereas there are at present not more than 35,000 of these animals in all this wide range. The creatures increase rapidly, are sturdy and healthy, prouce a profitable fleece and require a minimum of care. Certainly these qualities should commend the Angoras o the favorable consideration of landowners who have suitable ranges for them.

It is not necessary to discriminate against Puerto Rico in taxation in order that a precedent may be fixed against conditions that some seem to ear would compel us to erect States in our new insular possessions. We can govern the islands as Territories: and over our Territories Congress has always had plenary powers. Justice to these islands in the matter of taxation and commercial intercourse will not carry with it Spanish or Malay statehood. The people of the United States will at all times have this matter in their own hands. The objection, then, is an unfounded and foolish fear. Never mind the abstract constitutional question as to the right of Congress to egislate for the new territory. real question is one of policy and jus-tice. There may be a constitutional right of discrimination which it is bad

policy to assert. The view of Continental military critics that a single-track railway, such as are found in the Orange Free State. Cape Colony and the Transaval, cannot supply an army like that of General Roberts, say 70,000 men, and that a double track is necessary to supply even 40,000, may be a mistake, proved the contrary continually during our Civil War, and the English of "War and Weapons" says that one train a day, even on a narrow-gauge road, may supply an army of 50,000 men. But of course the grade of the road is an all-important matter. Very heavy grades may diminish the efficiency of the South African railways,

A correspondent notes an error in a statement in The Oregonian about the number of Catholics in Germany. The Oregonian said that the Catholics number more than one-half the population What it should have said was that there are in Germany more than onehalf as many Catholics as Protestants. The rapidity which the work on a daily newspaper requires is frequently the source of errors of expression or statement

The Hartford Times puts the proposition as to Puerto Rico, which is to serve as a precedent for the Philippines, in this way:

Reduced to its lowest terms, it is a proposi-ion that the people of the "old United States" shall seek to gain valuable advantage from the possession of foreign colonies without fully sharing the advantages they already possess with the people of the latance. It is a doctrine utterly opposed to all that is signified by the terms democracy or republicanism.

The New York Mail and Express has this socio-political Item: "Mr. Bryan, a prominent anti-expansionist, living in the Louisiana purchase, is visiting friends in Pensacola and other parts of the territory acquired from Spain." It would seem that even so distinguished a society leader as Mr. Bryan should be bright enough to see the point of the auxiliary clauses.

The most folly-stricken of all thieves is he who steals postage stamps in bulk. It is like taking a detective into one's confidence when planning a

### THE POINT IN ISSUE. Advantages From Neutralization of the Caral.

The Outlook. The real question is a simple one and a not unimportant one. It is whether the Nicaragua Canal shall be, as the Suez Canal is, a part of the world's waters, as open to all nations as are the great oceans, or as the Great Lakes to the ships of both England and America, or a great navigable river to all the States, or whether it shall be a national highway, belonging to the United States, practically through United States territory and wholly under United States control. We have no question that the former policy is better, both for the United States and for the nations of the world. A guarantee of neutrality by the civilized nations will be an immense saving to the United States. A common interest in the canal will enhance its usefulness and make it means of bringing the nations into close relationship with each other. The expense and difficulty of fortifying the cana

made a passage for a hostile fleet in time of war, the way to guard against the danger would be, not by fortifications on land, but by a fleet in the adjacent wat-ers. The experience of the world in the case of the Suez Canal, and our ex-perience nearer at home in the case of the Great Lakes, which by treaty with Great perfence nearer at home in the case of the Great Lakes, which, by treaty with Great Britain, are left without fleets and without fortifications. Illustrate the advantage of the policy involved in the Hay-Pauncefots treaty. That is a worldd-policy; that of the Hepburn committee is, in contrast provincial. It is true that we build the canal; but whether we do this by private or public enterprise, the builders will be paid for the investment by those who use it. And the investment by those who use it. And the freer the canal is, the larger will be the returns on the investment.

# CURIOSITIES OF CRITICISM.

Amusing Condemnations of Many Masterpleces Approved by Time.

London Times.

