The Oregonian.

Entered at the Postoffice at Portland, Oregon, as second-class matter.

TELEPHONES.
Editorial Rooms....166 | Business Office....667

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES.
By Mail (postage prepaid), in Advance—
Daily, with Sunday, per month.....$0 85
Daily, Sunday excepted, per year..... 7 50
Daily, with Sunday, per year..... 9 00
Sunday, per year..... 2 00
The Weekly, per year..... 1 50
The Weekly, 3 months..... 50
To City Subscribers—
Daily, per week, delivered, Sundays excepted.15c
Daily, per week, delivered, Sundays included.20c

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Eastern Business Office—The Tribune building, New York city; "The Rookery," Chicago; the S. C. Beckwith special agency, New York.

For sale in San Francisco by J. K. Cooper, 746 Market street, near the Palace hotel, and at Goldsmith Bros., 236 Sutter street.

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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Threatening, with occasional showers; probably clearing Sunday; westerly winds.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, MAY 4, 1900.

THE UNDERLYING REASONS.

Several Demo-Populist papers of Oregon and Washington note with evident dissatisfaction that though The Oregonian opposed the Porto Rico legislation, yet it "still supports the party guilty of that act."

The Oregonian opposes the Bryanized Democratic party. It often criticises Republican measures; but the worst of Republican offenses are slight when compared with the dangerous purposes of the socialistic, anarchized, Bryanite Democracy.

One may disapprove much that the Republican party does, yet in no degree find his objections to the tendencies and purposes of the Democratic party, directed as it now is, removed or abated. This party, as now organized and led, is a menace to peace and order, to sound financial policy, to public and private credit, to industry and prosperity. Even a prospect of its success would mean another nightmare to business, like that under which the country but recently passed. It would mean also the abandonment of the new positions into which the flag was carried by the war with Spain, retreat from lands won by war and ceded by purchase, after the manner of our former acquisitions of territory, and cowardly surrender of National duty and opportunity, in the face of the world.

Every political party has leading purposes and profound tendencies; and since these are the things for which the Democratic party, since its modern transformation, stands, opposition to it is a continuing necessity, even to those who find much in Republican policy to criticise and oppose. On the part of rational men, the motives of political action are formed on a balance of judgment.

The question in this case then is, Which of the two parties—for one or the other must control—is the party that can be trusted, more rationally, with the direction of the affairs of the country? The country is afraid of the Bryan party, and it has reason to be. There is much in the course of the Republican party that it does not approve; but these are trifling matters compared with the deadly menace of the anarchistic spirit, the collapse of finance and industry, the interruption of National and individual prosperity, the surrender of the principle of National growth and expansion, the black death to business at home, and the degradation of the country before the world—all of which belongs to the programme of the transformed-deformed party that goes, unfortunately, under the Democratic name. It certainly is not difficult to see why men who find fault with much in the policy and action of the Republican party yet may oppose the efforts of the Democratic party to obtain the ascendant in the Government.

SOMETHING NEW IN PERCENTAGE.

One of the interesting phases of the financial situation just now is the awkward position in which the decline in the new 2 per cent bonds has left New York bond-brokers who promised large returns to investors in the bonds, and made some most egregious calculations for the benefit of credulous persons who might contemplate embarking in the National banking business.

A case in point is that of the firm of Harvey Fisk & Sons, New York and Boston. On March 2 of this year the Fisk people issued a circular urging purchase of the new 2 per cents, chiefly on the ground that the scheme of using them as the basis of National bank circulation had "millions in it." Their calculations showed a profit of 21.83 per cent on the bonds at 106, a profit of 18.21 per cent at 107, a profit of 15.71 per cent at 108. We do not know to what extent bonds were purchased in response to this appeal, but it is certain that whoever did purchase them has seen them decline from 106 and 107 to 102½, a loss of $3500 to $4500 on every $100,000 invested, or about three or four times the profit promised in the Fisk circular.

The most remarkable thing in the Fisk circular was the peculiar system of percentage adopted. You spend $100 for bonds, the Fisk calculation shows you get back $100,000 in notes; but these are only out $6000. Hence your net income of $1293 must be computed on the $6000, instead of on your original investment of $106,000. The profit, therefore, is 21.55 per cent. Of course, this would deceive no person accustomed to deal in money, for any such would know that before he withdraws his $106,000 from whatever investment he had it in, he must be assured of profit not only on the $6000 premium on the bonds, but on the whole $106,000.

In an article published May 1, The Oregonian estimated the net profit to a National bank on $100,000 worth of bonds used for circulation at $1300, this amount being the consideration to the bank for the privilege of having its books and business hauled over by the National Bank Examiner and for the prohibitions imposed by the Government on certain classes of loans. The Fisk circular reduces this profit to $1293, the difference being that The Oregonian computed $100 for sinking fund and the Fisk circular computes the item at $107. It is noteworthy that the glittering hopes held out by bond brokers do not have much effect on men in the banking business. Of all the proposals originally entertained by Oregon banks under the new law, only two finally materialized in actual applications.

