IF I SHOULD DIE TO-NIGHT.

If I should die to-night
My friends would look upon my quiet face
Before they laid it in its resting place,
And deem that death had left it almost fair;
And laying snow white flowers against my hair,
Would smooth it down with tearful tenderness,
And fold my hands with lingering caress,
Poor hands, so empty and so cold to-night.

If I should die to-night,
My friends would call to mind, with loving thought,
Some kindly deed the icy hand had wrought;
Some gentle word the frozen lips had said;
Errands on which the willing feet had sped,
The memory of my selfishness and pride,
My hasty words, would all be put aside,
And so I should be loved and mourned to-night.

If I should die to-night,
Even heart estranged would turn once more to me
Recalling other days remorsefully,
The eyes that chill me with averted glance
Would look upon me as of yore, perchance,
And soften in the old, familar way,
For who could war with dumb, unconscious clay?
So I might rest, forgiven of all, to-night.

O friend, I pray to-night,
Keep not your kisses for my dead, cold brow!
The way is lonely, let me feel them now,
Think gently of me: I am travel worn;
My faltering feet are pierced with many a thorn.
Forgive O hearts estranged, forgive, I plead!
When dreamless rest is mine I shall not need
The tenderness for which I long to-night.

SUNDAY SELECTIONS.

— All false practices and affectations are more odious than any want or defect of knowledge.—*Sprat.*

— I know of no manner of speaking so offensive as that of giving praise and closing it with an exception. —*Steele.*

— Common sense is the knack of seeing things as they are, and doing things as they ought to be done.—*C. E. Stowe.*

— The sky is always blue, pure, changeless azure; rains and tempests are only for the little dwellings where men abide.—*Carlyle.*

— As a countenance is made beautiful by the soul's shining through it, so the world is beautiful by the shining through it of God.—*Jacobi.*

— Choose always the way that seems the best, however rough it may be; custom will soon render it easy and agreeable.—*Pythagoras.*

— When the ideal church and the real church becomes one, the pastoral relation will be indissoluble for life annual deficits will be unknown, and the difficulty will be not how to get people to church, but to get room in churches for all who come.

— There is hope for us all. Sovereignty will come into our lives the day that we cease asking what the world is going to do for us, and turn square on ourselves and ask what, for the honor of the free creative spirit there is in us, do we propose to do today for the world. Greatness is in being more exercised about what goes out of us than about what comes in. We have become great when hampered activities seem to us a more fatal thing than withheld favors.—*S. S. Times.*

FRENCH'S TROOPS NEAR COLESBERG.

A Strong British Force Moving to Secure the Crossings on Orange River.

A BRUSH WITH THE BOERS.

The Situation at Ladysmith—Report from Brussels That Capitulation is Hourly Expected—Rumor That Buller Sustained Another Defeat.

By Cable to the Morning Star.

LONDON, January 14, 4 A. M.—The veil concealing the theatre of war from the anxious eyes of Great Britain and the rest of the world is still unlifted. It is impossible to doubt that this absolute closing of all the channels of information is due to the censorship, the strictness of which has been redoubled since the landing of Lord Roberts and Lord Kitchener, concerning whom nothing has transpired since the announcement of their arrival at Cape Town four days ago.

The War Office stated at midnight that no further news from the front had been received and none from any other source has come to hand during the night. As usual when news is scarce, the rumor-mongers have been busy. The latest story floated was that intelligence had reached the headquarters of the Scots Guards that General Buller had again sustained a serious defeat. Inquiry at Wellington barracks showed that while such a rumor had reached there, it was neither official nor in any form deserving of credence.

French's Troops Moving.

RENESBURG, CAPE COLONY, Jan. 9.—A strong force of British troops advanced this morning under cover of a brisk artillery fire and encamped at Slingerfontein on the Boers eastern flank. The Boer patrols retired, but subsequently a body of Boer's attempted to seize the position, threatening communication between the British encampment at Renesburg. The New Zealanders, with a brilliant dash, frustrated the attempt. They raced and seized the position first and fired volleys at the enemy who retired in the direction of Colesburg.

