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TODAY'S WEATHER—Generally fair; warmer; winds mostly northerly.

PORTLAND, MONDAY, JULY 2, 1900

This week the Kansas City convention. The oratory will be vehement and hysterical. It will show how little hope remains for our beloved country. As it was to be ruined four years ago by the accursed gold standard, so now it is to be ruined by imperialism. Fortunately ours is a country which, though ruined many times, can still flourish.

It is announced that Mr. Bryan, who is so complete a master of his party that no one else can have anything to say, is resolved that there shall be distinct and positive reaffirmation of free coinage, at 16 to 1, and no equivocation about it. Certainly, since he owes all his fame, his position in his party, and his mastery over it, to his rhetorical crown of thorns and cross of gold. To leave silver out would be just about the same as leaving Bryan out. It would be a confession of judgment against the sanity of the party in 1896. The country has, indeed, passed judgment on that point, but the party cannot be expected to acknowledge the justice of the judgment.

It is probable that the orators of the convention and the makers of the platform will try to run a line of distinction between "expansion" and "imperialism." That is, it will not be affirmed in direct terms that we ought to abandon the newly acquired possessions, but that we have no right to require the inhabitants to submit to the authority of the United States. Ludicrous as such position would be, the makers of the platform may not be unequal to it. Such declaration may take its place in platform literature with the old resolve that "we are unalterably attached to the Union, but oppose all measures for its preservation"; and "we favor prohibition, but deprecate its enforcement."

These will be the main themes; but on trusts much will be said or sung. No practical or practicable means of dealing with the trusts will, however, be offered, for the subject is one on which men of no party are agreed; but it can be whooped up by vague declamation in the platform, and that will suffice.

For the rest, Mr. Bryan's coming platform may be paraphrased in the words of the Salt Lake Tribune, to-wit:

Come unto me all ye who have a growl and I will sympathize with you.

Come unto me all ye who want silver and I will supply it.

Come unto me all ye who want greenbacks and I will set the machines going.

Come unto me all ye who want to abolish courts, so that you can become anarchists, and I will join you.

If ye have any vagary in the world, come unto me and I will indorse it.

Come unto me ye criminal classes who object to being governed without the consent of the governed, and I will stand by you.

All ye who are sick and have political mental dyspepsia, come unto me, and I will give you medicine.

All ye who were tramps under Mr. Cleveland's administration, but who can get a living and lay up money now in eight hours, eat and sleep eight hours more, and have eight hours for devilitry every day, come unto me and I will indorse your devilitry, no matter what it is.

Come unto me, Aguinaldo. You have given me a great chance to use my mouth against the Administration. We know you are not fit to govern yourselves, but then there are plenty in my own party in the United States the same way.

Come unto me, ye who hate the rich, who, if you can do nothing to lift yourselves up, are willing to do all you can to pull others down, for ye are kindred spirits.

Come unto me, ye Boers, because there is a large German contingent in the United States which I wish to draw to me on your account. There is a large Irish contingent, which I wish to draw to me through their hate of Great Britain. My strong desire this year is for votes and I am training my loves and hates to minister to that desire, and the highest thought I have is to win.

The New York Post, which is much worried about imperialism on the one hand and free silver on the other, is clearly uncertain what course to take in the coming campaign. It has made up its mind, however, that one line of action is clear before the small but heroic band of anti-imperialists, and that is to make an earnest effort to "secure the election next November of a House of Representatives with a majority of members opposed to Imperialism," which the Post spells with a large "I." Adds the Post:

McKinley or Bryan will be the next President—that is certain. What is not certain is whether there will be a majority in the next House in favor of imperialism. A President who favors imperialism will not be able to go very far on that road with a House which will not keep him company—and to secure such a House is the great duty before the anti-imperialists.

A President who favors imperialism would have to keep his imperial designs buried in the innermost recesses of his soul. There is no danger that he will get a Congress that would support him, whatever its political complexion. We shall have an imperialist President and an imperialist Congress only when we have an imperialist people.

Suppose that Mr. Fred Dubois, statesman-at-large, is successful in persuading the Kansas City conventions that it is impolitic and dangerous to uphold the right of free riot, as applied to the Idaho situation. The Sioux City convention severely condemned the methods adopted by the state and Federal authorities to restore order. Mr. Bryan is the nominee of the Sioux Falls Populists. He will be the nominee of the Democratic and Silver Republican conventions. These platforms, if Mr. Dubois' advice is followed, will be diametrically opposed on this important question. In what position does this place Mr. Bryan? Can he be for anarchy and arson and murder, and can he be against it? He can be, if anybody can.

