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TODAY'S WEATHER-Partly cloudy, with moderate temperatures. Southwest to north-

YESTERDAY'S WEATHER-Maximum ten perature, 76 deg.; minimum temperature, 32 deg.; no precipitation.

PORTLAND, THURSDAY, AUGUST 14,

WAS IT NOT A MISTAKE!

The rebellion and civil war in Colom bia may have the result of diverting our efforts for an isthmian canal from Panama and of throwing us back upon Nicaragua. Such result, in the opinion of The Oregonian, should not be regarded as unfortunate. Nicaragua, in the people of the United States, always was the earthquakes in the West Indies the scale in our Congress against Nicaragua; yet there is no proof that Panama is less liable than Nicaragua to within the volcanic and earthquake belt that girdles the earth; and though there are recent seismic signs at Nicaragua, more than at Panama, yet experience proves that the most destructive great earthquakes do not always occur in locallties most subject to slight disturbfod there has been no earthquake of serious character in the region known heavy earthquakes in future, either there or in Panama.

During a long period, indeed the greater part of a century, the people and Government of the United States have had under consideration the construction of a ship canal at Nicaragua. man to the August number of the Re-Lake Nicaragua and San Juan River offer advantages that always have attracted attention. Of the 169 miles of | vealed in this statement; distance by this route the lake and river will supply 121 miles of natural waterway, needing little expenditure; and the area of the lake is so considerable as to equalize and control the flow of the river, so that the latter is not subject to great vicissitudes of rise and fall. In the lake and in the greater part of the river vessels can move with unrestricted speed. The time of transit for steamers from ocean to ocean need not exceed twenty-four hours. At Panama the locks will be so numerous and the total "lift" so great that the time can hardly be less-though the canal

will be comparatively short. From New York to the eastern en trance of the Nicaragua Canal the distance is 2021 miles; from the western entrance of the canal to San Francisco the distance is 2776 miles, and to Portland 3219 miles. Total distance from Portland to New York by Nicaragua, 5240 miles. By the Panama Canal the distance will be nearly 1900 miles greater. This is no inconsiderable matter, especially for sailing vessels; for the sens north of Panama, for a long distance, are especially subject to calms, and vessels often lie there for weeks without wind enough to flap their sails.

It is true that a great deal of work has been done at Panama; and yet it is questionable whether if we buy the Panama Canal, paying forty millions of dollars for it and undertaking its completion, we shall not find the expenditure greater than the cost of construction at Nicaragua.

The Oregonian believes that it was an unwise act on the part of our Congress to give the preference to Panama over Nicaragua. Both for physical and political reasons it seems to have been The awful catastrophe of Mount Pelee arrested the attention of the world, and the idea somehow got a foothold in Congress that Panama was less liable to convulsions of nature that would break up an artificial waterway than Nicaragua. No sound reason for this assumption has been advanced. All these countries are, of course, liable to political convulsions and revolutions, but the Central American States now are quiet and long have been so; while Colombia, in which Patiama is included, is in the throes of a civil war, which it would appear we shall have to take part in or settle somehow, if we are soon to take up the project of the canal at Panama.

PROSPEROUS LAND OF WILLAM-ETTE.

The reports of diminished grain yield in the Willamette Valley, particularly of wheat, are cause for rejoicing rather than for replning. They do not mean misfortune and hardship for the farmers, but they do mean that the agrion the narrow base of a single crop. The Willamette Valley is capable of ance and more substantial industrial activity. This comes through turning of all sorts. Why should the Willam-

The Oregonian. plus of wheat when it can apply its be a National misfortune, whether vol-

were set in produieng hopvines. There is richness in the hop crop this the market price. But the Valley will do well on its hop crop; and it is safe will be still less and the acreage of hops still greater. There will be large production of potatoes and onions this season because the prices of those commodities last Winter were exceptionally for large affairs. high. An abundance of fruit and a greedy, market is another combination that no well-balanced orchardist can find it in his soul to rail against; and Oregon orchardists are certainly wellbalanced this year.

Oregon agriculture has had its time of trial, but that is not this year. It has learned by hard knocks the virtue of a broad basis of diversified products. It has learned that it pays to turn rough produce into butter and pork and poultry; that it pays to put perfect fruit on the market, and that the effort to attain his end is well spent. It is not a waste of land to turn it to cow pasture these days, as the profits from golden 55 Washington street
For sale in Omaha by Barkalow Bros., 1612
Farmam street; Megeath Stationery Co., 1308
Farmam street; Megeath Stationery Co., 1308
For at all to be wondered at that the not at all to be wondered at that the rullroads find it easy to start homeseek-Co., 17 West Second South street.

For sale in Minneapolis by R. G. Hearsey & ers hitherward. Let them come and also attain to regal estate. There is Co. 24 Third street South.

For sale in Washington, D. C., by the Ebbett
House news stand.

