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Contents.

EDITORIAL.	etc.	7
Paragraphs.	1 FOREIGN MISSION.	8
The Turk as Terrell Sees	W. B. M. U.	8
Him.	F. M. Board, Notes by the	8
Paul at Rome.	Secretary.	8
Notes.	4 THE HOUSE.	10
Rev. Elias Keirstead.	5 THE SUNDAY SCHOOL.	11
CONTRIBUTED.	Bible Lesson Nov. 21.	11
Haltax Letter.	Eph. 4:10-21.	11
SHAUNTED.	From the Churches.	12
Our Attitude toward Ro-	Marriages and Deaths.	13
manism.	The Farm.	15
Give Christ Your Heart.	S. S. Convention.	9
STORY PAGE.	Notices.	9
THE YOUNG PEOPLE.	News Summary, 14 and 16	9
Prayer Meeting Topic.		

Will Not Quarrel.

The somewhat threatening note recently issued by the French Government on West African affairs is not taken very seriously in London, but is rather regarded in the light of a concession to the French jingoists. Englishmen are not disposed to believe that France means to force a quarrel on England. It would not be good policy for France at any time, and the present especially is not a wholesome time for teasing the British lion, for what with Lord Salisbury's concessions in this matter and in that, John Bull is not in the most amiable frame of mind and might resent in very blunt terms any polite impertinence from across the channel. The evening Post's correspondent in allusion to the subject says:

"This minatory semi-official note provoked a decisive, almost unanimous, reply from the English press. 'We have conceded enough in Siam, Madagascar and Tunisia for peace and quietness sake, getting precious little in return. We concede no more. Talk over matters in a friendly spirit, by all means, but drop bluff; it won't pay,' they say; and France is dropping it, for yesterday the Niger Boundary Commission met in Paris, and the French press, sobered by the unanimous and determined attitude of the English press, echo Lord Dufferin's historic phrase: 'It would be an everlasting disgrace if France and England should go to war for some African rivulet.' As the Spectator sagely says today, 'So long as England commands the sea, France is bound over to keep the peace in the sum of Indo-China, Madagascar, and her African empire.'"

United States Elections.

The elections occurring this year in the United States were comparatively few, and the gains or losses of either party correspondingly unimportant. The political pendulum is usually on the swing between the two great parties. No sooner has one party got established in power than there is a revulsion of public sentiment in the other direction. The recent elections are significant chiefly as indicating that the see-saw between the parties continues and that there is now a clearly manifest tendency of the pendulum toward the Democrat side. This is the more significant in view of the present vantage ground of the Republican party. The split of the Democrats on the money question gave to McKinley the support of great numbers who under other circumstances would have stood by the party of Cleveland, and the demoralized condition of the Democrats still makes strongly in the interest of the party now in power. The revival in trade induced by the good harvest and the rise in price of the nation's principal exports count strongly on the same side. Nevertheless, it appears certain that the McKinley administration is not popular with the people. In Ohio, the President's own State, the tide has evidently set quite strongly against the dominant party. The State Legislature, it is now conceded, will remain Republican by a small majority, and Mark Hanna, the Republican 'boss of Ohio' who made McKinley President, will retain his place in the United States Senate, but the margin between victory and defeat is so narrow as to leave him nothing to boast of.

Tammany Wins. As intimated in our remarks last week in reference to the contest for the mayoralty of Greater New York, the prospect was strongly in favor of the Tammany candidate, and the event has only too surely confirmed that forecast. The number of votes cast in the municipality was in the vicinity of half a million. Van Wyck's vote is given approximately at 230,000; Low's, 153,000; Tracey's, 100,000, and George's, 16,000. Tammany's plurality is therefore about 77,000 over Low. It is probable that the death of Henry George resulted in making the vote for Van Wyck somewhat larger than it would have been. It did not, however, materially affect the issue. But if the forces represented in the following of Low and of Tracey had been combined, the Tammany candidate would have been left in a minority. We have here a sample of the effect of the political machine when introduced into municipal affairs. If Senator Platt, the head of the Republican machine in New York State, had not interfered in the contest, the result would have been the election of the nominee of the Citizens' Union, and Greater New York would have had for its first mayor Seth Low, a man whom the city and the nation might have felt proud to see in that honorable and responsible position, and who doubtless would have given to the city the best government of which the conditions would admit. Platt knew that he could not elect his man and thus secure conditions by which the affairs of the great municipality could be run in the interest of himself and his party. But he believed that he could do what he regarded as the next best thing in the machine interest—prevent the election of an independent ticket and thus throw the government of the great city, with its immense patronage, into the hands of the Tammany party, whose name is a synonym for corruption and rapacity.