PURITY IN ELECTIONS.

Our election system is sorely in need of purification. The Australian ballot, primary and registration laws, enacted since 1891, are distinct advances upon old methods, but they do not strike the root of the evil, which lies in the star-chamber control of the political parties, from the selection of delegates at the primaries to the slating of all nominees in the county conventions. They aim purely at the conduct of elections, and do not give the people free and unhampered participation in the choice of candidates for office. They do not take the right of making up the party ticket out of the power of the bosses, where it does not belong, and place it in the hands of the party itself, the individual voters, where it does belong. Because of this situation of affairs, our candidates for office are the nominees of county committees, not of the party for which they stand. They are under obligations to the county committee for setting up delegates for them in the primaries, and for delivering the requisite number of votes in the county convention. In return, they pay the assessment levied for campaign expense; they bow to the dictum of the committee in the selection of their deputies; they are the creatures of the committee from the day they aspire for office to the expiration of their terms. If the candidate does all things as the committee dictates, he is held to be a good Republican or Democrat, unless he should be guilty of malfeasance in office, in which case the committee generously unloads him with the gracious remark that he has been unfaithful to his trust. Faithless to whom? To the people, of course, though they had nothing to do with his nomination in the first place.

Enactment of a law providing for direct primary nominations, similar to the one proposed by Mr. E. W. Bingham, would correct the evil of which there is so general complaint. This should be the first duty of the Legislature when it meets next Winter. A law of this kind would do away with county committees and county conventions that ratify their slates and platforms. It would give the poorest individual elector an equal voice with the wealthiest and most influential in the selection of candidates, and make the nominees for office the choice of the party itself, and not the favorites of a few men in control of the machine. All differences would be settled at the primaries by the ones who have an interest in their settlement, and the succeeding campaign and election would be freed from factional and personal bitterness and the independent candidate. The independent would certainly lose his calling, for a man who would fail to carry the primaries could not reasonably hope to win the office at the election.

Another subject to which the Legislature could profitably give consideration is the suggestion that at the close of a campaign all candidates, whether successful or not, be required to file with the County Clerk a statement, under oath, showing the amount they expended in the canvass, the purpose for which each item was expended, and the persons to whom the money was paid. Some way ought to be found to rid the community of the horde of strikers who pounce upon candidates at every election with offers to sell influence which they do not have. Somehow or other the average candidate feels it his duty to cater to this parasite mob of men who will not work, divekeepers, consorts of disorderly women and professional beer-club organizers, not so much to get their votes as to minimize their power of doing harm to his candidacy. A law requiring a statement of election expenses, and a provision making disbursements of a certain kind illegal, would help to keep the grafters away from the candidates. The more safeguards we throw around our nominations and the men who get them, the better officers we shall have, and the cleaner and most business-like administration of our affairs. But if we stand by and permit candidates to go to county committees for their nominations, to be gouged by county committees before canvass begins, and by the scum of the electorate afterward, to be out of pocket $1500 to get a $3500 office, we must accept the situation philosophically and prepare ourselves to put up with men who look upon public office as a private snap. The remedy is in our hands.

KING CORN LIBELED.

A good deal is being said from day to day about the foolish antipathy, based upon ignorance and prejudice, of the Chinese against foreigners and foreign products. Facts of daily occurrence prove that the estimate of this folly is largely correct, and that China is piling up for herself wrath against a day of wrath in consequence of it. But China is not the only nation that tries through edicts of exclusion to block foreign trade. The same spirit prevails in governmental circles of Germany, France and some other countries, and it is especially directed against American food products. Take for example the attempt of the two countries named to exclude the meat products of the United States under the pretense that they are unwholesome. The official war that is being waged against these products is not, as every one knows, in the interest of the public health, as it is claimed, but for the benefit of a few producers, who can, with American competition destroyed, realize enormous profits upon the domestic output.