It is reported that this Fisk circular is being used as a campaign document by the Bryan party, in criticism of the new currency law. If so, we would suggest that it be put in escrow till the bonds come up to 107 or 108 again. The way the market stands it is an arrant delusion, if not a vile concoction of the Money Power itself.

OF INTEREST JUNE 5.

If a man wants to discredit the gold standard and shut Oregon producers out of Asiatic markets, the best way he can do it is to cast his ballot June 4 for the Fusion nominees for city and county offices. That will be its effect. There is no escape from it.

The result of the Oregon election will be telegraphed to every daily newspaper of any consequence in the United States. Perhaps this is unfortunate, but it is a fact. We cannot elect a Fusion Supreme Judge or a Fusion Mayor or a Fusion Sheriff, no matter how ideal they might be or how unfit their Republican opponents, without advertising to the world that the gold standard and Pacific expansion have lost caste with the voters of Oregon and that free silver and anti-imperialism have come into favor. This is unfortunate, but it is a fact. It is a penalty we must pay for having our state and local election in June. The Oregon election is a National event. Its result influences the voters of the whole country. The vote of every man in Oregon in June bears upon the complexion of the electoral college chosen in November. The responsibility cannot be evaded.

We have no way of achieving the ideals of theoretical statesmanship except through politics, and politics is a very practical thing. The man who wants to do great things, but disdains the humble and perhaps distasteful means with which and with which alone those things can be reached, may preserve his self-satisfaction unimpaired, but he will not accomplish much. In our complex modern society, little can be done in a large way except through organization—a fact no truer anywhere than in government. The individual acting alone can accomplish little. If his work is to count, it must be in combination with one or other of the great political organizations. He can take his choice, but he cannot be a party universal of his own.

Now it is an undeniable though melancholy fact that there is no way of advancing Fusion principles but by electing Fusionists to office, and no way of advancing Republican principles but by electing Republicans to office. Elect a Fusion Mayor, Sheriff, Prosecuting Attorney, Court Clerks and Treasurer, and you will have a Fusion city, a Fusion government, a Fusion machine. There will be no Republican ascendency, there will be no chance for furtherance of Republican principles except through tremendous exertion under grievous disadvantage.

Every man interested in honest money and Pacific development must ask himself how he will relish reading this in the New York papers of June 5:

REPUBLICAN DISAFFECTION IN OREGON.

PORTLAND, Or., June 4.—Owing to excessive scratching of tickets, the result of today's election is involved in some doubt. Multnomah County, which gave a Republican plurality of nearly 6000 in 1898, elects a Fusion Sheriff, Assessor, Treasurer and Prosecuting Attorney. The City of Portland, Republican in 1898 by 500, elects a Fusion Mayor. The Republican candidate for Supreme Judge is elected by a reduced majority. The issues fought over were the money question and expansion.

If a man wants to discredit the gold standard and shut American trade out of the Orient, the best way he can do it is to scratch the Republican ticket June 4.

A NEW OLD STORY.

The terrible mine disaster in Utah is the "worst on record" only because it is the latest, and the "worst in the history of the world" only to that portion of the world to which it is in closest touch. Calamities like this have degrees in worse or better, perhaps, but the lightest of them have the same shocking and horrifying characteristics, represented by shrieking, praying women and wailing children at the pit's mouth; of blackened bodies borne by half-fainting men through the sulphurous opening; of improvised morgues, where rows of unrecognizable human bodies are eagerly, frantically scanned for some trace in form or feature of father, husband, lover, son or brother; of funeral trains of sickening length, at the end of which long trenches await the dead, and finally—so surely does the "angel in the human heart arise to mitigate the sorrows of humanity"—the ready response of benevolence to the wail of want in the lowly homes made desolate.

The causes of this latest disaster, or the movement that set these causes in sudden revolt, can at best be only surmised. We only know that, with all that science has done to mitigate the dangers of coal mining; with all the safeguards that law can throw around the lives of miners, and with every incentive to individual carefulness on the part of the men in these subterranean workshops, a calamity such as this will at times befall. There is nothing new in calamities of this kind, and, unfortunately, it is not likely that there will ever be anything old in them. They are simply incidents, black, horrible, terrifying, in a commercial industry, the demands upon which increase rather than diminish with civilization, and in response to which hundreds of thousands of men earn their daily bread in jeopardy of their lives.

