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TODAY'S WEATHER-Occasional rain; south

PORTLAND, MONDAY, MARCH 5, 1900

JAPAN'S RELATION TO OUR COTTON.

It will surprise some prophets of gloom to learn that Japan's developnent in cotton manufacturing, available for study now for a term of years, yields a net result favorable to this country. Yet such is the fact. The New York Financial Chronicle has done useful service in obtaining from the secretary of the Tokio Statistical Society a full record of the cotton industry of Japan for nine years past, including the calendar year 1898; and from this record it appears that the rise of cotton manufacture there has resulted in largely increased demand for American cotton, while the menace of imports of cheap products seems to amount to practically nothing. One of

		Cotton	Yarn
	Number	Consumed.	Produced.
from the same of t	Spindles.	Pounds.	Pounds.
1898	.1,746,T49	\$39,756,560	277,764,929
1807	970,567	206,235,358	221, 285, 792
1896	. 757,196	207,202,302	174,528,138
1805	. 580,945	181,427,883	153,425,783
1804	476,123	143,160,617	121,833,400
1893	. B81,T81	96,004,225	88,889,533
1892	. 844,563	100,277,292	84,465,758
1891°		74,960,775	64,082,810
2800*	* ******	49,687,367	42,771,566

This is a most striking demonstration in industrial vigor. Within the past five years we see that spindles have increased nearly 150 per cent, that the amount of raw cotton consumed has risen over 250 per cent, and that the quantity of yarn produced has gained over 200 per cent. Moreover, each year has exhibited marked improvement over its predecessor. Going back for a moment to 1890, a simple calculation discloses the fact that for that year the average consumption per week was only 1911 bales of 500 pounds each: in 1893 the average had increased to 3856 bales, in 1895 it was 6978 bales, in 1897 It reached 10,278 bales and in 1898 23,667 bales.

These supplies of raw cotton are being drawn from us in an increasing degree. Concurrent with the increasing use of raw cotton, the yield of native cotton appears to have been decreasing. As far back as 1887 Japan's crop was stated at 190,837,775 pounds, equivalent to 380,000 bales of 500 pounds each, but in 1894 the total reached only 104,774,758 pounds, or about 210,000 bales. In 1895 there was a further reduction to 87,404,742 pounds, or 174,000 bales: in 1896 to 61,850,508 pounds, or 124,000 bales, and for 1897 (the latest figures obtainable) the production is placed at 60,-479,215 pounds, or 121,000 bales. It was not until 1894 that Japan's mill consumption exceeded her production of cotton, but since then, of course, the divergence has been rapidly widening until in 1898 home-grown cotton supplied less than one-fifth of the amount required. The deficiency has for years been chiefly made up by imports from India; but last season American cotton was largely used, and now again this year it is being much more freely taken. The shipments direct from United States ports since September 1, 1899, to date have been 180,000 hales. or 100,000 bales more than for the same period a year ago, and in fact greater than for the whole season of 1898-99 Altogether Japan imported 340,478,133 pounds of cotton in 1898, or, say, 680, 000 bales of 500 pounds each, against 305,485,792 pounds in 1897, 235,406,735 pounds in 1896 and 206,870,304 pounds in

Perhaps it would not be just to at tribute the better price of cotton to the increased Asiatic demand, though we may be sure any falling off would be laid at the door of Oriental competition. But it is well known that simultaneous with this increasing output of Japanese cotton manufacture, the business and profits of American mills have increased and our imports of manufactured cottons from Europe have also risen year by year. Two conclusions can be drawn. One is that prosperity in one country helps all countries. Japan buys our raw cotton and we can turn around and buy more and better goods of Europe. The other is that advancing civilization multiplies the consuming power of the people concerned. Very little of this increased output of Japanese cotton manufacture comes to this country. It is consumed at home by the advancing tastes and needs of Japan herself. Here is reassurance for the short-sighted who see in a prosperous Orient the downfall of Western industry. All the facts are

Perhaps the most radical view advanced in Mr. Olney's Atlantic article is his idea that Cuba would soon have been ours anyhow without the war with Spain, and that its formal annexation to the United States is a foregone conclusion not far off. "While th Spanish war ended in the acquisition of Cuba by the United States," he says, "that result was neither unnatural nor surprising, but something sure to occur, if not in the year 1898, before many years, and if without war, then compulsory in character." He reasons chiefly from the general understanding and "clear notice" by us to foreign Powers, "that, while Spain would be allowed to play out her hand in the island, no other Power than the United States would be permitted to absorb Mr. Olney is equally confident that

cerned demand the speedy extension of American sovereignty over Cuba. He says the declaration of Congress of our the island is established by law. This is certainly a spirited reading of our National position toward Cuba, and appear very ridiculous.

