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YESTERDAY'S WEATHER—Maximum temperature, 42 deg.; minimum, 39. Precipitation, 0.38 inch.

TODAY'S WEATHER—Occasional rain; southerly winds.

PORTLAND, SATURDAY, FEB. 13, 1904.

INTERVENTION IN SANTO DOMINGO.

Recent events make it clear that soon or late the United States will be obliged to interfere in the affairs of Santo Domingo. During the recent Venezuela difficulty the European powers intimated pretty plainly that if the United States would not police the Republics of Central and South America, Hayti and Santo Domingo, they would be obliged to do so. This was not officially expressed, but the press of Europe said the Monroe Doctrine carried responsibilities as well as benefits with it. If the United States will not allow Europe to intervene in the affairs of these republics to suppress chronic disorder and establish a stable government, then Europe has a right to expect that the United States will discharge its implied responsibility for keeping the peace in Caribbean countries. This plea on the part of Europe is well put and cannot honorably be treated with indifference if we expect the powers of Europe to continue religiously to respect the Monroe Doctrine.

Secondly, it is absolutely necessary to the security of the Nicaragua Canal that the United States should obtain naval domination of the Caribbean Sea. To this end the possession of the Bay of Samana, in Santo Domingo, has for fifty years been a subject of negotiation; off and on, between the Dominican government and the United States authorities. In 1854, under the Democratic Administration of Franklin Pierce, Captain George B. McClellan was sent by the War Department to study the military advantages of this harbor and his report was enthusiastically favorable. Under resolutions of Congress, approved January 2, 1871, President Grant sent three commissioners to Santo Domingo. The real object of this commission's inquiry was Samana Bay. A great majority of the republic had asked the United States to annex Santo Domingo. The report of the commission was favorable, but Congress failed to take action on the report, and the scheme was bitterly opposed by Charles Sumner and Carl Schurz in the United States Senate because they were personally hostile to President Grant and because they were both bitter anti-expansionists.

Schurz, who survives, is of the same faith today, and while Sumner is dead, it is safe to say that his disembodied spirit, whether it fled to bliss or wóe, is still opposed to the expansion of heaven or the enlargement of hades. But President Grant was right, as he always was in matters of large National consequence. As Mayor Williams once said of him, that while in small things he was a commonplace man, Grant in large affairs was a large man. He had an intensely practical mind, as all sound soldiers have had; he was prompt to urge the Nicaragua Canal; he saw the vicious quality of the inflation bill and vetoed it. He vetoed the equalization of bounties bill, pointed out the vast future importance of our trade with China and the desirability of our country keeping on good terms with that country, and set forth the value of the Bay of Samana as a great American naval station in the West Indies.

Grant saw that we were sure to become a great naval power, because he felt sure we would build the Nicaragua Canal. If we built it we must be prepared to defend it; we could not defend it without a powerful navy, and that navy could not control and dominate the Caribbean Sea without a great naval station and ample harbor like Samana Bay, which, considered strategically or commercially, is the most advantageous position in the West Indies. It is thirty miles long by about ten wide; is capable of accommodating the largest fleets and ships of the greatest draft; the entrance to the bay is narrow, but free from rocks and shoals; this bay commands the Mona passage, the most important avenue from the Atlantic to the Caribbean. As a naval station Samana Bay would surpass in strength and importance the combined naval stations of Great Britain at Bermuda, St. Lucia and Barbadoes. In 1874 Samana Bay was formally ceded to a private United States corporation, but a year later all rights of the company lapsed for nonpayment of rent. An American military and naval commission ought to be able to secure to the United States this Santo Domingo harbor, by which the United States could become the dominant naval power in the Caribbean Sea. If the United States cannot obtain this by present negotiation, it would naturally enough follow our intervention to restore order in both divisions of the island that is inevitable soon or late.

A few months ago, when a German cruiser destroyed a rebel Haytian gunboat for robbing a German merchant vessel of a supply of arms, Europe expressed surprise that the United States permitted chronic anarchy to prevail in this island. The United States needs Samana Bay and St. Thomas harbor to complete our strategical advantage for defending the main approaches to the Caribbean Sea, the Gulf of Mexico and the Panama Canal in case of war. We could doubtless obtain a long lease of Samana Bay, and it is desirable to do so, because Europe expects us to police all these turbulent anarchical little republics, and if we neglect this duty Europe may insist on performing it, and then the Monroe Doctrine would draw us into strife. Within the last twenty months six of these turbulent little republics have had serious revolutions. We cannot afford to permit Latin-American adventurers to use the Monroe Doctrine as a mask for dishonest dealings with Europe, and our Government has already informed them that it will not stand between them and punishment for misconduct. But the United States cannot expect Europe to respect the Monroe Doctrine unless we police and keep decent order in these Latin-American States with whom intermittent revolution has become a popular recreation. Santo Domingo is the nearest neighbor of our Porto Rico, and Hayti is distant but a few miles from Cuba. These black republics represent the lowest civilization in the Western Hemisphere. The United States will be compelled, soon or late, to police this island of Hayti and compel the establishment of reasonable order and a stable form of government.