But the latest and most utterly indefensible attempt to discriminate against an American food product in European markets is shown in the effort to discredit American corn as an article of food. For some years the United States has been encouraging efforts to familiarize foreigners with corn as a cheap, nutritious and wholesome edible for human consumption. There was and still is dense ignorance among the European masses upon this point, which it was hoped to dispel by acquainting the people with the real value of this cereal as a food staple. The efforts of "Cornbread Murphy" in Germany in this direction a few years ago were a matter of common knowledge, but the success with which he met was very moderate. The same may be said of efforts that have since been made in the same direction, yet it seems they have been sufficiently successful to alarm some interested persons, since it is noted that here and there in Europe are heard intimations and insinuations against American corn, or maize, as it is called abroad. Corn products have been variously termed "coarse," "indigestible," "fit food only for swine," etc. The boldest stroke in this effort to discredit and shut corn out of European markets, however, is witnessed in an article that recently appeared in the Daily Messenger, of London. Discussing the "Food Value of Maize," that journal hinted that American corn is much the same as Italian maize, which, it goes on to say, produces a terrible leprous disease known as "lagra," from which 2000 persons are now suffering in the Province of Milan alone.

This is utterly contemptible. If founded upon ignorance, it is inexcusable in the public journal; if upon prejudice, it is abominable. Millions of bushels of corn in one form or another are consumed by the people of the United States within and without the corn belt, and the skin disease referred to is unknown in this country. The Government should, in justice to the large interests represented by the corn-producers of a vast area, send some of the valuable data that it has collected concerning corn as a food product, to this journal, asking in the interest of truth and fairness that it be published as a correction of its former misleading statement.

GOOD WILL COME OF IT.

The present crisis in China will force a settlement through a congress of all the powers that will be of inestimable value to all parties concerned, and most of all to the people of China. Fortunately, this crisis in the affairs of China comes at a time when Russia is in no situation to abuse her opportunity, because Great Britain is practically footloose today to prevent it. With the South African dispute unsettled, Great Britain feared to enter upon any policy with regard to China which might lead to a rupture, lest the Boers would snatch the opportunity and try to seize South Africa. For this reason England behaved with pusillanimous diplomacy during the period of Russian aggression following the Chino-Japanese war. She asserted the open-door principle and afterward almost abandoned it. Russia was allowed to take Port Arthur and press demands on Corea that were antagonistic to Japan. That nation, on the advice of Great Britain, then handicapped with the Boer war, yielded for the time being. Had the war in South Africa been deferred a couple of years longer; had Japan failed promptly to strengthen her navy after the Chinese war, Russia might have seized Pekin and Northern China without interference. She did seize Manchuria, and, through Great Britain's cowardly diplomacy, she forced Japan to let go of the mainland of China and to abandon her designs on Corea. Finally, Great Britain, threatened with the spoliation of her far Eastern markets, refused to allow Russia to dismember China at her will, and Russia was obliged to postpone her scheme of dismemberment, and the last two years have been devoted by her to intrigues at Pekin, to the garrisoning, provisioning and fortifying of Port Arthur and the determined exclusion of Japan from Corea.

When the Boxer insurrection began, Russian influence had supplanted that of England at Pekin, and Japan was near a rupture with Russia. But Russia's opportunity to seize Pekin and the whole of Northern China has not been utilized by that power, for Great Britain is in a situation today to give the hand to Japan and defeat Russia's designs on Pekin by threatening to dispossess her of Port Arthur and all vantage-ground in Manchuria and Corea. Russia is not ready today to go to war over China. Her railways are uncompleted. She is trying to borrow money in this country on the security of these railways and other public works. A large Russian loan is to be placed on the market in Paris this Fall. To get the money she needs for her great public works, Russia must remain at peace. A great war tomorrow would destroy her capacity to borrow money, except at ruinous rates. Even if the Siberian Railway were completed, Russia could not work her will in China against Great Britain, Germany and Japan, backed by the moral support at least of the United States.

The crisis in China, precipitated by the Boxer uprising, has forced the intervention of all the powers, so that the general settlement of Chinese affairs will be made by some great congress of nations, like that of Vienna, which remade the map of Europe after the fall of Napoleon. Japan will be represented in this congress. Such a settlement through the action of civilized nations will be of incalculable value compared with the nominal concessions hitherto granted and vaguely enforced by China. Such a settlement will thoroughly open China to the trade of the modern world, and nobody will benefit more by it than our American manufacturers and merchants. The ports of our Pacific Coast will have their business enormously expanded. In 1899 the value of the sales made by this country to China exceeded those of all European nations, England excepted, by $6,191,936, and the present yearly excess of $12,000,000 of British exports to China over American exports thither will soon disappear, for the power of Great Britain as a manufacturing country is generally diminishing, largely because of the increased price of coal and the English failure to compete with American workmen and American enterprise. The United States has become, through our occupation of the Philippines with a powerful army and naval squadron, a factor to be seriously reckoned with in the impending settlement of China, and it is certain that our Secretary of State understands too thoroughly the immense importance of the far Eastern markets to the American people not to insist with Great Britain and Germany on their protection through "the open-door policy" against Russia.

