BRISBIN'S BOYS IN BLUE.

An Open Letter to Young Men Desiring to Enlist.

SOLDIERS' SUNSHINE AND SHADE

Make-Up of the Army—Military Service, Pay and Advantages—Duties at Fort Robinson—Valuable Suggestions.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., Feb. 19.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—I am constantly receiving letters from young men who desire to enlist in the United States army. They want information about the service, length of term, pay, allowances and advantages to be derived from a term of service in the army. Of course, to answer all private letters and cover the inquiries fully, would be an utter impossibility, and a public letter in a general way is the only method of giving the desired information.

The BEE reaches all classes of people, but what is written for the BEE is only the starting of the information on its travels over the country. Look, in a day or two and you will find this letter or parts of it copied into the Chicago, St. Louis, New York and Philadelphia papers, and from these again into hundreds of country papers. There is certain information the people desire, and this information travels and travels until it gets everywhere.

To illustrate: How many young men in the United States to-day think of becoming soldiers? Probably a million. And how many of these know about the army in which they wish to enlist? Probably not one in a hundred. Let me then give a plain and comprehensive letter on the army, and start it on its travels with the kind of information the people desire to have, and especially our young men.

OUR MILITARY MAKE-UP.

The army of the United States is composed of 25,000 enlisted men and 2,177 officers.

They are divided into ten regiments of cavalry, five regiments of artillery, twenty-five regiments of infantry, a corps of engineers, a signal corps and an ordnance department.

There are 7,970 cavalrymen with 440 officers; 2,650 artillerymen with 285 officers; 12,625 infantrymen with 875 officers; the rest are in the signal corps, engineers and ordnance. There are about 500 enlisted men in the signal service, 400 in the ordnance and 450 in the engineers' battalion.

A regiment of cavalry is composed of 797 enlisted men and 44 commissioned officers.

A regiment of artillery is composed of 530 enlisted men and 57 officers.

A regiment of infantry is composed of 605 enlisted men and 35 officers.

A company of cavalry is composed of (average) sixty-six enlisted men and three officers, viz.: A captain, first lieutenant and second lieutenant.

A regiment of artillery is composed of light batteries and heavy batteries.

A light battery has sixty-five enlisted men and five officers, viz.: One captain, two first lieutenants and two second lieutenants.

A heavy battery has forty enlisted men, and four officers, viz.: One captain, two first lieutenants and one second lieutenant.

A company of infantry has (average) fifty enlisted men and three officers, viz.: One captain, one first lieutenant and one second lieutenant.

A company of engineers has 132 enlisted men and three officers—the same as infantry and cavalry. One of the companies of engineers has only fifty men and three officers. It is the "Orphan" company of the battalion, and only young men who are orphans can enlist in it.

In a cavalry company there are one first sergeant, five sergeants, called "duty sergeants," four corporals, two trumpeters, one farrier, one blacksmith, one saddler, one wagoner, and the rest are privates.

In artillery, there are in each light battery, besides the officers, one first sergeant, six duty sergeants, four corporals, two musicians, two artificers, one wagoner and the rest are privates.

In a heavy battery, besides the officers, there are one first sergeant, four duty sergeants, four corporals, two musicians, two artificers, one wagoner and the rest are privates.

In infantry, there are in each company besides its officers, one first sergeant, four duty sergeants, four corporals, two musicians and the rest are privates.

In the engineer battalion, there are in each of the strong companies, besides its officers, nine duty sergeants, nine corporals, two musicians and the rest are privates.

The "Orphan" company of engineers has, besides its officers, five duty sergeants, for corporals, two musicians and the rest are privates.

Every regiment, besides its company officers, has a colonel, lieutenant colonel, three majors, (except infantry which has only one major) one regimental adjutant and one regimental quartermaster, the two latter bearing the rank of first lieutenant and the style of cardinals.

Besides the sergeants in the companies, each regiment has a sergeant major, a quartermaster sergeant, one chief mucian, one saddler sergeant and one chief trumpeter.

ENLISTMENT AND PAY.

The term of enlistment in all arms of the service is five years.

Any able bodied man between the ages of 21 and 35 can enlist in the army.

For artillery they must be not less than 5 feet 4 inches high and weigh not less than 120 pounds and not more than 190 pounds.

For cavalry they must be not less than five feet four inches nor more than five feet ten inches, and weigh not more than 165. All men must be of good character, sober and intelligent when enlisted.

For infantry a man must be five feet four inches high, and weigh not less than 120 pounds nor more than 190 pounds.