MORE BANK CURRENCY.

Opponents of the refunding scheme, who were wont to denounce the proposed new bonds because nobody would buy them, have cheerfully faced about and now complain of the bonds because they will be bought freely, made the basis of excessive note issues and thus involve us in dangerous inflation. This is certainly a radical and awkward change of front; but it does not seem to disconcert the antagonists of the Reform bill, who are hardly put to it for arguments. Any port in a storm.

It is undeniable that the Reform bill offers strong hope of additions to our banking currency; but within proper limits the end is highly desirable. Our bank currency falls lamentably short of keeping pace with the wealth and business of the country. Our productions last year increased from about \$14,000,000,000 to \$19,000,000,000, and our bank clearings from \$68,000,000,000 to \$94,000,000,000. But our National bank note circulation decreased from January 1, 1899, to January 1, 1900, from \$214,000,000 to \$209,000,000. The United States Treasury is now carrying a cash balance of \$300,000,000, of which over \$230,000,000 is in gold. The safe proportion of gold to outstanding paper is as \$33 of gold to every \$100 of paper outstanding. But the proportion in the Treasury is about \$329 of gold to every \$100 in paper. This is not an econom ical or profitable proportion, and if the Reform bill succeeds in supplying the circulation with a requisite volume of cured and guaranteed bank notes, and releasing the gold for lucrative employment, the result will be beneficial. In the first place, the bill permits issue of notes to par of deposited bonds. If all the banks embrace this opportunity, we shall have an addition of \$27,000,000 to the currency from that source alone. Then many new banks may be established under the section permitting formation of banks with only \$25,000 capital in small towns. One thousand such banks, with note issues of \$5000 each, would add another \$5,000,-000 to the circulation. But the greatest source of increase is to be expected from issues made under new 2 per cent bonds acquired for the specific purpose of circulation. The old bonds susceptible of refunding aggregate something like \$840,000,000. As some \$210,000,000 of the bonded debt is now employed for circulation purposes, the outside limit of inflation from this source is \$630,-000,000. If this amount were to be poured into the circulation all at once, derangement might result, and Mr. Matthew Marshall, the financial expert of the New York Sun, is afraid of the consequences.

There are, however, considerations which tend to minimize the danger. The most powerful incentive known is arrayed against excessive inflation, and that is enlightened self-interest. Such inflation as would lead to a panic like that of 1893 would be of all things the most disastrous to the banks. Many banks were ruined at that time, and the consequences are still with many that made shift to survive. It is almost inconceivable that with the history of greenback inflation and silver of the country should rush into another period of excessive currency issues. Note issues, further, will only be worth while if the currency can be lueratively employed. For a bank to put its money into bonds for the sake of getting notes to lie idle in its vaults would be a very stupid piece of business. It must be remembered that every dollar of these new bank notes will be secured by the deposit of bonds for which gold or its equivalent has been paid, and that the government is in impregnable position to see that every bank note is redeemed in gold upon

Thirty years ago the bank note cirulation was \$300,000,000, or about threesevenths of the total circulation. To day the total circulation is about \$2,000 .-000,000, and three-sevenths of this mount is \$857,000,000. This same proportion it is folly to expect to be eached again for many years. With the United States Treasury's notes rigid at their present volume, and with our silver obligations throughout the country in the form of small notes, it is idle to worry over danger to the circulation from deliberate increase of bank notes acquired against deposits of Government bonds. The fear is about as baseless as the contradictory contention that we can't get currency enough unless we allow the banks to issue notes against their commercial assets.

A YEAR OF MILITARY RULE.

The record of Cuba's first year of military rule shows that as an emergency or intermediate form of government the military system has been beneficial to the island and its people, revenues, instead of being squandered at home or elsewhere to no useful purpose, were disbursed for the public benefit. Commissioner Porter reports the customs receipts of Cuba for 1899 at \$5,000,000, with an additional million from internal revenue. This, with the exception of the balance still in the Treasury, has been expended for the benefit of the Cubans, with results that Of the total amount of revenues, \$3,000,000 was expended for sanitary purposes. Through the vigorous application of sanitary rules Havana has been transformed from a plague spot of ages to a healthy tropical city, while, as shown by a recent tour of inspection, the condition of the people throughout the island is greatly improved. Notable especially in this regard is the change in the condition of the children-tattered, woe-begone and famine-stricken a year ago, now as a general rule well-fed and healthy.