Newberg's victory in winning the beet-sugar plant is chiefly valuable for its demonstration of the quality and temper of the people of the community. Of course, the concrete achievement is important, for the investment of three-quarters of a million or more in a productive industry in a small town will be a very great factor in its progress and prosperity. But the hope and energy of the people are displayed by the vigor with which they took hold to help themselves by pledging the requisite beet acreage. This is not in the nature of a subsidy. Nothing is to be given without a fair equivalent. The factory could not run without raw material, and the farmers have simply agreed that they will grow the raw material at the market price and in sufficient quantity to warrant the building of the large mill. This is economically sound and wise. The giving of the factory site does savor of subsidy, but it is a comparatively small consideration in this case, and the town to be most directly benefited pays the bill. Newberg and Yamhill County are to be congratulated on the spirit of enterprise manifested, and their example is to be commended to the consideration of other communities that may be sighing for developing and expanding agencies.

Fire at sea is the most appalling of horrors. Fire among shipping at dock is not necessarily attended by any unusual features of terror and death. It is hard to understand the reason for the extrordinary loss of life in the great Hoboken disaster. The flames, it is said, spread with extraordinary rapidity, and speedily cut off access to the shore. But New York Harbor is crowded with small craft of all descriptions, and a rescue fleet of large dimensions ought to have been immediately available. Evidently it was not. One narrator says that thirty people were crowded at one end of a pier, and "called to some of the passing tugboats but their appeals were in vain, and when the flames came near them they dived into the water." Possibly some of the captains were thinking more of the salvage of property than of lives, because there would be more in it for them. What are police-boats and lifeboats for, if not to rescue persons? If they were not on hand in time, so much the worse for all concerned.

An Eastern newspaper, one of the "red" or "yellow" kind, that live chiefly in the atmosphere of conjecture and sensational effort, says that "news is only good for anything before it happens." There is a sense in which paradox is true. Coming events, when great and important, often cast their shadows before them. The newspaper that can see the significance of such things may often "print the news before it happens." But the levity in journalism that contents or exhausts itself by trying to turn trifling things into sensational events, cannot do it. There are proportions in news which it requires close attention and long experience to discover, and things of little import are not to be made greater by trying to magnify them. Yet this is one of the vices of "red" and "yellow" journalism.

The Washington Post, a quasi-Administration organ, quotes Mr. Hanna as having declared, with reference to the Vice-Presidency, at the late Philadelphia convention, that he "controls the delegates to such an extent that he can nominate any candidate he pleases." But the great Republican leader refrained, according to the Post, because to "exercise the power would make a most unpleasant impression upon the thinking masses of the Republican party." This is valuable as exploding a common impression that the Republican party is not permitted by Mr. Hanna to do for itself whatever he can do for it.

The British House of Lords has at last passed the bill making it legal for a man to marry the sister of his deceased wife. For a hundred years, more or less, this question has been before the British Parliament. The House of Commons has often passed the bill, but the Lords hitherto have always refused. There has been so much fuss in England about the right of a man to marry his deceased wife's sister that the wonder always has been why he didn't marry her in the first place.

South Carolina has a primary election law applicable to all state and county officials. But no one can be nominated till he has received a majority of the whole vote cast in the election to decide. If no one have received a majority for a nomination, a second election is to be held for decision between the two highest.

Mr. Bryan's itinerary for the next few days will be confined to the highway between his Lincoln home and the truck farm near the Nebraska city. But we may justly imagine that he will have some slight interests in the proceedings at Kansas City.

It may be feared that there has not been latterly the quality of seamanship on board the Oregon that rendered her famous formerly. No dangerous place in Chinese waters is better known than that where the Oregon is ashore.

The anti-tax bicyclers want to do the fair thing by the anti-bicycle taxpayers. All the former want is for the latter to foot the bills for building the paths, and for keeping the streets and sidewalks in repair, and they will do the riding.

Mr. Bryan is displaying an attitude of masterly indifference on the Vice-Presidential question. He has one running mate already. He is likely to have two. He would not falter at sixteen.

The powers are coming to the conclusion that for ways that are dark and tricks that are not so almighty vain, the "heathen Chinee" is peculiar.

It may not be war with China, as the powers declare; but somehow it looks very like war.

THE COUNTRY FOR EXPANSION.

The Mistake the Democratic Party Is Making.

Louisville Courier-Journal, Dem.