The Seal Question.

It is understood that at the recent Washington Conference, the representatives of the United States, Russian and Japanese governments agreed to the prohibition for a time of pelagic sealing, that is the killing of sealions the open sea. The Washington Government will of course ask Great Britain to become a party to this arrangement. Probably Lord Salisbury would be well pleased to get this vexatious business off his hands by complying with this request, but his lordship will not wish to offend Canada in this matter, and Canada is, indeed, apart from the United States, the country chiefly interested in this question. So far as England's particular interests are concerned, it makes but little difference who kills the seals, so long as the pelts are dressed in English factories, and England is not less interested than the United States in having the seal herds preserved. But seal-hunting is an industry of some importance to Canada, and the United States has no good reason to find fault if Canada demands that her rights shall be fairly considered. We have no idea, however, that Canada is disposed to be unreasonable in this matter, and whatever difficulties there may be between the United States and this country connected with the seal question should be susceptible of easy adjustment. It is stated that the Premier of Canada, the Minister of Marine and Fisheries and Mr. Macoun, the Canadian expert, are to visit Washington the present week to discuss the matter with the United States authorities, and there should be no reason to suppose that the outcome of the conference will be other than satisfactory to both countries.

Van Wyck and Croker.

Judge Van Wyck, the first Mayor of Greater New York, has such an opportunity as seldom comes to any man to win honorable fame for himself and render eminent public service. As chief magistrate of the vast municipality he will have in his power the bestowal of patronage second only to that of the President of the nation. Some 33,000 persons, whose annual salaries will aggregate \$33,000,000, will have their names on the city's pay-roll, and more than 20,000 more, it is estimated, will indirectly—through contracts, etc.—draw pay from the city treasury. There will be abundant opportunity for the exercise of the highest administrative ability, as well as for moral courage and strength of character required to resist corrupt influences of both the bosses and the masses. That Mr. Van Wyck is a man who has either the ambition or the ability to rise to the occasion and give Greater New York a model government, probably no one believes. The real ruler of the city, as everybody knows, will not be Van Wyck, but Richard Croker, the notorious Tammany boss, whose doings in the past may be taken as an indication of what is likely to be done in the future.

—The great hotel built by Mr. D. O. Mills and recently opened on Bleecker Street, New York, is the outcome of an endeavor to place within the reach of men of slender resources the means of living respectably and comfortably at a minimum cost. For the sum of twenty cents per day the lodger obtains a room and excellent bed, with the use of other rooms for reading, writing, etc., also the use of baths and the privileges of a good library. Connected with the hotel is a restaurant, where good and wholesome meals are obtainable at correspondingly moderate rates. The motive of the enterprise would seem to be philanthropic rather than money-making, but Mr. Mills expects that the business will not only pay expenses, but yield a fair interest upon the money invested. While the Mills House will not compete with the cheapest lodging houses, it will be a great boon to young men of good character who have to practise stringent economy and who often find it impossible to escape from the physically and morally unwholesome influences connected with the cheap lodging house.

—Our readers have been kept pretty well informed in reference to the work of Rev. E. O. Taylor, of Chicago, the lecturer on Temperance who, under the auspices of the W. C. T. U., is engaged in a lecturing tour of the Maritime Provinces. Mr. Taylor is now in St. John, and will visit the other principal points in the province. On Sunday Mr. Taylor spoke three times. His manner of dealing with the subject is calm and argumentative. He appeals to the teaching of Scripture and to the obligations resting upon men and women as Christians and as Christian citizens, and the appeal, we judge, is made with very considerable effect. Mr. Taylor states his points with great clearness, his arguments are carefully considered, both as to substance and as to mode of presentation, and if the hearer feels that in some cases a particular argument may be subject to considerable discount, the argument of the discourse as a whole is of a cumulative and convincing character. The lectures in which Mr. Taylor deals with the drink question from the standpoint of modern science are to be given here during the week.