UNITED STATES NAVY AT CUBA AND PORTO RICO.

Nations Notified to Stand Off-The Call For Yolunteers-The Embargo Proclamation-What is Liable to Selzure.

Washington, D. C., April 25.-There is a notable retirement from the navy department in the case of Captain Bradford, chief of the equipment di-

Captain Bradford is not only an offihas not held his present office long and, by custom, is entitled to nearly three years of further service here, he has become so impatient to join in active service, that he today addressed the following letter to the president:

"I respectfully tender my resignation as chief of the bureau of equipment of the navy department. It has been a great pleasure to serve during your administration, and I beg to express my thanks for the honor conferred on me, by your appointment to such a respon-This resignation is tendered only that I may ask for active serv-

Captain Bradford addressed a similar letter to Secretary Long, with the ad-dition of a request to have command of an active warship. The resigna-tion will be accepted, and by virtue of his rank, as well as to mark the high regard entertained for him by the ad-ministration, Captain Bradford will be given one of the best of the available ships in the navy.

The naval officers welcomed with pleasure the manifestation of patriotism on the part of a distinguished New York citizen by tendering to the government, without compensation, his speedy steam yacht.

ADDRESSES THE POWERS.

Following up the formalities beginning with the blockade proclamation, the state department addressed an identical note to all of the representatives of foreign nations, accredited to Washington, notifying them of the policy to be pursued by this government in the matter of privateering and neutral-

This was followed by the sending of cable messages to all American embassies and legations abroad, containing the same information in a little more succinct form, for presentation to the governments to which they are accred

In brief, it declares that our government will not resort to privateering; that Spain's goods in neutral bottoms, save contraband, are exempt from seizure, and that blockades to be binding must be effective.

These are the principles laid down in the agreement of Paris in 1856.

UNCLE SAM NOT ANXIOUS.

The officials are not disturbed at the semi-official note from Madrid that Spain will refuse to be bound by the same principles and forbid privateering, for they are satisfied that the great commercial powers will not tolerate the

practice under the Spanish flag. Inasmuch as there exists a great amount of misapprehension, not only among foreign countries, but also among American shippers, as to the character of merchandise that is contraband and liable to seizure during the progress of war the following authentic statement has been obtained from a

high official: Contraband of War-In determining, er merchandise is contraband of war, is classified:

First-Absolute contraband. Second-Occasional, or conditional, cotnraband.

Third-Goods not contraband. The first class includes all goods of an

essentially warlike character. The second includes provisions, naval stores, horses, certain kinds of machinery, certain forms of steel, iron, etc., which are subservient to warlike use and which are destined for the use of the enemy. They are contraband, or not, according to occasions, character, shipment and destined use. Every such

The third class includes articles, mu-sical instruments, household wares and goods and other such like articles, and including many that are purely mercantile in character.

case depends upon its own facts.

No article of merchandise is contraband unless transported beyond the territorial waters and jurisdiction of a neutral state; nor unless destined for an enemy's port, or for an enemy's use, or for an enemy's ship on the high which belligerent ships are permitted to police, in search of enemy ships and contraband of war.

No final and exhaustive definition of contraband articles can be given. They are changing with the progress of in-ventions. Some articles were formerly contraband which are not now; and the

converse is true. Each belligerent government is competent to determine what it will treat as cotnraband. Its prescription of contraband articles is conclusive. If such prescription should be made in outrageous disregard of international law or trade rights neutral states affected would probably interfere.

Neither beiligerent can treat goods stipulations with a neutral power. Any one desiring to ship goods to a foreign port in neutral vessels would profitably consult any existing treaties between

Spain and the government of that port. The belligerent right of capture as against a neutral exists only either in a case of contraband of war or of enemy's goods aboard of a vessel in violation of an effective blockade and in other analogous cases where the conneutrals justifies the beligerent in treating his property as an enemy

properly. If Spain adheres to the principle, "free ships, free goods," as this government proposes to do, only contraband goods are subject to capture in

such ships. QUESTION ABOUT HAWAII.