LONDON, January 13.—The movement of General French's troops in the vicinity of Colesburg is taken to indicate that Lord General Roberts has recognized the importance of General French's objective, namely, to obtain command of both bridges across the Orange river and has hastened to send him reinforcements. It is also thought to partially confirm the suggestion that General Buller's plans include synchronous movements in all the spheres of operation.

Around Ladysmith.

VIENNA, Janury 13.—The *Neue Freie Presse* to day publishes a dispatch from Brussels saying news has been received here from Pretoria to the effect that the Boers have stormed all the heights around Ladysmith and that the capitulation of that place is hourly expected.

It is possible that the news received in Vienna by way of Brussels from Pretoria may refer to the fighting of Saturday last, January 6th, when the Boers captured the British trenches three times and were thrice driven out at the point of the bayonet, and to the fact that the Boers occupied one British position all day long, only being driven out of it at night.

Volunteers Going to Africa.

LONDON, January 13.—Though many stirring scenes have marked the departure of the British troops for the front during recent months, to day's outburst of patriotism, on the occasion of the starting of London volunteers, was quite unprecedented since the Jubilee. It is the first time in the history of the movement that British volunteers have been permitted to serve side by side with the regulars in real warfare, and the people turned out in hundreds of thousands to fittingly celebrate it. The crowds thronged the route in such proportions that a detachment of the Lord Mayor's Own were engulfed at various stages of the march.

Finally the column reached Nine Elms station, bearing numberless traces of the difficulties of the march. The public was excluded, the final leave takings being held outside, and the volunteers were entrained and departed amidst a co-mingling of band music and cheering and the singing of "Auld Lang Syne," "Rule Britannia" and "God Save the Queen."

The Lord Mayor, sheriffs and councillors, in their state robes, accompanied by many ladies, took another special train for Southampton to bid farewell to the volunteers on board the transport Briton. The latter arrived soon after the Lord Mayor's party and were saluted with ringing cheers from a huge assemblage on the quays as they boarded the liner.

PHILIPPINE ADVICES.

Encounters of American Forces With Bands of Insurgents—Enemy Routed.

By Cable to the Morning Star.

MANILA, January 13.—Advices from Cebu report a sharp fight on January 8th between a battalion of the Nineteenth infantry and a body of insurgents occupying a strong position in the Sudlon mountains. The enemy was routed, the Americans capturing a smooth-bore cannon, some rifles and destroying the fortifications. Four Americans were wounded.

The insurgent General Flores having established a rendezvous with one hundred men at Humigan, province of Nueva Viscaya, Captain Benson with two troops of the Fourth cavalry was sent to dislodge him. The insurgents were scattered, their horses were captured and the position was burned, the Americans sustaining no losses.

The American forces yesterday occupied Magallanes, province of Cavite, capturing twenty insurgents, including a colonel.

AT DENVER, COLORADO.

The Two Proprietors of the Evening Post Shot by an Angry Citizen.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

DENVER, COL., January 13—Frederick G. Bonfils and H. H. Tammen, proprietors of the *Evening Post*, were both shot in their office at noon to day by W. W. Anderson, a prominent local attorney. It is not believed that either was mortally injured. Both were able to walk to carriages that carried them home. After the shooting Anderson walked out of the office unmolested, but later was arrested. The exact cause of the shooting is not known. Anderson went to the editorial room of the *Post* and entered the office of Bonfils and Tammen. "Polly Pry," a well known newspaper woman, was also in the room. It is understood that Anderson objected to something that had appeared in the *Post* and demanded retraction and that Bonfils and Tammen both attempted to put him out of the office. Then he commenced to shoot.

THE KENTUCKY CONTEST.

Situation May Be Serious If Republican Incumbents Refuse to Vacate, as They Threaten to Do.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

FRANKFORT, January 13.—The situation in the contests for Governor and the State officers, and the question of what is going to happen when the final result is declared, are to night fruitful of the most extravagant speculation. If the adherents of the contestees, the Republican incumbents of the State offices, carry out the line of procedure they now threaten, by refusing to vacate even in case the Legislature decides in favor of the Democratic contestants, the situation will be serious, and if the statements of some of the men high in the councils of the State are to be credited, this is what they propose to do.