The pay of soldiers is as follows: Sergeant major of cavalry, $23 per month; $276 per year, $1,380 per enlistment. Sergeant, majors of artillery and infantry receive the same as sergeant majors of cavalry; regimental quartermasters, sergeants of cavalry, artillery and infantry receive the same as sergeant majors of cavalry. The pay of principal musician of all arms is as follows: Twenty-two dollars per week, $264 per year, $1,320 per enlistment. Chief trumpeters, saddler sergeants of cavalry and first sergeants of a company of cavalry, infantry and artillery receive each $34 per month, $408 per year, $2,040 per enlistment. Commissary sergeants of posts and quartermasters, sergeants of posts receive the same pay as ordnance sergeants of posts. Hospital stewards of the first class receive $30 per month, $360 per year, $1,800 per enlistment; second class $22 per month, $264 per year, $1,320 per enlistment. Duty sergeants of companies in cavalry, artillery and infantry receive each $17 per month, $204 per year, $1,020 per enlistment. Corporals of cavalry, infantry and artillery receive each: $15 per month, $180 per year, $900 per enlistment. Trumpeters of cavalry receive each $13 per month, $156 per year, $780 per enlistment. Musicians of artillery and infantry receive each: $13 per month, $156 per year, $780 per enlistment. Farriers and blacksmiths of cavalry and saddlers of cavalry receive each: $15 per month, $180 per year, $900 per enlistment. Privates of cavalry, artillery and infantry get $13 per month, $156 per year, $780 per enlistment. In addition to the above rates, each soldier gets $1 per month for the third year of his enlistment, $2 per month for the fourth year of his enlistment and $3 per month for the fifth year of his enlistment.

HOW SOLDIERS CAN SAVE MONEY.

A soldier receives his clothing, rations, quarters and fuel, bed, etc., free. Here is the great advantage of enlisting in the army; for a man who is clothed, fed, lodged and doctored free, can readily save all of his money if he has a mind and will do so. The money value of a soldier's clothing allowed by the government for a five years' enlistment is $300, and out of this a soldier can easily save, if he is provident, $75, which he can add to his pay. The government has made ample provisions for the saving of a soldier's pay. It allows him to deposit it all or in sums of $5 and upwards with any paymaster, and gives him interest upon it until his time is out, when it returns the whole amount to him with interest added.

Soldiers who remain in the service twenty years and who become infirm, or are discharged for wounds received, or sickness are provided by the government with a comfortable home, free of charge, for the balance of their lives. Twelve and a half cents per month is deducted from a soldier's pay during his enlistment, for the support of this home and his fellow soldiers who may have become infirm. Each military post is provided with a reading room where a good assortment of books, magazines, and newspapers are kept, and the reading room is open to all soldiers free of cost. There are good post schools, where every soldier if he does not possess it and desires to acquire a good fair English education, can do so free of cost. When a soldier is discharged he is allowed travel pay, which is more than sufficient to carry him back to the place of his enlistment.

The duties of a soldier can be best understood by carefully studying a list of calls. There are nine at this post.

It will be seen we are not idle. Still each officer and soldier has plenty of time to amuse and improve himself according to his likes.

LIST OF CALLS.

FORT ROBINSON, Neb., Nov. 30, 1886.

Orders No. 198: 1. Until further orders the service and roll calls will be as follows, viz: morning—reveille, first call, 6:30; reveille, assembly, 6:45; Breakfast call, 7:00; Fatigue call, 7:30; Surgeons call, 8:00. Guard-mounting—first call, (except on Sunday and end of month) 9:00; assembly of guard details, 9:05; adjutants call, 9:10; on Sundays and end of month, first call, 9:20; school call, 9:15; water call, 10:00; first sergeants call and recall for fatigue, 11:45; dinner call, 12 m.

Afternoon—fatigue and school calls, 1 o'clock; recall from fatigue, water and stable calls, 3:30; retreat—first call, five minutes before sunset; assembly and retreat, sunset; school call, 6:30. Tattoo—first call, 8:25; tattoo march, 8:40; tattoo assembly, 8:45; taps, 9:00.

Sunday inspections, first call, 8:55 a. m.; assembly, 9 a. m.; dress parades and drills, when ordered by post commander.

Non-commissioned officers' school Tuesdays and Thursdays, 6:30 p. m.; school for enlisted men daily (Saturdays and Sundays excepted), 6:30 p. m.; school for children daily (Saturdays and Sundays excepted), 9:15 to 11:45 a. m., and 1 p. m. to 3 p. m.

Signal instruction Tuesdays and Thursdays, 1 p. m. to 2 p. m. By order of

LIEUT. COLONEL BRISBIN,

(Signed) HENRY H. WRIGHT,

First Lieutenant Ninth Cavalry, Post Adjutant.