For sale in Denver, Colo., by Hamilton & Endrick, 200-012 Seventeenth street; Louthan & Jackson Book & Stationery Co., 15th and Lawrence streets; A. Series, Sixteenth and the Valley of the Williamette.

SENATOR SPOONER'S UNIQUE POSI-TION.

No other man of this generation has occupied the place in government of United States that Senator John Colt Spooner holds today, and it may be doubted that any other man ever held his unique position. He is in a political office, but it is not prominence in polltics that gives him his commanding influence, at least not in partisan politica He is a statesman in every sense of the term, and in no sense is he merely a politician. Moreover, he is not ambi tious, which gives to a man of his attainments and position additional power the judgment of the great majority of and effectiveness, and it is, perhaps, the rarest quality of men who reach high has had advantages over Panama. It rank in governmental affairs. The State of Wisconsin has sent to the that produced the panic which turned United, States Senate some notable men, among whom were Judge Doolittle. Matt Carpenter and Judge Timothy O. Howe, but for breadth of vision, pracseismic disturbance. Both indeed are tical foresight, unselfish wisdom and many-sided effectiveness no man of them has approached the high stunding of Senator Spooner. His influence is probably greater than that of any other officer of the Government, because it reaches out in so many directions. He is both a brilliant and a wise man. As ances, but very commonly give little or a Senator he measures up to the very no warning. Within the historic per- highest standard. He is a practical legislator of the best type, a great debater, an orator, a diplomat, a man of wide as Central America; but of course it is and ready and trustworthy information impossible to say that there will be no | in the affairs of the world, and so modest and unassuming that many times others get the credit that is justly his due. This, of itself, makes him friends and extends his power.

In a notable article on this remarkable man, contributed by Walter Wellview of Reviews, the secret of Senator

toward specialization. Senators take up one line or another, become as proficient as possible in that, and give very little attention to other subjects. Mr. Spooner has never been a specialist. He has carefully avoided identifying himself with any particular topic or question. He is an "all-around" man. Everything of importance is his speciality. He is a second to the second to ing himself with any perticular topic or question. He is an "all-around" man. Everything of importance is his speciality. He is so willing to work, so easer to investigate, so treless and so alert, and his sincerity and judgment are so highly valued, that all the specialists consult him. He is a sort of consultation doctor for all the legislative practitioners. It does not matter what it is—Cuba, the Philippines, Porto Rico, our colonial policy in general, the isthmian canal, war tax reduction, finance, the tariff—every chairman of committee who has an important measure to take in on the floor seeks the advice of the Senator from Wisconsin before doing so. As a lawyer and maker of laws, as a watchdog against the furtive slipping in of blueders, as a suggester of stronger and better methods, as a deviser of practical schemes which will meet existing conditions in the Senate and the country, he is without a peer in public life. The natural result—despite himself, and not at all through his seeking— is that his finger is felt in nearly every big legislative pite. His impress is more or less upon every policy, every great act. Sometimes his work is known to the country, as in his happy solution of the isthmian canal uroblem, but offered in the state of the interest is an expensive the part of the interest in the state of the part of the interest in the state of the part of the pa to the country, as in his happy solution of the isthmian canal problem, but oftener it is not. He cares not who gots the credit, so the work is done, and done right.

All this is characteristic of Senator Spooner at every stage of his career. He has never engendered suspicion. He was attorney for a rich railroad in Wisconsin before his election to the United States Senate in 1885, but the poorest and most insignificant man who knew him had unquestioning confidence in his honesty and courage. And when he was elected to the Senate over his old chief, General Lucius Fairchild, whom he had served as private secretary in the Governor's office, there was no bitterness, and General Fairchild paid unhesitating tribute to the native talents and sturdy accomplishments of the new National character. But Senator Spooner's influence extends far beyond the United States Senate, as is shown by Mr. Wellman in the following para-

If we now add that Mr. Spoener's counsel is as eagerly sought at the White House as it is in the Sensia, and as often accepted, we shall begin to understand the unique position which the Wisconsin Senator holds in the American Government. White Mr. McKiniey was President, few weeks passed in which Mr. Spoener was not asked to the White House for consultation. Throughout the trying dary which immediately preseded the outbreak of the war with Spain, Mr. Spoener was one of the three or four advisers upon whom the hard-pressed President most eagerly leaned. Two or three of the somes in the Cabinet-room at these evening conferences upon the weighty question of war or peace were of a framatic character, and the manner in which Mr. Spoener demonstrated his moral courage and patriotism on at least one occasion will be worth a special chapter as seen as it shall be proper to publish the inside history of that period. Three Presidents of the United States—Harrison, Mc-Kinley and Roosevelt-urged Mr. Spoener to accept takes in their Cabinets. graph: Kinley and Roosevelt-urged Mr. Spooner to

accept places in their Cabinets. Part of Spooner's greatness is that he does not pose. He probably knows culture of that section no longer rests his strength, but he makes no spectacle of it. What other statesman have we had since the day of Lincoln who was finer development than grain culture so absolutely content with well-doing? at La Nouce in face of an armed opwill permit, of a better economic bal- And what a profound lesson he is to set before the self-centered politicians of high and low degree—the little actors eral places were reported as guarding that crowd every stage of life and obthe historic grain fields over to meadows that crowd every stage of life and oband orchards and hopyards and gardens | sequiously seek "recognition," careless whether it be earned or not!