For administrative purposes \$1,700, 866 has been expended, and, while no doubt the official leakage has been considerable, the results of the system inaugurated have been wholesome throughout. Of the residue, \$600,000 was applied to public works and harbors, \$700,000 to charities and hospitals \$250,000 to the beginnings of civil government, \$300,000 for outdoor relief of the destitute, \$375,000 for postal service, \$260,000 for taking the census, and \$150, justice and the well-being of all con- | 000 for quarantine. In addition to this,

municipalities have been aided to the extent of over \$1,000,000.

As a result of the system, and its purpose there was not only futile but administration with military exactness fill-advised, and avers that there is no as to detail, many people have been order, happiness or prosperity for Cuba given employment, and a basis of seifuntil permanent American control in help has been established. While the expenditure in the interest of better sanitary and other conditions was being made, the industries of the island makes the qualms of anti-imperialism rapidly revived, under the benish influence of peace and intelligently directed effort. Tobacco and sugar plantations have been restored, and the production of fruits and vegetables upon which the people largely subsist. has risen to nearly the normal rate. In short, a year of military occupation, administered in the interest of restoring the waste and destruction of war, has made Cuba more completely habitable than during any other period of the more than five hundred years in which the island has been known to the civilized world.

But the time has arrived when the civil must succeed the military-the permanent the temporary form of govrnment in Cuba. It is believed that the foundation of a stable civil government has been laid in the year of military occupancy, and all interested in the future well-being of the longharassed and oppressed people of the island will have reason to be gratified if the administration of affairs under civil rule makes as good and withal as clean a showing as was made under the year of military rule. This ought to be possible, though there is a menacing probability that the knaves will get into office and squander the revenues for personal ends, instead of expending them for the public good. Be this as it may, Cuba, rotten with the corruption of ages, has been to a great extent purged of her filth; devastated by long wars, she has been rehabillitated in the garments of peace; drained of her revenues by official extravagance, she has had her resources conserved and expended for her own benefit. The test of the capacity of her people for self-government is now to be made, beginning with municipal government, and it may be hoped that the outcome at the and of the year will not be less gratifying than that shown by a year of military government capably administered.

ROMANCERS OF THE WAR.

To any intelligent, critical reader of he so-called London war dispatches to the New York World, the New York Sun and other pro-Boer newspapers, it has been evident for some time that their accounts of the war in South Africa have been about as accurate as Whitelaw Reid's famous detailed account of the first day's battle at Shioh, which General William T. Sherman admitted was "a brilliant feat of ournalism," as it was "written by Mr Reid on board a steamboat while yet fifty miles from the battle-field." There has been a disposition from the beginning to exaggerate the warlike virtues of the Boers and to depreciate the valor of the English, which is worthy of a Parnellite Irishman, of a jaundicedminded German, Frenchman or Rus-

The truth is that while the Boer is a man of sturdy valor, there is nothing in his conduct under fire that is at all extraordinary compared with the conduct of our American volunteers during our Civil War; nor with that of English troops under fire since the days of Marlborough or Frederick or Napoleon, The Boers can shoot straight; they are splendidly armed; ive positions selected entific soldiers, graduates of the German and French military schools. They have always fought under cover and the art of sheltering themselves so completely from artillery fire that General Cronje endured a fire of at least fifty heavy guns at short range from the 19th ult, to the 27th, without suffering any appreciable loss in killed and wounded. The stupid story about "the heroic Cronje preferring death by artillery fire to surrender" was all the rhetorical rot of a lot of army correspondents whose lurid lies were probably written up as far away from the battle-field as Whitelaw Reid was from

General Cronje did not surrender be cause his forces were being decimated by artillery fire, for his men were all in practical bomb-proofs. He surrendered because he could not escape, and had held his position as long as was necessary for the evacuation of Natal and because the English trenches had been pushed up so close that his lines were sure to be carried by an overwhelming charge. General Cronie's reputation as a gallant and shrewd soldier needs no proof, but it is utterly absurd to pretend that the Boers have done anything in this war so far that justifies the absurd stuff written about them by the pro-Boer correspondents of European and American newspapers. The test of generalship is brains, but the highest test of soldiership is to fight successfully on the offensive or defensive while steadily enduring severe loss. The Boers have never met and endured the supreme test of soldiership, as did our American volunteer soldiers, Union or Confederate, in

our Civil War. When a Confederate division assaulted General Corse at Allatoona Pass, October 5, 1864, Corse, after a desperate fight, repulsed his assailants, but not until he had lost 705 killed and wounded out of eight small regiments and a battery, while the enemy lost 742 killed and wounded. That was the way that Union and Confederate volunteers had to fight on the offensive or defensive in 1864. Or compare the conduct and acare in the main exceedingly gratifying. Ition of Pickett's men marching a mile and a half at Gettysburg under artillery fire, which destroyed them, with the so-called "heroism" of Cronje's men enduring harmless artillery fire in bomb-proofs. Compare Hancock's men marching up to "the stone wall" at Fredericksburg, losing 2500 killed and wounded out of 5000 and persisting in their advance under artillery and musketry until within 100 yards of the Confederate intrenchment, with the socalled "extraordinary valor" of the

