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TODAY'S WEATHER.—Fair, with slowly rising temperature; northerly winds.

PORTLAND, FRIDAY, APRIL 26.

A STRONG POSITION.

What is to be the force and importance of the United States Supreme Court's decision in the so-called insular cases, becomes daily more problematical. It is given out at Washington that preparations are under way for inaugurating free trade with Porto Rico, and that at some stage of the President's Western trip a proclamation to that effect will issue. This in itself would destroy any practical issue of the Porto Rico cases, and if the Supreme Court so desired, it could decide them in such a way as to leave the Philippines problem open to further adjudication. It is doubtful, therefore, how necessary it is to pursue the points raised in Mr. Charles A. Gardiner's brief in support of the Government's position. Yet a decision of some sort is to be expected, and it is hard to see how the court can fail to take cognizance of his contention, which was not raised by the Government itself, but which is too germane to be ignored.

Mr. Gardiner has favored us with a copy of his brief, and study of it shows that the imperfect summing up brought by the dispatches affords small hint of its attractive and suggestive contents. The groundwork is laid, of course, in the broad principle that the Government is a sovereign Nation, possessing enumerated and unenumerated powers of sovereignty not expressly denied—a fact which Marshall's familiar decisions have made most clear. The idea was long obscured by the fiction of state sovereignty and confederation, but events have brought it out at last very clearly. The next point is that territorial acquisition and treatment make a political and not a judicial question, not, therefore, subject to the jurisdiction of the courts. Our recent acquisitions, delimitation of boundaries and disposition and government of the islands and their inhabitants are matters for Congress and the Executive.

Mr. Gardiner undertakes to say how the various doctrines of the Constitution become operative. In its entirety it can only apply with statehood. The clause giving Congress power to govern territory takes effect immediately upon annexation; the prohibition clauses apply at once as restraint upon Congress, but are incapable of extension; the treason clauses become operative upon establishment of the relationship of allegiance; the Bill of Rights will apply so soon as Congress makes the islanders citizens or confers upon them the civil rights of the Constitution, while other clauses, such as the uniform tariff clause, interstate and foreign commerce clauses, etc., become applicable upon incorporation of Porto Rico and the Philippines as integral parts of the United States, and not upon mere annexation.

These specifications incline to the arbitrary and may be fanciful, but in Mr. Gardiner's further contention that complete annexation is as yet non-existent he makes up a case that will be hard to overthrow. The treaty of Paris says that "civil rights and political status of the native inhabitants . . . shall be determined by the Congress," which means, if it means anything, that those rights and status were not determined by the mere act or law of acquisition. The McEnery resolution, passed in connection with the approval of the treaty, expressly repudiates an intention "to permanently annex said islands as an integral part of the territory of the United States." This view of the provisional status of the dependencies and of the entire authority of Congress in the matter is supported by extended quotations from Senate debates, executive documents, petitions from Porto Rico, and by the tariff act itself.

Much light is thrown upon the well-worn decisions relied on by both sides of this controversy, by Mr. Gardiner's suggestive reasoning, and his view of the expansion panorama is crisp and suggestive:

> The Florida, Louisiana and Mexican cessions were annexed as integral parts of the United States under treaty covenants for ultimate statehood; Alaska was annexed as a colony, without any pledge as to its future political or geographical status; the Guam Islands were annexed temporarily; Cuba was annexed provisionally; the Falkland Islands were annexed and then abandoned; and Samoa was formerly held by us as tenant in common with England and Germany.

The questions involved in the insular cases are puzzling, the precedents and decisions convey conflicting impressions. It is doubtful if there is a single clear principle so satisfying in the direction of support of the Government, as the basic contention of Mr. Gardiner that the status of the dependencies is a political question for the political departments and not a judicial question for the courts. We have never had serious doubt that the Supreme Court will sustain, though perhaps by a divided vote, the actions of Congress and the Executive in our insular procedure. It is doubtful if the conviction that it should and must do so can find a more satisfactory explanation than his position affords.

MANILA AND MANCHURIA.