other directions? And the day may ling. Wisconsin could not afford it, the come, when it will do better to import its Nation could not afford it. There will bread than grow it. There is proba- always be need for a man of his breadth bly not a wheatraiser in the Valley this and culture and practical wirdom in year who does not wish his grain area | the councils of his country. His range of vision is large, his grasp of details marvelous, he is resourceful, of modest bearing and of undoubted fidelity to high standards. Such men serve Oregon as well as they do Wisconsin in promoting the National welfare, and there should be every encouragement to their retention in public life. Of course It is not to be said of Senator Spooner to say that next year the grain acreage that he is infallible, and there may be good reason to differ with him on some of the policies he advocates, but this may be said without in any manner questioning his patriotism or his genius

THE RECEPTION OF THE BOERS.

On Saturday next the Boer Generals Botha, Dewet and Delarey will arrive at Southampton and will be officially Kitchener and other prominent persons, and will witness the naval review. On Sunday they will be received by King Edward, and then will follow tenders of hospitalities from all sides. Of course it is easy to say that this hearty reception of the Boer leaders is due chiefly to far-sighted political sagacity, but this explanation is not necessary and will not endure examination. The Boer Generals are honorable men,

quiet, sober, intelligent and self-restrained. They have not consented to make peace without due reflection, and they do not need to have bouquets thrown to them to persuade them to keep the peace they have made. They appreciate the importance of cultivating good feeling between the Boers and the English Government, and they know that it would seem churlish to treat with contempt official courtesles that have their foundation in good sense, good will and sound statesmanship. They know that but for the English people under Elizabeth their Dutch ancestors would have been beaten in the struggle of the Netherlands against Spain; they know that twice in the present century England has stood between Holland and national extinction; they know that the English are a gallant foe and a generous conqueror. Why should not these intelligent Boer Generals accept the official and unofficial hospitality tendered them in a responsive spirit as conducive to the growth of that good feeling between the Boers and the English that is on both sides

felt to be desirable? John Bull has hie faults; but on the whole he likes a brave, able and honorable foe. The British soldiers and sailors treated Bonaparte with most profound respect and admiration during the voyage to St. Helens; the naval officers of the squadron were as courteous to their fællen foe as if he had been their Admiral. The treatment of Napoleon by Sir Hudson Lowe excited so much indignation in England that Lord Holland denounced it in Parliament, and so did the Duke of Sussex, one of the sons of George III. The Duke of Wellington gave Washington's picture the place of honor in his dining-room; the Duke of Wellington welcomed Marshal Soult warmly on his visit to England, and the people of London always gave the great French soldier hearty cheers when he went abroad. Soult had fought the English in Spain from Corunna, in 1809, to Waterloo, in 1815; he had been the right arm of Napoleon in France's fearful contest with England. But in fifteen years after Water loo all England cheers Soult with enthusiasm. The English cheered him because he was a stout soldier who had Spooner's great success is partially re- put up a great fight against an English my a fight that made Wells welcome him as a fee worthy of England's best steel. It is the same freemasonry between stout soldiers that was manifested between Grant and Lee, between Sherman and Joe Johnston. Brave men always feel this respect for each other; brave nations can always afford to doff their caps to each other. And that is all the craft there is behind the official and unofficial honors tendered the Boer Generals on their

arrival in England.

In the case of Kruger it is different Kruger is a man of great courage and craft, a man of superior native abilities, but Kruger forced the Boer War upon England against the counsels of the Boer Generals who fought the war to its conclusion. Kruger is a comparatively illiterate man, of low-bred notions of political and military honor, and but his evil counsels the Boer War would never have taken place. It is easy to understand the difference of feeling with which this cunning old political gray fox, Kruger, is regarded by the English people, and the gallant military leaders of the Boers in battle. The English Government knows that but for Kruger's evil influence the Orange Free State would never have attacked Great Britain and his conspiracy would have falled at its birth; the English Government knows that Kruger overruled the counsels of General Joubert and precipitated war by the in vasion of Natal. The difference between the sentiment which the English Government and people entertain for Kruger and that which they feel for the leaders of the Boer Army is something like the difference of feeling with which we regarded the original members of the secession conspiracy of 1860-61 and the great Confederate soldiers who were not secessionists, but were dragged by the current of events into support of secession. If the Boers prove themselves to be as loyal and industrious in peace as they have certainly proved themselves formidable in war, Great Britain will surely have no cause to regret any pains she may take today to obtain and retain the good-will of the famous military leaders of the Transvaal and the Orange Free State. Kruger is a toothless old lion, who can only growl, and his growling, which did not prevent peace, will hardly serve to endanger its present life. The Boer Generals will obey the natural impulse to grasp the hand of friendly greeting extended to them by Lord Roberts, Lord

England, and by the King himself.