Boers. guns that destroyed the vitality of Pickett's charge had been subjected for three hours to the fire of 150 guns, and had no cover from this fire in the sense of field trenches of any sort, much less anything like the Boer bombproofs or deep underground shelter. Lee's fire destroyed the Federal batteries so that they had to be replaced, and the destruction caused by his artillery fire was serious not only on Cemetery Ridge, but in rear of it. The

and nearly all was suffered by the left center, assailed by Pickett. When we remember that a man who is cool and accurate enough to shoot a lion in his native haunts is probably cool enough to take a "pot shot" from cover at a line of brave men marching in the open to make a front attack, it is high time this nonsense about the "brave Boers" and "the heroic Cronje" was abated. The Boers are brave men; Cronje is a brave and able soldier; but so were the French and Indians brave, who from ambuscade destroyed Braddock's army

Although the proposed new 2 per cent bonds yield much less nominal interest to their holders, yet the other provisions of the Reform bill are so favorable that the investment will pay the banks better than they can make under present arrangements with the old bonds. This is chiefly due to the opportunity of taking out notes to par of deposited bonds, but also to the fact that the new bonds will probably be purchasable at par or thereabouts, and the reduction of the tax on circulation, when 2 per cent bonds are deposited to secure it, from 1 per cent a year to one-half of 1 per cent. At present banks which deposit 3 per cent bonds to secure their circulation make a profit on it in excess of 6 per cent on the investment of a little over six-tenths of 1 per cent, which is considerably more than they can make by depositing any other bonds. Were they allowed to take out circulation to the par value of the 3 per cent bonds their excess profits would be increased by two thirds. If the 2 per cent bonds, which it is proposed to issue, sell at par or a shadow above, the bank depositing them will make a profit on its circulation in excess of 6 per cent on the investment of about 1.43 per cent. It will make a greater profit than by depositing 3 per cents because the proposed reduction of the tax on circulation applies only to the notes issued against the 2 per cent bonds. This is one inducement held out to the banks which have taken out circulation to exchange for 2 per cents the other bonds they hold.

We read in the Chicago Tribune that the reverses of the Boers and the capture of General Cronje do not alter the merits of the Boer cause in the slightest degree, nor 'prove England to be any more in the right than before Certainly not. And the same was said, and rightly said, of the success of our National forces over the Confederates in 1865. Might may be right; but the notion that might makes right-that is, that right is always on the side of might-is deplorably false. We had to have a better plea than this for subjugation of the Confederates; and the English must have—as they assert they have-a better reason for subjugation of the Boers. On all these transactions history passes judgment; but there never is general acquiescence in that judgment till long after the event. There are many who do not yet concede that might made right, or that right was on the side of might, upon the issues of our Civil War. In these great affairs judgment must be, or should be, formed upon a view of large principles and objects. In short, the success of what party would be most conducive to human progress

One of the perplexing things about the Quay case is the inactivity of the new Senators, whose votes will doubtless be decisive of the Issue, Depew and Ross have declared themselves, but their artillery has been trained, their the other speakers are practically men intrenchments made, and their defen- who merely reaffirm positions assumed oward Mr. Corbett's claim. Besides Depew and Ross, there are twelve men in the Senate who have gone in there since Mr. Corbett's case was passed suffered small loss; they have learned upon. They can defeat Quay by voting against him.

Teller acquits Secretary Gage and the banks of any wrong, but complains of a system which permits the United States Treasury to save the banks from a panic. His complaint is well-founded. How is 16 to 1 to get on if the Government prevents panics with malice aforethought? How are we going to howl calamity with any show of election unless the Treasury is permitted to destroy confidence and debase the currency?

Legitimate business provides a good demand for money in London, but the prostration of the stock exchanges is nuch like that which we have been witnessing in this country. The phenomenon is not only demonstrative of healthy business conditions, but gives hope of departure of much speculative spirit from among the masses.

