# The Oregoman.

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

TELEPHONES.

Editorial Rooms ..... 166 | Business Office ... 66

REVISED SUBSCRIPTION RATES. Sunday, per year. The Weekly, per year. The Weekly, 3 months. To City Subscribers Daily, per week, delivered, Sundays excepted 15c Daily, per week, delivered, Sundays included 20c

POSTAGE BATES.

Foreign rates double,

News ar discussion intended for publication in The Oregonian should be addressed invaria-hly "Editor The Oregonian." not to the name of any individual. Lettern relating to advertis ing, subscriptions or to any business matter should be addressed simply "The Oregonian." The Oregonian does not buy poems or stories from individuals, and cannot undertake to reny manuscripts sent to it without solici-No stamps should be inclosed for this

effice at 1111 Pacific avenue, Tacoma. Tacoma Postoffice.

Eastern Business Office-The Tribune build Ing. 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; Goldsmith Bron., 288 Sutter street; F. W. Pitts, 1008 Market street; Foster & Grear, Perry News York.

For sale in Los Angeles by B. F. Gardner 259 So. Spring street, and Oliver & Haines, 100 Bo. Spring street. For sale in Chicago by the P. O. News Co.,

EIT Dearborn street.

For sale in Omaha by H. C. Shears, 165 N.

Eksteenth street, and Harkalow Bros., 1612

Farnam street.

For sale in Salt Lake by the Salt Lake News.

Co., 17 W. Second South street.

For sale in New Orleans by Ernest & Co., 115 Bross street. 115 Royal street. On file in Washington, D. C., with A. W.

Dunn, 500 14th N. W. For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & The Advertiser will complete its 100th Kendrick, 906-912 Seventh street.

Year January 16, 1901, and is one of the

TODAY'S WEATHER -Probably fair: winds

PORTLAND, MONDAY, DECEMBER 31.

In yesterday's Oregonian appeared a pathetic account of the closing hours of Oscar Wilde. He bemoaned his life failure and said: "Much of my moral obliquity is due to the fact that my father would not allow me to bene a Catholic." These are not brave words, but they are exactly of a sort with those countless thousands use to excuse their crimes and follies. "My father would not allow me to become a Catholie!" Few men, probably, have used this apology, but myriads have used others like it. "My father brought me up too strictly." "My mother put brandy in her mince ples." "My wife nerves." "I lost a sweetheart and it embittered me." "I falled in business and lost heart." "My father became a criminal and I lost my self-respect."

These and other incidents of early life are brought forward by the erring in extenuation of their deliberate choice of wil. But they are vain, Every man nust answer for himself. Every man must bear his own burden. In that four when the individual looks back upon the life that has gone, no early invironment, no temptation, no defect in the laws or unfriendly attiude of society can avail. One must choose the right. No circumstances, no shortcomings of others excuse the will for its weakness. Wilde chose the lower when the higher stood within reach, and the abject pitifulness of his excuse serves only as a warning.

Observe that Alger and General Colerting at first, but advantageous, on the whole, inasmuch as the exact truth is more likely to come out through the revelations of opposing interests than if one side only is heard. To accept the charges of Miles against Eagan is not to disprove the charges of Alger against Miles. It is a truism that all the truth is seldom found on one side of a controversy, and it is doubtless just as true that all the fault in these ales of two armies is not on one side of the dispute. Alger himself has doubtless been the scapegoat for many things not properly chargeable to him, notably Army appointments made at enatorial instance. Eagan, in spite of his rank offenses against decency, may have been sinned against as well as sinning. Colville may deserve his rebuke, and yet be able to show that his accusers have sins of their own to answer for. The naval conspiracy that has done injustice to the name of Schley has never been able to clear Sampson of the fact of being ungenerous. One of the ways in which republics show their ingratitude is by neglecting to honor men who have been involved in blame. Shafter is unrewarded, and so Asia a widened market cons is Clark of the Oregon. Colville's pro-

The clerkship abuse in the Legisature was correctly described in the Salem dispatches of yesterday as quite as much the misfortune as the overt offense of the members. The reason why they appoint so many useless clerks is not always because they relish shameless raids on the treasury. Quite as often they are subjected to pressure from applicants and their influential friends, to resist which would require stubbornness almost superhuan. Zealous as they are in reform, they are still amenable to the appeals of those who have served them effectlvely in time of need. For this reason we appeal to the Legislature to stand by the corrective law passed at he last defense. It was passed by a previous a safe deduction, now that we have four life in the army. Though the nation numbed for the express purpose of pro-Pacific railroads, equipped with roadbody for the express purpose of providing them an excuse for non-compliance with demands of applicants. The answer is ready for them: "This law anything." Denounce the law if you vessels in use fifty years ago, and with nust, bewall it if you choose, but obey don pass on to the next Legislature a law yet a little more stringent, and rallroads except in the transportation tina, Peru and Bolivia, are believed to one which can be adequately derived of bulky freights originating on or in be inimical, and she expects to have from experience with this one. clerkship abuse is not only an extravagance and a scandal, but it is a positively demoralizing influence upon all the work of the session. It fosters lob- at Atlantic tidewater or goes there. bying, complicates needed legislation, and not seldom is to blame for the perversion of legislative intent through pareless or dishonest enrollment, Every | foodstuffs,