OUR DUTIES AS NEUTRALS.

The President's declaration of neutrality serves to draw attention to the change of naval warfare from a free-for-all, rough-and-tumble scrap into a fight under rules as binding as those that keep green the fame of a certain Marquis of Queensberry. In former days, when nations were at war, all the ships on both sides took part in the fighting. When Spain and England struggled for oversea commerce and dominion, it was enough for the Spaniard that a vessel flew St. George's cross, and the English skipper looked upon a vessel displaying the "blood and gold" colors as his lawful prey. In later days the merchant vessel pursued her way as peacefully as the "acts of God or of the King's enemies" would permit. She carried a few guns so that she might not prove too tempting a quarry for the enemy's privateers, which had become the licensed freebooters of the sea. After the downfall of Napoleon there was no great naval fighting, and the sentiment, which had been steadily growing in favor of limiting fighting to regular combatant forces found its first expression in an order-in-council made by Great Britain in 1854 at the beginning of the Crimean War. In this order-in-council Great Britain agreed to "waive her maritime rights" and to do away with privateering. Two years later the Declaration of Paris bound the signatory nations to abolish privateering, an agreement that has now been made by every nation except the United States, Spain and Mexico. The declaration embodied these four points:

The abolition of privateering.

A neutral flag covers an enemy's goods (except contraband).

Neutral goods (except contraband) are safe in an enemy's ship.

Blockades must be effective.

The United States did not join in this declaration, not because it did not approve of the proposals, but because it did not consider them far-reaching enough. It was held by our authorities that all private property at sea should be exempt from capture. The principles of the Declaration, however, have been followed in every war since 1856, including the Civil War, and thus fighting is now confined to the navies of belligerents. This, of course, will render nations anxious to make fast merchant vessels part of the navy as a means of sweeping the enemy's flag from the seas.

The United States has been generally recognized as the steadfast champion of the rights of neutrals. In the President's proclamation he cites the provisions of the law of 1818, which is practically a re-enactment of a law passed in 1794. One of the most important provisions therein is that prohibiting the "increasing or augmenting" of the force of any war vessel belonging to a belligerent that may enter United States waters. How advanced is the view taken by this law is shown by the fact that the British law of neutrality is declared by so eminent a parliamentarian as Sir William Vernon Harcourt to be a transcript of the American.

It is the duty of a neutral power to use due vigilance in enforcing the laws regarding neutrality. It is thus the duty of the United States Government to prevent—as noted in the Presidential proclamation—Americans from assisting in raising forces in American territory for Japan or Russia; to prevent vessels suitable for warfare from being fitted out in American waters, and generally to prevent aid being afforded one side or the other from American territory. Laxity in carrying out these obligations would render the Nation liable for the resulting damages, as evidenced by the Alabama case.

The recognized international usage regarding coal is the most important development of later years. The possession of frequent coaling stations has become an absolute necessity to the country that would wage a naval warfare far from its home ports. The use of colliers at sea furnishes a precarious method of overcoming the lack of coaling stations, but heavy weather would render the colliers unavailable and the ships of war would be likely to find themselves adrift and helpless. Already in the present war a Russian ship has found herself caught at Port Said, and was allowed—in accordance with the usage laid down in the President's proclamation—coal enough to take her to her nearest home port. The rumors that the Baltic fleet is to be sent to the East may be taken with more than a grain of salt. Lack of coal would stop the ships before they had reached the Suez Canal.

In matter of financial endurance of the strain of war, European authorities agree that while Russia has always a shallow army chest compared with Great Britain, Germany or France, nevertheless that Russia's purse is longer than Japan's; that she could pay after Japan was bankrupt. Even if the Russians lost control of the sea, they could leave Port Arthur to defend itself for months, which it could easily do, and force the Japanese to attack them in Manchuria. The Russians, after garrisoning Port Arthur and Vladivostok and guarding the Manchurian railways, could perhaps oppose 150,000 good troops to the Japanese army of 200,000 regulars. The Yalu River Valley and the Liao Tung Peninsula would probably be the scene of the earlier land operations. The Russians could fall back, if necessary, along the railroad to the north, disputing the Japanese advance. Manchuria contains 362,000 square miles; it is 800 miles from Port Arthur to Amur River. The Russians could fight a defensive campaign along that whole distance. The Cossacks as effective mounted soldiers are superior to the Japanese cavalry, which is so weak and inferior as to be almost worthless. In a short, sharp war the Japanese might succeed against a Russian army of not more than equal numbers; but if it is to be a long-drawn-out contest, Russia can get plenty of men and she has a longer purse than Japan. A nation of the resources of Russia, even when her finances are in a bad condition, can obtain money and credit longer than a nation like Japan. Japan is not only a comparatively small country, but a very poor country, and she has been obliged to tax her people already up to the limit to organize her army and navy and modernize her government. Japan cannot possibly stand the strain of a long war as well as Russia unless she were able to imitate Napoleon and make war support war. Russia is like a rich man deeply in debt but the possessor of undeveloped resources so large and rich and various that he is never without credit; but Japan is like a poor man that has lived up to his means and is not likely to be any richer in the near future.

