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When space will permit, The Tribune is always glad to print short letters from its friends bearing on current topics but its rule is that these must be signed, for publication, by the writer's real name.

## TEN PAGES.

SCRANTON, NOVEMBER 8, 1899.

Colonel Barnett's traducers are probably now willing to admit that it was all a joke.

#### The Result.

N VIEW of the complexity and uncertainty of the local returns at the hour of writing, comment and analysis are withheld. The general returns are not far different from prevalent expectations. Ohio and Kentucky, the important battle grounds, appear to be safely Republican, but Nebraska and Maryland are lost and the light vote in other states causes reduced majorities. The election of Barnett in Pennsylvania, in view of all the circumstances, can be construed in no other way than as a rebuke to the men who introduced personal defamation into the canvass against him. But for this factor his vote would no doubt have been less, Generally speaking, it is the old story over again, of Republican "off year" apathy. It takes a hot fight to bring out the Republican party's mettle.

It is always the Democrat residing in Republican strongholds that has the most to say regarding a non-partisan

#### Remember the Maine.

HE BELIEF has probably never been abandoned by the American people that the mystery of the Maine would one day be cleared up. Interest In the subject is revived by the announcement in Havana dispatches that additional information has recently come into the possession of the authorities, who are about to put their bands upon the guilty parties.

This may or may not be accurate; the authorities are properly non-committal; but it seems reasonable that American intervention in Cuba, with its control of every avenue of information and power, would not fail to include among its purposes the most persistent attempt to hunt down the assassins of our noble battleship and able paper by Hon. Seth Low. its gallant crew. The guilt which could plan and execute so infamous a crime as that cannot forever be hidden; soner or later it is bound to reveal itself. If the secret service of the United States government has not already got hold of the threads of the conspiracy the public can feel assured that it is neglecting no opportunity to acquire this grasp, which, once obtained, will be followed up relentless-

Back of all the political consequences of the war with Spain, which have probably meted out to the Spanish nation full punishment for the misgovernment in whose shadow such a crime could be conceived, there ties the great unsolved question of personal responsibility; and the officials of the United States would be recreant to every instinct of humanity if they should relax detective operations until this personal guilt is established and answered for as befits its upprecedented enormity.

Farmer Creasy will doubtless hereafter keep off the grass on the political Majuba Hill.

### The Kaiser's Opportunity.

AS THE EMPEROR of Germany decided to abandon the traditional insularism of continental policy so marked in the earlier history of the German confederation and to identify himself on the side of the great progressive powers, Great Britain and the United States? Is the mighty influence of the German empire hereafter to be used, not as a pawn in the knavish games of the continental intriguers. but as a vital force in behalf of the world's highest civilization along broad lines of international justice and fair play? In other words, has the successor of Bismarck at the helm of the German ship of state decided at last to discard so far as possible the frank and brutal Machiavellism of the Iron Chancellor and substitute therefor as his chart of action a doctrine of moral responsibility not limited by his empire's immediate bounds?

These interesting questions are suggested in part by the announcement that an amicable agreement has practically been arrived at by Great Britain, the United States and Germany with respect to Samoa (a most surprising evidence of mutual good will wholly at variance with the spirit of past negotiations upon this subject); and in part by the assertion by Walter Wellman, who has again taken charge of the Washington correspondence for the Chicago Times-Herald, that these three powers have not only agreed as to Samos, but have extended this coincidence of policy to cover the great problem of the future of China and are working together along the lines of a thorough diplomatic accord in behalf of the maintenance in all parts of China of "the open door." This assertion is put forward by Mr. Wellman with confidence and in supporting it he

evolves a most plausible theory, to wit: Not long ago England was wholly isolated. She stood alone. America, for-merly looked upon as a traditional enemy, was the first of England's new-found friends. The rapproachement between these powers constituted a combination of such strength that a third power was attracted by it and knocked at the door for admittance. This was Germany. The kutser, who is showing strength and steadiness of character predicted of him by but few observers ten years ago, was dissatisfied with his alliances. Their and dissatisfied with his aillances. Italy and Austria had fallen back to the rank of second of not third rate powers, and the dreibund was ineffective in the world's

larger politics. Russia was friendly, but playing for France more than for Ger-many. That the kaiser made conscienmany. That the kaiser made conscientious efforts to bring on a rapproachement with France, an effort to go with Russia into a combination which might revive Napoleon's dream of the continent united against England, is undoubted. Nor is it doubted that he was in this attitude of mind when Dawey sat waiting at Manila chafing under German annoyances. But France, mad with hatred, dreaming of the Bhine and revance could not meet these Rhine and revanche, could not meet these overtures, and the affaire Dreyfus was the last bliter drop in the kaiser's cup. Disgusted with France and not over well pleased with Russia, he turned his eyes westward. He was in a natural and prudent way seeking friends for Germany. He wanted strong, trustworthy friends. Russia's foreign policy is consistently mysterious; France is ever erratic and uncertain in all things save her hatred for Germany. But in character England and America are steady and safe, their diplo-macy frank, thoroughly modern, and the kaiser saw them drawing gradually closer together. He decided to approach them both, and by both has he been welcomed. I was told in London that England had an understanding with Germany, and on account of it had had no fears of Bussian or German help to France over Fashoda and had none now in South Africa. Here in Washington I learn upon the highest authority that there has been a similar entente existing between Germany and the United States.