When the disposition of the Philippines comes up for decision upon some other basis than scuttling out of them under Tagal fire, a prime consideration is going to be the desirability of their possession as a fulcrum from which to press our demand, as an Asiatic power, for markets for our wares. We have no rival so dangerous to our free entrance in Asiatic ports as our good friend, Russia, whose tariff policies are if anything more exclusive than our own. The fate of Manchuria, therefore, closely concerns us. The Manchurian imports from the United States, under the heads of cotton textiles, flour and kerosene oil, amounted in 1899 to 6,474,895 haikwan taels, or 31 per cent of all the foreign imports. The only Russian import was kerosene, and that to the value of only 27,773 haikwan taels. All of these imports passed through Niu Chwang, and it is instructive to note the sudden transformation effected in our rapidly expanding trade with that port by the troubles of last Summer. Consul Fowler supplies the following comparative table of imports into Niu Chwang, specified as American, for the quarter ending September 30, 1900, and the same period of 1899:

	1899.	1900.	Decrease.
Drills	148,022	.....	148,022 pieces
Sheetings	306,965	620	306,045 pieces
Kerosene oil	658,000	25,000	633,000 gals.

In the words of Consul Fowler, this is annihilation pure and simple, and yet Niu Chwang saw less fighting than Tien Tsin; and the only foreign power that interfered there was Russia. That government seized the port as early as August 4, and on the 12th had control of the custom-house.

What Russian ascendency and tariff exclusion mean for us in Manchuria may be gathered from the effect of similar policies by France in Madagascar. The foreign trade of Madagascar was nearly a third larger in 1900 than in 1899, and the trade was so extremely one-sided that the imports from France amounted to about two-thirds of the whole import and export trade, and were more than $2,000,000 greater than in 1899. This is an island with which our commerce was a few years ago most promising. Cotton cloths constitute the chief wearing apparel of the people, and our export of that commodity has been of growing importance for several years. Tools and other metal goods, in our exports of which we were almost monthly breaking our own records, are articles which Madagascar had no means of providing itself with, and there was a fine trade in sight for us in these lines. But upon the French accession they proceeded to discriminate against our trade, and the record of our exports to the island shows this result:

1892	$247,923
1894	173,074
1898	67,517
1900	28,486

Meanwhile, in 1900 the imports from France amounted to nearly $7,000,000, an increase of more than $2,000,000 over the year before.

There is no sort of doubt that precisely such a course as this our trade with Manchuria will follow, should Russia become supreme there, and should we have no effective means of protest at hand. That is an argument for retention of the Philippines, and it is cogently stated by Captain Mahan, who says: "We cannot count upon respect for the territory of China unless we are ready to throw not only our moral influence, but, if necessity arise, our physical weight, into the conflict, to resist an expropriation, the result of which might be to exclude our commerce and neutralize our influence."

M'LAURIN AND MAHONE.

The notable address of Senator McLaurin, of South Carolina, before the Manufacturers' Club at Charlotte, N. C., is regarded as the beginning of another attempt to build up a white man's party at the South. President Grant tried to conciliate the Southern whites by appointing General Longstreet and other distinguished ex-Confederate Generals to responsible public offices at home and abroad. President Hayes appointed an ex-Confederate, General Key, of Tennessee, Postmaster-General. General Mahone, a brilliant Confederate soldier, was taken up and supported by the Republican Administration of the day. All these attempts failed. Grant failed naturally enough, because it was absurd to expect to conciliate the South by nominating gallant Confederates to office, so long as bayonet rule was virtually maintained over the ballot-box. The sending abroad of Orr, of South Carolina, and the honors paid to Longstreet, seemed like a very small plaster for a big wound, and its only effect was to cover the ex-Confederates who accepted office with obloquy as renegade sons of the South who had become Republicans for the sake of a mess of pottage. President Hayes failed in his attempt to conciliate the South, because it was impossible for that section immediately to forget the bayonet rule which had so recently been removed. President Hayes deserved to succeed, but the South was in too sullen a mood to accept the olive branch. Mahone was a gallant soldier, but he was an unscrupulous political adventurer. Had he been a man of as high a character and as clean political methods as Longstreet, he might have succeeded, but he failed and deserved defeat.

The question now is whether the present effort to break into the solidarity of the Southern whites will succeed under McLaurin, supported by the influence of the Republican Administration. McLaurin belongs to the conservative wing of the old Democratic party, the blue-blood planter class, which under Hampton and Butler so long ruled South Carolina, and was routed and replaced in power by the "poor white" party under Tillman. It is true that McLaurin says that he is still a Democrat, but his late speech shows that he is identified with the Republicans in all leading National issues. He is a protectionist, he favors the policy of ship subsidies; he is in complete harmony with the financial and monetary policies of the Republican party; he is in favor of territorial expansion and of the Philippine policy of the Administration. He says that the Civil War settled the question of Federal over state supremacy; that the Spanish War settled the question of expansion. He is in complete harmony with the Republican party, and believes that there is no reason why the South should continue to place itself in the path of its own progress. McLaurin is in the prime of life; has a strong personal following, and his friends are sanguine that men who could not accept the doctrines of Bryan and free silver and likewise could not become identified with the Republican party because of the negro feature will gladly seek the new McLaurin party as soon as it is formally organized.