law, not only for the public good, but in his own defense,

Secretary Wilson's tobacco experiments will revive the hopes of those publicists who will never be satisfied till the United States grows all its own supplies and sells only for gold to an impoverished rest of the world. The promise is that "If American tobaccogrowers intelligently follow up certain experiments recently conducted for their benefit by Secretary of Agriculture Wilson, they should be able to save for themselves nearly \$7,000,000 now annually paid to the planters of Sumatra by American amokers." The Sumatra leaf is noted for thinness and toughness, and makes the most valuable cigar-wrapper known. Hitherto the Dutch East Indies have had a monopoly of this peculiar tobacco, but Secretary Wilson has proved that it may be grown in the United States. At the Paris exposition Florida-grown Sumatra leaf scored two points above the leaf grown in Sumatra. An experiment just concluded proves that Sumatra leaf may also be grown in the Connecticut Valley. Near Hartford last season one-third of an acre was direction of the Agricultural Departent's expert, Mr. M. L. Floyd. It yielded 700 pounds of leaf, pronounced by the leading cigarmakers of New York and Philadelphia entirely satisfactory and fully equal to imported Sumatra, and was sold at an average price of Ti cents per pound. The profit to the grower was at the rate of \$900 per acre. The question what tobacco raising countries will do to pay us for our foodstuffs and manufactures when we grow all our own tobacco seems to have had no consideration.

The Oregonian has received a copy of the Dundee Advertiser of December 4, 1900, containing a centenary supplement issued on the same day as The Oregonian's semi-centennial edition. year January 16, 1901, and is one of the existed for a century. It is the first newspaper ever printed in Dundee, and is now one of the most powerful and influential papers in Scotland. The other two-the Aberdeen Journal and Glasgow Herald-were started and fostered by the Tory party, which was in ascendency at the beginning of the nineteenth century, but the Dundee born without a sliver spoon in its mouth. It was started as a Liberal newspaper when Liberalism was regarded with disfavor, and it has remained true to its political creed through storm and sunshine, inflexibly adhering to the broad liberal principles upon which it was founded, and kets. The canal will make markets on upon which it proposes to go forward. the Atlantic Coast for its lumber, wool In the first fifty years of its existence there were a number of changes in the editorial department, but for the past they will go at cheaper rates. We want was a scold." "I was born with weak afty years Sir John Long, M. P., has markets in the Orient, and the canal conducted the Advertiser, and has kept it abreast with all improvements in the collection of news, in printing machinery and in the apparatus of distribution.

### THE CANAL AND THE COAST. Mr. Sylvester E. Evans, whose ad-

dress we have mislaid, writes as fol-

lows: Would the Nicaragua Canal be an undoubted

Would the Nicaragua Canal be an undoubted benefit to the Pacific Coast? If the trads to the westward should assume the proportion expected, it seems to me the interests of the Pacific Coast, viewed from the sordid or merconary standpoint, the standpoint of looking out for ourselves, are against it. If the Orient is to take our wheat, of what benefit to our wheat will the canal be? Will not cargoes bound for Atlantic Coast cities or near points go via the canal, instead of being placed aboard care at Pacific Coast

of being placed aboard cars at Pucific Coast oints, and Pacific Coast points suffer in con-

Would not the same thing occur on goods ound from Eastern points to the Orient? Will the railroad tariffs act as prote and cause the building of factories on the Pacific Coast to supply trans-Pacific trade? Would not lower freights via the canal coun-

raot this?
Why should Pacific Coast points strive so and for the opening of a route of traffic that ertainly will divert much of the Pacific trade from their wharves.

Will they gain enough in some other direction to overbalance this loss?

The interests menaced by the Nicaragua Canal are not the interests of the people, East or West, but those of the transcontinental railroads. Mr. Evans may assure himself on that point once all. Moreover, the menace to the rallroads is more in their own minds than in reality. Moreover, if the menace to them were real, and if there were also a real menace to this Coast, the canal would still be the right and proper thing, an economic contribution inestimable value to the producers of all lands, not to be set aside by some dog-in-the-manger objection of isolated