In a lecture by Mr. J. Churton Collins be remarked that some of the most amusing curiosities of criticism were to be nd in the writings of 18th-century critics, especially when they condescended to deal with what they called the lucubradeal with what they called the lucubrations of their rude predecessors, such as Bacon, Shakespeare and Hooker. What are now recognized as Shukespeare's masterpieces were treated with great contempt by even cultivated men of the age. One of these, Thomas Rymer, in some severe criticism of Julius Cassar, spoke of the author's head being full of violence and unnatural images, while history alone furnished him with good names. Not less extraordinary seemed the judgment of Voltaire on "Hamlet," which he pronounced as the work of a drunken savage, and it was sad to find our own Goldsmith writing of Hamlet's sollloquy, "To be or not to be," as a heap of absurdities. But if Shakespeare fared thus at the hands of 18th-century critics, Chaucer and Spenser fared worse.

thus at the hands of 18th-century critics, Chaucer and Spenser fared worse. Very strange had been the judgment of contemporaries on the work of contemporaries. Waller, one of the most accompilshed men who ever lived, wrote of "Paradise Lost": "A blind old school-master has written an epic poem on the fall of man, in which there is nothing remarkable, unless it be its length." In the Edinburgh Review for October, 1807, Wordsworth's beautiful "Ode to a Daisy" was described as flat and feeble, and as reminding the critic of the theme of an was described as flat and feeble, and as reminding the critic of the theme of an unpracticed schoolboy, while the magnificent ode on "Intimations of Immortality," since pronounced to be the high-water mark of modern poetry, was spoken of as beyond all doubt the most illegible and unintelligible part of the publication in which it appeared. Before the whole of Dickens' "Pickwick" had been published an anonymous critic wrote in the Quarterly Review that indications were not wanting that the particular vein of humor which had hitherto yielded so humor which had hitherto yielded so much metal was worked out. In con-clusion, the lecturer made a plea on be-half of honest criticism, and remarked that critics had a great responsibility, in-asmuch as by virtue of a tacit contract between themselves and the public they had undertaken to judge fairly and im-partially all work submitted to them.

### BRYAN'S OWN RESPONSIBILITY For Ratification of the Trenty That Gave Us the Philippines.

Boston Herald.

Our Washington correspondent points out that it is going to be exceedingly difficult for the Democrats to frame a platform which will bring in to them what may be termed the anti-imperialist votator the reason that, if Mr. Bryan is the Presidential candidate, the convention cannot, short of repudiating him, take exception to the acquisition of the Philippine islands. Senator Hour has recalled what most must remember, that the treaty of peace with Spain, which gave us our undisputed legal title to the Philits our managers read the or the risk tippines, would not have been confirmed if Mr. Bryan had not personally inter-ceded with Democratic Senators to in-duce them to vote for it; and, as Senator Hoar points out, if ratification had been defeated, the treaty would have been so imended as to place the Philippines, po-itically and internationally considered, in the same condition that Cuba is in today. It is argued that Mr. Bryan, even more than Mr. McKinley, is responsible for the Philippine complication, because the President was placed in a position where he was compelled to act and take re-sponsibility, while Mr. Bryan's interjection of himself into the matter was en-tirely gratuitous. In this view, it is held that it will be exceedingly difficult for the convention which shall reminate Mr. Bryan to the Presidency to take ground that is strong and consistent in opposition to our control of the Philippines. If Mr. Bryan had not taken a hand in the matter, it might have been possible to for-mulate an indictment against Mr. Mc-Kinley and the Republican party on these grounds which would have obtained a very considerable degree of public support, though just how much no one can fore-cast. On the other hand, using Senstor Hoar's argument, it may be said that, if Mr. Bryan had not interfered, there would now have been no Philippine complication, and the war with Aminaldo would never have taken place; hence he, more than almost any one else, is the responsible party.

## A Left-Handed Shake. Boston Globe. State Senator Frank W. Maynard, of

New Hampshire, has just returned to his home in Nashua from Louisville, Ky, He arrived in Kentucky just after the shooting of Mr. Goebel, and witnessed the evoltement which followed. During his stay in Louisville he was introduced to Colonel Jack Chinn. "We were introduced," said Senator

Maynard, 'by a mutual friend, and I no-ticed that Colonel Chinn extended his left hand to me. At the time I thought it a bit queer, but after I saw him do the a bit queer, but after I saw him do the same thing with several other men, I came to the conclusion that he was left-handed. Perhaps my face indicated my surprise at his manner of shaking hands, for he turned to me a few minutes later and remarked:

and remarked:
"You have noticed perhaps that I shake hands with my left hand? Well, we have grown accustomed to that during the past few days. You see, we like to keep our right hands close to our pistol pockets just now."