Inquiry at the navy department as to the story that our government had arranged for the seizure of the Hawaiian islands and the establishment of a coaling station in Hawaii failed to secure any positive statement on the subject. There is good authority for believing the story is exaggerated and that all that has been done is to provide for the establishment of a coaling depot

and its adequate protectino. The naval officials feel every confidence in the ability of the Oregon and Marietta, not only to protect themselves from the Spanish gunboat Temerario. but to destroy that craft if she ever

comes within range.
The limitation of the blockade Cuba to a certain part of the island was not officially explained, but one plausible reason advanced for the government's action was that by refrain ing from establishing a blockade over the eastern portion of the island, understood to be practically in the con-

trol of the insurgents, the way has been SPAIN MUST FIRE FIRST needed supplies and munitions of war.

MUST BUY HORSES. A formal order was issued by the war guns, six calssons, one combined forge and battery wagon, and 100 horses. The enforcement of this order will require 900 additional horses, which the quartermaster's department will pur-

For purposes of transporting

hase in Tennessee.

army to Cuba, the quartermaster general's office has under consideration the question of the charter of ships, havng the carrying capacity of 50,000 men. No charters, however, have been closed. In the engineer and ordnance bureaus work was being conducted with greatest possible speed toward the completion of projectiles and the installacer of high scientific attainment, but is equipped with great pactical experience in naval matters. Although he is being utilized and the officials express satisfaction at the results obtheir disposal.

BURNED THE PRESENTS.

Spanlards Don't Succeed in Buying Off Gomez.

Washington, D. C., April 25.—Estrada Palma, the representative of the Cuban epublic in this country, gave me the following letter from General Maximo Gomez, received recently:

"Great things have been done. The ssential thing now is to triumph, which will be great glory to the victor, who, like David of Biblical fame, destroyed Goliath with only his sling and stone. Blanco and Pando have sent me emissaries with presents. The presents I burned before their eyes, and I told them if they should ever return I would hang them. The poor men were most astonished, and I have since learned that they refused to come back a second time unless they would be permitted to remain with my army. to tell you this so you can know the infamy of the Spaniards.

"One year ago there was no clemency, no quarter. Women, mothers and children were made victims of the Spanish. The soldiers of Weyler were taking with them everywhere desolation and ruin. By means of the heliograph the Spanish generals sent diers everywhere through the island. Generals Luque, Ruiz and others destroyed cattle, horses and even the palm trees. The 200,000 men then in the island disputed the privilege of who should kill the most. Not one peace commissioner came. But all to no pur-We made their troops valueless, the heliograph and enemies' cannon of no account.

"All our fields have given us bountiful fruits, while hunger reigns in the cities. We do not know where the Spanish army has gone. I was then men-tioned as the 'so-called.' Today they address me as 'distinguished adver-sary.' Why this change. The answer is simple. It is that the Spaniards see that their cause is lost and they trying to gain time to prepare for the inevitable. I shall continue to fight with the same energy as in the past. Victory will crown my efforts.

"MAXIMO GOMEZ, "General Commanding the Army of the Republic."

Women Nurses Not Wanted.

Washington, D. C., April 25 .- The secretary of war and the surgeon general of the army issued an ultimatum that is calculated to create a sensation throughout the country.

It is the unalterable decision, not only not to employ trained or volunteer wo-men nurses for the care of the sick and wounded in the war with Spain, but not

to recognize them in any way.

To more fully comprehend what this od that even should bands of volunteer women nurses, trained or otherwise, go to Key West or to any of the stations at which the government ships for the sick and wounded sailors and soldiers are located, they will be ignored.

No proffer of their services, however strongly backed by official or other kind of influence, will avail in slightest degree to alter this decision, Women as nurses are not wanted in this war.

DRUM TAPS.