The chance of McLaurin's success would be flattering in any Northern state under kindred circumstances, but his danger of defeat lies in the fact that the people of South Carolina who support Tillman belong to the small farmer class, who turned down the conservative wing of the Democracy for reasons of class hate, which are not removed by the extinction of the "race question," or even by the question of free silver ceasing to be a burning issue. The men who follow Tillman are Populists; they always hated the old blue-blood planter class, and all their works, before the Civil War and after it. They hate the Republican party most cordially as an anti-Populist party, and they hate it with a sectional hate that is not removed by the extinction of the negro question, for the majority of the Tillmanites never were slaveholders. But these small Southern farmers formed the rank and file of the Confederate army, and they and their sons make up the rank and file of Tillman's party. McLaurin's appeals to economic issues and his picture of industrial prosperity that awaits the South if she could only turn her back on the dead past and her face to the morning is apt to fall flat upon these folk, however much it may charm the capitalistic or educated class. The small Southern farmers care little for money or industrial prosperity where their prejudices and sectional pride are involved. In Tennessee and South Carolina the small farmer always says that he has no use for the Republican party. He doesn't want to see its money invested in the South; he has no use for Republicans from the North; still less for renegade Democrats become Republicans at the South. Tillman will appeal to this stubborn prejudice and sectional pride, and probably beat McLaurin in his effort to upset him with a new party in South Carolina.

OUR STEAMSHIP CRISIS.

Portland's magnificent trans-Pacific steamer line starts in at a critical time. However permanent its service is in contemplation, it is an experiment in fact, as all such ventures must be, dependent upon the business it gains. Circumstances combine to make the outlook for business unusually dark.

Three adverse conditions are the difficulties in China, Japan's financial straits and the Australian crops. It will soon be a year since the Chinese outbreaks occurred, and the dilatory action of the powers, together with the native disaffection aroused by punitive measures already inflicted, is slowly squeezing the life out of our export trade. Complaint on this score is general, not only here, but throughout cotton circles in the South and the Eastern States, where falling off in the Asiatic demand for manufactures is keenly felt. The protests that are going up from European and American traders ought to find some sort of response from the powers before long. To quarrel over indemnities while trade is being done to death with delay is bad business.

Australia's wheat crop is very heavy, and its efficiency in reducing our market in Asia is materially enhanced by cheap tonnage. An indirect effect of the California oil discoveries is that ships expecting to bring coal profitably to California are without a cargo and glad to make low rates on wheat to Asia. Japan's purchasing power is suspended while her finances are unsettled, and now the sanitary quarantines against Hong Kong and the coast ports add to the blackness of the picture.

In this situation it becomes more essential than ever that the exporters and importers of Portland and of Oregon generally should rally to the support of the home line. San Francisco and Puget Sound shippers contribute as little as possible to the support of Portland's lines, and we should be equally loyal. Hitherto there may have been excuse at times of inadequate facilities, but this will no longer suffice. It will eventually be money in the pockets of Portland merchants to make this home line permanent by loyal support now. In standing by it we are only serving our own interests.

In the report of Lieutenant Joseph S. Herron, U. S. A., who recently explored a portion of Central Alaska, is noted the discovery of a great mountain 20,000 feet in height. The remarkable fact about this is that this high peak was never before seen by white men, and indicates something of the vast area of Alaska. Within the past five years thousands of persons have gone thither, but with few exceptions they have merely visited the more accessible regions and have not even cared to penetrate to the vast interior. The exploration and development of the whole country, however, is now only a question of time. That this development will give to the world mineral wealth compared with which the gold taken out of the Klondike and Nome is of small consequence cannot be doubted. The idea of bare-handed mining, however, as indicated by the great rush to Alaska in 1896 and again in 1900, has been pretty thoroughly worked out. The fact that nature here, as nowhere else on the American continent, opposes obstacles to mining in the ordinary way has been well proven. Ingenuity will find a way to develop the vast gold deposits of Alaska, but common prudence warns men who have neither experience nor capital to hold aloof from these icy gold fields, and seek in the more accessible walks of industry and enterprise opportunity (always to be found for the seeking) to do their part in the world's work.