England and the Trenty. New York Times.

While our amazing Hepburn in the House of Representatives is urging the treatment of the isthmian canal as a pure-American channel for the develop of American shipping, the Ministry in England is being sharply criticised for sur-rendering the rights secured to Great Britin in the control of such a canal under ain in the control of such a canas under the Clayton-Bulwer treaty, without obtain-ing any compensation in such matters as the Alaskan boundary. The ground of this criticism is that the American Gov-cernment, or the legislative branch of it, will regard the gratuitous concession made to the United States as due solely to a weak and cowardly desire to win the good

Served Since Adams' Administration New York Commercial-Advertiser. Roswell Beardsley, of North Lansing, N. Y., is said to be the oldest postmaster in the service of the United States. He was appointed in 1828, when John Quincy Adams was President and John McLean was the Postmaster-General. His salary was fixed at the munificent sum of \$13 a year. Since then he has kept his place. He is St years old.

The Facts in the Case. Chicago News. Timkins—But is your income sufficient to justify you in marrying? Simkins—I'm afraid not. Timkins-Then what reason have you for taking such a step? Simkins-I have no reason at all, I'm in

THE SOUTH AFRICAN WAR. It is not easy to understand why Gen

eral Cronje remained in his lines at Magersfontein until the night of the 15th His rear guard was attacked the next morning, but resisted desperately until dark. The main body of the Boers reached Klip Kraal Drift, where they crossed to the south bank of the Modder River. On this day, the 16th, the British troops captured 129 wagons of the Bour tra The next morning, Saturday, the 17th, General Cronje was in full retreat south of the Modder River. Saturday night General Macdonaid, at the head of the Highland Brigade, made a forced march of 30 miles in hope of reaching Koodoos Rand Drift in time to attack the enemy, while General French, at the head of his cavalry division, pushed eastward. Sunday, the 18th, the British made an as sault on General Cronje's lines and suffered a loss of nearly 1000 men in killed and wounded. Lord Roberts arrived on Monday, the 19th, and began the tactics which forced Cronia to surrender yesterday morning. It is easy to understand that Lord Roberts outgeneraled Cronje but it is not easy to understand how Cronje was so completely surprised that he was not able to leave his lines until the night of the 15th. Cronje must have inderrated the mobility of Lord Roberts' forces, or he must have been without information that it would seem easy for him to obtain in a friendly country. It has always been reported that the Boers had many heavy guns mounted at Magernfortein, but there do not seem to have een many guns of heavy caliber surrer dered at Paarde Drift. Reinforcements to reach Cronje would have to arrive by rail from Ladysmith, via Elandwfontein, or from Ladysmith via Harrismith to Bethlehem, and they would march by road to Winburg, where they would again take rall for Bloemfontein. To have moved these troops from Natal in time to help Cronje it would have been necesmary to start them a week before the 20th, for by that date Lord Roberts' dispositions were such as to make reinforcement impossible. The Boers are probably only masking their positions between Colenso and Ladysmith to give time to get their convoys off, and news of the relief of Ladysmith may be expected at any moment. The Boers will doubtless | England, and curiously enough there is concentrate all their forces for the defense of Bloemfontein, if they can get hood, there in time, but Lord Roberts is aiready half way from Jacobsdal to that city. It is quite likely that the scene of the war

## force moving from Mafeking on Pretoria HARLAN FOR EXPANSION.

will before long be transferred for the

however could be turned by a strong

Senior Associate Justice of Suprem · Court Makes an Address. Philadelphia,-At the dedication of th

new law building of the University Pennsylvania, Justice Harian, of the United States Supreme Court, said: "May I not add that now, more than at any period in our history, is it neces-sary that we be faithful to sound prin-ciples of government and liberty regu-lated by law? Our country has reached a critical and momentous period, and the utmost vigilance and the most unselfish patriotism are demanded from every gen uine American. The time has come when we must be Americans, through and through. We have no right to turn our backs upon public affairs or to beco Indifferent to the fate of our institution Still less have we a right to enjoy the blessings and protection of this glorious land while continually saying and doing that which serves to

