

who killed his wife, and has since been confined for six years in a madhouse, should now be resorting to law for the collection of insurance on his victim's life. Truth is frequently more strange and thrilling than fiction.

The Democratic Platform. A great deal of excellent humour is expended on the "free, independent and intelligent voters" during the progress of an election campaign, and probably no other country sees greater play given to that quality of the imagination which tends to excite laughter or merriment by ludicrous images, or representations, than the United States. Could aught be more irresistibly droll than the description of the Democratic national platform given by a Mr. Hoge, of Virginia, at a meeting of the Commercial Travellers' Sound Money League, in New York, on Friday last. In the course of his address, which was brimful of that humour which the ambassadors of trade know so well how to enjoy and appreciate, Mr. Hoge compared the Democratic platform to a "Mother Hubbard gown," which, he said, "covered every hing and touched nothing."

Western Civilization in China. Although we have been assured in verse by the soldier's poet of the period that looting does not suit with British morals, and that "they call a man a robber if 'e stuffs 'is marchin' clobber" with a Burmese god, or even a gander; we are being furnished with lots of evidence that the allied forces operating in China have adopted service rules which do not debar them from picking up a few unconsidered trifles. Thus we are informed from Washington that "the final disposition of the silver, some \$275,000 in amount, taken by the American marines at the capture of Tien-Tsin, may be determined by Congress. In the meantime, the silver is being treated as a trust fund, of which the Government is the custodian, until a determination is reached as to its rightful disposition."

Its rightful disposition! Delicious. Of course, the Government will not determine to return this marvellous handful of silver to its rightful owners—until after the pending Presidential election.

Western civilization may be modern, but its methods in making war are those of the most ancient of pirates. It must be cheering to Chinamen who have not yet been robbed by the soldiers of modern civilization, to know that the allied generals have "reached an agreement that there shall be no more looting."

Captain Marryat, in one of his stories **Bo'sun Bragg**, introduces his readers to an amusing character in "Chucks," the boatswain. Mr. Chucks, it will be remembered, in addressing any foremost hand or smart young topman who incurred his displeasure, always commenced his remarks in terms of extreme politeness, but wound

up with the language of Billingsgate. If he had been reproving Ralph Rackstraw for his rash and imprudent passion for Josephine, the admonition would probably have been: "Permit me to inform you in the most polite manner, and without the shadow of a wish to hurt your feelings, that you are a — — — — — etc., etc., etc."

The Gold Democrats possess a "Boatswain Chucks," in General Edward S. Bragg, who was Minister of Mexico under President Cleveland. In addressing a Milwaukee audience on the money question, this gentleman said in part:

"Mr. Bryan is an honest, if not a practical man. What he says he can do, he believes he can do, and will never falter in his attempt to do it. He is a man of phenomenal oratorical power; in private and social life he is loved and respected; in his presence and speech his influence over those who hear and associate with him is almost hypnotic; he writes poetry * * * but, a wild bull in a china shop would not be more dangerous to the safety of the crockery than such a man would be to the safety of the State if intrusted with the management of affairs."

Labour Leaders.

There seems to be an instinct in our nature to follow the path pointed out by a few leaders; we are gregarious in a normal as well as a physical sense, because it is so much easier to follow the opinions of others than to reason and judge for ourselves. To the blind custom of obedience to leaders may be attributed much of the trouble into which men stumble. It seems strange that settlement of disputes between employers and employed is rendered impossible simply by reason of the decision of a few leaders of labour that all work must cease until their demands are complied with. The most barbarous, rude and unlearned times were, of course, subject to seditions and tumults. Yet, learning does not seem to have made the minds of men more gentle, amiable, and pliant to government.

The strike in the anthracite coal region of the United States must suggest unpleasant reflections to the minds of those who realize what this constantly recurring strife between capital and labour means. That workmen have the right to organize and form unions for their protection against injustice and oppression is undeniable. Yet, these same organizations threaten in their turn to become more tyrannous taskmasters to their members than those they seek relief from. Surely, if the stories of suffering, caused by this strike, are true, President Mitchell and the organizers of the United Mine Workers' may well pause to ask themselves if the destruction of industry is warranted by the circumstances. Possibly also, the great corporations and mine-owners may have something to answer for.

There is certainly much that is grievously wrong in a condition of things which brings want and suffering to so many homes, and which compels men to