In the Independent, Representative Newlands, of Nevada, has an article on the "future" of his state. That future he thinks depends on irrigation. He proposes reservoirs for storage of the waters that flow out of the mountains and run away to the bitter lakes in the arid interior. The General Government, he thinks, ought to construct these reservoirs. Possibly it may at some future time, but not until the lands of the country yet available shall have been more fully occupied and cultivated. Mr. Newlands certainly deals in exaggeration when he says that Nevada can be and sometime will be brought into a state of cultivation that will enable it to support as great a population as that of Spain. We think the General Government some time will take up this question of irrigation of the arid regions, but it is yet far off. There is a vast region, in many states, which may thus be reclaimed, including one-fourth of the area of Oregon. Occupation and exhaustion of soils elsewhere will put a pressure upon development of our food supply, and by the time our present population shall have been doubled there will be a demand for reclamation of arid lands as almost a necessity. But since it will be costly business, it will not be undertaken on any great scale till the need shall be more generally felt than now.

In 1880 there were only 148 Japanese in this country; in 1890 they had increased to 2039, and it is known that the increase in the ten years just closed has been very great. Through the labor agitators, who brought about the original Chinese exclusion acts, the Japanese question is likely to come up at the next session of Congress, when the reenactment of the present Chinese exclusion laws will be in order. The present laws expire by limitation on May 5, 1902, ten years from the date of their re-enactment. Since 1892 a new treaty with China has been concluded, which is interpreted as authorizing us to exclude the Chinese, even if there were no further legislation, for a further period of ten years from December, 1894, and, unless one of the contracting parties gives notice of a desire for its termination, for still another ten years after that. China agrees in this treaty to all the conditions sought to be carried out by our exclusion laws, besides stipulating the "excepted classes." It is probable, however, that the present laws will be re-enacted, even though that action be of doubtful necessity.

The body of Abraham Lincoln, or what remains of his corporeal frame after thirty-six years' consignment to the tomb, has finally been borne to its last resting-place. His wife, three sons and grandson share with him a granite tomb surmounted by the imposing monument in the City of Springfield, which he left forty years ago to become Chief Magistrate of the Nation. Time and change have seldom been more marked than in the display of the first commitment of Lincoln's body to the tomb in 1865 and the lack of ceremony in its final commitment a few days ago. General publicity was purposely avoided upon the latter occasion. The long-sealed casket was not opened, according to expectation, for the purpose of identification, but with solemn simplicity was borne from the temporary vault where it has rested since March of last year and deposited in the new sarcophagus and left to eternal silence. This is well. Abraham Lincoln lives in history. The body necessary to his achievement in life, of use no longer, may well return to silence and to dust.

Queen Wilhelmina is already confronted by the necessity of paying her Prince Consort's debts. Being of thrifty Dutch stock and imbued with the idea that a man should live within his means, the young Queen promptly referred all claimants for money to her husband, insisting that he must meet his obligations out of his allowance. Brokers holding the royal paper, however, proceeded to negotiate it on the Amsterdam Bourse, thus bringing the royal and imperious wife to terms. Her Majesty's education was evidently neglected at one point, otherwise she would have understood from the start that a Prince Consort is a luxury for which Queens must pay, even as American papas pay for the distinction of having Duke Consorts added to their families. Wilhelmina, it is said, was very angry when the bills were presented. She should learn of Papa Zimmerman to take a situation of this kind philosophically, and even cheerfully.

There are now in the United States fifty-two states and territories, not counting Porto Rico or the Philippines. In population New York ranks first, Pennsylvania second, Illinois third, Ohio fourth, Missouri fifth, Texas sixth and Massachusetts seventh. Virginia held the first place in 1790, Pennsylvania standing second, North Carolina third and Massachusetts fourth. Till 1820 Virginia held the first place, when she lost it to New York, which has maintained it ever since. Virginia now holds the seventeenth place. In 1830 Pennsylvania took the second place, and has since held it. North Carolina lost the third place in 1800. She now ranks as fifteenth. Ohio took the third place in 1840 and held it till 1890, when she yielded it to Illinois, and now stands fourth on the list. It is certain, however, that within a few decades at furthest Ohio will fall below Missouri and Texas, which now are fifth and sixth, respectively.

We are told now that the five thousand dollars voted for the kindergarten schools positively will not be turned over to the private parties who demand the money, but that, if expended, it will be expended as other school moneys are, by authority of the Board of Directors, and under their supervision. This is well. No precedent should be set for handing over portions of the school money to private persons. Besides, such action would be as unlawful in itself as it would be dangerous as a precedent.

The British lawgivers in Parliament are again wrestling with the deceased wife's sister bill. And still the wonder grows as to why the men so anxious for the law to sanction such marriages—the women of England, it is said, being violently opposed to the measure—did not marry the greatly admired and much-desired "sister" in the first place. It is interesting to note that, notwithstanding the opposition of women, the bill has passed to its second reading in the Commons by a vote of 279 to 122.