that which serves to strengthen the hands of the enemies of the Republic. "Some people have a strange way in which to manifest their devotion to country. They rarely see in the opera-tions of the Government anything to ap-prove, and they never fall, when the na-tion is having a dispute with other neeion is having a dispute with other pecpies, to say that our country is wrong and

our adversaries right,
"And they do this even while our soldiers are in far-distant lands endeavorsay in the most public manner that those who from jungles ambush and shoot down our brave soldiers are fighting the battles of liberty and doing only what they have a right to do, what their honor requires, "These men are never happier than

when attempting to persuade their felwhen attempting to persuade their rel-low-citizens that America is entering upon a dark and perlicus future, and that all so far accompilished for the liberty and well-being of the people will be lost if the Nation does not rertace its steps. For my own part, I believe that a destiny awaits America such as has rever hear vocabulated. never been vouchsufed to any people, and that in the workings out of that desfiny, under the leadings of Providence, human-ity everywhere will be lifted up and power and tyranny compelled to recognize the fact that 'God is no respecter of per-sons' and that he 'hath made of one blood all nations of men."

# The Sugar and Tobacco Trusts.

Chicago Times-Herald, Rep. Popular sentiment reflected in the press f the Northwest, which is the seat of tepublican strength in Congress, demands he abolition of all customs tariffs be-ween the United States and Puerto Rico. tween the United States and Puerto Rico. It takes no stock in any pretense that free trade between the island and our markets would be a precedent that might return to plague us when it becomes necessary to deal with Cuba and the Philippines. Congress can deal with these knotty problems when they arise. President McKinley cannot afford to mistake the clamor of the sugar and to-bacco lobby for the voice of the American people. If the committee bill comes to him in its present shape nothing short of an absolute and uncompromising veto will save him from the ugly charge of will save him from the ugly charge of sacrificing "plain duty" to the sordid de-mands of two protected industries, al-ready in bad odor with the American

people. The Uncertainty Ended. Harper's Bazar. "Now, honestly, Maud, didn't Jack pro-

"Now, honestly, hand, dun't was pose last evening?"
"Why, ye-e-as! But how did you guess?"
"I noticed that you didn't have that worried look this morning." Gallant.

Detroit Free Press. "I hope I make myself plain," said the ady, trying to explain.
"I hope not, madam," he responded. "I would prefer that I be stupid rather than that you be plain."

A Question of Advantage.

Detroit Journal.

Man is distinguished from the beast by the power to speak his thoughts; the beast from the man by the power to keep its thoughts to itself.

A Captive Mouse. Boston Transcript. So you're the thirf that nibbles cakes and pleaf

So you're the their that micese chars has pear That I, persistently, have sought to kill— That have so long and well defled my skill! How soft your far! How bright your little wrea! Don't tremble so! Now all my anger dies, And vengaful impulses are hunhed and still. I have no heart to work my deadly will! In vain for mastery my reason tries. O Mousie Earth is such a crust place!

Death lurks for all-favors no rank, no grade,
And war is ever rasing-race on race!

You only sought your food see nature bade—
And now must die without a show of grace!

If you've no right to five-why were you
made? NOTE AND COMMENT.

Cronje literally run his campuign into

Chalrman Jones' silver speech proved o be golden silence.

The tariff is always ready to be quareled about, when Congress has nothing else on hand.

If March comes in like a lion, we trust

t will remember that there are no Bos in this vicinity. The society girl who fears that the

has no cause for alarm. If the officers of the lows are docked every time she is, they must have to spend

thain trust will gobble up the golf links

most of their time abourd ship. A juryman in the Molineux trial says he would not go through such another experience, especially with the handwriting experts, for a good farm.

Mr. Altireld says the young man of today can not travel on the road to independence. As he thinks anarchy is independence, it is perhaps just as well.

"I was sensiting of a 'as-been when 's came, 'E was schaffling of a machen when a came,
'E was thought to be a trailin' on 'le name
An' 'se fighth' dury was all enterdered past,
But 'e didn't ask the Government's advice,
Whether 'e was fit to keep on fightin' sillit.
'E just set his mind to thinkin' mas or twice,
Then he aquared things up for cld Majoha
Bill.

