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In spite of all their efforts to hide the truth, the democratic forces are getting very nervous.

In spite of all their efforts to conceal the fact, the English in South Africa are becoming insufferably Boered.

The telegraphic messages from the Philippines for some time past have averaged $325,000 a month for Uncle Sam.

Poet Laureate Austin says that England "guards the sea." While that may be, it is very evident that the fighting this year is on the land.

When it comes to law and order there are altogether too many like the man down in Maine who was "fer the likker law, but agin' its enforcement."

The late Dr. McGlynn was a great friend of the poor. He had no patience, whatever, with the ideas so commonly prevailing that a few people were born to have wealth while the many were destined to penury and want. He summed up his whole thought in this matter when he said, "God is the father of all His children, and the step-father of none."

Not many, even among our patriotic Americans, would return to the government the check sent them in payment for services rendered the government as captain of volunteers during the late war. This, however, was the commendable action of Captain William F. English, son of Wm. H. English, who was candidate for vice president with Hancock.

There is said by expert engineers to be no insurmountable obstacle to the project of a trans-Pacific cable from an engineering point of view. The navy department surveyed the route from the California coast to the Hawaiian islands in 1892 and decided that a cable could best be laid from Montery to Honolulu and thence to the Philippine islands and Japan. A more careful survey is now being made on the bed of the Pacific. Such a cable at the present cable rates would earn the United States $925,000 a year, and there would certainly be increasing commercial use of the cable which would steadily increase its value.

The fusionists are exerting their energies to have the United States mix up in the Boer-English war. These are the same people who insisted and persisted in their efforts to have Uncle Sam drive the Don off the western continent and as soon as the effort was made began to find fault with the method in which it was done and everything connected with it and resulting therefrom. They are finding fault yet and will probably continue to do so for years to come. In the first instance they had the support of the people, as nearly everyone desired that Spain's mis-ruled, mis-treated and oppresed possessions be wrested from her. They have not the support of the people, however, in their fault-finding campaign. They know that there was fault to be found, no matter what method was pursued, but they considered that since the government undertook the contract it should perform it as best it could. What they principally desired has been accomplished and they are, in the main, satisfied. Their recent efforts, however, are a little far fetched and the people, as a class, do not desire this government to mix with either the English or Boer side of the question. We would not have tolerated the mixing in of some powerful government in the settlement of our dispute with Spain and no more should we force ourselves into a foreign war that doesn't particularly concern us. We have our sympathies but they do not require expression by force of arms.

Some Legislative Follies.

In the current issue of The Green Bag, a New York law publication, Mr. Eltweed Pomeroy, president of the Direct Legislation League of the United States, has a very interesting article on the follies of legislatures. His interest in the referendum has made Mr. Pomeroy an especially close student of state legislation, and here are some of the legislative follies he has discovered:

New Jersey has a law taxing bachelors, while the lower house of Texas passed a bill fining every unmarried man $50 a year unless he should present an affidavit from some reputable woman that she had refused him during the year. Missouri has a pure beer law that forbids the use of anything but hops, malt, barley or rice in making beer—preventing water from being used. Carelessness on the part of the Nebraska legislature led to the enactment of a law that sends the justice of the peace to jail until the drunkard he fines shall pay the penalty he assesses. A Kentucky law borbids the firing of deadly weapons "whether loaded or unloaded." Michigan has an antitreating law, passed in 1895. For a joke a bill was rushed through the Kansas house changing the name of a legislator with an unpronounceable name to "Pat Murphy." Texas passed a resolution declaring that the skies of Texas were bluer than those of Italy. Strict construction of a Rhode Island law makes every child of parents married in the state during the last 50 years illegitimate.

Such follies, Mr. Pomeroy thinks, are not surprising. The average legislator pays scant attention to the bills that are acted upon except to wonder how they will affect his future. That is the only consideration that rules his conduct. "So long as a committee of men is given uncontrolled power they will use that power for their own ends," says Mr. Pomeroy, "and if they are chosen frequently they will retain a certain portion of the noble spirit of service to the whole people as long as they are new at the service, crude and inefficient. They will make lots of mistakes, be easily led by designing men and by the end of the term be ready either to retire in disgust because they see nothing can be accomplished or adopt the prevailing low moral tone, look at every bill from the point of 'What is there in it for me?' and be fit subjects for the lobbyist."

The remedy suggested by Mr. Pomeroy for the follies of legislatures is to limit the powers of the body and make it an advisory council, while the laws themselves shall require the approval of the people through the referendum.

THE PIANO DETECTIVE.

Work That Keeps a Sleuth Busy Most of the Time.

"Did you ever hear of a piano detective?"

The city hall detective scratched his head reflectively and then was compelled to admit that he had never heard of such an individual.

"Well, there are a dozen or more of them in Philadelphia, and they make good money too.

"Their work is simple. You see, a great many piano firms sell instruments on the installment plan. That is, the purchaser pays, say, $50 down on a $500 or $600 instrument and agrees to make good the remainder at so much a month. By far the greater number of such purchasers are as honest as the day is long, but once in a while a man comes along whose little scheme is to move out the piano a day or two after it is delivered and sell it for a couple of hundred.