K. J. Hampton, secretary of the Republican State Central Committee, said to-day that the talk of holding an anti Goebel State convention here next week was purely an invention, but he predicted that several thousand anti-Goebel men from all parts of the State would be here to protest by their presence against unseating Taylor and Marshall and to sustain them if the Legislature votes to turn them out. He denied that any of those now here are soldiers in citizens' clothes, as charged by the Goebel Democrats.

James Andrew Scott, one of the attorneys for the contestants in minor State contests, said to-night:

"The importation of soldiers and thugs here for the purpose of intimidating the Legislature will not work. They are bluffing and no trouble will occur. As for their threats that they will hold on in spite of the decision by the Legislature they may do this for a few days, but the courts would recognize the regular State government, and if Mr. Taylor does not then give in, he will subject himself to prosecution and all the penalties against usurpation, which I have no idea he will want to encounter."

Most of the Democratic leaders coincide with Scott. Ex Governor Bradley and all of the Republican leaders hold that the contest proceedings are being conducted in an arbitrary manner without regard to the law and that for these reasons the decision, if adverse to Taylor, should not be binding on him. They file a bill of specifications as to their objections to the trial of contests and the reasons why the proceedings are all illegal. The sum total of these, according to Governor Taylor's attorneys, brings the case within some of the inhibitions of the fourteenth amendment to the Federal constitution.

The Republican State Committee, through its officers and the organization formed by disaffected Democrats during the recent campaign, has issued statements reviewing the political campaign and calling upon its constituents for their support. The appeal issued by the "honest Democrats" says:

"The Democratic party has been put in the position of an enemy to the public peace and a menace to popular institutions with a record of unparalleled outrages during the past year. We are about to enter upon a national campaign; the probable leader in this campaign has made himself the associate and the supporter of the men who were repudiated at the polls. He is to return next week to Kentucky to aid the conspirators in driving from office men who have been elected. The future is dark with threatened danger of the gravest character."

THE DEMOCRATIC CAMPAIGN.

Imperialism and Trusts to Be the Main Issue—Free Silver Side-tracked—Bryan in New York.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

NEW YORK, January 13.—In connection with the approaching visit of William J. Bryan to New York, the *Evening Post* to day says:

"It was learned to-day that great effort will be made to induce Mr. Bryan to speak, while he is here, on the lines indicated in recent interviews, by Eliot Danforth, chairman of the Democratic State Executive Committee—that is, to treat imperialism and trusts as the main issues of the campaign and avoid giving undue prominence to the sixteen to one issue. Mr. Bryan has made several speeches already on these lines, and it is believed that he can be induced to leave silver in the background while he is in what is called 'the enemy's country.'

"The dinner to be given to Mr. Bryan by O. H. P. Belmont on January 22nd will be a sort of preliminary. Many of the party leaders of the State, as well as representatives of the Chicago platform Democrats, will sit at Mr. Belmont's tables, and it is said an attempt will be made to bring both wings of the party together in order that a harmonious delegation can be sent to the national convention. Mr. Bryan has given many indications lately that he desires harmony in New York State. He has curbed the enthusiasm of his silver followers here and has shown a disposition to court the favor of Tammany. He has also been in close communication with Eliot Danforth, who has taken upon himself the task of harmonizing the party so that Bryan can get New York's electoral votes."

BOER SYMPATHISERS.

A Mass Meeting in Philadelphia—About 2,000 in Attendance.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

PHILADELPHIA, January 13.—A pro-Boer mass meeting was held in the Academy of Music here to-night under the auspices of the Irish and German-American societies. There were about 3,000 people in attendance and speeches were made by a number of prominent persons, including judges of the courts and clergymen.

Resolutions were adopted expressing sympathy for the Boers and asking Congress to do the same; opposing any alliance with any foreign power, and especially condemning one with England as "un-American and opposed to the traditions of the republic."