There was Generals and Marshalls and all those, There was Captains and Lieutensons there is

mobs, But among 'em there was no one, as we knows,

HIII.

Some American papers recently had no end of fun with The London Daily Mail because it spoke of a motor car on "a long route to New York, eight miles be yond Boston." "Another illustration of the Englishman's abyumal ignorance of things American." It was said. But for once the cap seems to fit the other head, for the Mail explains that its remark referred to England and not to the Colted States. There is, it seems, a village named New York eight miles from Boston, also a Bunker Hill in the same neighbor-

Some time ago a rich but ignorant roman wrote to the Weather Bureau in Washington, saying that she was to give a Boers to the line of the Vaal River, which lawn party on a certain day and asking the bureau to see that it was clear on more impressive, she inclosed a list of the names of several prominent people she intended to invite. "I entered into the bumor of the thing," says Professor Moore, "and sent her an answer to the effect that the afternoon she designated had already been bespoken by a poor washerwoman, who wanted to obtain some rain water with which to wash clothes, and that on this account I could not possibly make it clear on that date."

The telephone girl is pretty sure to get he best of it in the long run, as the following anecdote of a Portland business man will testify. He had called up a umber, and had been sunvely inform that the line was busy. He informed the young woman who attended to his calls that he thought she was mistaken. She repeated her information. He called her again, and she asked calmly, "Number, please?" That aroused his ire, and he sed language which a gentleman saldom addresses to a lady except over the tele-Next morning at 2 he was awakened by the continuous ringing of his telephone. It was one of those cold nights, but he arose, clad in his night-shirt, and in answer to his "Hello" he received the pleasing intelligence that he was wanted on the long-distance phone. He stood there and shivered for ing to maintain the rightful authority of the nation. Some have not hesitated to that the telephone girl had got one in her friends to square the account with him. Then the anger vanished from his heart, and he good-humoredly admitted to his wife that the girl had the best of it.

#### The Only Pennover, Hartford Courant.

Pennoyer of Gregor-be's an "ex" now and source than ever-bolds Bryan respon-sible for the McKinley administration and all its works, "Imperialism" and the com-ing gold-standard act included. He be-lieves that Teller, or illand, or Stevenson could have been elected in 1884. He be-lieves that one of them would have been nominated by the Chicago convention if Bryan had kept his mouth shut. But Bryan spoke his piece, the delegates lost their heads, and the Democracy's cake was dough.

Lee's Surrender. PORTLAND, Feb. M.—(To the Editor.)—
Who was Commander-in-Chief of the
Union Army at the time of Lee's surrender?
SUESCRIBER.

General Grant was in immediate command; but, of course, under the Constitution the President, Mr. Lincoln, was "Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy of the United States." General Lee's surrender occurred five days before Lincoln's acusamination.

> A Remarkable Cift. Hartford Times.

Mrs. F. E. Buttle has offered the New York Public Library a remarkable gift. It consists of 1000 menus each from a difent hotel or restaurant. She has collected most of them herself, and some are from Hungary, China, Japan and Russia. Mrs. Buttle stipulates that the meaus are to be kept sealed until 1950, as it is her desire that the coming generations may see what their ancests

Lucht. Chicago Record.
"Clara, you don't accomplish anything secause you waste so much time,"
"I don't waste time, but there is always something I would rather do than do so thing else."

Faith. S. E. Elser in Chicago Times-Haratd, A happy child plays on the floor, And stacks his blocks and sings, And he knows naught of ascient loss, And naught of worldly things And manget to worstly tunings;
Dut faith is in his heart, and when
'The dark be kneeds to pray,
And what is all the love of mean.
The fairest fruit of brash, or penAgainst the faith he less—the faith L too, could

claim one day? Beside the great cuthedral door A poor old woman stands. A stranger unto worldly lose, With smotted, tired handel

But faith is rooted in her broad She hears the bell above, And on the Book her lips are prest, And when 'tis night she goes to rest, Triumphantly believing in her Saylor

sage, what is the love you teach? O man of science, all The wise conclusions that you reach. Are pullful and small Are pittful and small
Beside the faith of him who plags
About upon the floor—
Beside the faith of her whose daps
Were sunless if she might not raise
The Book to trusting lips that may an are at