Elizabeth Stuart Phelps, who has passed much time among the fisher-folk of the New England Coast, notes a nervous, apprehensive looking out to sea, a restless anxiety of manner and movement, among the women born and bred in the harbor towns. It is as if the curse of disaster were ever brooding over them, threatening the lives that stand between them and the conditions that represent to them all they know of home and comfort. A like sympathetic observer doubtless would see the same brooding uncertainty in the movements, the same sad expectation, ready to blaze into reality, in the faces of the women in the coal miners' homes. Truly, it is not war alone that makes heavy drafts upon the courage and the happiness of women, since in many of the more hazardous of the vocations of peace "men must work and women must weep."

The history of mining excitement, like that of every other phase of human life urged to a controlling point, can but repeat itself. In each new "rush" there are new incidents, to be sure, but the general trend of the human mind is the same. Its incentive is wealth, the mainspring of its purpose is to "get there," and get there first. Neither burning sands nor Polar snows have proved barriers to frantic endeavor that has set its face toward mining regions of reported fabulous richness, and now tempestuous waters bearing icebergs from the frozen zone are to be braved by myriads of men in craft ill-conditioned for the voyage. The voyage to Cape Nome, a little later, undertaken in stanch vessels, will not be attended by unusual hazard. In fact, there is no reason to suppose it dangerous, but, with the mining fever rendering thousands of men incapable of exercising sober judgment, hundreds of rotten tubs, upon the venture of which unscrupulous owners hope in one voyage to realize independent fortunes, and, back of all this, marine officials who are disposed, seemingly, to speed every craft that applies for clearance upon its way, it will be strange if the first month of Summer passes without furnishing a chapter of disaster from North Pacific waters to the world.

THE DEATH PENALTY.

The State of Massachusetts recently followed the example of New York and Ohio and substituted the electrical chair for the gallows, and now the committee on judiciary in the House at Boston has reported, 11 to 5, in favor of a bill for the abolition of capital punishment. The bill which is favorably reported provides that only after a hearing by the Supreme Court and favorable action by the court may the Governor and council exercise the pardoning power. The states in which the death penalty is forbidden by law are Colorado, Rhode Island, Maine, Michigan and Wisconsin. It was once abolished in Iowa, but afterwards restored. The argument urged against the death penalty for murder is voiced by the Springfield Republican, which for more than thirty years has held that the state has no right to take a life because its possessor has taken life; that it has no other right than to hold and restrain the killer from further killing, simply for the protection of society. The Republican says that the bill to abolish capital punishment in Massachusetts takes its root "in the growing aversion among the people to the exercise of a prerogative which belongs to Almighty God." The people of Massachusetts, if they enact the abolition of the death penalty for murder, will do it on the plain, practical ground of expediency; if they can be made to believe that it no longer adds any more protection to society than would be secured by life imprisonment, safeguarded against the reckless exercise of the pardoning power, they may consent to abolish the death penalty, but the object-lessons of experience do not establish the abolition of the death penalty as sound public policy. Michigan abolished capital punishment in 1847, but the crime of murder has not decreased and convictions have not increased in that state. The experience of Maine and Wisconsin has been identical with that of Michigan, the abolition of the death penalty insures no greater certainty of conviction of murderers. Crime increases while the number of convictions for murder decrease. Switzerland abolished the death penalty, but it has been restored in most of the cantons. It was the Canton Ticino, where the death penalty is not inflicted, that was selected by an anarchist as a good place in which to murder the Empress of Austria.

When Isaac Sawtelle a few years ago murdered his brother in New Hampshire, very near the Maine line, he confessed afterwards that he thought he was in Maine when he killed his brother, where he would, in case of arrest and conviction, escape the death penalty. A convict condemned to life imprisonment in Michigan for the murder of his mother afterwards murdered one of the keepers in the state prison in order to escape; he was retaken, and is now in the penitentiary, where he may kill another keeper. Life imprisonment cannot possibly give society as perfect protection against a human wild beast as we do when we destroy that wild beast. The death of a murderer is not assurance that his fate will deter other vicious men from committing murder, but it is absolute assurance the particular murderer in question won't do it again. We can cage the human tiger, but he may and not seldom does kill his keeper; he may and not seldom does kill some of his fellow-convicts; he may break jail. There is no such absolute security to society against the particular man-eating tiger as the death of that particular tiger. There is no absolute security to society against an assassin except to imprison him in the narrow cell of the grave, which he cannot burst from within and no pardon can burst from without.