To take the questions in their order,

the benefit to our wheat trade will befor such as goes to Europe-an undoubted sympathetic cheapening of quarrels for which they are not to transportation, and for such as goes to upon increased development incident to test may remind us that these things | the canal. The fear is that the canal particular form of government. Wol-sey's bitter cry at his desertion was the trade done through our ports by the transcontinental railroads. In the of hurried trans-shipment of cotton and silk through them is a small matter. It is the trade in products produced or consumed here that is worth while. And in the second place the history of similar enterprises shows that waterway improvement, in competition with rallroads, though it may reduce rates, develops the affected communities so that the railroads benefit immensely in the end. If the first Pacific ratiroad, completed in 1869, even with the high freight rates then demanded, was found to se much more advantageous a channel of interoceanic traffic than the water route around Cape Horn that the latter was rarely used, and no serious attempt was made to revive that branch of our commercial marine, it is beds and steel rails and all the lat- tains already an army of 25,000 est improvements in the machinery of which force will of course be considerably transportation, that even with the aubhas tied our hands, and we can't do stitution of steamships for the salling the cutting off of 6000 miles of naviga-It; and in the closing days of the ses- tion around Cape Horn, the latter could not succeasfully compete with the

> The the close proximity of the seaconsts. handled by the Pacific rallroads, either eastward or westward, all originates Every pound of merchandise originating in the interior of the country-and this means nearly everything, whether

member should abide by the clerkship must pay toll to the Atlantic or the Gulf before taking passage through the canal, whereas the railroad will pick it up anywhere and land it at San Francisco. Portland or Puget Sound docks without breaking bulk. It is just so with goods from Asia. They can go direct by the Pacific roads or they can go by the canal, and then be reshipped into the interior by the Atlantic roads. The St. Paul Pioneer Press has made a most interesting argument on this very point. The comparatively small amoun of traffic, it says, that could more advantageously take the water route would be far more than made up to the railroads by the fresh impulse that would be given to the industrial and commercial development of the Pacific States. There is no question that the great stimulus given to the shipping interests of our Great Lakes by the enlargement of the Sault Ste. Marie Canal indirectly helped to increase the traffic of the railroads competing with this interior water route. No doubt the same result would follow any development of our interoceanic coasting trade by the opening of the Nicaragua Canal. Very likely the competition of the water route would operate to re-duce the freight rates of the Pacific planted, cultivated and cured under the roads on such bulky articles as grain or lumber, but this would in turn stimulate production and traffic, and the incidental benefits would go largely to commercial centers every day, where the ship would touch at but one a week. the railroad's sources of traffic are enormously superior to that of a vessel, especially on any ocean route.

Now, as to manufactures. Who does the business of the United States with Asia today? Why, the Atlantic Coast. It does it by way of Suez, by way of Cape Horn, by way of our Pacific roads. Why don't we do it? Because we haven't what Asia wants. We don't grow cotton, we don't make locomotives. What is the matter with your protective railroad tariffs, that they of those animals, especially the better don't protect us now? The fact is that grades of them. It seems that the when we have the factories we shall sell the manufactures. We don't have the by the various armies in the long only three papers in Scotland that have any trouble selling lumber and flour war peried, and every range and farm manufactures, and we shan't have the is now getting back its stock as fast others in any considerable volume till as it can procure the cattle. Many are we get more people. When we buy as consumed as fast as they arrive, while many locomotives on this Coast as the better-bred animals are preserved they buy in the East, we shall have for breeding purposes. Florida's ranches surplus to Japan, just as Lowell and meet this demand, and the result has Philadelphia do now. Surely Mr. Evans does not fear the competition of alarm is something like the old, famil-Advertiser, like The Oregonian, was Philadelphia through the Nicaragua iar cry heard in Oregon each year, Portland, with direct access from dock | breaking output of livestock,

to dock across the Pacific. What the Pacific Coast wants is not to keep somebody else from doing business, but a chance to do business for itself. It wants people, it wants marand heavy freights generally. Much of them may continue to go by rail, but will be the great developer of Oriental trade. In that limitless trade expansion the twentieth century has in store for Asia, no country is so favorably situated as the Pacific Coast. To talk in awestruck tones of the advantage possessed by the East through the canal comes little short of the ridiculous.

# NEGLECTED GIRLS.

Rev. C. H. Mead, of New York threw tical camp a short time ago, when in a their members for the life to come, instead of for this life, in which the path The Chief of Police of any the revelation. city, including our own, could furnish corroborative evidence of the truth of out of the way of pitfalls that boys part of their education.

the growing waywardness of young it won't. girls in this city by the opinion that a reform school for girls should at once influence of an immoral woman is far- they keep good faith by so doing? reaching, permeating and contaminatso pernicious as in the field of peglected girlhood. The woman-child, unmenace to the social life of the community which will materialize into vice and crime as the years go on. The Sunday schools may not do their duty in this regard. They certainly do not, if, is charged by Rev. C. H. Mead, they do not teach that happiness in the life to come is built upon moral purity in

the present life. But what of the homes from which young girls steal at night or go boldly forth by day to "keep engagements" on street corners, in restaurants or in questionable resorts? Parental vigilance wisely exercised is the price of modest, well-conducted girlhood. The girl whose mother is her confidant does not go astray. Hence the astounding assertion with which the minister quoted at the beginning of this article, as supplemental to his arraignment of Sunday school effort, "that a large number of young girls connected with missions in Brooklyn, who belong to excellent Christian families, immoral lives" is incredible, so indispensable an element in the "excellent Christian family" is the judicious, care taking mother who wins and holds the confidence of her daughters, and only in a lesser degree that of her sons.