HOW TO GET IN THE SERVICE.

I am often asked this question, "Will you help me to get into the service and give me a chance if I enlist with you?"

No young man needs any help to get into the service. If he is over twenty-one years of age and under thirty-five years, the proper height and weight, of good moral character, and sound of body, he can enlist. All he has to do is to present himself to any recruiting officer, and he will enlist him. No help can be given him after he is in service. The service is entirely impartial. If a man has capacity and behaves well, he soon raises to a company corporal or sergeant and may get to be a regimental sergeant-major, ordnance sergeant, commissary sergeant, or post quartermaster sergeant. About one in a thousand get a commission. Many strive but few attain, and it is hardly worth while for a young man to enlist in the United States army, with the view of being promoted from the ranks to be a commissioned officer.

The government gives each recruit a bedstead (wire woven bunk bottom) pillow, pillow-cases, sheets and blankets. Lights and fuel are free of course. The food is abundant and of good quality, and consists of soups of various kinds, soft bread, meat and vegetables. The food, with the exception of butter, is about the same as found at any good second class hotel.

We generally have vacancies for recruits and are glad to get them. Recruiting officers are stationed in nearly all our large cities, and a letter addressed "To the Recruiting Officer, U. S. army, ——— city, state of ———," inclosing a stamp or postal card for answer, will generally bring a reply satisfactory to the applicant. Each military post or fort generally has a recruiting officer and a letter with stamp or postal inclosed, addressed to "Recruiting Officer, U. S. army, Fort ———, state or territory of ———," will bring an answer.

ROBINSON'S RECRUITING OFFICE.

My recruiting officer here is Lieutenant R. H. Wilson, and his address is Fort Robinson, Nebraska. He enlists not only for my post but for others. The infantry companies are commanded by Captain Gordon Winslow and Captain Augustus W. Corliss, and the cavalry companies are commanded by Captain Charles Parker, Captain Clarence Stedman and Captain B. S. Humphreys. The infantry companies are composed of white men, and the cavalry companies of black men. All the troops in my regiment are black men.

We generally need recruits in both arms. At present there are five vacancies in Captain Corliss' company, fifteen in Captain Winslow's, both white companies. There are also fifteen vacancies in Captain Parkers' troop, fifteen in Captain Stedman's, and fifteen in Captain Humphreys'. Farmers' boys are preferred for the infantry, and good horsemen of any kind for the cavalry. We also enlist for white cavalry. Applications from young white men or colored men who desire to enlist in the United States army, should be addressed to Lieutenant R. H. Wilson, recruiting officer, Fort Robinson, Nebraska, and not to me.

RECOMMENDATIONS AND ADVICE.

I can recommend the companies here as excellent companies in which to enlist. Young men desiring to enter the service will find it as pleasant and agreeable here as any place, and all the captains are kind and christian gentlemen. Captain Corliss has enlisted a number of young men since he came here, and all are doing well, learning the profession of arms, and improving their minds by reading and study.

As to my advice to young men, so often sought, about enlisting in the army, I would say, a young man of twenty-one or twenty-two cannot do better. He will be through his enlistment at twenty-six or twenty-seven, in time enough to begin the world. If he saves his money while in the service, he will have laid up enough to start on in some business, and the training he has received in the army will have developed his mind and muscle and taught him self-reliance. Our young soldiers in the west generally look up a good piece of land during their enlistment, or a business opening, and when discharged become farmers or business men in the west. Many of those who served in the army a few years ago are new among our best citizens in western Nebraska, and are wealthy.

JAMES S. BRISBIN.

SENSELESS SOCIETY SNOBS.

An "Earthquake" Caused by a Department Clerk's Presence.

ALL ATTENTION ON THE AVENUE.

How Miss Caldwell Handles the Reins—Senator Gorman—White House Life—The Visit of Miss Cleveland.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 18.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—What are we coming to? A distinguished writer on doings at the national capital speaks in most pathetic terms of the presence of a "department clerk" at one of our swell (no other word for it, for the sides of the house fairly bulged out to give space to the crowd) official receptions. The writer presumes that the "department clerk" (no gender given) intruded therein. It is really shocking, positively shocking, that a he, she or it, "department clerk" should have so outraged public official morals as to have been seen in broad gas light at an official reception, especially when these said government officials are nothing in the world but "public servants!" Now if they were only private servants the thing wouldn't be so scandalous, for our private entertainments in Washington are less talked about, but that a he, she or it, "department clerk" should go to an official entertainment with public servants is enough to shock the sensitive eyes of a Washington society writer, who, as is often the case "know how it is themselves," having been one of those self same department clerks. And what an oasis in a great sandy desert it must have been to the eyes of this learned writer, the presence of a "department clerk," a most uncommon sight, no doubt, hence the grave importance of mentioning it. I am glad to say that some of the very best elements of Washington society are the department clerks. Taat there are incompetent persons and fools everywhere can be seen by paying a visit to congress. Some of the noblest and most talented men and women I have met in Washington have been connected with the departments for years. There are, scientists, authors, artists and cultured people generally, who will give tone and attraction to society wherever they go. Well, it is conspiracy to read of a "department clerk" being seen at an official receptions!