FRANCE AND CHURCH SCHOOLS. It is not surprising that there is some resistance in Brittany against the closing of the echools under the provisions of the religious associations law of the French Republic. Recently the military were unable to expel the Sisters position, and peasants headed by Breton noblemen and landowners in sevette Valley struggle to produce a sur- Retirement of Senator Spooner would church and the King against the first manders.

several of the famous leaders of the royalist conspiracies against Napoleon Intelligent Roman Catholics say that the harshest enforcement of French law is better than the condition of Catholics in Germany. If all the schools of the congregations are closed, Catholic France will have a liberty of teaching that is not enjoyed to the same extent in Germany by Catholics. France has more friars than Germany, for the German law of 1887 re-enacts the banishment of Jesuits and "elmilar orders. The "authorized orders" in Prussia and Germany are subject to most burdensome regulations. They require not only the government's permission, but

are subject to the state's caprice. The French Republic does not authorize all the congregations, but those authorized are not treated in an arbitrary manner. For thirty years the Baden Catholics have been demanding the return of the male religious orders, but in vain. To this day no monk can cross the unfriendly frontier of Baden, despite the friendly vote of the Landtag. welcomed by the Colonial Office, Lord The law of 1887 in Prussia still restricts the liberty of the Catholic seminaries, narrows the powers of the bishops and leaves all doors open for conflicts whenever the Kaiser shall change his whim or Pruesia no longer feels the need of the aid of Catholics and of Rome. All Prussian curates must be acceptable to the government, while in France the bishop can move his clergy about freely,

save in the case of deans. The Roman Catholic correspondents of the American newspapers all agree that not only the French Republic is far more liberal in its treatment of the Roman Catholic clergy, but that Lutheranism is dying in Germany compared with the vitality of Roman Catholicism

in France. The present House has a membership of 357, with a Republican majority of 47. The House to be elected in November will consist of 386 members under the new apportionment. Massachusetts, Connecticut, California, Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Louislana, Mississippl, North Carolina, Washington, West Virginia and Wisconsin gain one each by the reapportionment. Minnesota, Missouri, New Jersey and Pennsylvania gain two each, and New York, Illinois and Texas three each. Seventeen of the twenty-nine new places are in Republican states. The Democratic Congressional Committee predicts that the Democracy will carry the House by at east thirty majority, while the Republicans promise a majority of at least twenty-two. The Democrats expect to return four Democratic Congressmen from Massachusetts, but the Springfield Republican says the Democrats have only a fighting chance to carry more than two districts. The Democrats claim one of the five Congressmen from Connecticut, when Connecticut is about as sure of sending a solid Republican delegation to Congress as Maine or New Hampshire. Labor disturbances may cost the Republicans a good many votes, as they did in 1892, when the Homestead disturbances were believed to have done much to defeat the Republicana. The high prices of coal and meat and other necessaries may be folowed by the same political revolt that was provoked by the rising prices stim-

ulated by the McKinley tariff enact-ment of 1890. But, on the other hand,

labor is well employed, and the inde-

favorable to the Democracy, confesses

that the expecied is that the Republi-

majority.

Last week the Catholic Total Abstinence Union held its thirty-first annual convention at Dubuque, Ia., having been organized at Baltimore in 1872. This Roman Catholic organization has a membership of 85,729. This society is proud of the fact that the pope in a letter to the clergy of the United States pronounced "the practice of total abstinence" to be "the proper and truly efficaclous remedy for the prevailing vice of drunkemess." "The more strongly will all be induced to put this bridle on the appetite," continued the head of the Roman Catholic Church, "the greater are the dignity and influence of those who give the example." Accordingly, he admonished pastors to "do their best to drive the plague of intemperance from the fold of Christ by assiduous preaching and exhortation, and to shine before all as models of abstinence." The National secretary of this society, the Rev. Alexander P. Doyle, looks forward to the time when "drinking customs shall be made odious and the frequentation of saloons shall grow to be disreputable." It is certain that everywhere there is increasing abstinence or at least increasing temperance. Total abstainers, even among clubmen, are now becoming frequent. This is due largely to the fact that business circles no longer tolerate the practice of tippling, and something perhaps to the fact that the increasing practice of athletics has convinced young men otherwise incredulous that the highest state of athletic perfection was inconsistent

with even a moderate use of alcohol. The protest of a correspondent against having carpets and rugs cleaned upon a public street corner is well based. There is an ordinance that forbids this practice, if we mistake not. If so, it is the duty of the Health Department to see that it is enforced. There is no other menace quite so dangerous to health, and the possibilities of which are so disgusting to contemplate, as that connected with beating, shaking and airing carpets and rugs where the germs of tuberculosis and other diseases only less appalling are liable to be given in impalpable dust to the air. If this practice prevails at the corner of Park and Hoyt streets, as charged by this correspondent, let it be stopped by the duly constituted authorities.