The wishes of the people of Portland will govern Superintendent Ormsby, of the forest reserve rangers, in the matter of cutting trails through the Bull Run reserve. This is as it should be, since they alone are interested in the protection of the source of their magnificent water supply. Nature has guarded it very satisfactorily in the past, and will no doubt continue to do so if man does not interfere to disarrange her system.

There is nothing more discreditable than participation in a "shivaree" party. It is astonishing that anybody should attempt to excuse the riotous vulgarity of such proceedings as that at Mount Tabor the other night. Persons of decent instincts and good breeding do not participate in the "shivaree."

THE RAPID GROWTH OF WEALTH

Kansas City Star

The wealth of the United States is accumulating rapidly at the present time. One of the evidences of this is the growth of deposits in the banks. There was a gain of $272,000,000, or about 11 per cent in the aggregate individual deposits in the National banks of the country, in the past 12 months, according to the statement which the Controller of the Currency at Washington made public on Saturday. The total now amounts to 2,754,000,000, which is by far the largest figure ever attained.

The greater part of this increase represents actual surplus profits of trade and industry. Of course, as prices of property advance and credits expand, there is a corresponding growth in deposits, which does not always represent increased wealth, but is sometimes merely an unhealthy marking up of values. But there is so little speculation in the United States outside of Wall street, that the growth of bank deposits may be fairly considered as due to the large aggregate profits which merchants and producers are obtaining from their industry, and the element of unhealthful growth is small.

There never was an era in which wealth made a more substantial growth than during the past two or three years. It has been a period of great prosperity, but through it all a spirit of conservatism has run; a desire not to overdo the expansion of trade and production. Though the good times have generated some exaggerated ideas of the values on the New York stock exchange, they have not led to any excesses of financing or trade among the people generally, or in any line of industry or investment outside of the stock exchange.

The good prices that have been obtained for farm products and the full employment of labor everywhere in the country have resulted in an aggregate consumption of goods far beyond anything ever before experienced and the entire business of the country is in that healthy condition of evenly balanced supply and demand which insures good profits to the merchant, the manufacturer and the producer of raw material, without excessive speculative returns on the one hand, or undue risks of loss on the other.

GIVE REAL ESTATE A SHOW.

Conditions in Other Cities Resemble Those in Portland.

San Francisco Bulletin.

Assessor Dodge sounded a popular note a few days ago when he announced that the assessed value of real estate would not be increased 5 per cent during the coming years. The mere fact, he argues, that a spasmodic advance in the sale price of realty in certain sections of the city has been enjoyed by a few is no reason why the assessed value of real estate as a whole should pay additional tribute. Rather than add to the burden already imposed upon real estate, the assessor will direct his energies toward lessening it. It is a strange circumstance that during the 17 years from 1880 to 1896 inclusive, the increase in the assessed valuation of real estate has been about 125 per cent, whereas during the same period the increase in the assessed valuation of personal property has not exceeded 8 per cent. This in view of the well-known fact that personal property increases at a faster ratio than real estate. Probably no State in the Union has suffered more than California in this respect. The stock and bond owner, the possessors of franchises and the holders of large amounts of money have evaded by suave argument and specious plea the share which each should and eventually will be compelled to contribute to the State revenues. In 1880 personal property constituted 26 per cent of the entire assessed value of property in California, while in 1896 it was less than 15 per cent. For many years real estate in San Francisco has been assessed on a higher basis of valuation than any other city property in the State, and fully as high as that of country realty. And yet we have in this city the bulk of the bonds, stocks, franchises and other effects known as personal property owned in the State.

The assessor's eyes have been opened to these facts, hence his determination to relieve the real estate so far as possible of the burden it has borne for so many years. The taxing of franchises last year which had previously escaped the imposition of a tax was but the beginning of a campaign, if it might be so termed, against personal property in favor of real estate. Other states are endeavoring to master the same problem, and if it has in some instances resulted in the loss of a corporation or two, eventually, when the system becomes universal, the corporations will be compelled to "pay the piper" and thus contribute their just share of revenue to city and State.

Taxation for Private Purposes.

Chicago Tribune.