A royal decree has been gazetted in Madrid calling out 30,000 men of the reserves of 1897.

The first step toward putting the militia of Maryland on a war footing was taken yesterday. Governor Cook anounces that the

Connecticut brigade will be recruited to a war footing at once. Secretary Long has laid down a hard

and fast rule forbiding information concerning fleet movements. People in Sheboygan, Wis., are making a rush to buy groceries, looking to

a rise in prices owing to war. The colonial government in Cuba has published a manifesto calling upon the inhabitants to "repel the invaders. Governor Lowndes has promoted Ad-

jutant General Wilmer to be major in command of land and naval reserves of Maryland. The Spanish-American war is bettering the market in England. Americans gained a quarter and holders are

not inclined to part with it. A Spanish financier has subscribed \$50,000 towards the fund which the emas contraband in violation of his treaty | bassy of Spain in France is raising to strengthen the fleet of that country. the Canary Islands April 15, with a val-uable cargo for Havana. She will

cruiser. The British steamship Aloedine, heavily laden with provisions, sailed for Havana today. Her captain said he did not believe the Alocdine would reach her destination. She sailed from

Southampton. The British admiralty has ordered that the bills of lading of all ships carrying naval stores shall be accompanied by a certificate showing tores are government property, in or-

der to prevent the possibility of their confiscation. Advices from Honolulu under date 14th inst. state it is rumored that Minister Sewell and Admiral Miller will take formal possession of the islands in the name of the United States as a coaling station on the 15th. It was impossible to confirm the rumor before the steamer Rio Janeiro left Honolulu. brick paying to do on South Sixteenth and West Farnam streets, beside eral repair work which will keep a large

force of men busy for some time. Indianapolis, Ind., April 25 .- Contingent upon the call of the president being received here, which is fully expected, the governor and national guard officers completed all arangements for mobilizing the 3,600 men of the Indiana guard at the state fair grounds in this The entire guard can be mobilcity.

ized in ten hours. An independent volunteer regiment of 1,000 men has been raised and the governor has applications that would raise an army of 50,000 men in twenty-four

Comment of the said

department increasing the equipment of light batteries of artillery to six ENT PLAN.

> To Starve Havana Out-One Thousand Marines on Cabanas -- Powers Notified-Portugal Warned In Regard to Neutrality Laws.

Washington, D. C., April 25 .- It de volves on Spain to make the war an active one. If Captain Sampson's fleet is attacked he will retaliate. If he is not attacked, the ports on the northern coast of Cuba will be blockaded until the troops in Havana have been starved out, and our landing force has secured a firm foothold on the island Commodore Schley is expected to sail tained in the short space of time at from Hampton Roads at any moment He is to blockade Porto Rico with his squadron. Rear Admiral Dewey, in command of the Asiatic squadron, is steaming for the Philippines, which he will endeavor to seize.

This is the program as it stands. Schley's squadron will convey the transport Panther, carrying 1,000 marines, to Captain Sampson's fleet, when the Panther will be dropped Schley's squadron will proceed to Porto

Rico. The first landing will be made at Cabanas, which is slightly to the west of Havana. A detachment of marines on board the Panther will be utilized for this purpose. They will throw up earthworks behind the town. A gun-boat will lie off, and if Spanish troops appear, shell the attacking columns. The next landing will be made at Ma-riel, slightly closer to Havana. What is be done at Cabanas will be done at Mariel.

This operation will be repeated at Bahia Honda, which is the town next to Havana. In each case the landing force will be protected by an American ship, and proceed to the landing of each force, the neighboring country will be shelled, on the theory that Spanish troops may be concealed in the woods, these landings ar successful, efforts will be made to take Matanzas and Cardenas in the same way

TO AVOID BLOODSHED. The idea is at present to slowly force our way into Cuba, with as little bloodshed as possible. It is not expected that the Spaniards will endeavor to make a decisive engagement in fact, this plan makes it almost impossible for them to do so.

