

Free Crete.
There is no good reason to doubt the news that the Sultan has granted to Crete a Christian Governor and a sufficient amount of autonomy to make her practically independent. Such action was inevitable when England refused to join hands with Germany in enforcing a blockade of the island. The Porte said that the only alternative was a long war, involving heavy expense. The Imperial Treasury was empty, and unpaid troops are always unreliable. Moreover, during war no taxes can be collected. From an autonomous province some tribute can be secured. Accordingly the Sultan has bowed to the inevitable just as he has before, and Crete joins the Danubian Principalities, Bosnia, Herzegovina, Serbia, Bulgaria, and Egypt in rejoicing over freedom from Turkish tyranny.

Just what use will be made of the freedom remains to be seen. The Cretans are as turbulent a people as can be found anywhere in the world and fully justify the warning still common along the Mediterranean: "Beware of the three K's." (Kanakia, Kiliaia and Kreta). They seem to prefer isolation, for, notwithstanding their advantages of situation and soil, they have developed very little trade, no one of the more important lines of steamers touching at a Cretan port. The strange mixture of loyalty and jealousy that has characterized their fight against foreign domination and their internal feuds was well set forth by our special correspondent a few days since. Whether they succeed in establishing a stable Government is yet to be decided. They have the ability, they are favored by their separation from the mainland; it remains to be seen whether they have the necessary power of self-restraint.

The Cretan question solved, the Macedonian is next in order. Will the Bulgarians and Greeks gain courage from the success of the islanders and force a settlement of their claims, or will the European powers cry enough? Probably the latter. The Czar is starting on his visits and has no desire to be disturbed in his conferences. Germany is almost feverishly anxious for peace, and Lord Salisbury cares more about the Sudan, China, and Japan than about Salonica and Yalina. So far as appearances go, the Eastern question has received another quietus and the Sultan a new lease of life in which to demonstrate whether he is absolutely bereft of his senses or is able to learn something from adversity. If he shall devote his energies to the preservation of order in Asia Minor and Eastern Turkey, he may hold his capital for some years to come. If, however, he permits even the present condition to continue, his end is near; not so much because of any new interest on the part of Europe in the welfare of his Christian subjects as because without revenue he cannot possibly hold his own, and for revenue there must be order. For the time being the war cloud has in a considerable degree disappeared. —N. Y. Times.

The Result of Fusion.
Populist papers are deluding themselves with the false hope that fusion will elect Leedy Governor. Gov. Morrill is in much better prospect of winning this year than in 1894. In 1890 the Republican Party polled 41 per cent., the Pops 39 per cent., and the Democratic and Pop vote combined over 58 per cent. of the total vote cast. In 1892 the Republican Party polled 48 per cent., and the combined Demo-Pops 50 per cent. In 1894 Gov. Morrill polled 50 per cent., lacking 903 votes, and the Democratic and Pop vote combined polled but 48 per cent.

From 1890 the Republican percentage of the total vote has gained at every election, from 41 per cent. in 1890 to 48 per cent. in 1892, and 50 per cent. in 1894. The combined, Democratic and Pop vote has steadily declined, from 58 per cent. in 1890 to 50 per cent. in 1892, and 48 per cent. in 1894. It is not likely that with the Australian ballot, Leedy and Foster can poll a full fusion vote in November, and if they do, they must gain heavily from some other quarter, outside of the combined strength of the Democratic and Populist Parties, to defeat Morrill and Garver.

The effect of fusion on the Democratic Party in Kansas has been an instructive object lesson. In 1888 the Democrats polled 102,745 votes. In 1890 they polled 71,357 votes. In 1892 their vote was swallowed up in fusion. In 1894 they came forth from the bowels of Populism and cast 26,700 votes.

The rise of the Alliance in 1890 carried away 61,000 Republicans and 31,000 Democrats. By standing up for its principles against the new party, the Republican Party recovered all but 5 per cent. of its loss, while by temporizing and compromising their principles the Democrats lost 45,000 more votes to Populism between 1890 and 1894. —Topska (Kansas) Capital.

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I WANT every man and woman in the United States interested in the Orem and Water bills to have one of my books on these bills. Address to Mr. W. W. Weller, Atlanta, Ga., Box 20, and one will be sent you free.

River of Molten Lava.
Early Friday night, Nov. 6, 1880, a bright light was reflected from the clouds above Manna Lila that increased in brilliancy until morning. All day Saturday great clouds of smoke could be seen at Hilo, fifty miles away, rising from the mountains as from a city that had been swept by a great conflagration. Saturday evening the mountain was wrapped in clouds, but toward midnight they scattered, revealing a spectacle that was magnificent beyond all description.

The summit crater was emitting a dense smoke, lighted up by the molten lake of lava. Below, on the mountain side, was an embrasure from which the lava was running down like a river. Not a break could be seen from the outlet to the very head of the fiery mass. It was a continuous stream of glowing lava, heated to incandescence, moving steadily down the mountain side. It was like a living creature gliding out of its very prison house all aglow.

Squirming and sliding in the mountain Mase. Like a great serpent with a skin of gold. Its progress was rapid considering the distance of the point of view, and subsequent observation along the line of the flow proved that the velocity must have been tremendous. David Hirtlecock, who was camping on Muna Kea at the time of this outbreak, saw a spectacle that few human eyes have ever beheld. "We stood," he writes, "on the very edge of that flowing river of rock."