The ascendancy of Englishmen apears to Mr. Dillon "infamous." But that should first be proved by the record. That the Irish view of the British character is the correct one can hardly be taken for granted., Mr. Dillon's assumption shows the sincerity of the Irish conviction, but also a lack of logic almost amusing.

Fusion this year seems not so much as in 1898 a demonstration that the vital issue at stake is the money question as evidence that the contracting parties have no peculiar principles left worth fighting for. The heroic little Prohibition party is a standing rebuke to these traders.

France is manifesting ardent desire

for American friendship. The impulse

does credit to her discretion; and the

display should by all means be kept up till the close of the Paris Exposition. gold standard bill can call himself a bimetalist. This is a direct attack on

of his ground in Colorado.

Wolcott. The Senator must be afraid

Boston Herald. with the canal, and in taking in other territory. We suppose no one doubts that Nicaragua would be better off as a their country divided by a canal right of way controlled by a foreign nationality. The strong hand of the United States must be felt in the preservation of order there, for the protection of her own prop erty, and the Nicaraguans would more readily accept it from a nation of which they are a part than from a foreign Union loss was over 2000 on that day, power. There is not likely, therefore, to excellent reports on trade conditions. In-

be much objection from them to coming oe much objection from them to coming under this government. Whether we want them or not is another question, but it looks as if a party was likely to be formed there to ask us to take them.

PAUPERIZATION OF STUDENTS. An Educational Tendency That Needs to Be Checked.

Baltimore Sun. At the recent inauguration of President Hadley, of Yale, a prominent topic of the President's address was the necessity of reform in the bestowal of scholarships and other kinds of beneficiary aid to students. Not only is education of an elementary and intermediate character at present almost wholly gratuitious, but ident. It disgues alike the m in many parts of the United States a his own party in Congress, and ollegiate and university education may be had for the asking. Education has be-come the cheapest of our luxuries, and in some institutions there is said to be a demoralizing competition for students who will accept tuition, board, lodg-ing, books, etc., free of charge for from one to five years. Colleges point with pride to the number of scholarships they can give away. The endowment of scholarships for poor and meritorious students has for hundreds of years been means of keeping one's name in re-membrance, as well as doing good, for a longer or shorter period, according to the discretion with which funds are invested. In the last 20 years, however, there has been a vast extension of the practice of endowing scholarships without, it is believed, a corresponding in-crease of benefit to the cause of educa-tion. In many cases, it is alleged, scholarships are bestowed nowadays without regard for intellectual capacity, upon any youth who can show, or seem to show, that he is not in affluent circumstances. In New England the scholarships are utilized by rival institutions to bid against each other for students, and one New England college, according to the New York Evening Post, "assures a sub-stantial scholarship to every member of the freshman class." So far has this gone that one of the New England colleges has impaired the principal of its endowment in its effort

to multiply scholarships, attract non-paying students and thus show a longer list of names in its annual catalogue. The theological seminaries are pronounced the worst sinners in this demorphounced the worst sinners in this demorphism and the seminaries are pronounced the worst sinners in this demorphism and the seminaries of the seminaries o They offer not free tuition, but free room rent, free textbooks and free pocket manly vigor are not promoted, it is argued, but debilitated by this wholesare distribution of money, or its equivalent. The clerical profession must, it is thought, deteriorate under such a regimen. Indeed, Professor Hyde, of Bowdoin College, holds that this feature of gratuitous theological education has already done much injury, its tendency being to prevent the clergyman from adapting himself to the needs of the modern world. But the evil is not confined to the theological schools. Reform is needed in many institutions all over the country. At Yale opinion has settled down, it ap-pears, to these conclusions: That aid should not be given to so-called needy students unless the need of it is fully demonstrated; that where the need of financial aid has been established, it should be given only to persons of exceptional intellectual ability; that even if both neediness and exceptional ability are shown, still the scholarship should not provide complete support; finally, that the recipient of aid should make some return to the institution that befriends scholarship, in a word, should supplement the efforts, or payments, of the would-be student and not cover all his expenses. Above all, it should not be permitted to beget in the minds of young men the idea that an educated man is abhased by savings his own living. It debased by earning his own living. It should be rather an incitement to increased exertion along lines helpful to the community. The American public has no desire to possess a class known in Europe as the "educated proletariat" -an idle, over-educated class, which engages in subversive political agitations for want of remunerative occupation. cost something in the way of selfsacrifice and severe personal exertion.