In the course of a week, or perhaps two, 14,000 or 16,000 of the regulars will -3-R P shrdlu etaoin shrdlu u be introduced at these points. The volunteer forces will all be massed Chickamauga and put through drill for at least two weeks. There is a disposition on the part of some officers to drill the volunteers for a month before sending them to Cuba.

All of these plans may be upset by some unexpected action of the enemy. The enemy always does the unexpected and the program of the administration will depend almost entirely on the maneuvers of the enemy. The proclamation declaring a block-

ade of the northern coast of Cuba is, in the opinion of international lawyers, a practical declaration of war. ASKS FOR AN EXPRESSION. The president has notified all the European and South and Central Ameri-

can countries of the blockade in Cuba. He also expressed his desire that some expression of neutrality emanate from of these countries. The state department sent a copy of this communication to the ministers and ambassadors of these countries located in Washington. Every country

on the face of the globe will declare her intention of remaining neutral The notice to Portugal, it is understood, differed from the other notices It called attention to the fact that the Spanish flotilla is outfitting, repairing and recuperating at the Cape de Verde islands, a Portuguese posses-

sion. The intimation is strongly given that in view of the state of war which exists it is the duty of Portugal, under the neutrality laws, to force the Spanish flotilla to leave this neutral port. An immediate answer to this is ex-

PLAN OF NAVAL CAMPAIGN.

To Seize Cuba, Porto Rico and the Phillipine Islands.

Washington, D. C., April 25 .- The American general plan of campaign contemplates the blockading and ultimate seizure of Cuba by Sampson's fleet; the blockading and ultimate seizure of Porto Rico by Captain Schley's squadron, and the blockading and ultimate seizure of the Philippine islands by the Asiatic squadren, under the command of Rear Admiral George Dewey, The latter's flagship is the Olympia, a protected cruiser. His squadron comprises the Boston and Raleigh, cruisers; the Baltimore, a cruiser of the first class: the Monocacy, Petrel and Con-cord, gunboats, and the McCulloch, revue cutter.

The Spanish fleet at the Philippines consists of the cruisers Reina Christina, Castilla, Velasco, Don Juan de Austria, the gunboats Paragua. Ullot, El Cano, General Lezo and Marques del Duero. and the transports General Alva, Manila and Cebu.

These vessels are gathered around The Spanish steamer Montserrat left Manila. The gunboats Balluzan and Leyte are at Taal Lagoon. The gunboat uable cargo for Havana. She will Otalora is at Lagnorov bay. The gun-prove a rich prize for a United States boat Calimalanes is at Balabac and the gunboats Samar, Mariveles, Mindodo, Milero, Pampagana and Araget are at the southern extremity of the Phil-

> In numbers the Spanish fleet in the Philippines exceeds that of the United States, but our deficiency in numbers is more than compensated for by the efficiency of our vessels, in size, speed and armament.

The Jacobines Favor America.

Rio Janeiro, April 25.-The Brazilian Jacobines favor the United States in the coming war between that country and Spain

The Pais, the Jacobine organ, says: We are with the United States, which is giving Europe a daring example of making sacrifice for a people's

The St.Louis Consul Has Gone.

St. Louis, Mo., April 25,-Senor Manivero Bivera. Spanish consul in St. Louis, was notified by the Madrid government to turn over the effects and papers of the local consulate to ouis Seguenot, the representative of France.

Key West, Fla., April 25.-The Mallory line agent here gives notice that his steamship service. New York and Gaiveston, is suspended indefinitely. It is understood the vessels are chartered by the government for transport pur-

FARM FACTS.

Morses that have had little to do during the winter should be worked by degrees—begin now.

Actual feeding tests have shown that it takes twice as much feed to put a pound of gain on a hog weighing 400 pounds as on one weighing 150 pounds. The man who takes five to forty lbs. of fine honey out of each hive yearly, comes to believe after a time that bee keeping is not a pastime merely.