West Teaching Wall Street.

No one here pretends to say that the Western contingent has exceeded its rights so far, or that it has done anything which has the appearance of lliegality There are many in this city who rejoice Kitchener, by the leading statesmen of somewhat that this Western contingent has disturbed the complacency, the self-satis-faction, the sense of superiority in knowledge, experience and position which have been characteristic of some men of influence who were born in New York, or who early came to this city. The feeling is that it may do them good to learn that they do not monopolize all knowledge or all authority. In another way that lesson was learned at the time of the Civil War. when the greater generalship, that of those who compassed the victory in the end, was from men who came out of the then unconsidered West. That lesson, too, was learned in politics, supremely taught to Seward, Evarts, Greeley and the always been devoted to the religious or-ders, and was intensely loyal to the the same lesson is to be taught to our

THE DIRECT PRIMARY.

The Springfield Republican prints the following letter from a correspondent in

Minneapolis: "Some time since I sought to restrain you from too arduous hoping in tion with the new primary election and nominating invention which this town had the distinction of originating and giving its first trial. I sought to give the idea that the whole town was not so carried away with the distinction as to prevent all of its voters from withholding their heels from contact with the ground until the results should proclaim themselves; that a system which compelled the voter to wear a party straitjacket at the pri-maries and led at once to the selling of so much space by the newspapere in ad vertising the virtues of candidates might be ideal to some minds, but couldn't catch the doubting Thomases offhand. "When the results of the primaries were made known, we found we had renomi-nated for one county office a salaried offi-

cer against whom a sult was pending for appropriating some \$10,000 of fees illegally. The suit was sidetracked for election purposes, but the Supreme Court has finally ordered him to cash in. Another county officer was renominated and elected, and has been since removed from office for misappropriation of fees. The fact of his having since the exposure restored some \$10,000 is supposed to account for his es-caping conviction at the trials which fol-lowed. Both were Republicans. A candidate for District Judge was nominated by each party, either of whom would hardly have been chanced by the old-time conventions. In the city the Mayor is head of the Police Department, and little more. The Common Council and several boards, to some of which the Mayor be-longs, ex officio, do the rest. Last term the Mayor was a Democrat, under whom the police had been confessedly better handled than for many years. It was, however, at this election considered essential to certain 'business interests' to pre-vent the re-election of Governor Lind, who had showed a dangerous tendency to promote the assessment of 'privileges' at market rates, or at the same ratio thereto as is paid by private property, and to do similar things that might 'unsettle values.' So, therefore, when 'Genial Doctor or 'Doc' Ames announced his candidacy for the Republican nomination for Mayor, there were wide mouths and eyes, for the candidate was not unknown, hav ng' served thrice as Mayor aforetime. There were even those among the voters who boldly declared that he had a surplus of reputation, and this sentiment was strong enough to lead to the nomination of an independent candidate 'by petition -gentleman with prohibition proclivities A goodly majority, however, both at pri maries and polls, deemed it necessary to 'strengthen the party' in every way in a Presidential year, and so we have 'the

e' for Mayor "About his first official act was to re place an even half of the police force with his friends. A brother, a hero of the Philippine War, was made Chief. He shortly announced at a meeting of a rominent club that he was about to cleanse the city pay-rolls of all but Re-publican names, and that he had taken a prominent 'liberal' divine (at the time on the platform) into political partnership with him. But now a grand jury singularly lacking in patriotism has been in ession, a body to whom the good name, of the ar-, of the police, is naught. I cannot bring myself to tell why, but this Mayor, this Chief, and some half dozen 'captains' and detectives have been indictd, and they seem to be convicted as fast as tried, too.

"But we still have the new way of nominating candidates."

An Estimate of Tracy.

St. Louis Globe-Democrat, The inglorious ending of the career of the convict and outlaw Tracy by suicide effectually deprived him of a place in the pantheon of crime. It may be assumed that he was effectually trapped, and that pendent press, which is on the whole that he was enectually trapped, and that escape was impossible. The worst that could happen to him was to be shot to death, or, if wounded and taken alive, to be subsequently executed. A great criminal would have taken the chance of cans will carry the House by a reduced escaping the penalties of the law. Self-destruction was not a brave act in the circumstances; rather does it indicate an unexpected depth of moral and physical cowardice, which makes Tracy a very ommonplace ruffian and deprives him of what little syn enathy would have gone out to him had he taken "what was coming to him" as a brave, if wicked, man should have done. He would not have shot himself if he had not been afraid;

he would not have been afraid if he had been a really great criminal. Very few sensational murderers are great criminals. Mostly they are coward-ly brutes at heart. Tracy was no ex-ception. In killing himself he rendered society a service, but if he had been what he wanted to be considered he would have given society as much trouble as possible. If wounded beyond the power of further resistance he would have looked forward to the possibilities of de-lays in his conviction, planned fresh escapes, and experienced a gruesome satisfaction in the thought that his final exit from the world would be under conditions which most great criminals con-sider highly creditable. He was not of the stuff which the heroes of crime are made of. In the last analysis he was a despicable coward with the insatiable blood lust of a carnivorous beast.