rivals by her organization of her means of defense. She has by law instituted conscription, so that, with few exceptions, every citizen will hereafter be required to pass a year or more of his enlarged when the system of compulsory military service becomes fully operative. Chile's navy is very respectable. Some \$40,000,000 has been spent, it is said, in the last ten years upon her armament. Her neighbors, Argento maintain her position by force, un-Don't get the idea that the freight less her strength is so obvious as to deter her enemies from aggression. Disputes with Argentina about frontiers, and with Peru and Bolivia about the provinces they lost under the treaty of 1883, still continue. A bad feeling ex-ists, and Chile feels obliged to take cotton or manufactures- levery precaution. The right and the

wrong of the disputes is not easy to make out at this distance. Happily, it is not our duty to intervene. We are not the policeman of this hemisphere "We cannot afford," as the Philadelphia Manufacturer well says, "to be come the disinterested arbiter and protector of an armed camp, nor the preacher of peace at the cannon's mouth."

The London Quiver has been making me estimates of the missionary work accomplished during the century by Great Britain. Taking the leading or ganizations alone, the Church Missionary Society, Wesleyan Missionary Soclety, Society for the Propagation of the Gospel, London Missionary Society, Baptist Society, Colonial and Continental Church Society, Church of England Zenana Society and Universities Central African Mission, it finds that they have raised \$205,000,000 and sent \$000 workers into the field. There are also thirty smaller societies, enjoying the administration of \$2,500,000 at the present time. It says: "The total amount of funds raised for foreign missions work in Great Britain during the century is \$255,000,000. If we add this to the amounts already noticed in other branches of work-vis., \$75,000,000 for property, \$260,000,000 for work among young people and children-we get the astounding total of \$590,000,000 raised in the railroads. Touching at hundreds of the space of 100 years, or equal to the total of last year's revenue in Great Britain." The Quiver's estimates would have been complete and more satisfactory if it had given some approximate estimate of the results which have been accomplished by this immense finan-

According to the Jacksonville papers, a serious condition confronts the cattle industry of Florida. It has recently developed that the remarkable demand for beef and dairy cattle in Cuba has about stripped Florida of her supply island was completely depleted of catlocomotive works here and export a have been drawn on very heavily to become very noticeable. Possibly the Canal, against a similar enterprise in only to be followed by another record-

> A McBride paper that has been commendably fair in its discussion of the Senatorial campaign is the Eugene Register. It is somewhat surprising, to come across this paratherefore, graph in its editorial columns:

With the gang Mr. Corbett has retained to further his candidacy, and their well-known methods of operating the secret ballot is an absolute essential. The defeat of this proposi-tion means Corbett's defeat. No wonder he

We take it that the Register has evidence on which it bases the assertion that Mr. Corbett contends for a secret ballot in the caucus. We shall therefore ask it either to produce that evidence or be more careful in the future with its facts.

Alger says he never heard a rumor of chemically prepared beef having been purchased for the Army until small-sized bomb into an ecclesias- General Miles gave testimony before the commission. Inasmuch as the lecture before the Congregational Club whole country had been talking of of that city he said: "Sunday schools chemically prepared beef, soldiers had give too much attention to preparing died from eating the rotten stuff, and every newspaper contained rumors and evidence of the embalmed rot, no wonof the young is constantly beset with der poor Alger was flabbergasted by pitfalls." The Chief of Police of any the revelation.

A number of Oregon newspapers have the concluding words of this statement. been making spiteful remarks about This is especially true in regard to Senator Simon's absence from Washyoung girls who were formerly kept ington at a critical time. Their attention will be called now to Senator Mcwere supposed to stumble into as a Bride's visit to Oregon in his re-election's interest. Probably their sense of Chief McLauchlan made pointed ref- fairness will induce them to make the erence to this fact a few days ago, sup- same remarks again, with a different plementing his statement in regard to application-and then, again, probably

Some frugal citizens want to abolbe instituted in this state. The evil ish the office of State Printer. But will it right to treat so unfairly all the ing society for generations. In no hungry aspirants who have been waitother line does immorality sow a crop ing for the job these many somber years, and to dash their hopes just when they have every assurance they taught in the virtue of modesty, is a are about to achieve reward of their patience?