How to get rich, an unfailing method:

Waste nothing and spend less! The plainer the understanding with the hired man the plainer the sailing with him hereafter.

The vegetables that have a short edible season, as peas, beans, corn, etc., should be planted in succession and a few at a time. Spring is the time to remember how

the pastures dry up in the late summer; and to plan for crops that will supply their place. A good garden is worth \$100 to an average family.

I make it rule to never go to town without taking something to sell, and I never drive into town but the huck-sters all come out and say, "Well, what have you got today?" This has taken years, but the years would have passed

anyway.-M. C. F. Get 5 cents worth each of asparagus and rhubarb; plant in rows a foot apart, three inches in the row, in fine rich earth. Next spring you will have an abundance of roots to put into permanent beds, and the next spring you can begin to draw on them for supplies that will do your soul good to partake

Cabbage is another vegetable that is very much neglected, on account of the many enemies that attack it. But an application of boiling water will kill them and not hurt the cabbage, if properly applied, that is, not too much at a time. Take a quart cup and, holding it near the plant, throw the water, in two or three dashes, so that the water will spread pretty well over the Sometimes one dash will do. plant. Mr. Goldbug wil pass in his checks freely on such an invitation.

Food For Dairy Cows.

Sorghum and Kaffir corn yield large amounts of forage per acre, in which the per cent of dry matter is lower than in corn and the protein content was conspicuously low. Neither is recommended as a substitute for corn. (In to experiment with geese. No other the dryer southern states both surpass corn.)

CLOVER HAY. Clover hay is valuable because sup-plying a large per cent of protein, and cause deriving its nitrogen largely from the air. After the removal of the are woe crop of hay, as much nitrogen was left quality. in the roots as would be supplied by seven tons of barnyard manure per acre. Clover silage is palatable to cows, but ensiloing clover is not recommended because of the expense.

An addition of beets or ensilage to the ration causes more of the dry food to be digested. POTATOES MAKE HARD BUTTER.

The addition of potatoes to a normal ration increases the length of time required to churn the cream and in one experiment increased the hardness of the butter.

OATS AND PEAS A GOOD CROP. One of the best crops is oats and peas grown as follows: The ground is prepared in the fall and the seed put in the ground at the earliest possible moment in the spring. Two bushels of peas are used per acre. If in the latter somewhat rapidly by raising the heifer part of March the surface of the ground calves from good producing cows, and is sufficiently dry the peas are either by purchasing helfer calves from neighsown broadcast on the surface and boring cows that are known to be good, plowed under three or four inches deep even if the purchases must be made at or put in with a grain drill as deep as what seems to be an unreasonably high acre. Careful records are not at hand kept. to show the yield per acre of this crop, ers of these cows, the breeding may be value compared with clover hay or oth- at very little expense over what any er forage crops. Experience has dem- sort of calf would cost. onstrated that cattle like the hay and that they eat it in sufficient quantities to produce a full yield of milk and butter. On several occasions the crop has stlage richer in protein than any other

The plot of alfalfa, the behavior and yield of which has been reported in A recent writer says he would be previous bulletins of the Michigan station, was completely destroyed by the severe weather in the early months of 1897. In May scarcely a root was left alive, and scarcely a green stem showed

above the ground. TRY SOME RAPE SEED. A half acre of rape was sown in the wish to give my views of the spring of 1896 by the side of a similar route out of these dark woods. area of vetches and oats, and near the half acre plots of sorghum and fodder The total weight of green rape corn. was 6,955 pounds, containing 81 per cent of moisture. The yield of dry matter per acre was therefore 2,677 pounds. The cows ate the rape silage with evident relish and no taint was imparted to the milk by it. After the removal of the first crop of rape it sprang up quickly and was pastured through the fall. On August 16 it was noted that the sheep much preferred the rape to pleasure it will give you to check them rimson clover and that they had eaten the former well into the ground before attacking the latter, the flock having been put on the field July 27.