GIVE THEM TIME.

It is likely that one of the colonies of Boers who are looking for homes in the United States will be located in Montana. General Gideon Joubert has been in that state for some time, "spying out the land," and thinks favorably of a section in the western part of Valley County, where sufficient land in one body can be secured to accommodate a colony of 500 homeseekers. There is a generous disposition to welcome these people to Montana. The list of Boer characteristics includes industry, honesty and love of liberty—qualities that are essential to good citizenship. Furthermore, the Boer is said to abhor debt and to love home. While in point of fact the Boers know little about home in the American sense of that term, it is urged that they will in a few years through contact with American life and its institutions develop the homebuilding faculty and leave the traditions of the African veldt as well as its noisome habitations behind them.

This will be less true in colony life, with its clannish tendencies and relative exclusiveness, than it would be in individual life in American communities. It will take several generations to infuse through colony life, in which the habits and traditions of the people will be embalmed, so to speak, the atmosphere of free and progressive American homes. However, since colonies of these people will no doubt settle in various sections of the country, it is well to take the philosophical and even an optimistic view of the matter, which is embodied in the assurance, as voiced by the Montana Record, that the Boers will make good customers for the merchants, good neighbors, good friends and eventually good citizens.

If they are content to be farmers, stockraisers and home-builders for a term of years, eschewing all political ambition, all intermeddling with matters of government, until they come to understand and appreciate our institutions, especially our public school system and our guarantee of freedom in religious matters, they will eventually stand for good citizenship in its broader significance. Give these people time—and it will take time—to outgrow their narrow ideas of liberty; to learn from observation and from contact with a growing people that growth is a vital principle, without which life becomes mere gross existence, and to expand the idea of a shelter and an abiding-place into that of home in its enlightened sense, and they will become Americans in reality and remain Boers only in memory.

LOCAL OPTION FOR SALOONS.

Voters of Oregon will decide at the general election in June whether this state shall have a local option liquor law. Upon the petition of over 8000 qualified electors, a local option law has been proposed by initiative, and the measure will be enacted or rejected by the people without any action whatever upon the part of the Legislature. A majority of all votes cast upon that subject will determine the result, and in this respect the election will differ from those in which constitutional amendments have been submitted to the people by the Legislature. In order to adopt a constitutional amendment a majority of all the votes cast at the election was required, so that a ballot not marked upon the subject submitted counted as a negative vote. In elections under the initiative and referendum, whether upon laws or constitutional amendments, only a majority of the ballots marked upon the subject submitted is necessary.

The proposed local option law provides that upon petition of 10 per cent of the legal voters of any county, subdivision of a county or precinct, the County Clerk shall submit to a vote of the people the question whether the sale of intoxicating liquors shall be prohibited in such county or subdivision. Two or more precincts may make up a subdivision of a county. Elections under the local option law are to be held on the first Monday in June of any year, but in 1904 may be held in connection with the Presidential election in November. When the prohibition question has been once settled in the affirmative it cannot be submitted again for two years. Violation of the law is made punishable by fine of from $50 to $500, or imprisonment from ten to 30 days, and by both fine and imprisonment for second or subsequent offenses. Circuit Judges and District Attorneys are required to see that the law is enforced, and peace officers are authorized to proceed under search warrants to search for evidence of violation of the law. Persons who purchase intoxicating liquors are declared to be competent witnesses.

The measure thus briefly outlined is an important one, for, if enacted, elections will be held in every county in the state under its provisions. This is not in itself a prohibitory law, but is a measure intended to give to the people of each precinct or county the power to say whether the liquor traffic shall be conducted in such political subdivision. It is a step in the direction of prohibition and, in a measure, opens up the whole saloon question. There remain over three months in which the proposed law may be discussed, and in that time every voter can and should prepare to vote intelligently upon the matter when submitted to him next June. Copies of the law will be placed in the hands of County Clerks for free distribution early next month, and it is understood that a vigorous campaign will be conducted in favor of the enactment of the law. The fact that in two weeks over 8000 voters signed petitions asking that the law be submitted is alone sufficient to entitle the proposed law to a careful and fair consideration.