SNOBBERY OF OFFICIAL CAST

is most entertaining here at the national capital where every fellow is a free born American citizen, except the trade dollar politician. It is a "shocking" fact that the president of the United States does associate with and has for a chum in the retirement of his political closet an ex-senate page. In the most unblushing manner does his executive highness take this humble page to heaving bosom, and together, in the stillness of the night do they ramble all over the political fields, culling the soft spots for their choice friends,—in short, they talk of this and that, do the father of his country and this smooth, beardless faced ex-senate page. A most remarkable fellow is he, knowing well how to keep the great confidence given to him and he acts accordingly. For one of his years he has done much service to his betters and bids fair to do more in the future. It would not surprise us, nothing does here in Washington, to have this most competent ex-senate page the candidate for president on the democratic ticket, or any other ticket to win, in the near future. He hails from Maryland, "My Maryland," and his name is Arthur P. Gorman!

In the very face of all of this we read that "a department clerk" was seen at an official reception! Truly this snobbishness of official and social cast here in Washington is rasping enough to materialize the bones of our hard-working pilgrim pa's and ma's out of their long years of peaceful resting in their graves way down in the Yankee land, and bring them stalking into our midst giving their sardonic grins at our would-be lords and ladies trying to ape the corrupt imperialism they turned their backs upon to found a new world where honest work was prized above the accident of birth (fearful accident in some cases) and position. O, my! what would the grim old dads say could they behold our mushroom aristocracy bobbing about town in their English drays and dog-carts with their British flunkies in attendance, don't you know? Attracting the most

ATTENTION ON THE AVENUE

in these English rigs is a dog-cart driven by Miss Caldwell, of Philadelphia, the lady who is famous for her stable of fine horses, as well as for giving a cool hundred thousand or more for the Roman Catholic university to be established here. I believe she is considered a very clever sort of a girl, and handles a whip and the reins most skillfully. Whenever Miss Caldwell appears on the avenue in this most fanciful gotten-up rig, drawn by two pretty little yellow and white Dolly-Varden horses, there will be knots of naughty men and boys gathered on every corner watching the little lady picking her way through the maze of street cars, herdics, carriages and heavy laden wagons driven by careless, lazy negroes, who are perfectly reckless of human life. Miss Caldwell, usually accompanied by her sister, and a flunkie sitting behind with his eyes set on the tip of the off horse's right ear, has the seat of honor herself, and most daintily she takes the ribbons into her own hands and minds her business well; no see-sawing of reins but a steady pull, and now and then an encouraging word to the fiery little beasts, which are well protected against the weather these raw cold days by pretty blankets artistically fashioned, green, embroidered with red and gold. That she understands how to handle the ribrobs there is not a doubt: that she enjoys the attention she attracts is evident by the bright pleasant sparkle in her eyes and rosy face. I shall not attempt to guess her age—one never meets with success in guessing a woman's age any way—it is enough that Miss Caldwell has a stable of fine horses and is rich! The army and navy are full of suitors for this fair lady's hand, but it is otherwise engaged driving her own teams!

SOCIETY IS AT FULL SPEED

now, the same old set go it morning, noon and night, day in and day out, Sundays not expected. Mrs. Smash gives a breakfast; Mrs. Dash gives a lunch; Mrs. Lash gives a tea; Mrs. Splash gives a dinner—(always have tea before dinner here in Washington;) Mrs. Rash gives a supper at midnight, and Owl and Lark clubs have a set-to the remainder of the twenty-four hours. A dish cloth hanging on a briar fence is not more bedraggled and limp-looking than these devotees of society as the morning sun blushingly kisses the Goddess of Liberty on the dome of the capitol. This kind of amusement is bound to produce secure attacks of rheumatism and "Washington malaria," and then another appropriation to fill up the Potomac flats! Good heavens, it will be impossible to appropriate money enough to fill up the "flats" in about congress, and there are some of the homo variety that even the malaria would be too proud to associate with.