MILLET FOR SILAGE. The millet grown on the Michigan farm has been fed for the most part as hay. On one or two occasions the green fodder has been put in the silo. silage is liked by the cows, and when fed keeps up the flow of milk and but-It is unusually dry for ensilage, containing, as it did in 1896, but 57 per cent of water. When pitched out of the sile it was light and fluffy, resembling hay rather than sllage. It had a pleas ant odor and kept with very little spoiling. Millet is to be recommended to every dairyman because it can be sown late in the season after a crop of peas and oats have been removed or can be substituted for corn when the spring work has been so delayed as to make the planting of the latter impracticable

Dairy Doings.

A cow to do well at the pail must be hearty eater. Make your butter as good and sweet as you know how,

Neatness of package is a great ad-vantage in the sale of butter. The milking organs of the helfer must be well developed if she makes a good cow. Butter that has been properly made

will not stick to the knife-blade when being cut. The reason of white specks in butter in a majority of cases comes from oversouring of the cream.

Cream should be churned before it becomes rank acid, whether that comes the day it is skimmed or the day after Any improvement in dairying that will lessen the cost of production will amount to the same as an increase in

The man who watches his cows the closest is the one who gets the most out of them-and he gets the most into them.

Thoroughly washing the butter and

allowing the butter to rise on it before draining off the water, so that the specks will go to the bottom, is a good

riddance. It doesn't take much time to go along in front of the mangers and notice whether each cow has eaten her feed up clean and also notice which cows have scoured the bottom and corners of their mangers.

Poultry Pointers

If you have setting hens dust them twice during incubation with Persian insect powder and lice will not kill the little chicks.

The care given chickens during the first few weeks means either success or failure in our next year's supply of

A little lard rubbed on the under part of the hen's wings and under her tall will drive the lice off the chicks, but do not apply too much, as it destroys the down and causes them to suffer from cold. Feed often and keep them in dry, clean quarters, and in a few weeks they will be able to look out for themselves It will never pay to dose a fowl in good health to keep it healthy. You cannot make a healthy fowl more

healthy. Kerosene is one of the most common, cheapest and best insecticides for use

in the poultry house The secret of early sitters is early ayers. Those hens that laid all thro

the winter are the ones that want to sit in February and March. It is said to be better not to keep ducks with chickens. Perhaps so. But if you are not prepared to keep them separate, there is but one other way to keep them-together. But keep the ducks at all hazards.

But how about making a start with thoroughbreds this spring? Or, at least, buying eggs so as to raise some pure bred cockerels to use next season? Such an outlay will pay every time.

Confine a chicken in a corn crib with nothing to eat but corn and it starve to death. It is quite certain that it will not do well without grit and insects, and it should have some exer-A fresh egg will sink in water. It is

not safe to judge an egg by its appear-ance. The white of a perfectly fresh egg cannot be beaten to a froth as easily as the white of an egg that is a day two old. There is some money in raising young eese for market, and those who are dissatisfied with the low prices

fowl will make so much valuable meat, with so little trouble, in so short a time. Developing a Dairy Herd. The run of cows through the country

are woefully scrubby in breeding and On the reputation of the occasional profitable cow, a hundred unprofitable cows are allowed to exist and subsist, eating up the resources of the farmer

and keeping him poor.

Where you have one good cow you have five poor ones, and on the strength of the one good cow you are forgiving all the bad ones, and bragging to your neighbors that you have the best cows in the county.

It is time to face the music on the matter of productive quality of the ows, and to treat the poor cow as she deserves; send her to the butcher at the earliest possible moment. No progress will be made in dairying until the farmer recognizes that certain cows are bad and that he must get rid of

them It is possible to improve the hard The oats are sown shallow price. Many farmers live within reach ater at the rate of one bushel to the of a village where very good cows are By arrangement with the ownnor have comparative feeding trials controlled, and the privilege of purbeen instituted to determine its relative chasing the calf secured by the farmer

Stop the Leaks.

