

Banking, Insurance and Golf.—The officials of the banks and insurance companies having their offices in Edinburgh have shown their belief in

out-door exercise, and a knowledge of how beneficial bodily labour is to health, by uniting to establish a club for the promotion of golf. It is stated that, at the recent opening of the Banking and Insurance Club house, the youth and beauty of gay Edinburgh attended the function, and signified approval of the intention of the gentlemen who devote their daily attention to money and risks giving some of their valuable time to the glorious game of golf.

Any one of our bankers and insurance men who languishes under an ill-habit of body and takes abundance of remedies to no purpose might dissipate a growing distemper by recognizing, as the Edinburgh fraternity evidently do, that exercise is the most effectual medicine.

The "interruption to business and loss of time," pleaded by some men as a reason for not indulging in recreation, will be answered by many a stomach made dyspeptic and many an old age rendered miserable for want of daily exercise.

Paying the Bills.

Perhaps it is too early to discuss the shape the payment of the bills for the game of war now being played by the United States is likely to take. And yet some of the critics of events who are best calculated to form an opinion of the outcome are already tracing some similarity between the present outbreak and the seven days' Græco-Turkish war of last year.

If the war is to be short, sharp and decisive, it is not too early to begin thinking of the possible effect of the grievous interruption to business upon the money market and to speculate upon a possible special issue of United States bonds. The Congressional contests of next autumn will likely bring the cheap money advocates again to the front. In THE CHRONICLE of the 25th inst. we pointed to public opinion in the United States as indicating that the silver question was not settled by the presidential election of 1896, and we added "there is enough of menace in it yet to warrant business-men in watching the signs which portend another disturbance of trade conditions in the neighbouring republic." These signs will be more noticeable when the question of paying the bills for the attack upon Spain is made another subject for revolutionary orators to grapple with.

However, our monetary institutions and private investors probably need no reminder of the disturbance in financial circles caused by the preaching of Bryan's dangerous doctrines in 1896, and they may be relied upon to see that any obligations incurred by the United States for defraying the costs of war, or for any other purpose, are made payable in gold.

To be forewarned is to be forearmed, and, in business dealings with the United States, we cannot be

too cautious regarding the terms and conditions of all contracts entered into, so long as Mr. Bryan and his admirers continue to promulgate the heresies of revolutionizing Democracy and silver Republicanism.

International Courtship.

The sudden access of extreme friendliness between certain sections of the press in Great Britain and the United States is attracting the attention of all Europe. In view of bits of past history, the courtship of these two great nations must be a cause of wonderment and some amusement to foreign on-lookers. How long this exchange of kisses and compliments will last cannot be safely predicted.

In Don Juan, we are told that the strength of a kiss should be reckoned by its length, and that length means duration. Some of the London papers are already speculating as to the duration of the *entente cordiale* between the two countries, and the *St. James' Gazette* indulges in the following cynical comment:

"There is a good deal of billing and cooing among emotional Anglo-Saxons at present. In the United States there is a certain amount of gush, probably as sincere as the hysterical emotion excited by Bryan's flashy 'cross of gold' metaphor. Here there are always people who gush when America is concerned, but these waves of emotion come and go. Deep rooted feelings of dislike and substantial interests don't."

What is an Accident?

The majority of people would think it an easy thing to answer this question. But the legal mind frequently works in a way mysterious and confusing to the clients concerned, as the following curious case tried in the United States Court of Appeal at St. Louis will illustrate.

A person insured for \$5,000 contracted a sore toe by wearing a tight shoe, which caused friction of the skin. From the sore, blood poisoning ensued, followed by death. The insurance company disputed the claim under the policy, and were beaten, and the verdict has been sustained by the Court of Appeal. Such a case as the one cited is not common, and may well excuse an insurance company for wishing to ascertain in what light such a fatality would be regarded by the highest legal luminaries.

Hence, the suit in question, and the Courts have decided that the death of the wearer of the tight shoe was the result of an accident. It is perhaps a foolish fancy for a man, if a pardonable vanity in a woman, to continue wearing a shoe that is painfully tight. But it seems that when such a shoe causes an abrasion of the skin, followed by blood poisoning and death, said death is due to what the law defines as an accident.

A contemporary in referring to this same strange story of a shoe and an accident policy remarks:—"All final effects in human existence may be philosophically considered demonstrated as one. Through all existence there runs the thread of an unbroken continuity.