FIVE YEARS AGO AND NOW. Wonderful Change in So Short a Pe-

riod. Chicago Inter-Ocean The announcement that England may soon issue a war loan of \$250,000,000, and that a considerable part of this gold will be drawn from the United States, is re-ceived by financial experts and the general public with equanimity that brings forcibly to mind the difference in this Nation's condition five years ago and

Five years ago the United States had borrow gold, not to fight a war, but to protect its credit from public folly and after a weary struggle, had been forced to repeal the Sherman silver purchase act. The tinkering with the currency and the increasing clamor of the silverites had so shaken public confidence, and the Wilson bill had so prostrated indus-try, that both public and private credit were well-nigh wrecked. The Government had to appeal to certain gentlemen in New York and their friends in Europe not only to lend it money, but also to stop the export of gold. The United States had to ask these private persons to insure its creditors that it would not repudiate its debts by degrading its curren-cy. Between the partisan obstinacy of the Democratic majority in Congress and the uncertainty of the future, the task was a risky one, and the underwriters had to be paid a price that became a national scandal. Seldom had the United States been in so humiliating a position. A little more than three years ago the people spoke at the polls for honesty and sound money. They also declared for laws that would foster industry and give adequate revenue to the Government. Confidence was restored, industry re-vived and prosperity returned. Two years ago the Nation had to fight a foreign foe. Seven times the gold required was offered by the people at the lowest rate of interest that a war loan had ever borne. Within 100 days the war was won. One year ago misguided followers of ambitious adventurers made war upon the Nation, and have just been reduced to submission. But so little did the conflicts of these two years tax the Nation's strength, so rapidly did its industry and commerce grow, that during these conflicts it achieved financial independence and passed over to the ranks of the creditor nations. And today the wealthiest nation in Europe, in looking about for a possible war loan, regards this country as the best source of supply. Can history shows a more complete reversal of conditions within so short a time?

An Unnecessary Commission Chicago Tribune.

It is true that there are great oppor-tunities for trade in the Orient. But that The annexation of Nicaragua to this is no reason why another commission country is reported to be seriously in should be appointed to investigate the country is reported to be seriously in should be appointed to investigate the contemplation among her people. This conditions there. Probably there are a so not surprising, in view of the entergood many men who would like to go to China and Japan, with their expenses paid and a salary besides, but it would be of no special benefit to the United States. The excuse made by the Senate committee, dependency of this government than it that has favorably reported the bill pro-now is, and it is entirely natural that the more intelligent of her people should only thus that the people of the United reach this conviction. The Nicaraguan States can learn how to geture the Oricanal is expected to be built, and it would not be pleasant to Nicaraguans to have commission went there it would merely bring back reports containing information already well known. It could find nothing that has not already been told by ou Consuls, or by the reports of the Philadel phia Commercial Museum, or by such travelers as Beresford. Aside from this, American Consuls in the Orient, such as Bedloe, Goodnow and others, have made

formation from these and other sources was published recently in a report of the Bureau of Statistics, that was as exhaustive as the report of a commissi be, and probably more accurate and more useful. If any more information is needed the Consuls will supply it. There are not sufficient justification for another to visit the Orient.

THE PRESIDENT'S WEAKNESS. Sample of Criticism to Which He Now Becomes Liable.

New York Evening Post. So humiliating a spectacle as this has never before been presented by any President. It disguets alike the me throughout the country. The Nation has been educated to expect and demand from its executive a clear statement of na-tional duty, and the exercise of his great influence to secure the discharge of duty by Congress. It admires and re specie the President who thus exerci his high prerogative—who does what Grover Cleveland did in 1893, when he convened Congress in special session to res cue the national finances from threatener ruin by demanding the repeal of the Sherapplauded as an excellent use for a tea-tator to make of his money. It affords a means of keeping one's name in re-means of keeping one's name in re-deferming the regard of the forman brand in his own party cooked upa scheme to evade duty by a weak compromise, letting it be known that he would never give his consent to anything short of the absolute repeal which the exi-gency demanded.

There was one course open to Mr. Mc-

Kinley by which he might have saved his self-respect. It was pointed out, the other day, when Mr. Bromwell, a Republican Congressman from Ohlo, who favors the policy advocated by Mr. McKinley in December, said in the House: "If the President of the United States, since his m sage to Congress in December, has obtained information which shows that conditions are different today from what they were then, it is a colemn duty that he owes to this House and the other House of Congress that he should communicate that additional information to us, that we should not be dependent upon conversa-tions and interviews of individual members of this House with the Chief Execu-tive for the information upon which we as a legislative body are to act." But Mr. to the "pauperisation" of lative powers," he is ready to declare his young men whose function it is to lead conviction of duty to Congress, and then he religious thought of their generation. sign a bill utterly opposed to the course which he advised; in short, he is the nerveless creature of the syndicate which money. Independence, self-reliance and is now running the government for its manly vigor are not promoted, it is arionger have that great safety of our in-stitutions—an executive who knows his duty, and who is not afraid to do it.