Speaking of the Courier-Journal's advice that the Democrats, instead of surrendering to the Republicans the old-time Democratic policy of expansion, should make their fight on the Republican's Administrative abuses of that policy, the Hartford Post (Dem.) says that "unquestionably an overwhelming majority of the people of the United States believe in the policy of expansion. Expansion is a part of the spirit of the Nation. It has been the country's policy for a century, and if the attorneys for littleness had been able to dominate history the United States would today consist of a strip of land on the Atlantic slope extending not much farther west of the Alleghanies. The number of Democrats who are wholly out of sympathy with the Democratic opposition to expansion is undoubtedly immense."

Every word of this is true. The Democratic masses are not opposed to expansion, although they have not become so aroused on the question as to assert themselves. Meanwhile the present short-sighted file leaders are improving their opportunity to identify the party machinery with the policy of opposition to expansion, not because they care much about that one way or another, but because they believe that in any event we shall be willing to contract where we have already expanded, but merely because they think the question affords them at least a temporary ground of expediency on which to make a political fight for a party that is out against a party that is in.

QUIGG ONLY AN AMANUENSIS.

He Had No Right to Change the Republican Platform.

The Philadelphia Press, of which Charles Emory Smith is publisher, apparently reflects the Administration view of the Republican platform and its omissions in the following:

Mr. Lemuel E. Quigg comes to the defense of the platform which Congressman Grosvenor justly terms "crude and senile." Mr. Quigg says that he "put together" the planks of this platform, and he evidently covets the fame of its authorship, but we doubt if he is entitled to that honor. As secretary of the subcommittee he was doubtless utilized as the amanuensis for getting the document into its final form, but Senator Fairbanks read the platform to the convention, not very audibly, to be sure, but with the conscious pride of paternity, which it would have been difficult for him to assume if he had been really handling Quigg's offspring.

Mr. Quigg explains that the proposition that "Congress has full legislative power over territory of the United States, subject only to the fundamental safeguards of liberty, justice and personal rights," was left out of the platform because this question was now before the United States Supreme Court. The suppression of this declaration without making the fact known in any other manner than in an inaudible report, was a gross imposition, if not a fraud, upon the convention. If it had been known that the committee had omitted this essential Republican principle in reference to our possessions, the convention would have inserted it over the heads of the committee. It was seriously proposed to do so next day, when the grave omission was discovered, but the knowledge that the President could and would cure this defect, as well as give vitality, directness and force to the inanition of the platform made it seem hardly worth while to bring the platform a second time before the convention.

The plank which the committee rejected is a Republican principle, which should have been inserted. It is the principle on which the Administration has acted and Congress has legislated. Temporary Chairman Wolcott and Permanent Chairman Lodge laid eloquent stress upon it in their convention addresses. The Supreme Court, we are confident, will uphold it; but until it overthrows it any declaration of the principle which controls Republican legislation and administration is incomplete without it.

The Republican party was not well served by its committee on resolutions. Its rambling, verbose and incomplete production is the one regrettable outcome of an otherwise most successful and glorious convention. Fortunately, the party will suffer no permanent disadvantage on this account. President McKinley's letter of acceptance will be the real platform on which the Republican ticket will go before the country, and the inane and tedious platform which Mr. Quigg says he drafted will drop out of sight and out of mind.

GOOD TERMS WITH CANADA.

No Reason Why All Differences Should Not Be Adjusted.

The relations between Canada and the United States are discussed by the New York correspondent of the London Times. His conclusion is that there is no danger of serious difficulty between the United States and Great Britain because of Canada, in spite of the many indications to the contrary, which have caused alarm to British not fully acquainted with the situation. It is true that the Dominion and the United States are always quarreling. There is now an outstanding list of 12 or 13 unsettled questions, "all of them important, two or three of them grave, and one pre-eminently so." But none the less there is no cause for apprehension. The Times correspondent finds that there is a state of irritation, especially in the Western States, arising out of the business and other controversies with Canada.

"The West," he says, "has an impatient temper and perhaps an imperfect conception of those diplomatic methods by which controversies are best adjusted. The Behring Sea arbitration left a sore, as arbitrations are apt to. Fisheries questions on the Atlantic are still open, other questions are open distinct from the formidable Alaskan boundary dispute. In all of these the Northwest takes a strong interest. In Canada also strong views are held on these subjects. It is possible nevertheless for an American to visit Canada and never see a trace or hint of ill-feeling or of contentious feeling. I met many Canadians of high place in public life; I never heard a word of anything but good will to the people of the United States." The closing paragraph of the article shows an excellent understanding of the situation as a whole. "The attitude of the United States Government," writes the correspondent, "has been correct and something more than correct. It has shown, I think, a sincere desire to be friends with Canada and to concede all that can be conceded. And in that attitude it has and will continue to have the support of the American people. I do not doubt that the people of Canada or the present rulers of Canada, in spite of all differences of interest and policy, are friendly to the United States. With this state of feeling on both sides, there is no visible reason why the two countries should not, when the time comes, agree amicably upon a fair adjustment of all matters in dispute between them."