There would be many more fat pockbeen harvested into a silo, making a etbooks if the great number of small and large leaks on the farm were stopped. On the average, there is nearly

as much wasted as made use of. what ten average farmers waste. Brother farmers, we know there is consists of insects. Suppose each bird much truth in this, but I know much of in Nebraska to eat twenty-five insects it is unavoidable. It would seem then per day, it would take 1,875,000 insects that the farther we get from this point the nearer we are to success, and I wish to give my views of the best mer.

Get a blank book and pencil. them somewhere handy, by the family bible is a good place, and just before you read your daily chapter make good use of that blank book. Keep account of everything that is done on the farm. Get also a memorandum book and a pencil. Put your futures into it-jobs that need attention, little leaks that you see. Keep it with you for ready reference. As these jobs are gotten rid of, you have no idea how

Books For the Farm.

The Kansas state agricultural station gives the following list of the best \$20 worth of purely agricultural books for

the farm: Roberts-Fertility of the Land. Terry-Our Farming Woll-A Book on Silage. Miles-Silos, Ensilage and Silage. Miles-Stock Breeding. Warfield-Cattle Breeding. Sanders-Horse Breeding. Sanders-History of Live Stock, Curtis-Horses, Cattle, Sheep, Swine. Henry-reeds and Feeding. Coburn-Swine Husbandry Gurler-American Dairying. Rusell-Dairy Bacteriology

Woll-Principles of Modern Dairy Practice Woll-Handbook for Farmers and

Wing-Milk and Its Products.

high-grade books devoted exclusively to agriculture? It takes hundreds of dollars to fit out a very small library for lawyer, doctor or minister. Every farmer that owns forty or more acres

books to help him in his work.

His weakness was prevarication. His wife detested lying and constantly urged him to mend his ways. One morning she said: "Will, see if you can't be per-fectly truthful today. Don't tell a lie. Now, promise! He promised and away to work. When he came home

to dinner she said: Dear, did you keep your promise?" "I did," he replied, soberly. Then he caught her in his arms. "Darling," he cried, "I will not lie to

you. When I said I had kept my promse to you I did not tell the truth, but, believe me, that was the only lie I

For twenty-two seconds she was lost in perplexity. Then she gave it up; the problem was too deep for her.

IMAGINARY CONVERSATIONS

To describe in detail the various ounning schemes by which I have endeavored to gain an audience with her majesty, Queen Victoria, would occupy several columns of the Comic Weekly. Nothing would please the writer more than to occupy these columns, but for reasons best known to the editor, I shall refrain from making the attempt Suffice it to say that after several weeks of fruitless effort I was advised by a well known diplomatist to disguise myself in a Scotch kilt and an oatmeal

complexion. Her majesty was at breakfast when I arrived, being in fact just about to

eat a boiled egg. "Good morning, Sandy," she pleas-ntly observed. "What makes you so antly observed. late today? And where are your bagpipes?

"I am afraid, your majesty," I re-"that things are not quite sponded, what they seem. The fact is, I am an American.

"An American!" she exclaimed in astonishment. "Impossible! You wear neither a red shirt nor a bowie knife. And yet," she added reflectively, "there is something about your knees that is decidedly not Scotch." I blushed and wished with all my

heart that there had been something about my knees. "Nevertheless," I persisted, "I am in-

deed an American, and I have come to interview your majesty." "To interview me! Good gracious! Why, I have never been interviewed in my life!" "That is precisely why I have been intrusted with the assignment. For the sake of a few minutes' conversation