The greatest living English jurists vigorously oppose the abrogation of the death penalty upon the philosophic ground that of the mass of persons who are likely to commit murder, few would fear life imprisonment compared with the many who recoil from death on the gallows. The average murderer would accept eagerly the most painful form of life rather than the most painless form of death. The living death of prison life to a high-bred, finely organized, intellectual man might possibly be more dreadful than death on the gallows, but as a rule the average murderer is a man who would passionately prefer the penitentiary for life to death and deposit in the narrow cell of the silent grave, from which there is no release until the archangel's trumpet shall sound the assembly for the last judgment in the ears of the quick and the dead. In England, where a murderer is pretty sure to be convicted, if the evidence of guilt is clear, he is certain to be hanged, whether he is a peasant or a peer, and consequently murders are far less common in England than in the United States. Of course, Great Britain, with her great City of London, and her other populous cities, must have an enormous criminal cutthroat population, more than equal to our own, but murders are not so common in Great Britain because juries are not disposed to be merciful to assassins and because a convicted assassin is sure to hang. As a rule, men all over the world do not like to be hanged, and are far more likely to refrain from murder when they know that neither jury nor Executive have any indisposition to hang murderers. A great English jurist holds that without the death penalty for murder lynch law would prevail whenever a particularly cruel and atrocious murderer escaped all the suffering he inflicted by escaping a painful death.

Steam is docile in the service of man only when under complete and intelligent control. The slightest lapse in carefulness, or the slightest lack in knowledge in those to whom it serves, is visited with sudden and awful retribution. The poor fellows who met their death in the boiler explosion at Cottage Grove a few days ago were competent men, and their fate was a most pitiable one, but in some way they blundered, and paid the tribute instantly exacted with their lives.

The impression that the Boers are good farmers, and would for that reason be a valuable addition to the rural population of the Willamette Valley, is as erroneous as the idea that the Transvaal is a genuine republic. They are not farmers at all in the sense in which that word is understood by us. They are stockmen. They live on large estates, great portions of their land possessing no agricultural value, little attention being paid to anything more than the grazing of cattle. Even the work connected with this is done by natives, who are practically slaves. The feudal conditions of the Middle Ages more nearly represent the status of affairs in the Transvaal than anything familiar to us in the United States. It has been impossible to induce the Boers to do enough farming to supply the market at Johannesburg, even at a high market price, and vegetables, eggs, butter and other food products have to be imported in great quantities. The conditions prevailing in the Willamette Valley, calling for the cultivation of the soil, personal labor and business methods of farming, are entirely unsuited to the temperament, characteristics and training of the Boers. Such of them as may leave their country in the event of British success will no doubt seek new homes in Africa, where there need be no radical change in their habits of life, and the few that might come to America would probably look for a place presenting as nearly as possible opportunity to continue their accustomed mode of living.

Admiral Dewey acquitted himself with great good sense, as an honest sailor should, during his reception in Chicago. The men of the Windy City took him in charge and gave him such robust entertainment as a Lake city could furnish, the absence of a naval parade being in the nature of things unavoidable, while certain women who understand that sort of thing to perfection had Mrs. Dewey to lunch and tea. There was relatively little enthusiasm—the time for that has passed—but there was general friendliness and hearty good cheer, and the taciturn old Admiral and his voluble wife were sent on their way rejoicing, to meet similar courtesies from the people of other cities.

Trailing sheep eastward across the great table-land ranges for the Fall market, so profitable to sheepowners and so disastrous to cattleraisers in many past years, will, it is said, no longer be tolerated. The amicable if practically compulsory adjustment of differences between these two classes of stockraisers will put an end to animosity between them which had much basis in justice in the cattleowner's contention, but which can scarcely be held to justify the lawless reprisals that have been made upon the offending but inoffensive sheep that literally ate their way through the ranges.

The Columbia River will be equipped with a strictly up-to-date quarantine station within ninety days. All the details have been arranged, and there will be no further delays in the matter. This result is in no small degree due to the efforts of the Astoria Chamber of Commerce, ably seconded by the kindred organization in this city. The quarantine station is long overdue, but, in spite of that fact, it is probable that it would still be slumbering with scores of similar needed improvements, had it not been for the energetic and persistent efforts of these two commercial organizations.

The virtuous desire to "smash the ring" has so firmly seized Mr. Pierce Mays that he has propelled himself into the lap of the Fusion Democracy. Mr. Mays' brother is a Federal office-holder. Mr. Mays is an ex-Federal office-holder, and doubtless has hopes for the future. If he can defeat the Republican nominees, and a Democratic Senator were to be elected and Bryan were to be President, Mr. Mays' reward would be in accord with his rare deserts. There is nothing like playing both ends against the middle so as to keep a fat job of some kind in the family.

Salem has done quite well in the matter of public buildings. A new Federal building was not precisely a long-felt want, but it was secured through the industrious efforts of Congressman Tongue and the rest of the delegation at Washington, and the plans will soon be ready for the beginning of work. The edifice will add much to the beauty of the Capital City, which is already highly adorned by sightly state buildings.

It is a somewhat roundabout way for the Portland Mitchell-McBride literary bureau to reach the people by sending out editorial proofs to the editors of the state from the office of a Dalles newspaper, but indirection has always been a characteristic of that little coterie of self-seeking politicians.

General James Longstreet's name goes on the pension roll of the United States. "Times change and people change, and if our hearts do not change with them, so much the worse for us."

Let the person who complains that Portland is not growing try his hand at house-hunting. His experiences will be a great discourager of mossbackism.