Wheat and Politics.

New York Evening Post.

There is a political as well as commercial bearing to the recent news from the various wheat-producing districts. This is true, first, because of the great influence exerted by good or bad times on political sentiment. Prosperity in the wheat district has very much to do, as the country has learned since 1896, with National prosperity, and the Republican party is going into the campaign with prosperity as its chief reliance for success. A ruinous harvest failure—such, for instance, as the destruction of the Kansas and Nebraska corn crop in 1894, which cut down the yield 400,000,000 bushels—would make havoc with this Administration argument. Such an event would in no way be chargeable to the party. But people have a way of blaming the ruling powers for the shortcomings of Nature, and it would be hard for the party which condemned Mr. Cleveland for the low price of wheat in 1896 and the corn shortage of 1894, to escape some similar inference on its own account in the case of harvest failure.

What Bryanites Will Do.

New York Mail and Express.

"What are the Bryanites going to do at Kansas City?" asks the New York Herald.

What difference does it make what they do there? They have been doing, and they will continue to do, all over the country, everything in their power to make good their calamity prophecies of 1896. Yet not a single plank in their platform is today regarded seriously by the people, and the country keeps right on prospering and strengthening in every line of industry and commerce, both foreign and domestic. The more ruin they predict the more prosperity prevails.

Why, then, give heed to anything these Bryanites may do or say at Kansas City on July 4? It will be the same discredited story of 1896 over again—that's all. Everybody knows it and nobody believes it. So let them fire away. It's rather hard on the Fourth of July, of course, but the glorious old National holiday can stand it once in 124 years.

Value of a National Convention.

The Philadelphia Ledger reproduces some estimates in figures of the commercial value of the Republican convention to the city. The gift to the National committee was $100,000, and it is supposed that the local political clubs spent $250,000 in entertaining. The visitors are believed to have spent over $750,000, the National committee spent $25,000, and the delegates and alternates about $300,000. The receipts of the street cars increased 12 per cent, and the amount of business done by the hotels and boarding-houses is not put into figures. The belief that the visitors spent over three-quarters of a million dollars is based upon the estimate that the daily average of sightseers was 150,000 for five days, and that each of them spent at least a dollar every day.

THE DECEASED WIFE'S SISTER.

Entering Wedge to Reform of English Marriage System.

New York Times.

It is the House of Lords which always withstood the proposition to allow a man to marry his deceased wife's sister. That rock-bound body of conservatism has gone further than the Roman Catholic Church, which is well known to be particular about such things. The degrees of affinity were first formulated in England in Henry VIII's time, and it was not until 1835 that any attempt was made to legitimize the children of marriage with a deceased wife's sister. Ever since the struggle has been renewed and continued. The Marriage Law Reform Association, of which the purpose is to repeal the statutory prohibition, is half a century old. But the House of Lords has always been in the way.

The cable brings us news that the House of Lords has consented at last to validate in Great Britain such marriages when made in a British colony in which they are lawful. Evidently that is the "entering wedge," and it will not be long before they are recognized and legalized in Great Britain itself. That which by English law is natural and proper in a British colony of course does not become revolting and unnatural when practiced in England.

It is a very curious insularity which has kept Great Britain so long from recognizing the consensus of mankind. To say that a certain union is incestuous and monstrous which is so regarded only in one country is to talk evident nonsense. Yet Englishmen who are also "Anglicans" have been hugging this prejudice after it has been given up by all the rest of mankind, even the British colonists. So enlightened a man as Matthew Arnold could not discuss the question without becoming coarse and abusive, as if it were the test of decent sensibility to be horrified at what horrified nobody but the English "upper classes." It is a good thing for England that the nonsense has been exploded and that the question is left to the individual sense of propriety and suitableness. And it is a particularly good thing for many excellent couples who have obeyed the marriage laws of the countries in which they were married, only to find that they were treated as outcasts by a section of British society.

The German Vote.

Boston Advertiser.