It needs to be understood, of course. that so far as the United States is concerned there are no formal al-Hances; simply a coincidence of policy growing out of parallel interests and mutual respect. But that the emperor of Germany has cast his lot with the live forces in the world's future politics and put behind him and his country forever the unscrupulous insularism of the Bismarck era is, if true, a fact of momentous and altogether beneficent significance, which is as greatly to his credit as a sovereign as in the long run it must prove advantageous to his subjects and to humanity at large. The authorized announcement made at Berlin yesterday regarding German policy in China is in the nature of confirmatory evidence that Mr. Wellman's information is correct.

The Filipino "cappers" in Pennsylvania have evidently been neglecting their work.

#### The Arbitration Treaty. T HAS BEEN SUGGESTED to

us that perhaps our statement in yesterday's Tribune that the method of arbitration arranged by the recent peace conference has been sufficiently explained in the Amercan press is erroneous; and we have been requested to review briefly the provisions of the treaty on this subject which will come before the senate at Washington this winter for ratification or rejection. In compliance, we desire in the first instance to acknowledge indebtedness to F. de Martens' paper in the North American Review for many of the facts about to be stated; as was as to the admir-

As was said yesterday, the chief

treaty brought back by our delegation to The Hague for consideration by our senate is entitled "a convention for the peaceful settlement of international disputes" and consists of four parts: (1) a general agreement to settle disputes peaceably when possible; (2) providing for good offices and mediation; (3) recommending international commissions of inquiry; and, (4), providing a permanent tribunal of arbitration. The latter is constituted in the following manner: Within three months after each signatory power shall have ratified the treaty it will name four persons or more of "recognized competency in questions of international law and highly respected on the ground of morals." The names of thes . "hall be entered upon the records of an international bureau to be established at The Hague and also communicated to the signatory powers. The bureau is to be established and controlled by a permanent administrative council consisting of the diplomatic representatives of the signatory powers accredited at the Dutch capital, together with the Dutch minister of foreign affairs, who is its president exofficio. These various nominees are to form the eligible list from which powers in dispute may select the judges before whom they may wish to appear for the adjudication of their differences. It is at all times open to nations in dispute to make special arrangements for arbitration. The court at The Hague is an optional recourse; but once its good offices are accepted there is no backing out.

Now as to the rules of procedure in case of arbitration. If powers in dispute cannot agree upon the odd arbitrator, they are to ask a neutral power to recommend one; if this does not work, each power is to name a neutral power and these neutral powers will try to agree upon the odd arbitrator. Once the court is organized, it will proceed very much as an American appellate court. First there will be instruction (that is, production of records and documents); and, next, debate, or as we would say, argument. The court decides upon all questions of competency; is, in fact, the judge of its own limitations; and renders its decision on points at issue by a majority vote. Those decisions, being put in writing, signed by each member of the court and read in court, constitute the decree in arbitration and by this decree the quarrel is adjusted definitely and without appeal. An attempt by the American delegation to provide for a revision of decree within three months, in the event of the discovery of new evidence sufficient to influence the verdict, was defeated; but powers in dispute may afterward modify any decree by special argeement between themselves.

Objection in the senate to this treaty is likely to arise at three points more especially. The first of these concerns the section which recommends international commissions of inquiry to ascertain the facts as to matters in dispute. This will doubtless be opposed as opening a door to foreign intermeddling; but the wording of the section shows that a commission of inquiry can only be named at the request of the powers in dispute, hence if either power objects there is no intermeddling. In the case of the blowing up of the Maine, for example, an international investigation could not have been forced against the will of the United States. In minor matters. such as frontier incidents, conflicting

testimony touching frictions at a distance from the seats of the governments concerned, etc., It is conceivable that neutral investigation might prove a welcome escape from prolonged diplomatic wrangling between the powers immediately interested.