BRYAN MAKES DENIAL.

That He Has Changed His Views Regarding Free Wool Importation.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

COLUMBIA, MO., January 13.—Col. Wm. J. Bryan addressed the students of Missouri University here to-night in the college chapel before an audience that taxed the auditorium to its utmost. When asked regarding the report that he had changed his views on the matter of free wool importation and had asserted that in behalf of Western dealers and manufacturers he would, if elected President, favor a tariff on wool, Mr. Bryan stated most emphatically that he had made no statement whatever to the effect that he had changed his former views on the question.

Felix Morris, the character actor, died yesterday at his home in New York city, aged 53 years.

LOST STEAMER STILL UNKNOWN.

Seas Are Breaking Over the Ship and Running Mountain High Against the Rocks.

MANY DEAD BODIES VISIBLE.

Wreckage Strewn Along the Strand—Most of the Bodies Only Half Clothed and Some Dismembered—Salvors to Begin Work.

By Cable to the Morning Star.

ST. JOHN'S, N. F., January 13.—The name of the steamer wrecked and on fire on a reef in St. Mary's bay is still unknown. The weather continued rough to-day and the fisher folks were unable to board her. She is wholly submerged and her hull is badly battered. There is a noticeable improvement in the weather to-night, however, and it is believed that it will be possible to get full news to-morrow. At present the seas are breaking over the ship and running mountain high against the rocks.

Much wreckage is strewn along the strand, and many bodies, some of them dismembered, are visible. Portions of the boats remain hooked to the blocks and this is taken to indicate that the boats were swamped in lowering and that their crews perished. Most of the bodies are only half clothed.

The wind is now off the land, and the wreckage is not coming ashore. Therefore no knowledge can be gained regarding the ship's cargo or her passengers, if she carries any.

A watch has been maintained along the cliff ever since the people got there and fires are kept burning at night and flags waving by day as a signal to any boats' crews which may have escaped. It is not considered likely, however, that any succeeded in getting away from the wreck.

Derricks were erected to-day at likely points to lower men down tomorrow to recover the bodies washed up, and if possible to discover the name of the vessel from the wreckage.

Divers will be sent here if it is found to be impossible to obtain the steamer's name by other means; but nobody now cares to act until instructions are received from the owners.

The recovery and burial of the dead bodies of the ship's company have been ordered by the marine department.

The cruiser Fiona from Fortune bay should reach the scene of the wreck to-morrow.

No reports have been received from any localities whither wreckage, bodies or boats might be expected to drift.

FIRE IN AUGUSTA.

The Harrison Block Opposite the Union Depot in a Blaze.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

AUGUSTA, GA., January 13, 10.30 P. M.—The Harrison block, opposite the Union depot, property recently purchased by the Seaboard Air Line and occupied by stables, small stores and negro residences, is on fire. The fire originated in stock yards filled with cattle. The property is a perfect tinder box, but valuable property surrounds it.

WARM WIRELETS.

The difficulty between France and Santo Domingo has been satisfactorily arranged through the French admiral and the officials of the government.

The London *Sun* reports that on the re-assembling of Parliament, January 30th, the government will immediately ask for a further war credit of £20,000,000.

The Chamber of Commerce of Henderson, N. C., at a meeting Friday, unanimously adopted a resolution urging the consolidation of the Seaboard Air Line system.

Jacob Schudin, a Swede, murdered his wife then and killed himself, at their home near Knoxville, Tenn. The tragedy is supposed to be the culmination of domestic troubles.

Governor General Wood, on Monday, will issue an order appointing a commission of three to study and report upon the problem of taxation throughout the entire island of Cuba.

Two women and a boy were burned to death in a fire last night in a two-story frame dwelling on Pine street, Corona, L. I. The cause of the fire is unknown. The damage will be about $1,000.

Notices were posted at the Peck Manufacturing Company, Pittsfield, Mass., that an increase of from ten to fifteen per cent. will be made in the wages of employes of No. 1 mill. This mill manufactures cotton warp.