In 1896 the German vote went almost solidly to McKinley. Bryan will make a big mistake if he indulges the sweet dream that he is to get all those votes back this year. The Kansas City convention is going to reaffirm the Chicago platform. The most prominent plank in that platform is the one calling for the free and unlimited coinage of silver at the ratio of 16 to 1. There is not a bit of proof anywhere that the Germans are this year any less opposed to that rascally folly and foolish rascality than they were four years ago.

Just Like Roosevelt.

Philadelphia Bulletin.

Roosevelt's allusion to the New York ice trust in his convention speech is already sending shivers down the backs of the Bryan managers. It will be just like Teddy to go sailing around the West repeating similar observations at the very points where Democratic "anti-trust" orators are sent to shout their loudest.

Imperialism Has No Being.

Sacramento Record-Union.

The bogy of "imperialism" put to the front to frighten voters has no being; it exists only in the partisan chicane of the opposition. Of all people in the world to whom the thought of imperialism in any form is repugnant, the citizens composing the Republican party stand foremost.

Loyal to the Heaven Born.

Boston Herald, (Ind. Dem.)

Watterson is doing his best to scare the Democrats into taking a prudent course at Kansas City. He may frighten all the rest of the party and beat Bryan out, but no man ever has had reason to call Bryan a quitter. His dying song will be 16 to 1.

Music of the Sphere.

St. Louis Republic.

With an American garrison at Hawaii in the West, and an American regiment preparing to take transport for China in the East, it won't require much of a stretch now for our drumbeat to be heard round the world.

Quite Pertinent.

Milwaukee Sentinel.

In accepting a campaign contribution of $25,000 from John R. McLean it may be well for Colonel Bryan to make inquiry as to whether any part thereof was derived from dividends on octopus stock.

How Simple.

New Orleans Picayune.

Give a man enough money to spend and he will be able to decide upon a place for spending his Summer.

MEN AND WOMEN.

It is said there are fewer divorces among the Chickasaws than any other race of people.

A Worcester man has just taken out a patent for a music typewriter. It will do for music what an ordinary typewriter does for manuscript.

Admiral Dewey and his bride will build a Summer residence on Big Fish Island, some 40 miles from Halifax. It is located in Chester Basin.

It has been settled that the trial of the youthful anarchist, Sipido, for the attack on the Prince of Wales shall begin, at the Brabant Assizes, on July 2.

Congressman John Allen, of Mississippi, has intimated to several of his friends that he will probably retire at the end of his present term. He has served in all eight consecutive terms.

The Italia Militaire e Marina states that Captain W. Bade di Wismar has organized an expedition to the east coast of Spitzbergen and Franz Josef Land to seek for traces of Andree, and also to obtain intelligence of the Duke of Abbruzzi. Captain di Wismar will start from Trondhjem early in August, and will be accompanied by Cornelio Manzi, the Italian writer and traveler.

The Serenade.

Baltimore American.

She leaned from her window as he came by.
He paused, with a bow and a hopeful sigh;
Then softly he played,
To the listening maid,
A lyrical dream from the "Serenade."

He drifted from that to a Tosti song,
And mused of the land he had left so long—
Of Italia fair,
With its amorous air,
And the fair Senorita he'd loved over there.

The languishing cadence in melody flows
As sweetly he plays of "The Beautiful Rose."
The beauty enhanced
When upward he glanced
To where the fair damsel sat, half-entranced.

But see! From her window she leans, and she speaks:
"Git aff av the shtrate, or Ol'll git yez tin weeks!
Yez lazy galoot!
Now rustle an' shoot,
Or Ol'll break in yez face, an' pi-anny t' boot!"

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Whatever may be her fate, the Oregon is still fast.

St. Louis is getting almost as quiet as the Transvaal.

The Fourth, it appears, has come early to avoid the rush.

McKinley may head the ticket, but the campaign hats will be the rough rider article.

Having invented gunpowder, the Chinese are now preparing an extensive market for it.

In making repairs to his front porch last Summer, Bryan forgot to put up a sounding board.

The old Oregon got off right at Santiago, let us hope she will do as well where she is now.

Of course the Boxers couldn't resist the temptation to share in the results of the Czar's peace conference.

Tammany is likely to have an ice time in the next campaign. This joke was made by a constant reader.

One thousand music teachers are taking part in the convention at Saratoga, and martial law has not yet been declared.

Now can the man who kicks about
The weather much rejoice,
For we have all varieties,
And he may take his choice.

The congress of nations now in session in China seems to be proceeding about as peacefully as such congresses usually do.