> China has requited the kindness of the powers that went to the trouble of concocting an agreement by asking what they intend to do with her. Inasmuch as that is a deep, dark secret, she has committed an impropriety which has no redemption.

In almost every Legislature there are either more fool bills than fools or more fools than fool bills. How is the next going to demean itself? By improving both precedents, perhaps?

wall for their repertoire, now that thirteen large business concerns in London have collapsed simultaneously. Doubtless Hanna is to blame. Alger's surprise at the mention of embalmed beef seems to have been as

Our calamity-howlers have another

great as that he felt upon the declaration of war. It is ten to one that if we don't want to pay for that 1902 exposition we do

not want to have it,

Kansas City Star.

Mr. F. M. Brundage, United States Consul at Aix la Chapelle, Germany, has discovered a new use for the American circus. One recently descended on that peaceful town, which makes a living by selling waters to invalids. The results were surprising. This is the way the monthly official summary of Consular re-

ports describes the occasion:

The bill posting was a revelation in this line
of work, both in magnitude and character; the way in which the tents were srected and the ground prepared astonished the people; and when the circus itself arrived, not a workman went to the factories; the spindles were idle all day. At every performance the tent was full, and the vague antipathy toward the United States has been turned into respect United States has been turned into respect and awe; the people now say "anything is possible to Americans." Consul Brundage thinks that if an agent for American goods would follow in the wake of a circus, these would find

ready sale.

Here is a suggestion that the Government as well as exporters might profitably employ. Where battle-ahipe have falled to make an impression, a circus should be sent as an ultimatum. The visit of the Kentucky to Smyrna does

ot seem so far to have produced any lefinite results. But let Constantin be billed with announcements of a "colossal gorgeous and world astounding three-ring performance," let the Sultan watch the parade and the Grend Visier witness the crection of the tents, and the feeding of the lions, and then let both together sit through the evening enoth together sit through the evening en all three rings at once, and it is dollars to doughtuts that the Sultan would pay down the indemnity in gold before he sleet that right.

slept that night. The allies are overlooking this splendid opportunity in China. If only an American circus could pursue the Empress Downger into the interior, post its bills on the walls of buildings about the temporary palace and send complimentary tickets to the court, the Chinese problem would reach a quick solution. The report speaks would doubtless be "turned into respect and awe." The thanks of Congress and the civilized world are due to the observing United States Consul at Aix la Chapelle.

## SHELDON ON THE SERVANT GIRL. Social Position a Great Consideration Without Apparent Remedy.

Chicago Times-Herald.

While the woman's clubs are tackling the problems of politics and good government it follows as a natural sequence that man through his instinct of social reciprocity is going to give a good share of his serious thought to a solution of the greatest of all 20th-century problems—the "servant girl question" lems—the "servant girl question."
It is a singular fact that nearly all the papers relating to this problem of domestic service which are now appear-

ing in the magazines and weekly period-leals are written by men. Whether this manifestation of interest in the servant girl question is to be traced to man's stomach or to his keen perception of the stomach of to his keen perception of the unbusinessilke and unsatientific methods that obtain in the management of the average household is of little consequence compared to the question of the value or practicability of the remedies proor practicability of the remedies pro-posed. Is man, who stands aloof from the turmoil of pots and kettles and who surveys the unsatisfactory and some-times disastrous results of incompetent service in the kitchen, capable of sug-gesting practical schemes for piacing this service upon a basis of efficiency—the only basis he would recognize in the em-ployment of help in his own factors. ployment of help in his own factory or fore or bank?

The difficulties that are presented by

the problem of domestic service are ably and lucidly treated by Rev. Charles M. Sheldon in the current number of the Independent, but a careful review of the article falls to disclose any practical plan for removing any of these difficulties, except one, the beneficial results of which would be so remote that the housekeepers of 1900 could not hope to realize them Dr. Sheldon gives a very accurate ple-ture of present unsatisfactory conditions and the causes leading to them. He shows that in England within the last 15 years 190,000 girls have left the service of the family in that country to enter service in shops and factories. The American girl is no longer found in the kitchens or homes of America. The writer assigns as one of the vital causes of this the "social ostracism" of those who heretofore have offered their services as "workers in the kitchen. American girls are starving in the stores, unable to save a cent from their wages. rather than work in comfortable homes,

says Mr. Sheldon. But what remedy does Rev. Mr. Sheldon offer for these unsatisfactory conditions which vitally affect the home life of so many people? He makes a plea for the education of servants and for the adjustment of the servant problem upon a "Christian basis." But this offers no immediate remedy. Most practical students of the servant question believe that the only effective remedy lies in the application to the domestic service of the same principles and policies that govern the employment of men and women in all other departments of industry. This may not suit the housewife, but many believe we are coming to it.