A Peer's Serenity.

London News. Mr. W. L. Jackson, M. P., who now be-omes a peer, is remarkable for a slow. measured utterance and an imperturbable serenity. When he was Chief Secretary for Ireland he baffled the pertinacity of Nationalist members at question time by ropeating, in reply to supplementary questions, the answer which he had just read to the question on the paper. Thus: "The hon, member cannot have noticed the nature of my reply to the hon, memr for — . My answer was —," and en he would read it again. Occasionally Mr. Jackson would get as far as a fourth or a fifth repetition, and would carefully state, to the general amusement, the number that he had reached. All this was done with a perfect freedom from impa-tience and a masterly deliberation that were fully appreciated by a laughter-lov-

The Ficecer Fleeced. Life.

'You have been victimized," we say to the honest rustic, who is proudly display-ing the gold brick he has brought home

from the city.
"You have been victimized," This is but an imitation gold brick the man has sold you."
"Sold me?" he repeats, shrewdly, "Sold? Weil, I guess not. I traded him canta-loupes for that."

Laughing the merry, care-free laugh of conscious victory, he chirrups to old Dob-bin, and goes on down the pike.

Decay of British Society.

London Rambler Pifty years ago London society was se-lect. Conversation was an art cultivated most carefuly. Every one had time to talk, and talked to the point. Politics were discussed judiciously, and women's opinions were received with attention. There was none of the continual chaft that now makes up nearly the whole conversational powers of most people, entirely destroying real wit and humor.

What Did He Expect?

"This suit doesn't fit me at all," com-plained the customer, dropping in at the shop the next day. "My dear sir," said the merchant tailor, what do you suppose we keep a high-

Unele Jerry.

"I notice," said Uncle Jerry Peebles, "that William J. Bryan keeps on howlin calamity and pocketin' prosperity."

priced London journeyman here for?"

THE CABLE AGREEMENT.

Chicago Post. Congress made no mistake when it re-lected the bill for an "all-American Gov-ernment cable to Hawall, China and the Philippines. The advocates of Govern-ment construction and operation objected to a private cable system on various grounds, but their strongest argument was the danger of extortion and abuse of monopolistic power. It is, however, al ways possible for the grantor of a special or exclusive franchise to protect the pubor exclusive franchise to protect the public against oppression and abuse. Private enterprise is not to blame for the unsatisfactory results of the present system of managing public utilities. Popular rights and interests are often neglected or deliberately sacrificed by corrupt legislators, but this does not discredit the principle of private enterprise (duly and reasonably regulated) in the field of public

utilittes. The proposition of the Pacific Cable mpany, as modified by the Attorney-General and the President, insures infi-nitely better terms and conditions than a Government cable could possibly have involved. The company gets no subsidy, no financial aid of any sort, from the Gov-ernment. It is to have access to the surveys and soundings of the Navy Department, and of course the Government will undertake the protection of the landing places against foreign attack. This latter guaranty is a mere matter of form, for in any case the Government owes and gives such protection to American citizens. The proposed contract confers no new privileges upon the company in this direction.

On the other hand, the company hinds itself to complete the system by January 1995; to land the cable on American soil only; to give priority to Government busi-ness; to surrender control to the Government in times of National emergency; to sell the system to the Nation at any time on appraisal by five arbitrators; to enter into no combination for the purpose of arbitrarily regulating rates; to charge not nore than 50 cents a word to Ho and \$1 a word to Manila, and to give the overnment half rates on all official messages. There are other stipulations, which may be passed over as of minor impor-

Surely even the unconscious "Nationaliwill admit the excellence of this arrangement. The service will be better in every respect than under Govrnment operation, and the evils of private monopoly are obviated by the Me find that neither the farmers nor necessary degree of control. Congress the railroads are to blame, so, of course, may suggest additional stipulations, but it must be the exporters. Yes, let's give is tolerably safe to predict the ratifica-tion of this equitable and businesslike agreement. Here is a valuable object lesso nto franchise grabbers and to Na-tionalizationists and municipalizationists. There is a golden mean between unregulated private monopoly and Government

Puritanism in Literature.