The United States Court of Appeals at St. Louis has handed down a decision showing once more that the Federal courts will not countenance any attempt of a Legislature to use its power of taxation for the benefit of private individuals. Some years ago the Kansas Legislature passed an act authorizing township governments to issue bonds for the erection of sorghum sugar mills. Every company receiving the benefit of these bonds was required to set aside 10 cents from the purchase price of each ton of cane and pay it over to the treasurer of the township, to be applied upon the payment of the bonds. The act declared that all such mills were public institutions, but its declaration did not make them such. A holder of some of these bonds sued for his interest. He has lost his case and has been informed by the Court of Appeals that the bonds are void. The promotion of manufacturing enterprises is a private and not a public purpose, and hence no state, county or township has a right to support such undertakings by levying public taxes. This decision is similar to that rendered by the Supreme Court years ago in the Topeka case. The Federal courts have acted uniformly upon the principle thus laid down. If the levying of taxes for any private purpose should be sustained by a state court as not in violation of the State Constitution, the Federal courts will declare such levying to be illegal. A Legislature cannot make a private purpose a public one by declaring it such. The principle which has been reiterated in this last case is a valuable safeguard to protect taxpayers from being levied upon in behalf of promoters of special schemes for private profit at the public expense. Courts enforcing this principle wil hold void all state laws to pay bounties to beet-sugar manufacturers.

Give Him a Chance to Rest.

San Francisco Call.

Our Northern neighbors in the ambitious states of Oregon, Washington and Montana seem to realize this more fully than we have, and they put less stress on formalities and functions, less on the proud display of leading citizens, and more upon making an impression by giving a chance to their natural scenery and resources. They will have an easier time, for there is neither vanity nor vexation of spirit in nature. She has no uncertain code of etiquette and no disputes as to precedence and place, neither does she want an office, nor seek to influence legislation. Therefore nature is such a restful person to meet on a trip like this.

He Should Surrender.

Chicago Journal.

Of course it is too late now to talk of a graceful surrender by the Boer leaders. That might have been done when Pretoria was occupied and the beginning of the end was in sight. But gracefully or ungracefully, General Dewet should lay down his arms. He has long ceased to be a hero. He will soon be placed in the category of brigands. The Boer war should be ended.

AMUSEMENTS

If the Empress Josephine was the woman Blanche Walsh pictures her, it might easily have required more strength even than that of the great Napoleon to put her away. Miss Walsh was seen at the Marquam last night in her sumptuous scenic production of "More Than Queen," and much as she has made of the Sardou roles she has played here before, her portrayal of the willful, passionate Empress showed her to be a greater actress than her most ardent admirers believed her. There is an earnestness, a fire about her acting that compels one to forget the player and admire the woman, to glory in her triumphs and lament when they fade. The pathetic story of the woman who is more than queen—a living, breathing and loving woman, who would willingly fling aside her crown for her husband, although told at times haltingly and at others verbosely by the playwright, is still one of burning interest, for it is Josephine one sees, and the Josephine of Blanche Walsh is greater than the Josephine of history.

To few women on the stage is given the queenly presence and striking beauty which Miss Walsh causes to serve her so well in this, her greatest creation, and still fewer have the gift of making such rare attributes merely aids to her art. For, although with them she is better able to make the center of the stage that part of it on which she chooses to stand, without them she would still be the greatest Empress Josephine, for her acting is that of the woman who has become for the time being the character she represents and who means what she is saying. The charm of Josephine cast its spell when she first appeared in the garden of the Palais Royal, and the spell was not broken when the last curtain drew a kindly veil over the misery of the discarded Empress, her pleading at the door behind which the wrathful Napoleon had concealed himself on his home-coming from Egypt, her passionate counsel not to accept the crown which was already in his grasp, her calm draining of the cup they told her was poisoned, and her superb scene in the last act, when she seized the pen to sign the decree of divorce, are all things not to be forgotten. And the innumerable graces with which she clothed minor scenes, her fondling of the effigy of her lamented poodle, and her retorts to the sneers of Napoleon's sisters, for example, served only to make stronger by contrast the dramatic heights to which she so often rose.

The support was adequate. The Napoleon of William Humphrey, although disappointing in the early acts, improved with the progress of the play, and his work in the scene when for the first time he discusses the divorce with Josephine was excellent. Robert Lowe, as Lucien Bonaparte, made much of what small opportunities were accorded him. Ogden Stevens was a finished Talleyrand. Frank Sheridan was admirable as Roustan, and Henry L. Hall sufficient as Junot. Elizabeth Mahew and Helen Singer, as the sisters of Napoleon, were excellent foils to Josephine, and the remainder of the cast, which is unusually large, fulfilled its destiny, that of completing the details of the gorgeous stage pictures which follow one another in rapid succession.

Scenically, the production surpasses anything which has been seen on the Marquam stage. The scenery and furnishings are handsome in the extreme, no cost having been spared in any particular, while the costumes are calculated to take the breath of the feminine portion of the audience. Not only are the gowns of Josephine dazzling and brilliant, but those of every woman in the cast are on a like lavish scale, and the costumes of the men are in keeping. Such mounting adds much to the beauty of the play, and heightens the impression of the splendor of the life poor Josephine is forced to give up.