That the law will meet strong opposition is certain, for it opposes some heavy personal interests and is also regarded by some temperance people as not being an expedient measure. Local option laws have been enacted in several other states with results beneficial or detrimental according to the opinion of the man who makes an argument. In the campaign which will soon begin there should be an effort to get at the facts rather than prejudiced opinions. The friends of the local option law owe it to the voters to submit facts showing results in other states. Opponents of the law will have but a weak argument if they make the sweeping assertion that prohibition has been a failure in Maine or Kansas without taking into account the difference between prohibition and local option. The question at issue is one upon which honest, reasonable men may differ in opinions, and the discussion should be conducted with that fact in mind.

Sir Henry Blake found, in the course of his efforts to stamp out the plague in Hong Kong, that the Chinese are a wily people and averse to sanitation. Chinese were dying like flies, but objected to having their houses disinfected. The dead were cast into the streets to avoid medical inquiries, fumigation and compulsory cleanliness. When it was discovered that 25 per cent of the rats of the city had the plague and were the means of scattering it, the government offered a reward for all dead rats that had a tag attached showing in what house they were caught. By examining the rats it could be learned, Governor Blake thought, what houses needed disinfection. But the scheme only made an opportunity for the deceitful rat-catchers. They levied a tax on all Chinese householders, and such as did not pay up promptly soon saw infected rats in piles before their doors with tags indicating their addresses. This brought a speedy visit of the sanitary corps, which ransacked the premises. Thereupon the householders combined to wreck all the traps in the city, so that few were caught. This, however, did not lessen the income of the rat-catchers, who imported rats from the country and sold them to Sir Henry at a good profit. "For ways that are dark and tricks that are vain the heathen Chinee is peculiar."

Calling attention to the 8597 suicides in the United States last year and the 584 victims of one theater fire, the Railway Age thinks the loss of life yearly from railway accidents, though regrettably large, is comparatively small. There were 711,617,000 passengers carried, of whom but 164 were killed in train accidents and 157 lost their lives from other causes connected with railway operations. Of 1,333,000 railway employes but 1241 were killed, which is bad enough, but not nearly so bad as the year's 8976 murders. The Chicago Tribune finds that in the last three years in the United States there were 26,762 murders, 24,132 suicides and 8390 drownings, while the whole number killed on or about railroads from all causes was 10,954. It may be observed, however, that all these figures are too large or ought to be reduced by the exercise of ordinary virtues.

A provision inserted in the urgent deficiency bill authorizes the President to consolidate non-paying customs districts, classifying into ports and subports, so as to reduce the cost of collecting tariff revenue. At present, according to the Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, there are forty-seven customs districts where it costs over a dollar to collect a dollar, owing to the number of persons employed, whereas if such districts were subordinated to other better-paying districts the clerical force could be reduced. At Galena, Ill., for example, it costs $540.07 to collect $1, and there are many districts where the collection of $1 costs $100 or over. The proposed plan of consolidation will reduce the average cost of collecting tariff revenue from all districts from $0.0339 per dollar to something like $0.021, which is the cost in the internal revenue service.

A loss which has more than local significance was that caused by the burning of the Oswego (N. Y.) starch factory on the 10th inst. Hundreds of thousands of bushels of starch and corn were consumed, 600 men were thrown out of employment, and the loss on plant and stock aggregated $1,000,000. In the presence of the great Baltimore fire, in which solid blocks of steel, stone, iron and granite were melted like wax in the intense heat, the Oswego fire was but briefly noted, yet, relatively speaking, it was as significant of loss and suffering and industrial disaster as was that which was told in many columns of newspaper reports.

The report that Russia is attempting to arrange with Turkey and Great Britain to permit the Black Sea fleet to pass through the Dardanelles is probably without foundation. The Black Sea fleet is chiefly composed of what are called coast defense armored war vessels, which are not fit for the service expected of ocean ironclads. Russia in any event could not afford to leave the Black Sea without a naval squadron for defense, for in event of war with Turkey growing out of the decision of Russia and Austria to compel Turkey to quiet the discontent in Macedonia, the Black Sea region would need all its present naval squadron.

The net increase of National bank note circulation of $1,246,828 last week attracts attention to the increase of this form of currency, which now amounts to $427,033,598. The Philippine Islands bonds and other recent issues have widened the basis on which the National banks rest, making their continuance probable for a long time to come. It may be noted in this connection that the public debt increased during January by $915,062, bringing the total interest-bearing debt to $900,470,950. This is exclusive of $967,532,869 in certificates and Treasury notes outstanding.