Li Hung Chang has a very business-like way of removing official heads. He removes the officials' heads at the same time.

The Boxer that stays in the fight longest may have the honor of sending a challenge to the honorable James J. Jeffries.

It is said that Senator Clark is so rich that he can afford to spend the Summer at the Paris Exposition after staying a whole week at Kansas City.

A Philadelphia paper now gives it away that 71 million silver dollars were lying in the vault of the old mint in that city, while only a few blocks away the Republican National Convention was making a gold platform. This outrage ought to be aired at Kansas City.

Some humorous tales are told of the clashes between bicycle tax collectors and the nonpaying riders. On the steel bridge draw, a few days ago, a collector halted one wheelman who had no 1900 tag, and while "jawing" with him, another came along. The second rider was pulled off his wheel, with a "Where's your tag, young 'fellow?" and he had scarcely struck the deck of the bridge with his feet when No. 1 jumped on his wheel and darted off. The collector left No. 2 to follow the first, and so the second delinquent made off also. Whether No. 1 was caught, No. 2 did not stop to inquire.

A young lady who is spending her vacation in the country assures the East Brady (Penn.) Review, that the barnyard chickens are filling themselves up with 17-year locusts at a great rate, and that it is nothing uncommon for an old hen to waddle around with a load of locusts inside her craw that are giving forth their peculiar cry just the same as though they had not been eaten. It sounds like some snake stories that have gained currency, but the young lady vows that it is a fact that she can vouch for, and she is a good Methodist who would not exaggerate a locust story.

Kite-flying records were beaten at an observatory on Blue Hill, Boston, recently, by a kite used in the exploration of the air. It was sent to the height of 14,000 feet, which exceeds the greatest height previously obtained there by 1440 feet. The temperature at this height was 15 degrees below the freezing point, the wind velocity was about 25 miles an hour from the northeast, and the air was extremely dry, although clouds floated above and below the level. The kites remained near the highest point from 5 to 8 P. M. They were then reeled in rapidly by a small engine.

On the way down the kites passed through a stratum of thin, ragged clouds at the height of a mile and a half. These were moving with a velocity of about 30 miles an hour. At this time the wind at the observatory, about 600 feet above the general level of the surrounding country, had fallen to a calm, and the small revolving cups which register the velocity had ceased to turn. The kites entered this calm belt at a height of about 700 feet above the hill and fell rapidly to the ground.

The highest point was reached with four and a half miles of music wire as a flying line, supported by five kites attached to the line at intervals of about three-fourths of a mile. The kites were Hargrave or box kites of the improved form devised at the observatory. They have curved flying surfaces modeled after the wings of a bird. The three kites nearest the top of the line had an area of between 60 and 70 square feet each, and the two others about 25 feet each.

The total weight lifted into the air, including wire, instruments and kites, was about 130 pounds.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

A Serious Difficulty.—Mrs. Isaac—Vot ves all you boys quarreling apoud? Ikey—Vell ve vanted to play ve vos forming a trusdt, but nopobdy vanted to be der gustomers.—Puck.

"How Mrs. Scrymser hates to see money wasted." "Yes, she told me she accepted Mr. Scrymser chiefly because he had made a long railroad journey to propose to her."—Indianapolis Journal.

He Woo.—"All right, then, we'll toss for it," said Tommy. "Here goes! You holler, Heads or tails?" "Very well," replied little Emerson, of Boston, "I prognosticate the falling of the obverse uppermost."—Philadelphia Press.

"Young man," said the mature friend, "learn to say 'no.'" "What for?" asked the flippant New York youth. "That habit came mighty near costing a man up our way the Vice-Presidential nomination." — Washington Star.

Not a Free Agent.—"Charlie, do you think of marrying a little woman or a big woman?" "Well, Dave, you don't know a thing about human nature! How can I tell? It depends entirely on what kind of a woman takes a fancy to me."—Detroit Free Press.

His Little Joke.—In wandering near the sea rocks of St. Helena, General Cronje picked up a piece of broken glass. "What is this?" inquired the General. "It looks like a piece of lamp shade," responded his wife. "N'm! Perhaps it is the shade of Napoleon?" One hour later the English guards saw the joke and grinned.—Chicago News.

"This is a terrible oversight of yours," growled the city editor to the new reporter. "How's that?" asked the new reporter, in tones that indicated a gladness over having committed his terrible oversight for that day. "In your story of the speech of the Hon. Win D. Jammer at the convention, you do not say that he sounded the keynote of the campaign." —Baltimore American.