A second objection is foreseen over the article which reads that "the signatory powers consider it a duty, in the case when an acute dispute threatens to break out between two or more of them, to remind those powers that the permanent court of arbitration is open to them." This was anticipated by the American delegation which sought to insert the qualifying clause "when circumstances will permit;" and which, when that amendment failed, put upon record the declaration that "nothing in this convention shall be so construed as to require the United States of America to depart from its traditional policy of not intruding upon, interfering with, or entangling itself in, the political questions or policy or internal administration of any foreign state; nor shall anything contained in the said convention be construed to imply a relinquishment by the United States of America of its traditional attitude toward purely American questions." The third and most serious objection

is likely to arise over the rules of procedure of the permanent court; and more especially over the lack of any opportunity to secure a revision of decree after the discovery of materially important new evidence. The treaty at this point impresses us as defective and seems to put an emphasis upon conclusions which is more European than American in its significance. It is conceivable, as between the United States and a European power er, that the latter, wishing to get the sanction of a decree or court stamped upon unjust claims, might, by its superior diplomatic resources rapidly fix up a case, provoke a dispute and rush the United States into arbitration before it had fully prepared its side of the controversy; in which event the lack of a chance for subsequent revision would permanently inflict injustice if it did not directly contribute to war. The history of our experiences with European arbitration tribunals in the past teaches that this is no hy-

percritical imagining.

than in actual battle.

Some of the candidates will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that they were political "possibilities."

South African dog-in-themanger will soon begin to cultivate an appetite for hay.

### STUDIES IN CRIME.

state or nation are fugitives from justice bail or a fugitive from a tardy justice

The offenses for which these men are passed for crimes against property, lar-ceny, burglary, forgery, all having for their object monetary gain. There are any crimes against the person committed for the same cause, but it is impossinumber of mencenary crimes can, thereagainst the person, running the whole gamut, from assault to murder, are twenty per cent, of the total crimes commit ted in the country. Against the society are twenty-five per cent. of all the crimes punished in the United States, bigamy the crimes are miscellaneous ones which it is impossible to classify. Another surprising fact is that the proportion of te male prisoners in the United States held for crimes against society is one to four, twenty-five per cent, of all criminals held. Tals proportion is the more reto the foreign classes and to the colored class among the prisoners in the United are much more numerous in the criminal

The study of dependent and defective and delinquent classes always has an ele-ment of interest. Take the insane and we find that of the the total insane in the United States seven per cent. are colored, twenty-eight per cent are foreigners and sixty-five per cent natives. This, of course, does not mean that the number of insane natives is greater in propor-tion to the population. Judged on this score the percentage of native Insane is smaller than in either the foreigners or the colored class. In sex there is almost no difference, the women outnumbering the men so slightly that the difference is searcely appreciable. In the pauper classes we find the relation of classes very different! But fifty per cent. of the total number of paupers are natives. while forty-one per cent, are foreigners and nine per cent, are colored. The women are outnumbered by the men in the asylums throughout the country by a ratio of 44 to 56. Again the percentage of native paupers compared to entire volume of class population is smaller

The study of society in these various

It is unfortunate that a work otherwise so promising should in this one detail fall short of obvious justice. If this defect should cause the treaty's overthrow in the senate it will be a new notification to whom it may concern that the United States, in its proper zeal to promote peace and good will among the nations, is not to be betrayed by European cunning into an

Each day seems to prove that it is easier for the Boers to whip the beseiged Englishmen in war bulletins

## The spring campaign will open to-

From the Philadelphia Times There are \$3,329 prisoners in the United States today occupying penitentiaries. state prisons, county jails and other places of confinement. In addition to these there are 3,289 persons who are under indictment to answer charges of one or another description in the criminal courts who are at liberty on ball, while 5,632 offenders against the laws of whether in or out of the country no one knows. This is a surprising number in proportion to a population of 70,000,000— over 90,000. This means that over 1 1-3 per cent, of the entire population of the United States is serving a term in jail or awaiting trial for some crime either on This is an astonishing record. Yet the United States has the best record of any country in the world in this respect. In every other country the percentage is larger and the number of fugitives par-

rving terms in the penitentiaries are many. They range from murder on com-muted sentences to petty larceny. Forty-five per cent. of all the sentences are ble to disassociate these from others having other objects in view. The whole fore, never be accurately determined. The total number of crimes committed felonious assault and similar offenses fig-uring prominently, while ten per cent. of markable when it is found that of all the prisoners in the United States held for every variety of cause but six per cent. are women. The proportion of the natives States is interesting. It is surprising to find that less than five per cent. of all the prisoners are colored. Foreigners courts, thirty per cent, perhaps, while sixty-five per cent, is represented by the

## 

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serve to illustrate the interesting fields t opens up. Those who are inclined to do so can readily find the means to delve deeply into the subject. Lack of space forbids it here.

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### AMERICAN AMERICANS.

From the New York Sun. There is a great deal of talk about



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A Bad Case.

Corcoran—So you've been to Boston, ch? Did you find the streets crooked? Borcherling—Crooked! Great snakes! Every time I went out for a walk I met Irish Americans German Americans, British Americans and what not, but the myself coming back.—New York Press

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