Macmillan's Magazine. What has been the value of the Puritan influence upon American literature as a whole? If yet but half developed, this litrature certainly exists, and the first and most powerful influence which has molded its youth has been the all-pervasive shadow of that austere Calvinism which has affected, if not on the surface, at least by undercurrents, the work of wellnigh every writer who was born under its ban. Some of its effects have, indeed, been excellent. One is a certain moral cleanness which distinguishes the works of American writers over those of every other nation, and stands out in marked contrast to much of the literature of England and still more of that of the Continent. But on the other hand Puri tanism has much to answer for. To its influence can be traced many of the defects that are observable in American lit-erature. In that literature in general there is little that is rich or rare, too much that is commonplace and simple. Cold Calvinism has chilled the imagination, and it is only where the warmer blood of the South has had play, as in Poe or Lanier, that a more generous color has been given to the work.

A Lincoln Story.

Chicago News. One day in the Summer of 1857 Abraham Lincoln was sitting in his office when he was visited by one of his neighbors, an tion. excellent farmer, but one inclined to in-crease the size of his crops even after harvesting. He had given on this particular morning a skillfully padded account of the hay he had put in. "I've been cutting hay, too," remarked Mr. Lincoln. "Why, Abe are you farming?"
"Yes." "What you raise?" "Just hay."
"Good crop this year?" "Excellent."
"How many tons?" "Well, I don't know just how many tons, Simpson, but my men stacked all they could outd and then stored the rest in the barn."

PERSONS WORTH KNOWING ABOUT. Adelina Patti is among those who seats for the Wagner performances at Bayreuth

this month. The best-paid native opera-singer in Russia is the tenor, Saobinoff. He gets 24,000 rubies a year-about as much as Jean de Reszke gets in America in three weeks.

A Paris journal relates that Prince Metter A Pairs Journal relates that Prince Metter-nich once asked Jules Janin for his autograph. Janin took a sheet of paper and wrote over his signature: "Good for a hundred bottles of Johannesburg to be placed in my cellar." The Prince sent them.

An attempt is being made by O. P. Austin, chief of the Bureau of Statistics in the Treasury Department, to improve the collection of domestic trade statistics. Dr. J. T. Crowell, an expert attached to the bureau, has been sent to some of the principal cities to confer with members of boards of trade and others as to the establishment of improved methods. Judge Nathan Goff, who has just denied the

Judge Nathan Goff, who has just denied the application for writs of habeas corpus in the cases of the miners who were sent to jail for contempt by Judge Jackson, has been a Federal Judge since 1802. In 1851 Judge Goff was appointed Secretary of the Navy. He was a member of Congress for four terms, and was twice a candidate for Governor of West Virginia. He is 59 years old. He is a Republican. Of the 10.500 kilometers covered by Sven Hedin on his recent tour, 2600 were through regions never before explored. He brought home more than 3000 photographs. It will take him two years to work up his literary material, first in a book of travel for the general public, then in scientific treatises. In the meantime he has been asked to lecture before all the important geographical societies in Europe. After portant geographical societies in Europe. After finishing his books he intends to start at once on a new voyage of discovery in Central Asia. After

Too Late. "Dowgins, Dowgias, tendir and treu." Dinah Maria Mulock Craik.

ould re come back to me. Douglas, Douglas, In the old likeness that I knew, would be so faithful, so loving, Douglas, Douglas, Douglas, tender and true.

Never a scornful word should grieve ye I'd amile on ye aweet as the angels do; weet as your smile on me shone ever,

Oh, to call back the days that are not! My eyes were blinded, your words were few. Do you know the truth now, up in heaven, Douglas, Douglas, tender and true?

never was worthy of you, Douglas; Not half worthy the like of you; Now all men beside seem to me like shadows-I love you, Douglas, tender and true Stretch out your hand to me, Douglas, Douglas,

ts I lay my heart on your dead heart. Douglas, Douglas, Douglas, tender and true!

Drop forgiveness from heaven like dew

Oliver Goldsmith.
When lovely woman stoops to folly
And finds too late that men betray-What charm can soothe her melancholy, What art can wash her guilt away?

The only art her guilt to cover, To hide her shame from every eys, To give repentance to her lover And wring his bosom, is-to die.

The Prizefighter. Washington Star.
That mighty idol of our youth,
How pitsously it quakes!
For when he talks he speaks untruth,
And when he fights he fakes.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

It never rains in Oregon in dry weather. No hat is too disreputable-looking to be

Panama. Tracy has been identified; but have any

of his pictures? The Boers are to be lionized-with the

British lion outside. Kitchener is now a hero. That's noth-

ing. Just remember Lord Roberta. Wonder if the Lewis and Clark board

is looking for a site up Salt Creck? Another of Abraham Lincoln's close friends has died, but that does not diminish the number.