"It is the business of the piano detective to circumvent this sort of thing. As a rule, some suspicious movement on the part of the would be defrauder of the piano dealer causes him to be placed under suspicion. The dealer can't step in and take his instrument away under the contract, and the only thing he can do is to watch it. Here is where the piano detective comes in. He hovers around the house in which the suspected purchaser lives, night and day, watching any attempt to make way with the piano. Usually three or four weeks are long enough to settle the question one way or another. If the piano buyer is crooked, he is practically certain to make some sort of a move before the expiration of that time. If he doesn't, it is pretty safe presumption that the suspicion is groundless and the piano detective is called off by his employer, with no one but himself and two or three others the wiser. But the precaution is a necessary one."—Cincinnati Enquirer.

RECIPE FOR RAINMAKING.

Subsulphuric Acid, Water and Zinc Create Artificial Storms.

Some years ago Kansas was overrun with so called "rainmakers" who did a thriving business in vicinities afflicted with drought. The Rock Island railroad had a rainmaker who traveled about the country in a special car and made rain from Texas to Iowa. At the time the process employed was guarded as a secret, and no doubt the mystery surrounding the operation had much to do with the interest aroused among the people. But now comes George Matthews in the Wichita Eagle with a full exposition of the means employed by the Rock Island wizard and others, and the following is the recipe given by him:

"Ten fluid ounces of subsulphuric acid.

"Fifty fluid ounces of water.

"Five ounces of zinc.

"Renew every hour and stir every 30 minutes day and night until rain comes. The moment rain begins to fall remove jar or crock. In territory west of Kansas use one-third less; at sea level use double the quantity. In Kansas work only on southerly winds, which are the moisture bearing winds. Begin an experiment only in a clear sky. One station of the experiment, if successful, will produce a rain 30 to 50 miles in diameter. A better and more certain result can be secured by having three or more stations 40 or 50 miles apart."

According to Mr. Matthews, this mixture left in an open mouthed jar generates hydrogen gas, which rapidly ascends. The theory is that this gas ascending creates a shaft through the hot air down which the cold air rushes, creating a storm center and gathering moisture for precipitation. Matthews claims that of the 200 experiments made by him at least 180 were successful.—Kansas City Journal.

An Easy One.

He entered the cheap restaurant and took a seat at one of the tables.

"Will you have a 15 cent dinner or a 25 cent one?" inquired a waiter.

"Is there any real difference?"

"Certainly."

"What is it?"

"Ten cents."—Ohio State Journal.

A CIVIL WAR EPISODE.

THE RAID UPON PORT GIBSON AND WHAT CAUSED IT.

Fifty Aristocratic Southern Girls Were Taken as Prisoners of War and Were Carried to Vicksburg and There Held as Hostages.

"I was mixed up in one little unrecorded event of the civil war," said General B., "that was interesting from its very unusualness, and which, as I look back upon it, seems strangely picturesque. We were attached to what was known as the marine brigade, a little fleet of 12 'tinclad' river steamboats that plied up and down the Mississippi river after the surrender of Vicksburg. The term 'tinclad,' by the way, is somewhat misleading, as it is not remotely connected with the white metal, but signifies rather boats heavily planked with oak for the purpose of protecting them somewhat from the ravages of bullets.

"One day our little battalion of four companies was ordered to steam down the river, disembark at Rodney, march to Port Gibson and there consult sealed orders in regard to further proceedings. Imagine our surprise upon reading the instructions that we were expected to capture and carry back to Vicksburg as prisoners 50 of the most aristocratic Confederate young women in the city. However, we had served long enough to obey orders without question, and, provided with guides familiar with the town, we set about our bizarre and not too agreeable task. We first established headquarters at the residence of a prominent Confederate judge.

"Then different squads were sent out to call at the homes of the young women and escort them to the place of rendezvous. The instructions were that they must report at headquarters within two hours on penalty of their family residence being burned to the ground. The only information we could give them (the whole transaction was as much a mystery to us as to them) was that they were to be taken to Vicksburg as prisoners of war, but were on no account to suffer any discomfort or indignity.

"Of course, there was great weeping, wailing and gnashing of teeth from tender mothers, loving sisters and irate fathers and brothers. But the incident had to be accepted as belonging to the fortunes of war, and at the end of two hours 49 of the 50, attended by anxious friends and relatives, were at the rendezvous. Mercy was implored for one delinquent. An additional hour was granted, and, at their own suggestion, several of the young women were dispatched to her home to persuade her to follow their example in gracefully submitting to the inevitable. The result was that before the hour was up the last fair prisoner had put in an appearance, though in a very defiant mood.

"Our troubles, however, by no means ended here. Indeed, they were hardly fairly begun. The next question was how to transport our beautiful captives to Rodney, a distance of some 20 miles, over roads that were in a frightful condition from the devastation of war and consequent neglect. All the good horses, too, like all the good men, were off to the war, and as for carriages, they had most decidedly fallen into a state of innocuous desuetude.

