

The new style **UNDIGNIFIED.** of oratory adopted by members of the senate, is certainly very impressive, but hardly praiseworthy. Senator Tillman delivered an impassioned address and made a telling point on Senator McClaurin's forehead. The latter being adroit in debate delivered a forceful and eloquent reply which completely shattered his opponent's logic—likewise his nasal appendage. With the house gone anarchistic, the senate gone pugilistic and Prince Henry here on a visit, it begins to look as though both branches should be spanked and put to bed when the country has company. While it is true that duels are not unknown among the legislators at the German capital, and ink-stand throwing is a regular pastime upon the floor of the French chamber, while in England speakers are frequently arrested, and South America has adopted poison and pistols as proper weapons of debate, still it is not necessary for our solons to resort to fisticuffs, merely to show the Prince that they have a proper conception of the ethics of their high office.

MIXED METAPHOR. Congressman Wheeler, the inflated Kentuckian who proved upon

the floor of the house that he is in a class with the gentleman from Buncombe, is also entitled to a place in history on account of his abilities as a mixer of metaphor. Previous to Mr. Wheeler's effort, the reporter who, in describing a death scene set forth that the "icy hand of death fluttered its silent wings over the sufferer, and softly spoke his name," was considered pre-eminent in this line, with Pitchfork Tillman a reasonably close second, he having accused a boiling pot of rising up and saying things. Mr. Wheeler's composition treats Miss Roosevelt's proposed visit to England as "another step in the chain which shows us whither we are drifting." And just to think that an unappreciative and envious house is preparing to expunge such a gem as that from the record!

Wishing to earn an honored place beside this trio of artists, The Conservative suggests that such an action on the part of congress would be another link in the book of time which beckons the country on to destruction.

CHINESE FEUDS.

[Taken from the U. S. Consular Reports.]

Clan fights are the curse of the Chao prefecture, and, indeed, of the whole province. They start from the most trivial causes, of which the following are a few of many: Two men met in a village, and, after they had

saluted each other, one took exception to the other being a native of a certain village. From this started a fight involving hundreds of men. In Jao Peng, the Ur-Chang fight was brought about by two men of the Chang clan, who had been out to catch frogs, passing naked, at night, through the village of one of the branches of the Ur-clan. This brought on a fight where one clan numbered about 20,000 and the other about 16,000. Another fight, in which the amount of damage done was over \$10,000, started in a row over 2 cash (0.0028 cent) in a gambling house.

Many years ago these fights became of such alarming proportions that Admiral Fang was sent to this region with soldiers to end them. Being a man of great ability, he made forced marches by night, appeared when the people least expected him, burned villages and tortured to death men without number. In a very short time he had put an end to the fighting. As long as he lived, and for several years after his death, the people kept the peace, such was the terror of his name. Of late, however, these fights have been increasing to such an extent, and have so interfered with business, that the foreign merchants and the members of the shipping firms in Swatow have sent a memorial to the doyen of the consular corps in Swatow that he request the viceroy to put an end to the fighting. In many cases the local magistrates are helpless or are hampered with other duties. For example, with fights raging in all parts of the prefecture, the military examinations, at which the presence of the district magistrates is compulsory, are now being held and have been for over a month.

The usual method of stopping these fights is for the magistrate to send out two or three constables to inquire into the matter and report on the state of affairs. Then, if the fighting be serious, a few tens of soldiers are sent there, who in no way interfere with the fighters, but quarter themselves on the villagers until, tired of their presence, the fighters stop. A board of arbitration is then appointed by the magistrate, which estimates the number of men killed on each side and the amount of property destroyed. Both sides then pay a certain amount in proportion to the damage done. Sometimes the magistrate comes in person, but even his presence does not have the desired effect. In 1891, at Chai Yan, in the Hak-kà country, a district magistrate, proceeding to settle one of these fights, was set upon by the fighters, his escort scattered and his chair destroyed, he himself barely escaping with his life. The taotai sent 500

soldiers, who scattered the fighters, many of them going abroad. Eight of the headmen of the villages were put to death, five by crucifixion and three by torture.

In connection with these clan fights comes up the question of smuggling arms. The majority of the weapons used by the fighters are the two-men muzzle-loaders, one man acting as a rest and the other firing the piece, the damage in lives lost being comparatively small. Recently, however, many arms have been smuggled into the prefecture from Canton and from Hong Kong. Those from Canton come overland into the Hak-kà country and into the Kieh Yeng district of the prefecture. The majority, which come from Hong Kong, are brought up in small junks, whose sizes enables them the more easily to escape detection, and are sold to the elders of the villages and clans for from \$4 to \$20 apiece. The elders in turn sell them to the clan for from \$4 to \$6 advance. The introduction of these weapons has increased the death rate in the clan fights to an alarming extent, the death rate in the Jao Peng fight having been increased to an average of eight a day, and in the Cho Yang fight to ten and twelve a day. It is in these two districts that most of the arms are landed.

These clan fights are a serious detriment to the commercial relations, nor can there be said to be any social conditions which will improve them.

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THE CUBAN WORM WILL TURN.

Unless this congress, ruled as it is by hide-bound protectionists, concedes some of the things which are absolutely essential to the Cubans, it is likely that the "worm will turn." What can we expect? There is no possibility of the Cubans holding their own against the will of the United States, however unjust it may be. But the Cubans take little account of possibilities, as their long and hopeless fight against Spain attests.—Boston Post.