The Unappeased Correspondent.

New York Times.

A correspondent who believes with us that Congress discredited its own intelligence when it changed "Puerto Rico" to "Porto Rico," takes us very severely to task for acquiescing in the stupid innovation and substituting the poorer for the better form in our own columns. "Is the Times," he asks, "a 'public document,' printed in the Government printing office? If so, and only if so, is the Times under 'Governmental compulsion' to spell Puerto Rico without the 'u' and with an 'o'. To say otherwise is to maintain that a paper spelling a word as it thinks best is subject to legal pains and penalties for violation of an act of Congress." Perhaps we were not strictly accurate in stating that we had changed our spelling of the island's name "under Governmental compulsion," and certainly we could have continued to use "Puerto Rico" without encountering any legal pains and penalties, but to have done so would have been to exaggerate the importance of what, after all, is only a trifle, and to perpetuate needless confusion of spelling and nomenclature. A name is a name, whether it be good or bad, and Congress certainly had both the right and the power to call this island what it chose. It might even have fixed upon our new possession the name of the President or any of his secretaries, or of his valet, for that matter, and whether the Times and other papers submitted or not, that would be the real name of the unfortunate Antille. This our correspondent denies with passionate fervor, and he announces the intention of ignoring the action of a body which to him seems to be neither competent nor authoritative. That is his privilege, but it seems to us that he is making a mistake. Why doesn't he get excited over the name of this country? It is far from a good one—not so good as "Porto Rico"—and dozens of better ones have been suggested. Many of the state names, too, are equally open to objection on historical and other grounds. As for town names, in them bad taste, ignorance, and vulgarity have simply run riot. Yet they have to be endured and used by us all.

PURIFICATION OF POLITICS.

Benign Influence of Woman and How It Works in Idaho.

Chicago Tribune.

If straws show which way the wind blows there is much significance of a political character in an event which occurred at Weiser, Idaho, a few days ago. It may be noted in passing that women can vote in Idaho, and that there was a local election at Weiser. Party feeling was running high at the time, and there was much discussion over the fitness of the respective candidates. Mrs. Martinson and Mrs. Harris were engaged in the discussion, but the argument came to an abrupt close with Mrs. Martinson's peroration, which was couched in the following emphatic and somewhat personal statement: "If I were running for office and I found out a withered-up, china-faced hag like you was working for me, I would not vote for myself."

The argument at once shifted from words to action. Mrs. Harris reached for Mrs. Martinson and scratched her face through her veil. Mrs. Martinson, nothing loath, returned the scratch by slapping Mrs. Harris' face. Then they mixed so intimately that it was some seconds before they could be separated. When peace was restored the field was strewn with the debris of war, and a large collection of hatpins, switches, false fronts, ribbons, buckles, neck cloths, hairpins, artificial flowers and birds' wings were gathered up by the interested spectators as souvenirs of the rage of lovely woman.

The fracas did not end with this personal encounter, which was only the "prologue to the swelling act of the imperial theme," the skirmish, as it were, before the general engagement. Each woman had the other arrested. The people of Weiser promptly resolved themselves into Martinson and Harris partisans. Women can serve as jurors in Idaho, and a jury of women was impaneled. They listened to the testimony with suspicious calmness and then retired to the jury-room. Shortly the bailiff heard a screaming in many keys, and unlocked the doors to find the Martinson and Harris jurors in a promiscuous fight. At considerable risk to the bailiff, he finally succeeded in restoring order and added to his museum of female curiosities from the evidences of strife all over the jury-room. Then the jury sullenly filed into the courtroom and made the superfluous announcement that they disagreed. They were discharged, and the respective factions marched out glaring at each other.

At last accounts the husbands of the jurors had taken sides in the quarrel. The disagreement was rapidly spreading among the other males of the town. The Harris members had withdrawn from the Martinson churches, and the Martinson members from the Harris churches. Martinson walking delegates were invading the Harris Sunday schools and Harris pickets were watching every Martinson place of resort. The town is in two hostile camps, and unless Mrs. Martinson and the "china-faced" Mrs. Harris kiss and make up, the Sheriff of the county may be called upon, and it may get up to the President himself, who has had some trouble already with Idaho turbulents.

This little incident suggests the query whether it is wise to extend the area of political excitement by admitting to the right of suffrage a class of electors who sometimes slap and scratch when under the influence of political emotion, and who start rows into which an entire male community may be dragged.

THE USE OF MISSIONS.

Testimony From Various Sources to Their Practical Value.

New York Tribune.