AT THE WHITE HOUSE

everything is lovely, so to speak. The president is behaving himself as well as can be expected under the circumstances (when circumstances have a fellow under its no laughing matter.) The president is still suffering with keen shoots of pain in his knee joints when the weather changes and new appointments to make. There's Manning's place to be filled, and a lot of ex-senators and M. C.'s to be taken care of. Surely the life of the president isn't just as sweet as peaches and cream all the time, after all. And yet there comes up every day new subjects for that position.

The fair mistress of that old worm-eaten mansion is doing her work nobly and satisfactorily. I have yet to learn of one unkind criticism of the young wife. There are a great many demands upon her time—some social event daily at the white house. While she seems to enjoy entertaining with all her heart, I notice that she does look pale, and when Lent steps in to pull down the curtains, she will be glad to rest. Miss Cleveland's return to the white house is the occasion of much rejoicing. She finds a host of friends who give her the welcome she merits. She is looking in good health; her literary fights seem to have agreed with her, that is if good physical conditions are evidence. She is much stouter in flesh, is fresher and younger in appearance. The weight of being the "first lady in the land" does not crush her under its heavy load. She is free to accept all the tea and dinner party invitations that she pleases, and many parties of this kind are given in her honor. Lent week, the 22d, will be the last evening reception given this season, and this in honor of the "dear people." COX.

HONEY FOR THE LADIES.

White kid gloves are again a ball-room requisite.

An envelope is like a woman. It can't go anywhere without address.

Colored Swedish gloves are preferred for evening, concert, theatre and promenade toilets.

Tennyson is said to be engaged in an adaptation of "When this old Hat was New" for the queen to sing at her jubilee.

A Harlem girl sang "Darling, I am Growing Old," with an expression so pertinent and truthful that her procrastinating lover left her for good.

"Ah, yes," sighed a Chicago lady, "John has been a good husband to me!" "I thought you separated years ago!" "We did, but he is always prompt with the alimony."

"I'm am the leading lady of this company," she remarked as she took her husband by the ear. "Yes," he murmured sadly, "and it's clear that I'm the walking gentleman."

White has continually increased in popularity since beautiful woolen materials have rendered it applicable for various occasions, and this preference is now extended to hats.

With a silver-gray cloth dress we noticed a kangaroo of gray plush, which was charmingly effective. The most generally adopted color, however, is seal-brown. The lining is either of the same color or crimson, old gold or heliotrope.

Dark felt hats display a white trimming made of either cloth or plush puffed or laid in folds, in which a kitten's head or tuft of feathers is prettily arranged. White felt hats have a most charming effect, and are generally trimmed with black velvet.

The latest bang is in the shape of a V; it is called the "Russian Bang." It is turbaroussi. Ribbons, flowers or aigrettes of light feathers are fashionable for the hair for evening wear. Rhinestone hairpins, shell and amber hair ornaments are worn at dinner parties.

Early spring mantles are also made with shoulder pieces, and are gathered round the waist under a belt. Very pretty ones are beige cloth gathered onto a shoulder piece of brown velvet, with belt of same, and full sleeves gathered onto wristbands to match.

Book muslin is the favorite material for the frocks now being worn at children's parties, not only the plain kind, but those covered with embroidery and much trimmed with lace. It is not, however, arranged skirt over skirt but simply in one long drapery on the foundation.

The mantle preferred by young ladies for the demi-saison, and serving as a medium between the heavy winter cloak and the light spring garment, is the kangaroo mantelet, well fitted to the waist at the back, with the sleeve rounded off over the shoulder and doubled up over itself over the arm.

He was a sad-eyed man. He must have been henpecked. She said, "Now, make haste: I don't believe you would hurry to do anything for me if I were dying." He said, "Wouldn't I? If I only thought you would—" But his eye caught the woman's and he never concluded that speech.

Sleeves of a different material to the dress are a very useful novelty of the day, as new sleeves can thus without any difficulty be put into a half-worn-out dress. Of course, care must be taken that the sleeves harmonize with some portion of the toilet, the contrasting skirt or bodice, trimming, etc.

In every party given in London, it would, be safe to promise that half the dresses in the room would be either white or black, but there is a disposition, nevertheless, to dress girls as well as matrons, in dark colors, such as slate or green tulle. This is very well for married woman, but it is a mistake as far as girls are concerned.

Bonnet or no bonnet? that is the question which a fashionable lady is called upon to decide before going to the theater, and the no bonnet has carried the day at the leading theaters by a large majority; the result is charming. Hair dressers have been called to the rescue, and the ladies have their hair as prettily dressed as if they were at an evening party.