The Indians of the Quiniault Agency are typical "Holy Rollers." Under the influence of religious excitement they roll from side to side until exhausted. There is no record, however, that they have broken up their furniture, roasted dogs and cats alive, or performed other sacrificial rites which lately made the Corvallis contingent conspicuous as physical demonstrators of "religion." But then the poor Indian is but recently civilized.

THE SABBATH IN THE BIBLE.

Jewish Tribune (Portland.)

Advocating the Sunday closing of the Lewis and Clark Fair, Rev. Edgar P. Hill, D.D., in a sermon preached recently before the First Presbyterian Church, expressed his view that the Sunday opening question is a "religious question. 'God said, 'Remember the Sabbath day to keep it holy.' . . . The principles of Christianity are at stake. . . . It (Sunday-Sabbath) is a matter between God and man. . .'"

Notwithstanding our high esteem for the learned Doctor, truth, plain facts and history compel us to differ from his views. What we contend is:

1. That Sunday opening of any business place is not a "religious question."
2. All the injunctions concerning the "Sabbath Day" refer to the seventh day of the week, and not the first—Sunday.
3. Sunday as a holy day has never constituted a principle of Christianity.
4. Sunday-Sabbath has never been "a matter between God and man."

Here we give the arguments in support of our contentions:

1. At the very creation we read that God "blessed and sanctified" the seventh day of the week, because in it he rested from his work (Genesis ii:2-3). At the instance of the manna the name "Shabboth" instead of the numerical name of the seventh day is first mentioned (Exodus xvi:23). It seems that the Jews kept the Sabbath as a rest day even before the time when the Decalogue was delivered (Idem 28-29). Sabbath was ordered to be kept holy (Idem xx:8), the office of that holiness was to abstain from work and to give rest also to the cattle (Idem 10). The sanctifying of the Sabbath was "not to do in it any work" (Jeremiah xvii:24). The desecration of the Sabbath was doing any kind of work (Nehemiah xiii:15-19).

The Sabbath is a purely Jewish institution, concerning Jews, and Jews only, as "a sign between me (God) and you (Israel)" "the children of Israel shall keep the Sabbath" (Exodus xxxi:13) "and remember that thou wast a servant in the land of Egypt. . . . therefore, the Lord thy God commanded thee to keep the Sabbath day" (Deuteronomy v:15).

The Sabbath is constituted for a humanitarian and sanitary purpose only (Exodus xx:10; Deut. v:14).

Inferring from Jesus' statement that he "came not to destroy the law, but to fulfill," taking also in consideration that when approached for his disciples' desecrating the Sabbath, Jesus offered certain excuses (Matt. xii:14; Mark ii:27); there is no doubt left that he, as a Jew, kept the Jewish Sabbath holy. The Jewish Christians after him also held the Jewish Sabbath holy. (Eusebius H. E. iii:27). When the question arose whether the Jewish Sabbath is binding upon the Gentile Christians, Paul, according to the spirit of the Old Testament, decided in the negative (Colossians ii:16).

2. Sunday, the first day of the week, having been, according to the four evangelists, the day of the resurrection of Jesus, was kept by the first Christians as a feast day. It was the day when they were gathered together "to break bread" (Acts xx:7). There was no preference given to any day of the week above the other days, be it Sunday, Sabbath, or any other day. "One man esteemeth one day above another; another esteemeth every day alike. Let every man be fully persuaded in his own mind" (Romans xiv:5). The observance of any special day of the week, month or seasons of the year, or a year of years is mocked at. "Ye observe days, and months, and seasons, and years. I am afraid of you, lest by any means I have bestowed labor upon you in vain" (Galatians iv:10-11). The observance of the Jewish Sabbath, which is one of the Decalogue, has been annulled (Colossians ii:18). Sunday was only a joyful day in honor of Jesus' resurrection. "We keep the eighth (?) day with joyfulness, the day also in which Jesus rose again from the dead," relates Barnabas (xv). (This Barnabas, as also Clemens, Romanus and Hermus, were supposed to be mentioned in the New Testament, but this supposition was exploded by later criticism.) "Let the slaves work five days, but on the Sabbath day and the Lord's day let them have leisure to go to church for instruction in piety," is a sentence from a book called "Apostolic Constitution" (viii:33), the author of which is not known. The same book recommends that the Sabbath be kept as a memorial feast of the creation, and the Lord's day as a memorial of the resurrection. These two citations prove that never yet was the observance of Sabbath transferred to Sunday.

From Constantine's enactment (321) that all courts of justice, inhabitants of towns and workshops were to be at rest on Sunday, it is plain that till then all kinds of work was not prohibited on Sunday.