The Ecumenical Conference on Foreign Missions is in many respects one of the most important religious gatherings of the present generation. Foreign missions are sometimes criticised, and, as in the case of every other great work, there is occasionally room for criticism as to the methods employed or the wisdom and competency of individual missionaries sent out to the foreign field. But no true friend of missions can object to such criticism as that. Indeed, it is largely to discover and discuss the defects in the work that this great gathering has been called from the four corners of the world. The collective conscience of Christendom is profoundly impressed with the need of missions, not only to enlarge the area of the Christian faith, but to extend to heathen lands the priceless benefits of the civilization that has grown out of the Christian faith. It sees that great as have been the triumphs of foreign missions, they might be and ought to be still greater; and it has therefore assembled a council of its representative leaders and its most famous missionaries to talk the situation over and out of a personal conference gain a larger outlook and a fresher inspiration for the prosecution of the work in the future. That such a conference in the dawn of the new century should be held in the metropolis of the New World is a happy augury of the spirit that will animate the delegates. With eyes turned hopefully to the future, they will strive, so far as possible, to bring the missionary enterprises of the churches into harmony with the needs and ideas of present day Christianity without unnecessarily overturning the traditions of the past.

In the Church Missionary Atlas of 1896 the following religious statistics of the world are given:

Pagans	155,620,000
Hindoos and Sikhs	207,400,000
Buddhists, Confucians, etc.	470,174,000
Mahometans	205,775,000
Jews	6,505,000
Other non-Christians	830,000
Roman Catholics	223,550,000
Protestants	140,955,000
Other Christians	119,360,000
Total	1,499,169,000

And the American Board Almanac for 1900 gives the following statistics of 249 Protestant missionary societies of Europe and America:

Stations	5,217
Out-stations	13,583
Male missionaries	6,304
Female missionaries	6,282
Total missionaries	12,646
Native laborers	61,897
Total evangelizing force	74,543
Communicants	1,585,124
Income in 1898-'99 of Protestant missionary societies in America, Great Britain, Europe and elsewhere	$15,560,693

Striking as these figures are, they do not give any idea of the indirect beneficent influence of Christian missions as the forerunners of civilization. In no country is that more true than in the Continent of Africa, where today history on so large a scale is being made. The story of what Christianity is doing in Africa has been told in a most fascinating way by Frederic Perry Noble in two comprehensive volumes recently published by the Fleming H. Revell Company. His chronicle is really what he calls it, "a story of civilization," and not even the most hostile critic of missions will be able to read it without being impressed by it. The Church of Rome has nearly 50 dioceses in Africa and more than 30 missionary societies, including Capuchins, Dominicans, Franciscans, Jesuits, Lazarists, Marists, "White Fathers" and "White Sisters." The late Cardinal Lavigerie was the apostle of Roman Catholicism in Africa, and the inspiration of his name is still a potent factor in the work.

But, while giving full credit to the zeal and devotion of the Roman missionaries, Mr. Noble does not think their principles and methods wise. He criticises their practice of buying Pagan children in order to Christianize them, while admitting its good intent, and he declares that the Moslem is repelled by the ritualism of the church, while the Pagan is repelled by its ceremonies and saints. Between 1854 and 1896 the Catholic population of Africa was increased by 200,000 and the Protestant by 1,000,000. Protestantism makes a greater use of native agency, and the fact that its missionaries are married is helpful to it. Great stress is laid on industrial education in African missions, and the work of the missionaries in developing native languages and literatures is of inestimable value to civilization. The moral value of missions in Africa, aside from their purely ecclesiastical results, is great. The London Times said not long ago that "there are mission villages in Central Africa that compare favorably in conduct with many English hamlets." The Spectator says:

> There are genuine converts, as complete and sincere as any made by the Apostles. Have hostile critics ever known a native church in which there were not one or two whom they excepted from doubts or censures?

And in 1896 Mr. Bryce confirmed Livingstone's views in the following words:

> Notwithstanding the slowness of progress, the extinction of heathenism may be deemed certain at no distant date. There is nothing to discourage the hope that Christian teaching may prevail. The Gospel and the mission school are the most truly civilizing influences which work upon the natives. Upon these influences more than on any other agency depends the progress of the colored race.

Viewed in the light of such achievements, the great conference that has just begun its sessions needs to make no apology for itself. Its deliberations will deserve and receive the sympathetic attention of every one who desires the welfare and progress of the world.

GOOD FOR HANNA.

His Noblest Act Was the One That Incurred Quay's Hatred.

Chicago Times-Herald.

Ex-Senator Quay's friends in Washington and Harrisburg have not yet made an end of cursing Senator Hanna for that one vote which barred the doors of the Senate against the Pennsylvania boss. They are inclined to excuse every other Republican Senator who, rooted in honor and precedent, voted for the preservation of the Senate from unconstitutional appointees. They concede to Senator Vest the right to sacrifice his personal friendship on the altar of his Senatorial oath. But for Senator Hanna they can find no words too bitter or threatening.