## ITS ROTTEN SPOT. Point in the Subsidy Bill That Betrays Its Purpose.

New York Times, truth about it. They persuade many very intelligent men to assent readily to the proposition that a subsidy for the encouragement of American shipbuilding is a if there were no duties to be reckoned agement of American shipbuilding is a good thing. Outside of the immediate beneficiaries of the foreign tonnage clause can they get nobody, even a fool, to aasent to the proposition that the payment out of our public funds of a bounty to persons who buy their ships abroad is a good thing? Who put that clause into the bill? Why

ras it put in? Why are payments under

It restricted to foreign ships bought or contracted for prior to January 1, 1900? Why was the qualifying limit of Amer-ican ownership in foreign-bought vessels reduced from 80 per cent to 51 per cent? Every one of these questions would be fully and frankly answered if the bill was an honest one. They ought to be answered for the information of the tax payers, whose money is to be used for the encouragement of foreign ship-buying. There is another question. It is vital, and no Senator or member of Congress should have the hardihood to get on ats feet to speak for the subsidy bill until he was morally and statistically prepared to answer it truthfully. How much of the annual subsidy fund of \$9,000,000 will go to foreign-built ships bought or contract-ea for prior to January 1, 1909? Will it be \$1,000,000, \$2,000,000, \$3,000,000, \$4,000,000? How much of the subsidy fund will be left for the encouragement of shipbuild-ing in American yards after the persons who were fortunate enough and far-see ing enough to make their contracts a car ago have had their share of it?

If the bill becomes a law these questions will be answered. There must be a

public accounting for every dollar paid to every line and every ship. If then it shall brove that there was an ugly job in the bill, the loud outcries of publicity will ring in the ears of the chiefs of the Republican party night and day. There can be no concealment then. And the out-cries will be loudest right in the middle of the next Congressional and Presiden-

tial campaigns.

If certain private gentlemen have, by large campaign contributions, bought the privilege of writing that thieving clause into the subsidy bill, we admit that the repudiation of the terms of the contract would now subject the chiefs of the party in power to much private vilification But vilification by a private committee of 25 is attended with far less personas and political inconvenience than denunclation by the majority part of 14,000,000 voters.

The Chinese System of Banking. The stranger on arriving in China is

struck with the apparent of the monetary system; but a short residence tends to create an opinion that the system is well adapted to the people, at least in some respects, writes ex-Minister Charles Denby, in the December Forum. The financial business of the foreigner is done in either Mexican dollars or in tacks, as he prefers, and his bank account is kept in the same way. Drafts on London are in pounds sterling. Ordinary accounts in the stores in Shanghai are kept in Mexican dollars. The commercial busi-ness is done mostly in tacls. As the price of silver varies every day, the transfer of dallars into pounds pounds into taels, and taels into Mexicans is bewildering. Usu-

by a copper piece called chien, because it originally weighed a mace (one-tenth of a

tael). This and lump silver are the only public signs of the value of products and the only instruments of ordinary barter, except some Mexican dollars recently coined. The popular name of this coin is 'cash.

"cash."

The monetary system as affecting silver is arranged on the principle of weight, and the divisions have the same names—taels, mace, candaresn and cash. The computation is decimal. Each cash should weigh, as Williams states, is grains Troy, or 3.78 grams; but there are in various localities smaller cash in circulation, and the rate of exchange varies in different parts of the land from 500 to 1800 for a stiver dollar. the land from 500 to 1800 for a sliver dollar. These are big cash and little cash. The Pekin cash passes 5 for 1 sliver cent or 500 for \$1. Taking into consideration the immense population of China and the poverty of the people, a good argument may be formulated to sustain the legislator who created "cash." If there was to be but one coin, it had necessarily to be the smallest.

## MODERN PROPHETS.

Twentieth Century Will Be Funny if All These Things Happen.

Paris letter N. T. Commercial-Advertiser. Off and on during the past weeks the Paris press has made an amusement of prognostications of the century to come prognostications of the century to come. Men eminent in science and literature and art, and trusted observers of the course of contemporary history, have been drawn with success. M. Berthelot, the chief chemist of France during the last half-century, the friend of Renan, who led with him the young intellectuels of 1845; the member-elect of the French Academy to represent science in that body, as Pasteur did in his day, has given an opinion on practical things-on the dean opinion on practical things—on the development of machinery by the use of motive power. He declares frankly against steam, which he says is airead; growing obsolete, while electricity, which is only an intermediary between the material source of energy and its applica-tion, will always cost too much to be-come the motor force of common indus-trial life. For him, the future of motor-power belongs to petroleum and to gas: The steam engine will be relegated to museums, where other anthropological curlosties are collected, from the Stone Age down. It will be remembered that M. Berthelot long since predicted that the time of chemical feeding of humanity is to come, when we shall carry beefsteaks and breadstuffs in our vest pockets in the shape of convenient pellets supplying the necessary elements, carbons, axotes, necessary elements, carbons, asotes, phosphates, and the rest, to needy tissues; but this reform he does not announce for the 10th century. The Pasteur people, with Metschinikoff at their head, have also given over promising serums to save from old age, but they foresee with reasonable hope remedies for cancer, consumption, and the plague.