From the above plain facts, based on history, we conclude:

1. That Sunday was never recognized by any apostolic authority as a holy day; therefore,
2. Sunday observance could never constitute a principle of Christianity.
3. The Jewish Sabbath—the seventh day of the week—as a sign between God and Israel, instituted for some reasons concerning the Jews only, constitutes a purely Jewish institution, binding only upon the Jew, and, therefore, justly annulled by Paul for the Christians; therefore,
4. The injunctions of the observance of the Jewish Sabbath has never been transferred to Sunday, as Sunday has never been "a matter between God and man."

Neither can we concur with the Doctor's argument that "the Supreme Court has decided that this is a Christian nation," for the following reason: The Nation of the United States is composed of men who admire the "blessing of liberty" (preamble), requiring no religious test to the qualification of becoming a member of our great Nation, or to hold any office or public trust under the United States (Art. vi; Sec. 3), consequently, no Supreme Court could adjudge our Nation "Christian" in the sense as professing the Christian religion. We would be very grateful to the reverend gentleman should he point out where to find that decision.

A View of Senator Hoar.

Chicago Tribune.

The Tribune is able to keep its enthusiasm for Senator Hoar well under control. It holds that he long ago outlived his usefulness as a Senator. He is an obstructionist. His constant motto is, "I object." He doesn't faithfully represent any state in the Union or any considerable part of a state. From the day of the first Chinese exclusion bill, when Mr. Hoar advocated the unlimited immigration of Chinese, so that they might be "converted on the spot," until now, the Senator has been almost constantly "the party of the third part." He is exceedingly popular with the Democratic newspapers, and more often than not gives expression to their views with singular felicity.

Lest He Forget.

New York Sun.

Pinckney had made his famous declaration, "Millions for defense, but not a cent for tribute!"

"Excuse me, sir," insinuated the waiter, "but haven't you forgotten something?"

With a wail of anguish he had to climb down from his high horse.

Enchainment.

Arthur O'Shaughnessy.

I went to her who loveth me no more,
And prayed her bear with me, if so she might;
For I had found day after day too sore,
And tears that would not cease night after night.
And so I prayed her, weeping, that she bore
To let me be with her a little; yea,
To soothe myself a little with her sight,
Who loved me once, ah! many a night and day.

Then she who loveth me no more, maybe
She pitied somewhat: and I took a chain
To bind myself to her, and her to me;
Yea, so that I might call her mine again.
Lo! she forbade me not; but I and she
Fettered her fair limbs, and her neck more fair,
Chained the fair wasted white of love's domain,
And put gold fetters on her golden hair.

Oh! the vain joy it is to see her lie
Beside me once again; beyond release,
Her hair, her hand, her body, till she die,
All mine, for me to do with as I please!
For, after all, I find no chain whereby
To chain her heart to love me as before,
Nor fetter for her lips, to make them cease
From saying still she loveth me no more.

"THE SECRETARY OF PEACE."

Chicago Tribune.

In a speech at the Harvard dinner in Washington on Tuesday Secretary of War Taft facetiously described his own lack of military experience. He said that when he was in Japan the authorities asked him to review the troops and hoped he would wear his uniform. He didn't wear his uniform, and he begged to be excused from putting the soldiers through their maneuvers, expressing himself as completely satisfied of their proficiency in drill. Then he hurried away from the field for fear somebody might ask him the caliber of our Krag-Jorgensen rifle, in which event his own ignorance would be exposed.

The Secretary has the right to his jokes at his own expense, but nobody is disposed to take him at his own valuation nor to deny him the faculties that are needed for the post he holds. He is, indeed, the minister of peace rather than of war. His greatest achievements have been in the direction of securing peace. He pacified the Philippines not merely through the use of the military arm of the Government, but through the wise exercise of those arts of civilization which he knew so well how to employ. He gained the confidence of the natives. He assured them of participation in the administration of their own local affairs. He called them into council, and in many instances sought their advice and deferred to their judgment. While he did not hesitate to employ the troops when necessary to put down insurrection or to exterminate ladronism, he looked to the better impulses of the natives for co-operation with the Government in the humane and just direction of their affairs.

The Secretary of War in the United States has more to do with peace than with war. The Department of Insular Affairs, which by some old evolution became attached to the War Department, has to do with civil governments in time of peace, and it cannot operate efficiently while or where war continues—even in the organization of the Army.

It is not the aim of the Secretary of War to invite conflicts with any nation or power, but to prepare for eventualities, if, through no fault of our own and in spite of all honorable efforts to avert it, war should be forced upon us. That was a thrilling compliment that Lord Wolseley paid us when he said that "man for man," the American Army "was the best in the world." It is a compliment our authorities should constantly endeavor to deserve.