In jackets the most stylish model is double breasted, and has a deep collar of plush or velvet continuing in one deep revers tapering down from the shoulder to the waist. These jackets are made of fine plain cloth. The trimming is sometimes continued around the waist. They are lined with fine plaid or striped flannel or some fancy colored silk.

An iron gray woolen stuff with black plush stripes is to be recommended for half mourning. The Russian blouse is fastened at the side with engraved silver grelot buttons and trimmed on the left side with a velvet band embroidered with jet; sleeves, collar and cuffs: the two latter worked with beads, are also of black velvet. Hussar jacket made of black jersey material fastened with nine velvet aigrettes embroidered with jet. Quite small plain black velvet bonnet, with rows of jet open work and black velvet bow, with a jet half moon shining in the middle. Jet aigrette.

The days when elderly ladies were expected to cover their heads with large ugly caps have long passed away. Now old ladies dress their hair much the same as younger ones, the chief difference being that the former wear their back hair lower and more spread out. The front hair, whether real or false, is frizzed and laid in small curls on the temples. There is certainly no occasion to cover this coiffure, and the old-fashioned cap is consequently replaced by a light head-dress of embroidered silk tulle, edged with lace plisse. A bow of ribbon, secured at the side with a pearl or diamond agraffe, completes this becoming article. A lappet either falls down the back, or, caught up by some pretty ornament, just touches the shoulder.

Anxious mothers need not bestir themselves to provide their young daughters who are about to be introduced with much jewelry. Bracelets can very well be dispensed with when long sleeves are worn, and nine girls out of every ten have nothing but a simple row of pearls round the throat, which in ninety cases out of 100 are not the veritable Oriental pearl. The most acceptable gift of the kind would be some of the innumerable little brooches which are used to fasten bonnet strings and lace; they take the form of pearl and diamond shamrocks, or some small insect. There is a revolution in the setting of pearls, gold being employed as the background, which renders them far more substantial than the old mother-of-pearl setting, that was sure to be damaged if much worn.

SINGULARITIES.

A prospector found a nugget worth $62 at Big Creek, Ore.

There have just been admitted to the poorhouse of Beaver county, Pa., a man and his wife and five children, three of whom were triplets.

The latest big egg story comes from Gibson Ga. This particular egg is about three inches long and measures six and one-quarter in circumference, and weighs a little over three ounces.

An owl was captured in buffalo county, Wisconsin, that measured more than five feet from tip to tip of its wings. It is now on exhibition in a meat market at Mondovi.

A Canadian lynx or loup cervier was captured in a common steel trap in Hampden, Me., last week. The animal was about forty pounds in weight, and so savage the trap had to be sprung on each of its legs before it could be handled.

CONSTITUTIONAL CONTESTS.

How the Relative Strength of the Ministry and Opposition Stands.

DENMARK'S POLITICAL DANGER

The Fortification of Copenhagen—Estrup's Cabinet a Ministry of Antagonism—The Folkething Conservative.

COPENHAGEN, Feb. 9.—[Correspondence of the BEE.]—Last week, our rigsdag or diet met for the first time since the recent important elections for the folkething, or lower house. Our folkething, which consists of 102 members, may be likened to the house of common, and, according to the Danish constitution, it should have much the same powers as its English prototype. But the Estrup ministry, which has been in power since June, 1866, is so in the habit of violating law and having recourse to force, that I fear that an absolute monarchy may eventually replace the constitutional monarchy, established by the compact of 1849.

The Opposition has, however, won a victory over the Ministerialists in the elections which have just been held. It can count on seventy five votes in the new folkething, with the Faro islands, which elect one member, still to be heard from; that is, we are nearly three times stronger than our political opponents. Since September 1872, we have been in the majority, and yet, during the past fifteen years, the ministry has been chosen from the minority. What a violation of the rules of parliamentary government! The ministry seems to care nothing for the support of the popular branch of the diet, provided it enjoy the favor of the king, and the confidence of the landsthing, the Danish house of lords, composed of aristocratic plutocratic, and bureaucratic elements, which are more reactionary than conservative in spirit. The folkething, on the other hand, is conservative, in the best sense of the word, rather than radical, since the most influential portion of Danish voters

ARE WELL-TO-DO FARMERS,

and a member's pay is so small—but a little over $1.50 a day—that it is only persons of some means who can afford to enter the rigsdag. Although democratic and socialistic ideas are wide-spread in Denmark, but two representatives of the party have ever succeeded in being elected to the folkething, and one of them lost his seat in the campaign just closed. The opposition in the last folkething was composed not only of the left and the two democratic socialists, but also included several members of the liberal right. It will be seen, therefore, that the folkething by its nature, and the opposition by its composition are, as I have already said, conservative rather than radical, and yet the ministry treat with contempt both the house and its majority. In order that foreigners may understand this singular state of things it is necessary to begin at the beginning.