"Oh, what a sight it was! Not twenty feet from us was this immense bed of rock slowly moving forward with irresistible force, bearing on its surface huge rocks and immense boulders of tons' weight as water would carry a toy. The whole front edge was one bright red mass of solid rock incessantly breaking off from the towering mass and rolling down to the foot of it, to be again covered by another avalanche of white hot rocks and sand. The whole mass at its front edge was from twelve to thirty feet in height. Along the entire line of its advance it was one crash of rolling sliding, tumbling, red-hot rock."

"We could hear no explosions while we were near the flow, only a tremendous roaring like 10,000 blast furnaces all at work at once." This was the most extensive flow of recent years, and its progress from the interior plain through the dense forests above Hilo and on to the open levels close to the town was startling and menacing enough. Through the woods especially it was a turbulent, seething mass that toppled over mammoth trees and licked up streams of water, and day and night kept up an unintermittent cannonade of explosions.

The steam and imprisoned gases would burst the congealing surface with loud detonations that could be heard for many miles. It was not an infrequent thing for parties to camp close to the flow over night. Ordinarily a lava flow moves sluggishly and congeals so rapidly that what seems like hardihood in the narrative is in reality calm judgment, for it is perfectly safe to be in the close vicinity of a lava stream, and even to walk on its surface as soon as one would be inclined to walk on cooling iron in a foundry. This notable flow finally ceased within half a mile of Hilo, where its black form is a perpetual reminder of a marvelous deliverance from destruction. —Honolulu Gazette.

Disappointed Contributors.
After making all reasonable allowance for the disappointment of unsuccessful writers after admitting that no honest editor can expect to be popular among contributors, the plain fact remains that the casual contributor does not understand his true position. His demands are frequently unreasonable, and there need be little hesitation in saying that he receives far more consideration than he deserves. "Not to answer a civil letter on business is at once ill bred and unbusinesslike, whether the recipient occupies an editorial chair or not." So writes "A Contributor," but the observation is unsound and absurd. In my private capacity I receive, every day, civil and even fulsome letters on business, offering to lend me money, to sell me cigars, wine, baby's clothes, and a thousand things. The writers offer me something I do not require or cannot afford to buy, and I answer, as no doubt "A Contributor" answers, by silence.

In strict logic, the uninvited contributor stands in precisely the same position as the volunteer money lender. When unasked he sends his goods on approval, in the face of a notice to the effect that rejected articles cannot be returned, he stands in the same position as the tobaccoconist who send out sample boxes of cigarettes. But he obtains far more courteous treatment than is accorded to the tradesman. An attempt, at the least, is made to read the most ill written manuscript; the same times it is even sent up to the printers in the faint hope that, after they have wrestled with it, the mean-

ing of the serial may be extracted. If it is rejected, it is almost invariably returned, whether stamps have been inclosed or not. Such is the practice of nearly all reputable publications; there are, however, a few exceptions in the shape of papers which give distinct notice that they will not take the trouble to return unsuitable contributions. These papers are perfectly well known, their rule of business is strictly honest, and the man who runs the risk of submitting articles to them and loses his venture has none but himself to blame.

The Cruiser Raleigh.
After all, the United States cruiser Raleigh, which was named for the capital city of North Carolina, is to come to this port to receive the handsome silver service which, through the efforts of Mr. C. L. Stevens, of the Southport Leader, has been subscribed by citizens of North Carolina as a testimonial of their appreciation of the naming of the cruiser.

The untiring efforts of the Wilmington chamber of commerce has accomplished this desired end, and the fact goes to show what a valuable institution such an organization is to a city. The action of the chamber and the correspondence it has had with the secretary of the navy will be remembered by our readers.

TARPON FISHING.

A Texas Sportsman With the Most Thrilling Sport in the World.
A Texas sportsman, in Forest and Stream, gives an account of an exciting experience while fishing for tarpon in Galveston Bay. He says: "As I had made no arrangements to return to Houston at 2 o'clock, I told the boatman that if he would give me one more fresh mullet I would bait the hook, and when that was taken, we would go on to sea to get the mullet, put his ears in the hooks and was ready to start when I threw my bait overboard. I had not got three feet from the boat before there was a mighty splash. Water was thrown all over me, and my mullet was taken by a tarpon. I was scarcely prepared for him, but at the same time I prevented his getting too much line, and the reel sang the protest of song until he had gone about 50 feet. 'You had better stop,' I said. At this distance he jumped at least 100 feet out of the water, and finding I had him safe, I gave him no more slack whatever. He turned immediately into the channel to sea against the tide and continued his rapid gait, jumping clear of the water every 100 feet or so until he had jumped nine times. He kept up the pace until he had gone 4 miles to sea. Then he stopped. I said, 'You had better stop,' I said. At this distance he jumped at least 100 feet out of the water, and finding I had him safe, I gave him no more slack whatever. He turned immediately into the channel to sea against the tide and continued his rapid gait, jumping clear of the water every 100 feet or so until he had jumped nine times. He kept up the pace until he had gone 4 miles to sea. Then he stopped. I said, 'You had better stop,' I said. At this distance he jumped at least 100 feet out of the water, and finding I had him safe, I gave him no more slack whatever. He turned immediately into the channel to sea against the tide and continued his rapid gait, jumping clear of the water every 100 feet or so until he had jumped nine times. 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