Still, we shall continue to hope that Mr. Taft will always be known as the greatest Minister of Peace the United States has ever had. His inclinations, his education, and his temperament will lead him in that direction. Peace hath her victories, and may our new Secretary of War live long to enjoy them. The people of the United States earnestly pray for peace, but they are always conscious of the fact, now almost passed into a platitude, that the best way to secure it is to be prepared for war.

OUR OBLIGATION TO COREA.

New York Sun.

Yankee sympathy in case of war will vary according to circumstances and individual prepossessions, with the preponderance doubtless favoring, on sentimental grounds, that marvelous young modern power of which Matthew Calbraith Perry, of Rhode Island, was the godfather.

The attitude of the United States Government will be that of absolutely correct neutrality. This is merely saying that the name of the American Secretary of State is John Hay.

It ought not to be forgotten, however, that, apart from all considerations of sentiment or material interest, we are under direct treaty obligations to befriend one of the nations involved in the Far Eastern troubles, and to help that nation if we can and if she asks our assistance.

The nation with which we are thus bound in the closest relations is neither Japan nor Russia; nor again, is it China. It is Corea, the Kingdom of Chosen, and our obligation is in the form of a contract:

There shall be perpetual peace and friendship between the President of the United States and the King of Chosen and the citizens and subjects of their respective governments.

If other powers deal unjustly or oppressively with either government, the other will exert its good offices, on being informed of the case, to bring about an amicable arrangement, thus showing their friendly feelings.

The reciprocal pledge quoted above forms Article I. of our convention with Corea, negotiated in 1882 and ratified by the United States Senate in January, 1883. The treaty is now in force. It was the first treaty ever concluded by the Corean Government with any nation, great or small.

We occupy, therefore, a tutelary and exceptional position with regard to the welfare of the Kindom of Chosen, the country most likely to be dealt with unjustly and oppressively in any conflict between Japan and Russia involving a disturbance of existing conditions in Northeastern Asia.

If Corea is unjustly and oppressively treated by either combatant, we shall no doubt be officially informed of the circumstance. The Corean Government is represented at Washington by an Envoy Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary, Mr. Minhui Cho, assisted by a full-fledged establishment of secretaries, counsellors and attaches.

Don't Disturb the Dead.

Westfall Western Ways.

The Oregonian never lets an opportunity to pass to criticise W. J. Bryan. It attempts to damage his character as a lawyer and as a citizen. It seems to publish Mr. Bryan's misfortunes in a gleeful mood. It criticises his political beliefs and endeavors to lessen his strength with his party. The reason for this is what we are unable to understand. The Commoner, at Lincoln, does not enter in as competition with The Oregonian, so it cannot be in a business sense. Mr. Bryan is not a candidate for any office, and his views and political teachings are foreign to the interests of The Oregonian. That paper will not admit that there is any reasonable hope for Democratic success either under Bryan's leadership or any other wing of that party. The Oregonian would lead us to believe that silver is dead, that the influence of Bryan is dead, then the question is why stir up something dead? Why not give us something alive? A newspaper can criticise an individual for a wrong act and should do so, but this course of The Oregonian comes pretty nearly being continuous persecution of a private citizen. Bryan may be wrong in his political opinions, but this is not sufficient cause to prompt The Oregonian's continuous attacks.

Granddaughter Goose.

New York Sun.

Little Boy Blue was blowing his horn.

"It's the only thing to do," he lisped. "If you don't have a press agent, nobody hears of you."

Herein we see the early origin of the custom.

The Old Woman who lived in a shoe volunteered the reason.

"It was the only apartment I could find that wasn't ruled by a janitor," she said.

Little Jack Horner sat in a corner.

"I'm only waiting," he explained. "As soon as sister's beau comes I'm going to get under the sofa."

Fame, however, snapshotted him before he accomplished his purpose.

Rose Aylmer.

Walter Savage Landor.

Ah what avails the sceptred race,
Ah what the form divine!
What every virtue, every grace!
Rose Aylmer, all were thine.
Rose Aylmer, whom these wakeful eyes
May weep, but never see,
A night of memories and of sighs
I consecrate to thee.

NOTE AND COMMENT.

Selling liquor to minors appears to have made something drop around the Dewdrop.

Colds are epidemic, and to listen to any group of sneezing citizens is to believe localities at the seat of war are being discussed.

How infantile it must make foreigners feel to fire salutes in honor of the accession of the Japanese Emperor Jimmu, who ascended the throne 2564 years ago.

Of proofs that the army's the Russian's pride,
This is surely the bosky:
When the uniformed officer goes for a ride,
He has nothing to pay for a drosky.

The Irrigon Irrigator has a rippling name, but one that is a pitfall to the unwary, as the paper itself points out. The Irrigon Irrigator, and the Oregon Irrigon, and the Orragate Irrigoner, and the Irrigate Oregon—all look alike.