The Estrup cabinet may be characterized in a word as a ministry of antagonism and militarism. At the start its members, six in number, were all taken from the aristocratic landsthing. Imagine an English cabinet chosen wholly from the house of lords! To-day there are seven members and, although three belong to the folkething, they are taken from the right. From the start the folkething endeavored to come to an understanding with the Estrup cabinet, but in less than four months there was

A SERIOUS FALLING OUT

between the government and the opposition, the latter being unable to accept the demands of the former in regard to military measures. Consequently, in March, 1876, the ministry dissolved the folkething for the first time, and the same proceeding has been repeated on several occasions since. At the elections of the month following, the opposion was increased from a little over one-half to three-quarters of the members of the folkething. But the ministry did not resign. On the contrary, the Estrup cabinet actually brought forward the very same bill concerning the fortifications of Copenhagen that the preceeding folkething had refused to pass. Instead of yielding, the ministry finally had recourse once more to dissolution, and in December, 1878, general elections were again held, followed by another dissolution, and another election in the spring of the same year, which procedure was repeated in July, 1881, and again last month. Whether the dissolution and election of this winter will be the last of the series in this long and dangerous constitutional struggle remains to be seen. Nor does this enumeration complete the list of attacks on popular liberty committed by the Estrup cabinet. The annual session of the rigsdag has been shortened so that during the parliamentary vacation

THE KING MAY EXERCISE

his powers at the expense of those of the people. Again, this same evil genius, Estrup, has set the landsthing against the folkething, thus dividing the rigsdag into two hostile camps. Thus, when the lower house sent up bills, according to our constitution, to the upper house for its action on them, they would be returned with a message to the effect that the landsthing considered it preferable that the initiative in legislation be left to the government. I wonder what your house of representatives would say if your senate were to follow such a course?

But the worst remains to be told. Our constitution requires that appropriations be first voted in the folkething, where the ministry, however, pays little or no attention to what we say or do. But when the bill reaches the landsthing, it is amended in accordance with the wishes of the ministry, and then there is, as a result, the usual friction between the two houses. The ministry, in such cases, does not strive to act as a mediator, but, quite the contrary, does what it can to widen the breach, and then, when the end of the financial year arrives, recourse is had to a wholly unconstitutional proceeding, and the king decrees the sums necessary to carry on public affairs. This was done for the first time in 1877, and a few months later the rigsdag

WAS FOOLISH ENOUGH

to legalize by its vote this irregular and illegal act, supposing that the government would repeal it. But our eyes were quickly opened to the real intentions of Mr. Estrup and company. Since April, 1885, the ministry has decreed not only one appropriation bill after another, but other "provisional laws," too—such as those limiting the freedom of the press, establishing a body of armed police, etc. If the Danish people were not calm and phlegmatic by temperament and if revolutionary measures were not distasteful to them, such a course as that pursued by the Estrup cabinet would long ago have produced a fatal conflict.

In the autumn of 1885 the ministry found an excuse to deal the folkething still another blow. On October 21, a young fanatic, whose mind was unbalanced by this long and bitter political conflict, fired twice on the prime minister, but without wounding him. The opposition was unanimous in condemning this act, and the president of the folkething, Mr. Berg, immediately called upon Mr. Estrup. Nevertheless the folkething was again dissolved and for nearly two months the government went on legislating without any legislature. And still

ANOTHER ILLEGAL ACT

of the government must be recorded. I refer to the arrest of Mr. Berg and other members in the very midst of parliament, —they having been condemned by the the courts for utterances in public meetings. Thus the Estrup cabinet was as regardless of the inviolability of the person of a deputy as of the financial powers of the folkething itself. I have said that the bone of contention is the fortification of Copenhagen. Here is the view that the opposition takes of this question: Formerly, Denmark used to spend about one third of its revenue for military purposes. To-day one half of our money goes into this vessel of the Danaides. Nor is it simply on financial grounds that they object to the fortification of the capital. There are political objections also. A fortified Copenhagen would be like a defective lightning-rod which attracts rather than wards off a thunderbolt. The reactionary states on the east, especially Russia, would seek an alliance with a military Denmark, while the liberal nations of the west—England and France—would look upon her as a continual source of danger. Rendering

COPENHAGEN A MILITARY STRONGHOLD

would, therefore, draw Denmark into the gulf of foreign alliances, while the opposite course would probably bring about the neutralization of the three empires of the north—Denmark, Sweden and Norway—and thus obtain greater security for Scandinavia at a time when Europe is always on the verge of a convulsion. This independence of the three Scandinavian states, the guardians of the entrance into the Baltic, the Mediterranean of the north, would be in the interest of all Europe. But the ministerialists do not take this wise view of the situation, so that the Estrup cabinet is endangering Danish welfare abroad as well as at home.