The Cotton States Association of Commissioners of Agriculture concluded their work in New Orleans and adjourned. The day for holding the next convention, at Raleigh, N. C., will be arranged by Commissioner Patterson.

George Gould, the New York millionaire, has become a stockholder in the Loray Cotton Mills, at Gastonia, to the amount of $250,000, and a check for this amount has been received in Gastonia.

W. L. Warnell, cashier of the Bank of Adel, Ga., has been missing for two or three days. His friends cannot explain his disappearance, but incline to the belief that he is temporarily insane. His accounts are said to be all right.

The New York Export and Import Company has obtained from its Manila agency a number of claims against the United States for the destruction of the property of foreign residents during the bombardment of Iloilo, and other towns in the Philippines. One specific claim is for $250,000.

A cotton firm in Memphis has received a letter from General Joe Wheeler, now in the Philippines, enclosing a sample of the cotton grown there. General Wheeler says very little cotton is grown in the Philippines, however, and most of the cotton used in the Manila mills comes from the United States.

The Norwegian steamer Hirunde, from Pensacola and Norfolk for Antwerp, passed Dungeness and signalled that she had on board the crew of the British steamer Edenmoor, which sailed from Pensacola December 8th, via Norfolk December 18th, for Amsterdam. The Edenmoor was abandoned.

The weekly bank statement shows the following changes: Surplus reserve, increase $4,949,625; loans, decrease $1,558,900; specie, increase $1,264,400; legal tenders, increase $3,768,800; deposits, increase $334,300; circulation, increase $82,300. The banks now hold $16,707,350 in excess of the requirements of the 25 per cent. rule.

NEWS FROM RALEIGH.

The State Normal and Industrial College Will Reopen on January 30th.

SMALLPOX IN SURRY COUNTY.

A Negro Girl Convicted of Attempt to Poison—Fertilizer Rate Case—Insurance Companies—New Banks—Suffrage Amendment Club.

[*Special Star Correspondence.*]

RALEIGH, N. C., January 13.

The directors of the State Normal and Industrial College which was closed on account of a typhoid fever epidemic, have decided to reopen the institution to students on January 30.

Warren is the second county to form a suffrage amendment club. Dr. P. J. Macon is its president and it already has a large membership.

Mrs. John M. Brewer, the only daughter of Samuel Watt, the first president of Wake Forest College, died yesterday, age 74 years. Her husband and nine children survive her.

The Corporation Commission has been notified that two new banks will soon begin business. One is the King's Mountain Banking Company, of King's Mountain; W. A. Mauney, president, J. S. Mauney, vice president, and R. L. Mauney, cashier; capital stock, $10,000. The other is the Piedmont Savings Bank, of Winston; Maj. T. J. Brown, president, O. B. Eaton, vice president, and L. W. Pegram, cashier; capital stock, $5,000.

The grand jury has found a true bill against George Lee, the negro boy in jail charged with poisoning his sister, Julia Hobby. He will be tried at the March term of court. The boy, it is believed, put rat poison in the food to kill his sister's husband, with whom he was mad. All the family were made sick, but only the woman died. An analysis of the contents of her stomach shows the presence of twenty-two grains of arsenic, two grains being a deadly dose.

[*Special Star Telegram.*]

Convicted of Attempt to Poison

Agnes Utley, a negro girl, was today convicted in the Superior Court of an attempt to poison the family of R C. Batchelor, for whom she cooked, by putting a box of matches in a coffee pot. She was sent up for two years.

The special term of Surry county court, which was to have begun Monday, has been postponed on account of smallpox.

Further hearing of testimony in the fertilizer rate case, before Special Master Martin, has been postponed until February 1st.

Insurance Commissioner Young is now examining the annual statements of insurance companies being filed with his department. He is anxious to have a list of all unpaid insurance claims in the State, and asks that parties holding them will notify him of them during this month. Companies that do not promptly pay just claims will not be allowed to do business in the State.

TWINKLINGS.

