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THIS COUNTRY CAN LEAD.

A few days ago we reproduced in an editorial a remarkable prophecy of Wm. H. Seward, made in the United States Senate in 1852, in reference to the conspicuous place the countries on and in the Pacific were destined to take in the world's progress.

It had more special reference to the countries upon the American side of the Pacific, and only incidentally referred to the part the countries on the other side, teeming with their millions of people, might play in it.

But they have been playing it some, and one of them has been playing a heroic part. When Mr. Seward spoke he knew but little of Japan, that marvelous nation, which after a sleep of many centuries suddenly awoke, rubbed the cobwebs from her eyes and bounded to the front among the nations of the earth, one of the most ancient and exclusive of nations, which had kept her gates hermetically sealed, as it were, for all time before against the nations of the earth, suddenly becoming the most progressive of nations.

In this respect she stands alone, peculiar and unparalleled by any nation, of any age.

Mr. Seward could not have foreseen the part this wonderful nation was to play in the progress of that side of the Pacific, but in one generation she has done more for the progress of humanity within her sphere of influence than was done in all the ages that preceded since the waters of the flood subsided.

When she crossed the dividing waters and with her brave soldiers carried war into the midst of China's 400,000,000 of people and smote the vengeful, rotten personification of despotic stupidity on the brow and made it grovel in the dust and bawl for mercy she lifted Chinese manhood and made progress possible.

It is said that one of the conditions of peace prescribed by Japan is that China shall open her gates to the machinery of the nations of the earth, which means that China shall become one of the nations of the earth and give her people a chance to become as other people and move along with the procession.

THE STRAWBERRY CROP.

Barrie Will Be Plentiful Further South, but the Crop Will Be Late Everywhere. Indications now point to a heavy crop of strawberries everywhere South.

MINOR MENTION.

The Raleigh Visitor informs us that Messrs. Jones and Foster, extensive growers of hops in the State of New York, are now in Raleigh with a view to making experiments in hop-growing in Eastern, Central and Western North Carolina.

It is interesting to note that the experiments prove the most satisfactory. Experiments which have been made in Rockingham county have given good results, and it is proposed now to carry them on over a wider range.

The President's Private Secretary contradicts the report given by a Washington paper that the President was in receipt of many letters and telegrams urging him to call an extra session of Congress to repeal the income tax law.

The STAR is informed that they investigated extensively in lands near Charlotte, N. C., and some along the W. & R. R.

Where the defendant was indicted for stealing a pocket-book containing money, bank certificates and a check payable to the prosecutor, it appeared that he had been carrying the book on the train and on the day after his return to his home in Wheeling, W. Va., from a Southern tour, he made a proper and reasonable effort to discover the owner by writing to the bank which had issued the certificates, etc., and in a few days explained the whole matter to the owner and kept his property safe from him.

Telegraphic announcement was made yesterday that the Edgar Thompson foundry and machine works at Mobile, Ala., had been awarded the contract for castings for a marine railway at Halifax, Nova Scotia, having underbid other competing establishments in the United States and in England.

Under the English dictation we have practically ostracized our silver, degraded it to the condition of a mere commercial commodity, and put gold up as the only metal to be honored as a true money metal.

THE COTTON SITUATION.

Review of the present and a glance at the future. The cotton market in New York is at present in a waiting, or hesitating mood with a steady undertone, and while this steadiness might naturally result from several causes, I think that the chief factor in the situation is the attempt on the part of certain well-known and wealthy operators to bring about a material advance in the price of contracts for May delivery.

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CONFEDERATE MONUMENT.

READY FOR THE UNVEILING CEREMONY MAY 20TH. A Banquet to be Given the Men Who Did the Work—Democratic Ward Primaries—New England Manufacturers—Action to Test the Validity of the Assignment Law.

The Confederate monument has been veiled and with the exception of placing the four bronze lamps in position, it is now complete for the ceremony on the 20th of May. The medallions and smaller statues were put up Saturday, and the monument was given a good scrubbing with soap and rag.

The Democratic ward primaries occur to-night. There are many candidates out for the positions of mayor and clerk. The public works committee is the strongest candidate for these positions, and this fact makes the contest more interesting.

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ABOUT COTTON.

Reasonable to Believe that the Advance in Price is Permanent—Higher Prices Will Be Paid by Planters Materially Reduce the Average This Year.

DEAR SIR—In our circular letters of December 10th and February 16th, attention was specially called to the fact that the price of cotton had declined far beyond what the unfavorable conditions and depreciating influences warranted, and was below the cost of production.

The total available supply of cotton in the world is 884,583 bales more than last year, 444,028 bales more than in 1893, and 80,765 bales more than in 1892.

The exports this year are 1,979,469 bales more than last year, 3,275,597 bales more than in 1893, and 938,795 bales more than in 1892.

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REPEALED WITHOUT REMEDY.

OUR MUNICIPAL ELECTION LAWS. Major C. Dowd makes a startling discovery—The Election Law of 1883 Repealed—The Election Law of 1883 Repealed—The Election Law of 1883 Repealed.

The Republicans of the city retained Major C. Dowd, as counsel a few days ago to ascertain if they could not apply to a Superior Court Judge to issue a mandamus compelling the Clerk of the Court of the county to appoint registrars and judges of election for the next municipal election in Charlotte.

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DEMOCRATS IN COUNCIL.

MEETING OF STATE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE. Encouraging Reports from Different Parts of the State—Rep. Fops, Caucus in Greensboro—Baptist Female University—Banquet at the Yarrowbush.

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DUKE CIGARETTES. High Grade Tobacco. ABSOLUTELY PURE. SPIRITS TURPENTINE.

Salisbury Herald: Capt. Dick Eames came up from Albemarle this morning, bringing along with him that seven-pound nugget of gold found yesterday. Those who saw it say it is a beauty.

Raleigh Visitor: Deputy collectors Davis, Smith, Sheburn, Moffitt report the seizure of three illicit distilleries in Guilford, Wilson and Randolph counties. These ranged in capacity from forty to 80 gallons. No moonshiners were arrested.

Winston Sentinel: Mr. Susan Carter, of Sandy Grove, Caswell county, with a horrible death last week. While she was alone in the house, her husband, who was in the room, was in the fire and was horribly burned. When her husband reached the house she was dead. It is supposed she had a fainting spell and fell in the fire.

Charlotte News: Pat Mungo who was in the city to-day, reports that there is a good deal of activity in the gold fields of Clear Creek township. Gold mining is going on actively, and there are now in Clear Creek township, Colorado miners who expect to invest in a mine.

NEWS OF THE NAVY. MOVEMENTS OF UNITED STATES CRUISERS. Important and Successful Tests of Armstrong Shell and Percussion Fuses.