And now, a final word as to the future policy of the opposition in the falkething which has just begun its first session. During the last four or five years we have, unfortunately, been pursuing a negative course. We have protested against successive encroachments upon our constitutional rights, and have believed that gradually the cabinet would be deserted by its following and stand alone. But such has not been the case. It is now necessary that we pursue a positive policy unless we wish to lose our hold upon the country, that we propose and carry out certain reforms, and that we show the people how this reaction of ministry is jeopardizing the best interests of the nation by preventing the realization of the progressive measures that would carry out. The moral support of foreign countries will strengthen us in the task. May we count on that of America? I trust so. I know we may.

FREDERICK BAJER.

EDUCATIONAL.

President Eliot, of Harvard, has sailed for Europe, where he will spend a year.

At Yale the most popular senior options are political economy and socialism.

Williams college has just received a bequest of $100,000 from a lady in New York.

Dr. Schooler, dean of the Iowa Medical college, has been arrested for complicity in grave robbery.

During the last thirty years the state of Michigan has given to the Ann Arbor university the sum of $1,000,000.

Mark Hopkins, the venerable ex-president of Williams college, has taught all but three of the 1,726 living graduates of that institution.

Harvard has fallen heir to another large sum of money. By the bequest of the late John Q. A. Williams, the university will receive $400,000. The estate is left in trust.

Mr. Hiram Sibley, the founder of the Sibley College of Mechanic Arts, Cornell University, is about to add to his previous liberal donations to that institution $250,000.

The centennial anniversary of Columbia college will be celebrated April 18. By a charter in 1754 the college was first known as King's college, with Dr. Samuel Johnson as its first president.

President White has a good word to say for college athletics, especially for boating, but criticises sharply the mechanical way of teaching at Yale where he entered the sophomore class of '51.

Dr. Waldstein, the archaeologist, has been asked to take the directorship of the American school at Athens in October, 1888, on the condition that a permanent endowment of $100,000 shall have been raised at that time.

Senator Stanford's enthusiasm over the plan for erecting a great university in California is said to have reached such a point that he contemplates resigning his seat in the senate in order to devote his whole time to the project.

Ten per cent of the students in the University of Zurich are women. Twenty-nine of them are studying medicine, fourteen philosophy and two political economy. There are now forty-eight female students of medicine in London, and in Paris 103.

Lee & Shepard, Boston, have nearly ready for publication Professor A. P. Peabody's "Moral Philosophy," being the lectures delivered to his students in Harvard college, and adapted for text purposes. There are twelve essays in the series.

Johnson Whittaker, the colored cadet who was charged some years ago with mutilating his own ears at West Point, is now a member of a successful law firm in Charleston, S. C. He also does a little newspaper work and is doubtless glad that he escaped a military life.

Prof. Albert Cook, who fills the chair of English literature in the University of California, recently organized the California Book club, the object of which is to procure the best new books for members. It already has a membership of 171, including several leading professional men of San Francisco.

Two young San Francisco women, Miss May and Isabel Price, have been engaged by the Japanese government as teachers. The former is to be instructor in the Girls' High Normal school of Tokio, while her sister will organize a school of domestic service, the chief object of which is to familiarize Japanese girls with American customs.

Buffalo, N. Y., will finish a music hall in October, which it is claimed will be the finest in the country.

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16 pounds granulated sugar	$1.00	Corn meal, 25 lb bag, 25c.	
25 bars White Star Soap	1.00	3 Loaves of Bread, 10c.	
4 pounds Japan Tea, U. C.	1.00	Nonpareil, Minn. Patent Flour, $2.50.	
3 pounds best Sample Tea	1.00	Hubbard's finest Patent Minn. Flour, $2.80.	
Armour's Hams, 12½c.		Choice mackerel, 3 for 25c.	

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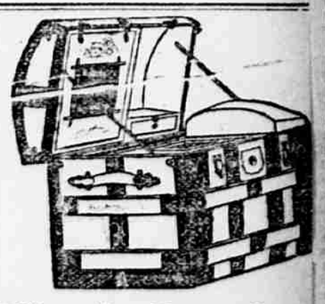

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First class corner on Dodge street, now renting for $3,000. Good for a few days for $33,000. Terms easy.

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