"There was obviously nothing for us to do, therefore, but to gather together all the broken down old horses and dilapidated vehicles in the vicinity, which we somehow managed to hitch together with plow harnesses, bits of rope, straps, etc. With these improvised coaches, drawn up into line, began the process of loading on our victims, and when they were all stowed away it was a motley looking procession, I can assure you. Even the sound of farewells and the sight of weeping eyes could not blind us to the humorous aspect of the scene. You must remember that we were all pretty young fellows in 1863. The civil war was fought by men whose average age was only 23.

"Well, we made our way slowly, amid tears and laughter, to Rodney, where we embarked for Vicksburg. Upon arriving there the young women were taken before the provost marshal, who put them on parole, confining them to the limits of the city. Most of them had friends in the town with whom they chose to remain, and suitable quarters were found for the rest.

"The reason for the whole transaction then transpired. It seemed that some northern young women schoolteachers had been taken prisoners by the Confederates and were at that moment in their camps, where they were forced to wash and mend for the soldiers and perform other menial services. These Confederate young women were, therefore, to be held as hostages until the northern women were released.

"There was little delay in the exchange, and we had our visitors in Vicksburg only 30 days. They were, however, very gay, delightful days. Yankee officers and Confederate maidens intermingled socially, and the acquaintance so rudely forced upon the beautiful southerners proved in some instances a mutual pleasure. I could, indeed, point to more than one romantic marriage that was the direct outcome of our raid upon Port Gibson."—Washington Times.

Old Dances In Old Times.

In Edward Scott's "Dancing In All Ages" are some curious details about the dances used by our forefathers.

"Joan Sanderson" was a "jolly dance" in Mr. Scott's definition, for before it was ended each lady had kissed all the gentlemen twice, and each man had been equally enterprising. Mary Stuart danced the "Volta," though "not so high and so disposedly" as Elizabeth. In King Charles' time people danced "Trenchmore," the "Cushion Dance," "Omnium Gatherum" and "Hoite cum Toite."

"All In a Garden Green," "Gathering of Peascods," "Lumps of Pudding," "Under and Over," "The Bath," "The Slaughter House" and "Have at Thy Coat, Old Woman," are dances not quite so old.

Not Wasted on Her.

This happened to the wife of a well known merchant who is rather conspicuous for his devotion to the church. His spouse, dressing one Sunday morning, got into a waist that more than put Joseph's coat in the shade. She was conscious of the color scheme, but decided to ask her husband's and her father's opinions before wearing the garment to church. They agreed, poor men, that she was delightfully dressed and that the waist could hardly be improved upon.

So they went to church, the wife with secret misgivings, which, as the case turned out, were well enough founded, for they were no sooner seated in Grace Episcopal church than the Rev. Dr. Worthington gave out the text. "We will read," the reverend rector said, "from the gospel of St. Matthew, the sixteenth chapter and eighth verse, 'To what purpose is this waste?'"

The good woman collapsed in her pew and never raised her head during the remaining portion of the service.—Cleveland Plain Dealer.

A Text That Caught.

The following extraordinary coincidence occurred at Tinwald recently: A young preacher, who has lately married, was planned to take the morning service, but, by a misreading of the plan, he mistook his appointment for an evening one. Consequently the congregation gathered on the Sunday morning waited in vain for his appearance. Thereupon one of the office bearers of the church present undertook the service. Totally unaware that the absent preacher had recently married, he electrified and amused his audience by announcing as his text, "He has married a wife, and therefore he cannot come."—New Zealand Herald.

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R. R. TIME TABLE.

Fremont, Elkhorn & Mo. Valley.

EAST. DEPART.
*Omaha Passenger ..... 6:05 a m
Sioux City Express ..... 12:40 p m
WEST. ARRIVE.
Chicago Express ..... 7:20 p m
*Omaha Passenger ..... 12:40 p m
WEST. DEPART.
Black Hills Express ..... 7:40 p m
*Verdigre Passenger ..... 12:40 p m
*Verdigre Accommodation ..... 9:00 a m
WEST. ARRIVE.
Black Hills Express ..... 12:20 p m
*Verdigre Passenger ..... 6:05 a m
*Verdigre Accommodation ..... 7:20 p m

The Chicago and Black Hills Express arrives and departs from Junction depot. The Omaha and Verdigre trains arrive and depart from city depot. H. C. MATRAU, Agent.

Union Pacific.

SOUTH. DEPART.
*Columbus Accommodation ..... 6:30 p m
Omaha, Denver and Pacific Coast ..... 11:00 a m
NORTH. ARRIVE.
*Columbus Accommodation ..... 10:30 p m
Omaha, Denver and Pacific coast ..... 9:00 p m

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Sioux City Passenger ..... 1:00 p m
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*Sioux City Passenger ..... 10:35 a m
Sioux City and Omaha Passenger ..... 7:30 p m

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