In political and social history, M. Gabriel Monord hear reconstitutions there were the constitutions of the constitution of

briel Monod has prophesied grave things of which more elementary vision has had gilmpses for some time past. The influ-ence of M. Monod until recently was almost preponderant in France in historical studies. His long years at the Ecole Normale Superieure, where men like ex-Minister Hanotaux passed under him, at the Ecole pratique des Hautes Etudes of the Sorbonne, of which he has been a chief organizer, and the foundation of the Revue Historique which was due to him, give him a place apart. His belonging to a noted family of Protestant diergymen and his pronounced stand in favor of the innocence of Dreyfus may have made his name unpopular of late, but they have scarcely lessened the esteem in which he is held for judicial moderation and breadth of view. He announces plainly for the twentleth century the advance for the twentleth century the advance and the triumph of Socialism.

## LET THE TARIFF ALONE. Demand of the Steel Men Had a Parallel in 1860.

Industrial Commission last week, as a witness. When he was asked as to tariff conditions his brief answer was, "Let the tariff alone." That is the answer which every head of a steel plant will

make. The conditions in the iron and steel in-New York Times.

The rotten spot in the subsidy bill is the two metals by the manufacturers. I hear, the groans, the immentations and the foreign tonnage provision. The advocates of the bill not only cannot defend at Pittsburk was \$25 a ton, while in after the eternal heartless joility of the playhouse. The two kinds of work Iron sold for \$12 a ton, and Scotch pig for with. a ton on steel rails and of \$4 a ton on pig-

> These are duties which the American steel and iron men say should be let alone. Why should they be? They are not required for purposes of protection. The British manufacturers are the ones who stand in need of protection now. These duties furnish the Government a trivial revenue. Only \$20,300 was collected last year on imported iron and steel rails. So far as all good purposes are concerned

> these duties are obsolete.
>
> They might be permitted to remain record the fact that there once was a time when the iron and steel industries of this country needed protection, were it not that manufacturers make so bad a use of them. The confederated manufacturers are anxious the tariff should be let alone because excessive duties make it so much easier for them to maintain their present policy of a higher scale of prices in the home market and a lower scale in foreign markets-cheap steel for foreigners, dear steel for Americans.
>
> The entreaties of these manufacturers

to let the tariff alone should be as futile as were the entreaties of the seceding Southern States to "let us alone."

# London Chronicle.

It is announced that the heads of the House of Bonsparte, Prince Victor Napoleon and Prince Louis Napoleon, of the Russian Army, are in England visiting the Empress Eugene at Farnborough. These Princes are 38 and 36 years old respectively, and both are bachelors. This is doubtless due to their position as pretenders; a pretender cannot afford to make a bad match, and exalted ladies look askance on a pretender—until he ar-rives. Napoison III did not marry until he had attained the throne and the age of 44. With the late Prince Jerome Napoleon and his children Bonapartism assumed a new phase, as they are connected with the old reigning families of Europe, which no other branch of the family was. The Princes now in England are descended from a sister of George III, and therefore from our Stuarts, Tu-dors and Plantagenets, from the Kings of Italy and Wurtemberg, and are, in fact, cousins of nearly every reigning mon-

# The Midnight Stars.

Alexander Smith.
I love the stars too much! The tameless sea.
Spreads itself out beneath them, smooth as glass. You cannot love them, ledy, till you dwell

In mighty towns; immured in their black hearts.
The stars are nearer to you than the fields.
The stars are nearer to you than the fields.
Ted grow an atheist in these towns of trade,
Were't not for stars. The smoke puts Heaven I meet sin-bloated faces in the streets

And shrink as from a blow. I hear wild And curses split from lips that once sweet. And scaled for Heaven by a mother's kin

I mix with men whose hearts of human flesh Beneath the petrifying touch of gold, Have grown as stony as the tredden ways. I see no trace of God, till in the night, While the vast city lies in the night, While the vast city lies in dreams of gain, He doth reveal himself to me in Heaven. My heart swells to Him as the sea to

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Good morning. Have you seen Pat Crowe?

Bryan's paper will be taken first and

haken afterwards, We shall soon see the final finish of the term "fin de siecle."

Plumbers, sh? Well, why didn't you turn off the water last night? The 19th century seems likely to come

an untimely end by freezing to death. There is no likelihood that Bryan's pa-

per will ever be called the Great Com-The business of kidnaping is getting

oney from home, and not from the kidnaper's home, either, Mr. Cudahy, of Omaha, will do well

hereafter to take a good drink of digitalis before he looks through his daily mail.