— It is very creditable for a newspaper writer to be "short in his accounts."—*Life.*

— The Real Thing—Son—"Pa, is a diplomat a man who knows how to hold his tongue?" Father—"No, my boy; a diplomat is a man who knows how to hold his job."—*Puck.*

— Tit for Tat—First Little Girl—"I'm never going to speak to you again; your father keeps a saloon." Second Little Girl—"And I'm not going to speak to you any more; I saw your father go into it."—*Puck.*

— Dear Old Lady (with a view to a little moral teaching)—"Now, do either of you little boys say naughty words?" Elder Brother—"Well, mum, I ain't much of a 'and at it myself, but young Bill here's a treat. Cuss for the lady, Bill."—*Punch.*

— "Do you know," he said, "that every time I look at you I have thoughts of revenge?" "Why?" she gasped. "Because," he answered, "revenge is sweet." Then she told him she thought to-morrow would be a good time to see papa.—*Chicago Times Herald.*

— An old soldier was boasting of his experience during the Civil War, when he was asked: "How many rebs did you kill during the war?" "How many did I kill? How many did I kill?" repeated the old veteran. "Well, I don't know exactly how many, but I killed as many of them as they did of me."—*Ohio State Journal.*

— Defendant's Counsel (in murder trial)—"I will show you, gentlemen, that the victim of this unfortunate affair started a discussion as to the beginning of the twentieth century, and——" Judge—"Stop, sir! That's sufficient. I direct the jury to bring in a verdict of justifiable homicide."

CURRENT COMMENT.

—— The trouble with the towns captured by the British in South Africa is that, like some Philippine places, they won't stay captured.—*Baltimore Herald, Ind.*

——Somebody accused the Louisville Courier-Journal of being "an organ," and that newspaper with a fine show of indignation declares that it never was "an organ," even when "its word was the law of the Democratic party." When was the golden era, and when before did vanity ever brag so loudly? — *Atlanta Journal, Dem.*

—— Senator Beveridge says Aguinaldo is a man of ability. Lieut. Gillmore says he is a man of a kindly disposition, as he has reason to know from the fact that Aguinaldo saved his life and treated him well as a prisoner. Upon the whole, therefore, it appears that our premier enemy in the Philippines is a pretty decent sort of a fellow, who deserves to be dealt with considerately should he ever fall into our hands.—*Savannah News, Dem.*

—— Mr. Foster Higgins of the New York Chamber of Commerce, has prepared an elaborate report to show that the "Shipping bill" (another term for the subsidy swindle) would "restore our commerce." By all accounts our commerce is not in need of restoration. But what is sought is to transfer from the Treasury about $100,000,000 wrung from taxation of the people to the coffers of a few ocean transportation companies. In Shakespeare's time the wise called this "to convey."—*Philadelphia Record, Dem.*

MEDAL FOR VICTOR BLUE.

Presented to the Gallant Lieutenant by Women of South Carolina.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

NEW YORK, January 13.—Lieutenant Victor Blue, of the United States navy, was honored to-day on board the battleship Massachusetts at the navy yard by the women of South Carolina, the Lieutenant's native State, for his heroic work on land and water during the war with Spain. Ex Gov. Hugh S. Thompson, of South Carolina, presented the Lieutenant with a gold medal, one side of which bore the inscription: "Explorator fortissimus in Ponto sylvique floruit," and the reverse side the words, "The women of South Carolina to Lieutenant Victor Blue, in high appreciation of his courage, enterprise and distinguished services in the Santiago campaign, 1898."

HON. WM. J. BRYAN.

Passed Through Lincoln, Neb, on His Way to St. Louis, Mo.

By Telegraph to the Morning Star.

LINCOLN, NEB., January 12.—William Jennings Bryan passed through the city to-day on his way to St. Louis. His tour includes speeches in St. Louis, Frankfort, Ky., Cincinnati and the Atlantic and New England States, and will not be finished until February 3rd. Political intimates, when asked concerning his reported change of opinion on the question of free wool, said they could not speak with authority, but nothing Colonel Bryan had said indicated that attitude and they doubted the correctness of the report.