It is now said that the Russian officers at Port Arthur were attending a circus on Monday night when the Japanese made their attack. It would seem to be a clear breach of international law to choose circus day for the assault on a fortress, especially in a country where the circus is so rarely seen.

Associated Press dispatches yesterday announced Seattle's bank clearings for the day as being $711,808. Later the wires brought this:

Editors: Kill Seattle bank clearings. Banks closed

The only thing unlike Seattle in this was allowing a little matter such as the banks being closed to deprive the town of a day's clearings.

This story of an Oklahoma girl's composition on "Men," says the Argonaut, shows that the seed of the woman's club is sown on the territorial prairies: "Men are what women marry. They drink and smoke and swear and have ever so many pockets, but they won't go to church. Perhaps if they wore bonnets they would. They are more logical than women and also more zoological. Both men and women have sprung from monkeys, but the women certainly sprung further than the men."

The oscillating struggle between guns and armor is apparently at an end. Armor has won. The late Mr. Tobin fired two shots at a woman, and both were rendered harmless by corset steels. Some nights ago another woman foolishly appeared upon a street down which a policeman was loosing off his revolver with the object of bringing to halt a sneak thief. Had it not been for the invaluable Harveyized corset steel the woman would have had a chunk of lead somewhere in her interior. As it was, the bullet was firmly deflected by the armor that at once shields and beautifies. With these facts in mind, every Russian soldier should be at once provided with a corset and every Russian ship should be kept in stays.

A curious case has just been decided in Tacoma. It appears that A, who keeps a restaurant, accused B of eating a meal in his place and forgetting to pay therefor. B bet A $5 that he could prove he had been somewhere else when the meal was said to have been eaten. A took the bet, and the stakes were deposited with C. When the question had been settled C refused to part with the money. He was sued, and was compelled to disgorge the $10 plus $8.85 costs. Unfortunately, the dispatch does not tell us who won the bet, and we are left in painful uncertainty as to whether or not B really did eat a meal and forgot to pay for it. But it is rarely that three persons can obtain so much fun out of a $5 bet.

The Kalama Bulletin devotes some space to a practical joke that was recently played upon some citizens of that place. The victims, it appears, were Dr. Darnell, Bill Carson—who has red hair—and "Ole Man," "Al," or "A. H." Imus. Two deaf mutes were being taken back to the school for defective youth, and were temporarily left in a real estate office. One at a time, the victims of the joke were told that the boys were from the Reform School at Salem, and that they refused to tell where they had hidden some stolen property. The three victims engaged in the effort to make the boys talk. Even "Ole Man" Imus, with his knowledge of human nature, "gained in ten years of horse-trading in Kansas," admitted his defeat, and when the truth was told Dr. Darnell declared that "if the boys couldn't talk they might at least have said so."

WEX J.

OUT OF THE GINGER JAR.

Comedian—What became of that old New England play that had a real snow storm? Soubrette—It met with a heavy frost.—St. Louis Post-Dispatch.

"You hold my future happiness," he told the girl. "Why don't you hold it yourself?" she asked coyly. And she wasn't so heavy that he couldn't do it easily.—Chicago Post.

Willie—Mr. Oldboy, why do they say you are in your second childhood? Mother—Willie! Willie! Willie—Oh, I know; it's because you are bald-headed, just like baby Dick.—Boston Transcript.

"You know, Jessie, the good book says 'Love your neighbor,'" spoke the mother to her little girl. "Yes, mamma, but that was written before the days of flats."—Yonkers Statesman.

Wedderly—Today is the 10th anniversary of my marriage. Singleton—Well, which do you expect? Wedderly—Which do I expect? Singleton—Yes; congratulations or sympathy?—Chicago News.

"Do you think," he asked, "that we ought to annex Canada?" "No," replied the lovely heiress, "I don't see what good it would do us. They don't have dukes and earls over there."—Chicago Record-Herald.

"I noticed," remarked Brusquely, "that you took off your hat when you telephoned just now, and then put it back again. May I ask you why?" "Certainly," replied Courtly. "I was telephoning a lady."—Cincinnati Times-Star.

"Lushman is troubled a great deal by his wife's insomnia." "I didn't know that before." "Yes; she usually has a severe attack of it every night when he comes in late, and then the trouble begins."—Philadelphia Press.

"No," he said, "I'm not sure whether my wife's Christmas gift to me was meant to please me or to humble my pride." "What did she give you?" asked the friend. "She had a crayon portait of me made by an amateur artist."—Philadelphia Ledger.

"I'll admit that the eminent tragedian we have just mentioned is exceedingly irascible and sometimes indiscreet in his manifestations," said the playgoer; "but he is a fine actor." "Yes," answered Stormington Barnes, "he knows how to act, but he does not know how to behave."—Washington Star.