The Compromise Puerto Rican Bill.

Chicago Record, Ind. The compromise Puerto Rican bill is a owardly makeshift that is no less objectionable to the believers in fair treatment for Puerto Rico than the measure as reported to the House by the ways and means committee. The reduction in the rate of duty from 25 to 15 per cent does not make the measure just or wise. If it is wrong and impolitic and contrary to the principles of our Constitution to levy duties on the interchange of products between the United States and Puerto Rico it certainly is wrong and impolitic and unconstitutional to levy a duty of 15 per cent. If it is our "plain duty" to establish free trade with Puerto Rico it is no fulfillment of that duty to cut down the barriers somewhat. To give the pending bill the character of a temporary measure is but to intensify its mischievous qualities. An uncertain tariff policy is worse than a distinctively bad tariff policy which possesses the quality of stability. Congress should be done with cowardly evasion and makeshift and should decide squarely be-tween "its plain duty" and the demands of the protected interests. Indeed, Congrees will decide the issue in favor of the protected interests whether it levies a duty of 25 per cent or of 15 per cent. The com promise feature of the bill should be rejected and provision should be made for absolute free trade between the United States and Puerto Rico.

The Managing Democrats.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat. It is not likely that McLean and Gornan consider themselves strong enough to prevent the nomination of Bryan, nor is it certain that they want to prevent it. But they have shown themselves strong enough to postpone it until after the Republican nominees and platform are in the field. Gorman wrote the Dem-ocratic platform in the last Maryland election. Silver was not mentioned, and the Democrats carried the state. If Gorman had his way, silver would be put in the background in the Kansas City plat-form. McLean is for silver or greenbacks, but sure, if it came to the point to make gold contracts for himself. Mc-Lean and Gorman know too much about politics to expect Bryan's election. What they are figuring on is to control the party machinery, and that they have just done in the important matter of fixing the convention date. Bryan must fall in behind them if he expects to have a smooth time with his party.

McKinley and Lincoln,

Providence Journal, Rep. The President's declaration that he prefers to be right to being his own suc-cessor is commendable. But actions speak louder than words. When it is necessary to choose between duty and political expediency, between being right and preparing to carry the next election, what course does the President follow? What has he done in regard to "our plain duty' toward Puerto Rico? Has he shown one trace in Lincoln's faith that right makes might, and that men should perform their duty as it is given them to

Labor Saving. Washington Star. "You say he went to the Legislature through your influence?"

" answered Senator Sorghum.

"Did he introduce any bills?"
"No. He never could have handled al that money in bills. I gave him a book of signed checks." Getting Ready.

Philadelphia Press. "My beau," said 10-year-old Lucy, "i going to be an Admiral," "Is he in the Naval Academy?" asked her sympathetic aunt.

"Oh, no!" replied the little woman, "he's too young for that yet, but he's having an anchor tattooed on his arm." Transferable Sympathy. Chicago Times-Herald. "I thought your sympathies were with the Boers when we were taiking about

the war a week or two ago?" "Well, the Boers were winning then. Hurrah for 'Bobs' and Kitchener!" Help Wanted. Chicago News.

Mistress-How did you happen to let the fire go out? New Girl-I'm sure I don't know, ma'am, inless you happened to forget to tell me to put coal on.

Etility Gone.

Chlcago Tribune. "Shadbolt, I don't like to be a talebearer, but I heard Dingus say the other day he had no use for you." "Well, that's true. I've quit lending

Boodlers of Various Kinds. St. Louis Globe-Democrat. Senator Clark might have donated that \$118,000 to the Chicago University, thereby winning the title of philanthropist, in-

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Kruger must have his Steyn by his side, even in adversity.

Cronje seems to have about the farthest flung battle-line on record.

And Aguinaldo and the pro-Boers remain in a state of innocuous desuetude.

Yesterday was such a rare and priceless day that Jupiter Pluvius found it advisable to scak it.

There will be enough peers in the Transraal after this celebration to bridge every drift in the Tugela.

Bryan has gone back to Texas. Speechnaking cannot hold a candle to cetrich jockeying when it comes to notorlety.

Kansas City only paid \$50,000 for the Democratic convention. She ought to be able to sell it to Bryan for twice that

Now, Tommy Atkins, you're all right, There ain't no use disputin' that, But just you curb your wild delight, Till you have figgered where you're at.
Them Boers sin't all quit fightin' pet.
So don't forget, so don't forget.