Of course, the Haytlan cable hasn't been cut. How could there be a revolution in Hayti without it? "Baffled, but not beaten," may take

a man no nearer the north pole than the Presidency. Ask Bryan. We trust that the Fair site, the fire-

boat and the Alaska steamship line are not among the junk issues. If to be a private citizen is the highest honor of an American, just think to what

degredation Bryan has stooped. The mail is fast, the telephone is faster, but swearing is instantaneous, and even then you have to wait for central for an

answer.

The only way to reduce armaments is by means of more armaments. It is a simple question of survival of the strongest armaments.

Union coal strikers were reported as having resolved to cut off the ears of "scabs." But would they make their victims deaf to reason?

Perhaps the farther off we go for a Fair site the better. But it was the knocker who said that distance would lend enchantment.

We find that neither the farmers nor It to the exporters.

Some I-told-you-so hopgrowers would not have been so wise had prices gong down instead of up - or perhaps they would have been wiser. It is said that Funston did not swim

the river. Now we understand how ho was a hero and let others talk about it. The mystery is cleared up. Although Citizen Bryan is not a candidate, he would have the party know that it shall have no other candidate before

sphere of influence The Boston Transcript declares that there have been "too many expositions, and that the country has had a surfeit of them." Perhaps we shall be saying the same thing after our Lewis and Clark

him. Everybody is warned to keep off his

affair is over. Four American teachers in Cuba have been killed by the natives. Evidently the natives have the making of good citizens. Of course, they went beyond the limit of the American youth, but they will learn better by benevolent assimila-

tion. If Governor Geer could think of a way to boll down those votes that were marked (mechanically) for him on the Australian ballot into votes for Geer on the roll-call in the joint session of the Legislature, he doubtless would be getting the pot ready for the fire. But those votes are too unsubstantial for inspisan-

The Standard Oil Company threatens move its big tanks from Portland the city crowds it outside the city. Of course, such a threat is a stunning ouc, the company move out, eevn if it threat-

ens to do so. Cubs submitted to the Platt amendmen imiting its independence on condition that the United States give trade concossions. The United States has broken its agreement, but persists in keeping Cuba bound. This is the whole situation in a nutshell. Cubs, of course, owes everything to Uncle Sam, but that does not excuse Uncle Sam's failure to live up to his contract.

Treachery and murder of our soldiers in the Island of Mindanao, with every circumstance of atrocity and horror, are again reported. Yet when our people there retaliate and punish such acts, an outery goes up from our pseudo-philan-thropic antis. Cruelties doubtless have been committed by our soldiers, in retallation for acts a hundred times more numerous and atrocious which they and friendly natives have suffered, but in almost every state of this enlightened and compassionate country lynchings have been reported within recent years more horrible than anything charged against our soldlers in the Philippines. The forbearance and human'ty of our soldiers, under trying circumstances, have been great, Indeed.

PLEASANTRIES OF PARAGRAPHERS

His Object.—Citiman—I see you raise your own vegetables. Suburbanite—No! I simply plant a small garden so as to keep the chick-ens at home.—Life.

Hard Lines.—What did your old uncle leave?" "A lot of disgusted relatives, and a jubliant young widow we'd never heard of be-fore."—Philadelphia Press. "Tes, Riggins is going to send his daughter across the water for her voice." "Thinks it will be cultivated in Europe". "No; he's got an idea that maybe she'll lose if on the way."

an idea that mayor she'll lose it on the way.

Baltimore News.

Fame.—"Why do you think your town is entitled to distinction?" asked the tourist. "Because, stranger," responded the native, "we
barred out automobiles and refused a Carnegle
library."—Chicago Daily News.

Ve. I thought you used to have a parcot? She

He—I thought you used to have a parrot? She
—We did. "What's become of it?" "Dead."
"What was the matter?" "Oh we lived so
close to the golf links I guess the poor thing
died of envy."—Tonkers Statesman.

Early Hours.—City Boarder (at farmhouse)— Do you still use candles here? Mr. Hay-seed-No, sirree. In the Winter we use a lamp. Don't need it in Summer, you know. It's bedtime before it gits dark.—New York

"May the Wing of Friendship Never Moult a Feather."—"Did you remember to call and in-quire after dear Mrs. Boreham?" "Yes; but I quite forget what the answer fas."

of no consequence. I'm so glad you inque-Punch. Sapient Suggestion.-"If we dig this canal across the ithmus," inquires the erudite Sena-tor, "what will we do when a volcano begins erupting alongside the right of way? "Turu the canal into the volcano," suggests the pruc-

tical Senator.-Judge. The Right Man.—Mr. Oldsport—So you want to marry my daughter, ch? Do you drink? Young Uptodate—Like a fish. Mr. Oldsport—

I come Uptorate—Like a nat. Ar. Oldsport— Smoke and gamble, too, I suppose. Toung Up-todate—Certainty, sir. Mr. Oldsport—Then take her, by all means, my boy. She and her mother will now give up trying to reform me when rou're around.—Brooklyn Life.