The audience, which was one of the largest and most brilliant of the season, was very appreciative. Curtain calls followed every act, and more than once the star was compelled to wait till the applause had run its course before continuing an interrupted speech.

"More Than Queen" will be the bill for the rest of the week, with a matinee Saturday. Owing to the length of the play, Manager Heilig announces that the curtain will rise at 8 o'clock every evening.

COMING ATTRACTIONS.

Miss Roberts' Repertoire.

A great repertoire of plays will be given during the forthcoming engagement of that talented young actress, Miss Florence Roberts, and Belasco & Thrall's Alcazar Company, beginning next Sunday, April 28, at Cordray's Theater, for a two weeks' season. The plays to be presented are "Sapho," "Carmen," "Camille," "A Suit of Sable," a brilliant comedy by Charlotte Thompson, the well-known theatrical journalist, and "The Adventures of Nell Gwynne," a version new here, and played only by Miss Roberts, with the greatest success. All the plays will be staged with special scenery, richly costumed, and all attention to detail. "Sapho" will be the opening play Sunday night, and will be given for five nights. "The Adventures of Nell Gwynne" will be presented Friday and Saturday nights.

Sale of Seats for "The Evil Eye."

The sale of seats for "The Evil Eye," which is the attraction at the Marquam Grand, Tuesday and Wednesday nights, April 30 and May 1, with a special matinee Wednesday at 2:15, opens tomorrow (Saturday) morning at 10 o'clock.

Charles H. Yale has this year given his entire attention to the reproduction of his greatest spectacle, "The Evil Eye." It is two years since the spectacular extravaganza was produced on this continent, and in that time it has become recognized as the greatest attraction of its kind which has even been produced here. This year Mr. Yale has put forth special efforts to provide special features for "The Evil Eye," and all of these will be seen here when the spectacle is presented. Among these special features are the electric ballet, the Phasey troupe of dancers, the sabot dance, the revolving windmill and the English chorus. "The Evil Eye" will be the only attraction of its kind here this year.

Pigeon Slaughter.

New York Times.

It is a mistake to suppose that any legitimate interest of sport is served in the slaughter of birds at traps. Those who have tried it know that there are many much more difficult feats with a gun than killing or maiming a pigeon in the moment of confusion when the trap falls away and it is dazed by the light and uncertain which way to fly for safety. It is in killing birds thus taken at a hopeless disadvantage that the great trap-shooting records are made. Many of the so-called "crack shots" of the trap-shooting clubs would make very poor showings as hunters of grouse or partridge in their native haunts. As tests of skill, clay pigeons are much more useful than the live birds now employed, since they move more quickly and are more erratic in their flight. Probably this is the reason they are not favored by the amateur sportsmen with records in trap shooting. It is nothing to be proud of to kill a pigeon on the ground before it has gained headway in flight, and when it is deprived of all assistance in escaping which it finds, and takes clever advantage of, in its native cover.

A Statement Without Foundation.

PORTLAND, April 25.—(To the Editor.)—The following is from the St. Helens Mist, and has been copied by numerous Oregon journals:

> Hon. H. W. Corbett, who was a candidate for the United State Senate, declares that on the first day of next January he will start in and make a fight for the election at the next session of the Legislature. He will see that clubs are organized in every county in the state, and he proposes to make a hard fight and commence early.

I wish to say that I have made no declaration of the kind, nor anything approaching it, directly or indirectly.

H. W. CORBETT.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Cincinnati seems to be in need of the services of a Noah.

It is now up to some ingenious person to invent a nickname for the 1901 fair.

The latest curiosity is a man who was tried for the murder of Goebel and found not guilty.

The Empress Dowager of China may be depended upon to come home in time to clean house.

San Francisco is tasting the joys of anticipation almost to satiety. She is going to have a visit from the President and a prizefight.

A man died recently while seated in a barber's chair. Some men are lucky enough to meet death when it is most welcome.

The gentleman who is the prisoner of state in Manila is something of a hero after all. He has not yet written any magazine articles.

The poolsellers of New York have been obliged to shut up shop. The authorities are determined to limit gambling to such harmless forms as faro and stud poker.

Forty votes were sufficient to re-elect President Steyn, of the Orange Free State. How Steyn must be envied by the Democratic party!

President McKinley is thinking of visiting Massachusetts after his Western tour. He probably delays his visits because it takes some time to build an armored train.