I sing the happy song of spring Chicken which I hope to eat.
When lines like these the lucre bring,
Like gas, so much a thousand feet:
I sing the glowing song of spring

amb roast, with spears of spley mint With coal-black waiters lingering. To serve my orders without ofin I cong the lovely song of spring

Bonnets on my fair one's head, Composed of warblers on the wing, When we have wealth enough to wed.

I sing, also, the song of spring
Poets, who by chill frosts nipped,

Ill sing of spring or anything To sell a batch of manuscript Rose funciers have decided that winter is over, and are having their bushes trimmed. On the severity and good judgment with which this is done largely desends the success of the rose crop. All predict a fine crop of roses this year, as the season is just a month earlier than it was last year, and every indication points to an early Spring, and good crops of fruit and everything else. The old saying that misfortunes never come singly has been backed up by the experience of the past half-dozen years, when, with financial troubles, have come unfavorable seasons

and fruit and other crops have not been

up to the usual standard. Now the coun-

try is in for several years of old-fash-

ioned Oregon seasons and crops, and the

prospect is for good prices also.

The efforts being made by the citizens of Astoria to rid their city of rats, as a precautionary measure against the introduction of plague there, have greatly excited the interest of Howard Winters, well-known canneryman and student of natural history. Mr. Winters has been looking into the rat question and finds that in the early history of Astoria rats were encouraged there to act as scavengers. Salmon were very plentiful in those days, and the beach in front of the city was strewn with dead salmon, salmon heads and offal a great part of the time, and the rate helped to dispose of this nuisance. Rate arriving on ships were induced to come ashore there, and Mr. Winters states that there is now a rat on exhibition in the window of Foard & Stokes branded 1848, which is one of a ot that came round the Horn in that year in one of Cushing's brigs from Newburyport, Mass., commanded by Captain Phil Johnson. Now things have changed. and Mr. Winters says the Astoria people have imported three rat-catchers from New Orleans to catch and put an end to their hordes of rats, and that they pay these men very large salaries. A person who heard Winters make these statements remarked, as he walked away: "Oh, rats," and intimated that Winters was one of the greatest living "romancers." As he has been a canneryman and is preparing himself for missionary work among the natives of Alaska, he ought to be a man of truth and veracity on two counts.

Among the many evidences that Spring is at hand may be mentioned the fact that the skylarks have returned to their favorite haunt, the Ladd tract, on Hawthorne avenue, and the starlings and thrushes, also among the song birds imported some years ago, have been seen in and around the city. Bluebirds and meadow larks are seen in the outskirts of the city, and robins are back in their old haunts in town, diligently seeking the seasonable early worm, which has practically been out all winter. The courtesy and kindness extended to birds generally during the past few years is producing a visible effeet in the increased number which visit the city and nest in the gardens, and also in the fact that several species of birds now sojourning in Portland used to give it a wide berth. A clump of firs on privale grounds at the North End is now frequently visited by a flock of crows, which appear to be holding a political convention or camp-meeting there, and a handsome pair of downy owis have apparently decided to locate in a clump of trees on a park-like lawn in the western part of town, where their "too whit, too whit, too whoo" is heard evenings. They are protected from intrusion by the owner of the grounds, and are quite at home. Nowaday, the great majority of boys protect birds, and only yesterday three little chaps were seen waiting at the gate of their father's residence, not wishing to disturb by going in a robin which was nunting for worms on the lawn. A few and boys go out in the country and try to kill robins, larks, etc., with air guns, A party of such lads, when remonstrated with a few days ago, by a woman on whose grounds they were trespassing, were very rude and saucy, as might be expected of such boys.

Memorial Verses

Tinsley Pratt in Manchester Guardian. Under the Afric sun Quiet they lie; Fields may be lost or won; let a word be said

Now for the heroes dead. Facing the cannonade, Torn with shell, Flerce was the charge they made, And ere they fell. Rung out a lusty cheer From hearts that laughed at fear.

Some by the river side Sleep with the foe; Surely the hearts that died Could not but know England doth honor them, rs in her diadem.

What was the dying word Breathed as they fell? Haply the winds have heard Could they but tell; Scaling the flery slope,

Only a word of hope! Pride of his race was he; Muster of men; Peasant this one, maybe, Matters it, when Death is the end of all-

Death with his cloudy pall? Honor the English dead, Honor the slain! Honor the hearts that bled,

Yea, and again, Honor the homes that gave Sons to an allen gravel