

**Senatorial** "I am an ass—am onion-eyed."

**Dignity** (Shakespeare).

**and Onions.** The published account of the departure of the Hawaiian commission from San Francisco states that Senators Morgan, Hill and Cullom, finding the deck of the steamer "Mariposa" stacked with boxes of onions, made a strong protest to the captain of the ship, declaring it was a crying shame, and also an outrage and an insult to the government of the greatest country on earth to convert a vessel which was to carry the official representatives of the United States on an important mission into a vulgar freighter. However, the commissioners were obliged to remain on the "Mariposa," for the simple reason that they could not secure any other means of transportation.

We think something is due in the way of explanation to the Senators named as well as the country thus grievously insulted and outraged, and in the name of the American eagle we desire to hear more of this very extraordinary story from the starting point of this commission, San Francisco. We may assume that the Washington authorities must have been hard put to it before they permitted this peculiar atrocity to be perpetrated upon their commissioners to Hawaii. That the owners of the "Mariposa" should be unwilling to have her leave port without a cargo is their own affair; but this deck-load of onions upon a ship selected to carry three American Senators to Hawaii must be settled between her captain and his own conscience. If he be an officer who has had the advantage of a proper training, he ought to know something of Senatorial dignity; he should be aware that his ship is not a commonwealth, where all cabin passengers become equal for the time being, and where seasickness reduces them to a common and unpleasant level. Onions! the offence was unpardonable. Of course, the recent demand for transports to bring home the sick and weary soldiers from Santiago may have prevented the President from ordering a battleship to be placed at the disposal of these justifiably incensed senators; but, then, what about those onions? The bulbous root as an article of food is not to be despised, and doubtless even this trio of dignified senators may upon occasion indulge therein. If such be the case, the objections to the deck-load of onions were probably due only to a very proper dislike to arriving at Hawaii with their eyes full of tears, a condition certainly calculated to detract from the importance of their mission. Whatever may have been the true significance of the outrageous insult represented by the 'Mariposa's' deck cargo, 'tis evident that the United States senators do not place the same value upon the onion as does the Bermudian, to whom the globular vegetable represents worth and excellence, and who expresses admiration for your character or conduct by saying: "You're an onion."

At all events, 'tis a good thing that this little *contemps*, of which a few racy particulars have flitted eastward across the continent, has afforded us proof that the press of the United States have failed to do

justice to that much abused but august body known as the Senate. Messrs. Morgan, Hill & Cullom have exhibited an unsuspected dignity upon a very trying occasion, and also heroic courage in putting to sea on a ship having her deck stacked with boxes of vulgar onions, and possibly with their owner as a fellow cabin-passenger.

#### **Conditional Bidding.**

In last week's issue, we referred to the action of the Comptroller of New York in declining to award an issue of city bonds to the highest bidder, pending advice of counsel regarding a stipulation by the bidders that their acceptance of the bonds would be subject to the opinion of their solicitors. The question submitted to the corporation counsel by the New York city officials was: "Does the stipulation of the highest bidder invalidate its bid, or is the city justified in awarding under these conditions?"

The opinion of the acting counsel for the corporation has been received by the Comptroller of New York, and, of course, he advises acceptance of the bid of Vermilye & Co. (105.03) for the \$12,688,000 worth of bonds, notwithstanding the conditions they appended to their offer—"subject to the approval of the legality of the issue by our counsel."

But the Acting Corporation Counsel THINKS that such bids should be refused in future, "lest they might establish precedents which would lead to other bids with real conditions."

The Produce Exchange Trust Company and the Hamilton Trust Company protested against the acceptance of Vermilye & Co's bid on the ground that it was not unconditional.

The counsel for the Produce Exchange Trust Company, who were the only unconditional bidders for the \$12,688,000 worth of bonds, filed with Comptroller Coler since the dispute over the bids began, a notice in which the claim is made that in the event of the Produce Exchange Trust Company's counsel advising them that the bond issue for which the full amount was bid is not legal, the Trust Company can refuse to accept the bonds without forfeiting the certificate of deposit for \$253,000, which was placed in the hands of the Comptroller as an evidence of good faith.

It would appear from the facts of the case as reported in the financial papers of New York that there has been much ado about nothing in the matter of this issue of bonds, and much unnecessary appealing to the lawyers for their thoughts and opinions. Whatever may be the practice in Gotham, no banker or broker in Montreal would require to be told by counsel that illegally issued bonds could be declined by the bidder, even if he failed to stipulate for the opinion of his solicitor before acceptance of delivery.

#### **THE DEEPEST MINE.**

The Bendigo Mine, owned by Millionaire Landsells, popularly known as King George I., of Bendigo, is now down 3,040 ft., being thus at the greatest mine depth in the world, according to a late English paper.