Not only is Senator Hanna accused of making his own vote most effective by absenting himself after arranging a pair with Senator Depew, but he is charged with influencing Senators Kean and McCumber to vote against Quay. It is further entered in the Quay indictment against Senator Hanna that he used his influence with the Administration to work the downfall of a rival boss. It is also pointed out that Mr. Hanna voted to seat Corbett in the Oregon case, and so would not have stultified himself for "personal and friendly reasons" in voting for Matthew S. Quay, as Senators Carter, Clark, of Wyoming; Cullom, Davis, Jones, of Nevada; Nelson, Penrose, Shoup, Stewart and Warren, who voted not to seat Corbett, did.

So far as we have been able to discover Senator Hanna has appeared neither to seek nor shun responsibility for his course in opposing the attempt of Mr. Quay to break into the Senate with the executive jimmy of Governor Stone. He is probably conscious that he can better afford the enmity of Quay's adherents than the Republican party could afford to go into the canvass next Fall with Matthew S. Quay in the United States Senate by the grace of broken precedents, personal friendships and the most desperate influences that infest the Capitol.

The more conclusive Mr. Quay can make it appear that Mark Hanna wrote ex-Senator before the former's name, the greater will be the respect of the American people for the Ohio Senator.

Senator Hanna can rest his opposition to the seating of Quay on two sufficient propositions—it was sound in morals and it was good politics.

Quay's case was condemned by his own pair in the Corbett case. His title was rotten to the core, because he was appointed by Governor Stone after he had been rejected by the Legislature.

If Quay had been seated it would have been another blunder for the Republican party to answer for to the people. It would have been claimed from every opposition stump that the United States Senate has one law for a plain Senator from Oregon, and another for the indicted boss of Pennsylvania.

Nothing Senator Hanna has done since he entered the United States Senate has given the people a better opinion of his hard common sense and respect for the popular will than his action in defeating Quay. The more Quay scalps Senator Hanna hangs about his girdle the higher will he stand in the councils of his party and in the confidence of the people.

Times and Conditions Change.

Pomeroy East Washingtonian.

There is a tendency to heed less the views of the old-time statesmen, the great founders of the Republic, with each recurring year. And why shouldn't there be? During the times of these statesmen this Nation was in the formative period, and no man could foresee conditions as they now exist. What was best for the public welfare then may not be best now. Each age and generation must work out great political problems as they present themselves, and not rely upon the views and teachings of the forefathers. Progress and advancement encounters new issues and makes new problems, and the policy that solved them in the past may be of no practical benfit now. Hence a party may consistently change its position to conform itself with new conditions, and not be justly accused of turning itself upon its own record. What the Republican party thought of the tariff problem 20 years ago may not be of particular benefit now. The theory may have been good for the times, and yet be harmful under the conditions that now exist. Therefore the intelligent student of matters political of today need not feel belittled if he cannot agree with the principles as enunciated by his party in the past. Times have changed; conditions have changed, and for a great party to advocate this principle, or insist upon that policy, merely because the great men of the past indorsed it, is not very convincing logic, to say the least.

Hanna's Scruples Against Quay.

New York Times.

Senator Hanna's declaration that he voted against Mr. Quay "on Constitutional grounds" is savagely criticised by the Sandusky (O.) Register, a paper which may be, and, indeed, has been, described as of the Sorehead Republican variety. "What," asks the Register, "does Hanna know about the Constitution? Did he ever read it?" These questions are obviously unkind, but they do have a sort of pertinency and a good deal of interest, even for many of those of us not ranked among Mr. Quay's warmest admirers. Continuing, the Register sarcastically compares Senator Hanna, as an interpreter of the Constitution, with Senators Allison, Cullom, Davis, Foraker, Frye, Morgan, Depew, Lodge, Fairbanks, and Hoar—a somewhat peculiar assemblage, by the way—and then gives its own theory of the Ohio statesman's course. "Hanna," it asserts, "is politically unfriendly to Quay, and in with the anti-Quay faction of Pennsylvania. In governing his opposition to Quay Constitutional considerations had no part, and he ought to be manly enough to say what he really feels, that he wanted to get rid of Quay because Quay did not train in his class." The theory is in some degree attractive, but it hardly fits in with all the facts.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Yes, Mr. Pluvius, we heard you speak; you need not repeat the remark.

Schley is certainly forbearing. He didn't even say "you're another" to Chadwick.

It is only natural that the Tammany tiger should have a good many yellow streaks in him.

Richard Croker is reported to be very sick. Is Dr. Parkhurst on another reforming expedition?

When the lightning begins to strike, it is carrying the sympathy-with-labor business a little too far.

Perhaps by this time Senator Clarke has come to realize that you can't have your office and buy it.

The Portland census takers must do their work quietly or Seattle will yell "keno" before they get up to the 100,000 mark.

The Methodist conference has decided to admit lay delegates. It is evident that there has been a ben on since the last session.

The friends of Secretary Long are urging him for Vice-President. They want but little here below, but want that little Long.