Boston is complaining about the tea tax. It will take a tax on beans, however, to cause any real distress at the

The Cuban planters want their duties reduced. They ask less than the Cuban soldiers, who wanted their duties abolished.

Dewet's triumphs have not been without their redeeming features. They have given Alfred Austin a vacation from his ousiness of writing paeans of victory,

Having evolved seedless oranges and rediess grapes, the pomologist now has an opportunity to achieve lasting fame by producing a seedless watermelon

The tide in the Transvaal is said to be turning in favor of the British but thus far it is, in the language of Tennyson, "such a tide as moving seems asleep."

It is announced that Li Hung Chang is paralyzed. Has the thirst for sensation become so great that a statesman cannot celebrate Christmas without his condition

being cabled all over the world? The New York Herald has been looking up the movements of the great soin Bowling Green 50 years ago, and ten years later it had moved up to Twentyninth street; ten years later up to Thirtyninth; ten years later up to Forty-ninth; ten years later up to Fifty-ninth, until now it is up to Sixty-ninth street. It is anticipated that this remarkably regular and systematic progression is destined to keep on during the coming decader by blocks of ten, so to speak.

"It has been estimated," said a poultry statistician a day or two ago, "that there are about 350,000,000 chickens in the United States. During the year 1900, although the year is not quite ended, they will have produced approximately 14,000-000,000 eggs, which represent in the neighborhood of \$175,000,000. That seems a lot of money, but just wait a minute." He figured on a slip of paper with a pencil, The living value of hens at 30 cents apiece," he continued, "is not far from \$100,000,000, besides which about \$120,000,000 worth of poultry is eaten in this country in the course of a year. So you see the hen, while a humble bird, cuts quite a figure in the financial world."

There is an usher in a Philadelphia Mr. Charles J. Harrah, the head of the Midvale Steel Company, was before the during the day. "I get," he says, "I 50 for every pallbearing engagement, and I like the work. It is, you see, such a complete and pleasant change from my . theatrical employment. I must wear & gals smile at the theater at all times, and the gayety there, the mirth and lightdustry are such that Congress cannot let heartedness prove very monotonous. I the tariff alone unless it believes in the long for something in gloomy black, with heartedness prove very monotonous. taxation of the American consumers of a look of gloom in my eyes, and the sobs diversify my life; I touch on two extremes; I make, besides, a good deal of money. I have made \$30 a week as a There is, however, a duty of \$7 84 pullbearer. At the theater my salary is only \$7 50. There are cetain perquisites at the theater, however, perguisites won through seating people, which materially increase my income. It is not an uncommon thing among us theater ushen to be pallbearers during the day,"

> "The leaders of the independent or native party in Honolulu have Croker faded out of sight," asserts George D. Gear, who is now in Washington to conthe Hawalian seat in Congress claimed by Wilcox. "The bosses in this country are mere babes in politics compared with the native Hawalian. I'll bet Croker never dreamed of making votes for his candidates by telling the voters that the 'kahuna' would got them if they didn't watch out. No, the 'kahuna' is an institution peculiar to Hawali, and his induction into politics is something of an innovation. The 'kahuna' is a person, either man or woman, who is supposed to have power to pray other people to death. Their field in the past has been rather limited, it being neccessary to single out the person against whom the prayers of death were to be directed, but to meet the exigencies of the recent election their powers were .broadened to wholesale size, and shortly before November 6 word was passed out that all the 'kahunas' on the islands would be set to praying for the death of natives who failed to vote for the independent ticket, The result? Well, Wilcox was elected, wasn't her"

# The End of Humanity.

Chicago Tribune.
Professor T. J. J. See, the well-known astronomer, in charge of the telescope at the Naval Observatory in Washington, has been making calculations to ascertain how long it will take the sun to be ex-tinguished and "wander vacant in the rayless space," which, of course, must involve the destruction of mankind by the painless process of freezing to death. That is the professor's theory, which he prefers to the one maintained by some other scientists that the earth's population will be destroyed by fig. or collision. tion will be destroyed by fire or collision. Having established the manner of de-struction, Professor See next calculates how long mankind will exist on the earth, how long mankind will exist on the carta, and finds it to be 3,000,000 years, after which a darkened, frozen earth will continue to go through the useless routine of revolving around the darkened sun, and the whole solar system "will be bathed in perpetual night." The only cheerful phase of the professor's prediction is the generous limit he allows mankind, and himself, for no one can contradict him new. It is always wise in making predictions w. It is always wise in making predictions of disaster to assign a time as far away as possible. It is comforting to those who are contemporaries of the prophet and it is safe for him. And yet who shall say that in 3,001,501 A. D. there may not be professors calculating the time when human beings will cease to exist; or that "star-eyed science" will not have advanced so rapidly that our remote posterity, who will never have heard of us, big as we think we are, will not have all the artificial light and heat they need and thus dispense with the sun entire except as a center to revolve around?