

Cleveland received only 96,000 plurality, yet in spite of this crushing defeat the democratic party seems to have considerable vitality. The manufacturing state of Rhode Island has elected as governor a Cobden club, Mills bill, British gold free trader, while the great commercial city of Chicago has gone democratic by 7,500 majority. The news of these confederate victories caused six strikes in Pennsylvania and sundry lockouts in Ohio.

French politics are in the usual unsettled condition. Steps have been taken to impeach Boulanger and his political associates for planning to overthrow the republic. Unwilling to stand a trial the general has fled to Belgium, leaving his supporters to fight their own battles. He claims that he is being persecuted by the enemies of popular liberty, and has appealed to the people for aid. No one can tell what the end will be, but a revolution is no impossible. The people of France are discontented. The republic has not given them the expected relief from the burdens of taxation. This discontent is the source of Boulanger's strength. If it is strong enough he may be able to overthrow the present government.

There is an epidemic of strikes throughout the eastern states. Almost every newspaper has columns of strike news, with here and there the account of a lockout to vary the monotony. If Cleveland had been elected it would not be difficult to explain this business depression. But Harrison is president and Blaine is his chief adviser. It is rumored that the strikers are trying to prevent a cut in wages, but this must be a mistake. It cannot be possible that any employer would be unpatriotic enough to desire to lower the wages of an American workingman, and even if the employers could lose their love of country our protection president still enjoys good health. It must be that some emissary of the Cobden club is hiring the men to quit work in order that the new administration may be embarrassed. The strikers should be ashamed of having been so easily entrapped.

No legislative body has been able to outwit natural law. The New York legislature is no exception to this rule. It seems to have no influence with the power that governs the universe. This legislature thought that much harm was being done by convict labor. This opinion took the form of a law that provided that the prisoners should be kept in idleness. Nature, instead of acknowledging the importance of the New York statesmen, obeyed the more ancient command: "In the sweat of thy face thou shalt eat bread." Of the fifteen hundred convicts over one-fifth suffer from insomania, and a large number have become insane. When the new order of things was first established the prisoners were elated at the prospect of a perpetual holiday, but they soon changed their views and begged to be again set at work. It is a peculiar state of affairs when society refuses to allow men to produce those things for want of which many suffer and some die.

The high license men have won the first skirmish. Of forty Nebraska towns that have held spring elections, but six have declared for prohibition, and but two have been won from the license policy. Six of the thirty-four license towns have heretofore voted prohibition. In politics a year and a half is a long time and there may be a great change in public sentiment before the deciding contest, but if the election were to be held within the next three months the state would undoubtedly declare for license. Even as it is, the prohibi-

tionists admit that in this state their future looks decidedly blue. The outlook in other states is no brighter. New Hampshire has just declared against prohibition by a majority vote. The prospect in Pennsylvania is bright for license. To one who believes that both sides are wrong, that the solution of the liquor question, as of all social questions, will be found in liberty and not in restriction, this is pleasant. It is pleasant news, because license, high or low, is so clearly wrong that it can be easily overthrown, but prohibition being more logical would fight a harder battle.

"HOME RULE FOR IRELAND."

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The following oration will represent Nebraska at the interstate oratorical contest at Grinnell, Iowa, May 2:

"A few miles west of England, washed by the Irish sea and the Atlantic, lies Ireland, 'the lovely land of sorrow.' Running streams and sparkling lakes diversify her scenery. Wild mountains and enchanting valleys, in portions, charm the view. The native richness of her soil is such that 35,000,000 inhabitants might find sustenance within her borders. For hundreds of years her primitive people listened, untrammelled, to the rush of waves upon the shores of their island home and sung the song of freemen. They were of one character, one blood. Man could not destroy their nationality. God gave them the right to preserve it. Here then, we should expect to find today a happy country, with a people rejoicing in the blessings of their cherished home and challenging the world for a fairer picture of prosperity. But we find it not. We see, instead of abundance, desolation; instead of peace, strife; instead of hope, despair; instead of liberty, slavery.

What has thus perverted the forces which should have made Ireland a blooming garden and a paradise of joy? Her freedom, the birthright of her people, has been destroyed by alien hands; her rich fields have been made to yield up their treasure to be hoarded in the coffers of a foreign land. Can a free nation be rightfully subjugated and held in thrall by a foreign power? Let the American spirit answer.

But Ireland has not always been without champions of her right to freedom. Almost an even century ago Henry Gratton struck a telling blow for Irish nationality and independence. He demanded for his native land freedom from the aggressions of a foreign king, and supported by eighty thousand flashing bayonets, pressed home his demand upon the hardened sensibilities of John Bull. A home parliament was granted. The life currents of national feeling quickened in Irish veins. But all too soon the hand of the spoiler was raised. An act of legislative union with the imperial body was passed. But how was this brought about? The stern facts of history cannot be confuted. William E. Gladstone says the act was accomplished by 'wholesale bribery and unblushing intimidation.' Thirteen million dollars spent in buying rotten boroughs and in corrupting legislators! A hundred thousand soldiers drawn up on Irish soil to enforce a union with England! To add to the outrage, a venal legislature voting away the sacred rights of the people, who have petitioned, seven hundred to one, against this union! Can Great Britain justly base her claims today on an act consummated by such means? The British people, in common with the world, stand righteously aghast at the dismemberment of Poland. Yet they take absolute possession of a country that is of right as independent of British law as the very winds of heaven. Ireland has not forfeited the charter to her inde-