with your majesty I have traveled 3,740 miles from Broadway." "La!" was the gratified response, 'Just think of anybody coming all that distance to talk to me! I can't really refuse you after that. But I don't know what Salisbury will say. Somehow, he has a great objection to the idea of my being interviewed. He thinks I might divulge information that could be used against us in case of war-which is absurd. Between ourselves, I know very little about state affairs. Of course, everybody imagines I run the whole country myself-but that is what you call a-a bluff. Nok. if you will promise not to publish it, I'll tell you a great secret. It's this—I don't compose my annual speech!"
"Impossible," I cried with what I

flatter myself was admirably feigned surprise. "It's true. Salisbury always does it, and reads the typewritten copy to me in private for my approval. Apropos, a funny thing occurred a few years ago. Soon after Salisbury began reading I fell asleep and he never discovered it until he had continued for nearthree hours. Of course he had to do it all over again. I was very much

amused when I awoke, but he seemed annoyed. Since then I always drink a cup of strong coffee beforehand. I can't understand, though, why he should bother me about the old speech when I have so much else to attend to."
"Then," I remarked suggestively,

"You have a great deal to do."
"You may well say that," returned her majesty. "I should never get thre if it wasn't for Bertle-that's Prince of Wales, you know-and his wife. He lays the foundation stones and she opens the charity bazaars. By the way," said her majesty, lowering her voice to a whisper, "I hear the most awful rumors about Bertle. They say he plays cards for money and associates with actresses, and does all sorts of undignified things. You don't think

it can be true, do you? Before I had time to reply a gorgeous flunkey entered, bearing a card on a salver. "Gracious!" exclaimed her majesty. "Here's Salisbury!

are he'll have you imprisoned in the Tower, and perhaps beheaded. But say nothing-I will save you!" "Good-by, Sandy," she said kindly. "Come again when your bagpipes are mended and don't forget to remember me to your sister and say I hope the beef tea will do her cord good."

BIRD BREVITIES.

(From "Notes on Nebraska Birds," by Prof. L. Bruner.)

Birds range in size from the minutest humming bird, which is nearly as small as the bumble bee, to the ostrich that stands higher than the tailest man. Three-fourths of the food of birds for a single day's rations for our birds

during any one of the 175 days of sum-Should the work of the birds be stop ped in about twelve years there would be enough insects to carpet the whole state, one to a square inch, over the whole territory.

because of their food habits, are harmful throughout the year. These are two of our hawks, the blue jay and the English sparrow. Michelet says: "Were it not for the birds, insects would destroy every green

A comparatively few number of birds.

thing and the earth would become un-inhabitable." No creature is more indispensable to man than are birds. The United States agricultural department is sending out loud warnings against the appailing destruction birds which has been followed by an enormous increase of insect pests, resulting in a loss in fruits and grains estimated at 80 to 100 millions of dollars

yearly. A report from Michigan states that "the destruction of birds has made it difficult to raise fruits, even the grapes. as well as the apples, being too wormy to use." Spraying trees with insect poison is becoming a necessity, adding one more barden to the farmer.

The United States government eals to all educators to observe "Bird Day" and to instruct the young on the value of birds and the best methods of their preservation. "Bird Day" is already a permanent blessing in many schools. It is complementary to "Arbor Day" and observed in early spring How many farmers own \$20 worth of Many Bands of Mercy in public schools study birds all the years, and have "Birds" as an occasional special topic.

During their journeys birds attain a marvelous speed. Some ducks are said to travel to miles or more a minof land ought to also own some of these ute. Some birds reach a point a hundred miles from their nest during one day's search for food. One of the most interesting features in bird study is that connected with nest building and the rearing of their young. Should a student spend all his life on that topic alone, he would not be able to learn all there is to be known

> A bird may be harmful during one part of the year and very beneficial during the remainder. Before the bird is destroyed business principles should be applied, and profit and loss com-Instances have been where a robin which had saved ten to fifteen bushels of apples worth a dollar bushel, by clearing the tree from canker worms in the spring, was shot when he simply pecked one of the apples that he had saved for the ungrateful fruit grower.