In a recent French duel a surgeon, who was a spectator, was the only man killed. Kentucky is not the only fatal place for the innocent bystander.

E. C. Bellows has been appointed Consul-General to Yokohama. Of course, everybody knew that Bellows would raise the wind sooner or later.

See the man! He has a smile. He will get more smiles to-day. Who is the man? Why, little chil-dren, the man is a candi-date. That is why he smiles. But he will not smile af-ter June. What is he do-ing? He is run-ning for of-fice. Run, man, run.

In a letter home, a Canadian soldier writes: "Thursday morning we had the joy of seeing at close quarters the heroes of India and the Soudan—Roberts and Kitchener. They are a peculiar pair, 'Bobs,' a little man with a face wrinkled and colored like a raisin; Kitchener, like a retired pugilist or a 'chucker-out' at a hotel."

Governor Roosevelt would have a precedent in declining a nomination to the Vice-Presidency after it had been given to him. Silas Wright, of New York, was placed on the Democratic ticket with James K. Polk in 1844, and he arose in convention to refuse the honor. A day and a night were spent in the effort to induce him to accept, but without success. If Mr. Wright had not declined the honor he would have become Vice-President, for the Democratic Presidential ticket that year was elected.

Senator Depew, in the birthday speech which he yearly makes at the Montauk Club, resents the accusation that the Senate membership is composed of men of large wealth. "There are," says Senator Depew, "90 Senators. Ten of them, according to general belief, are worth more than $1,000,000. Ten more may be able to live upon the income of their accumulations, but more than three-fourths of the Senators have little or no property, and no income beyond their salaries and what they can gain in addition, by limited opportunities, from their public duties, with the practice of their professions, contributions to magazines and other literary efforts."

The Duke of Argyle, who died recently at the age of 77, was among the steadfast sympathizers with the cause of the Union during our Civil War. He was a conspicuous member of Gladstone's Ministry in 1868 and in 1880, but retired when Gladstone espoused the cause of home rule for Ireland. In one of his works on church government, he displayed such a "bitter and contemptuous spirit" toward the Scotch Episcopacy that Dr. Trower, the then Episcopal bishop, wrote a letter to the Duke, announcing to him that he had given directions to the clergy of his diocese, prohibiting them from according the sacraments to his grace. His successor in the Dukedom is the Marquis of Lorne, formerly Governor-General of Canada, who married Queen Victoria's fourth daughter, Princess Louise.

Hon. Jupiter Pluvius, Mount Olympus—Sir: Your visit to this section of the country last evening and your indefensible conduct while in our midst has been a great shock and grief to this community. It was evident, sir, that you had been indulging with much freedom in ambrosia, which I understand is served over the bars in your country, and it is possible that you were not entirely responsible for your rowdy and boisterous conduct, but you must nevertheless remember that this is a peace-loving community, and that intrusions of this sort are not to be tolerated. You must further remember that just now the state is full of candidates, who are in an advanced stage of heart disease, and that the disturbance you created is likely to be followed by grave results. This being your first offense for several years, we will pass it over, but if it is repeated we assure you that the bolts which you employ on such occasions and the bars which you evidently visit before you begin to lose your self-control will not be sufficient to separate you from our wrath. Yours, VOX POPULI.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Guilty.—Lawyer—Did the defendant, to your knowledge, ever incite another to perjury? Witness—Yes, I once heard him ask a woman her age.—Chicago News.

Forced Economy.—De Sporte—Speaking of economy, my brother Jack hasn't spent a cent in five years. Chappie—Indeed? De Sporte—Yes; but he'll be out next week.—Harlem Life.

"That deaf-mute guide seems to be very well posted on the institution," said the visitor. "Yes, indeed," replied the superintendent. "He has everything at his fingers' ends."—Baltimore American.

"Have you read 'Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde'?" asked the man from the States. "No; not yet," replied the illiterate Porto Rican, "my attention is being monopolized by 'Mr. McKinley and Mr. McKinley.'"—Life.

Touching Consideration.—"That burglary was the most satisfactory affair I have ever heard of." "What do you mean?" "They went through my daughter's 700 wedding presents and carried off only the duplicates."—Chicago Record.

She—We're going to organize a society. He—What? Daughters of the Revolution? She—Oh, no; it's only going to be a sewing circle, with a little gossip if we want it. He—Ah, Daughters of the Revelation, is it?—Detroit Free Press.

The Rising Poet had recited several of his efforts to the Fair Young Girl, and, as Rising Poets usually do, he paused for comment. "Truly," said the maiden, "you are the best specimen of Homarus Americanus I have ever seen." The Rising Poet was even more visibly proud than usual until he looked in the back of the dictionary, and learned that "homarus Americanus" was the scientific name for "lobster." This is the result of allowing our daughters to read the classics, and talk slang, too.—Baltimore American.