Governor Chandler says the proper place for the negro is the field. A good many of them certainly have distinguished themselves in the field, notably during the Cuban campaign.

"Now, boys," said the Sunday school teacher, "surely some one of you can tell me who carried off the gates of Gaza. Speak up, William."

"I never touched 'em!" said the indignant William, with a suspicion of tears in his youthful voice. "I don't see why folks always think when things get carried off that I've had something to do with it!"

The late Sir Frederick Gore-Ousley, professor of music at Oxford, was once going to call on a friend in London, and asked a fellow-musician the number in which he lived in a certain street. "I don't know his number," answered the other, "but the note of his doorscraper is C sharp." Sir Frederick went off, contentedly kicking the doorscrapers all down the street until he came to the right one, when he rang the bell and went in.

"Among the numerous manuals," says the Buffalo Commercial, "constantly appearing as if in answer to a long-felt want of easy lessons in 'How to Get There Without Work,' is one entitled, 'How to Write a Novel; a Practical Guide to the Art of Fiction.' This is clearly a work of supererogation. No one needs instruction in this art. Any one can write a novel. The trick is to get people to read it. A more practical manual would be, 'How to Boom a Novel When Written.'"

Business women in Greater New York have started an organization for mutual benefit and assistance, likewise planning a club in the downtown section which will rival many of the resorts maintained by their big brothers north of Madison Square. Over 200 stenographers, typewriters, bookkeepers, cashiers and clerks have contributed to the fund, with which a six-room suite in the top of a big Fulton-street office building has been leased for club purposes. No man shall ever cross the threshold. It is to be operated by women and for women. There is a big dining-room, where dainty luncheons for busy women will be served from 11 until 3; a "green room" with great easy chairs and divans, and—note particularly—two small blue rooms with blue denim-covered cushions and blue shades on the windows, where the girls who suffer from nervous headaches can spend a restful hour. Nor is this a charitable institution, but a club, pure and simple, operated on business principles.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

Not Necessarily.—Mrs. Boresome—Out? It's rather annoying. We had an appointment with her. The Maid—Yes, ma'am; but that may not be why she went out.—Puck.

Took Him at His Word.—Mother—My dear, how could you refuse him? He may never propose again. Daughter—But, mamma, he said he would.—Detroit Free Press.

A Bad Mistake.—Editor—This story of yours won't do. Author—Why not? Editor—You don't have the heroine dressed in a gown of some soft clinging stuff.—Harper's Bazar.

Bobby—He made faces at my teacher. Willie—I only tried to show him how he might improve his own face, teacher; I just gave him a few samples; that was all.—Boston Transcript.

"No, I won't give you a piece of my apple," snapped his sister. "And who was it," the boy inquired reproachfully, "that spoiled the piano so you didn't have to practice for a week?"—Philadelphia Times.

Charged.—"Dear," said Mrs. Spendlotz, by way of preliminary, "would you consider an opal unlucky?" "I would if I got a bill for one and had to pay it," replied her husband sharply. "Ah! I'm so glad I ordered a diamond ring instead."—Philadelphia Press.

Stubb—I hear that Falcon is going to stop writing poetry. Penn—Yes; the position in which the paper brought out his sonnet discouraged him. Stubb—Did they run it on the "children's page"? Penn—Worse than that. It appeared in the puzzle department.—Philadelphia Record.

Professional Courtesy.—First M. D.—I see you occasionally take a patient out for a drive. Second M. D.—Yes, I think it does them a great deal of good. First M. D.—But it isn't professional. I never do it. Second M. D.—I know you don't. When any of your patients go for a ride the undertaker accompanies them.—Chicago News.

Miss Violet.

Samuel Minturn Peck in Boston Transcript.

Miss Violet displays no hood,
Nor garbs herself as violets should—
She sports a witching hat;
Nor is she found in dim retreat,
But often on the crowded street
Her boots go pit-a-pat.

The merry eyes that should be blue
Are laughing brown, and bright as dew
The gallants to beguile;
And 'twixt her dimpled cheeks of rose
There tilts a fascinating nose
Which haunts me all the while.

She drives a pony in the park,
She keeps a pair of pugs that bark—
I hate those dogs, I do;
Whene'er I breathe a compliment,
Such desolating yawps they vent—
Perhaps she taught them to!

She counts her lovers by the score;
They meet with frowns as they adore.
Oh would that I were he,
The lucky swain to win the fair!
By turns I hope, by turns despair—
I wonder who 'twill be?

Ah! if some fairy in a trice
Would make my hand a chocolate ice,
My heart a caramel,
Perchance she'd take me then; but, ah,
I have no fairy godmamma
To work the happy spell.