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BY

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If the Cubans were not civilized before, they are now. The numerous election riots prove that.

Those farmers who contracted during the summer to sell their cotton at ten cents would now like to have some one kick them.

As there has been no falling off in the number of drunks, we fear that stones will have to take the place of flies and tufts of grass.

Wrestling matches should go and quick. There is something attractive, at least, about a prize fight, but wrestling and football should not be tolerated.

As they find from ten to fifteen new foci in New Orleans daily, and have been at it for weeks, it is astonishing that anyone is living to tell the story.

Hazing was abolished in Africa and the Sandwich Islands years ago. We notice that there is a disposition on the part of some colleges to discourage it in this country.

One of the complaints against the Equitable Insurance Company is that it runs a restaurant and a saloon. Wonder why it didn't start a dispensary and avoid the charge of selling liquor?

Several cases of contempt of court have occurred in the State in the past few weeks. It is the outcome of unsatisfactory conditions and laws. Yet, those in contempt seem to have been at fault.

Ex-Judge, Ex-Candidate Alton B. Parker, who got mixed up in the last Presidential campaign, continues to be a blunderbuss. He hadn't more than charged that the life insurance companies contributed to the campaign fund, when some of them told how the Judge chased them for funds a few years ago.

Mark Twain's opinion that the peace of Portsmouth "is entitled to rank as the most conspicuous disaster in political history" marks Mark Twain as the most conspicuous Dick Deadeye in the United States.—Syracuse Post-Standard.

PREPARING FOR THE FAIR.

The President and Secretary of the State Fair Association, and a corps of assistants, are busy getting the great State Fair in good shape. It will be the greatest on record, an unusually large number of exhibitors having applied for space.

The business men of the city are also busy with preparations to entertain the visitors. The hotels and boarding houses are being gotten into shape and all the families who can entertain visitors are being canvassed. While it is impossible to give the best service to such an unusual crowd here or elsewhere, it is safe to say that no one will be neglected. Nearly every home here will be thrown open.

The railroads are at work arranging extra train service. Special dispatchers will be placed in Raleigh and other towns to assist in handling the many extra trains which will be brought from remote portions of the systems to haul the crowds. The Street Railway Company has purchased a number of new cars for special service during the Fair and for regular service on the new line now being built.

All in all, the greatest Fair is almost here and everything will be in readiness.

President Roosevelt will be here on the 19th. Nothing except illness or death will cause a change in his plans, which were matured weeks ago.

FOR MUTUAL DEFENSE.

The text of the recent English-Japanese alliance has just been published. Under the agreement either country can go to war and assist the other on land or sea.

Several years ago the two countries signed an agreement that if more than one country attacked either of them, the other must come to the assistance of the ally. The new alliance makes them practically one country so far as war is concerned, and, of course, they are closely allied in peace. The agreement is binding for a period of ten years.

This is simply another move on the checker-board of world politics by England, a country always feared, seldom loved, and often hated.

England has possessions in every portion of the globe. India, the most populous possession, cannot be depended upon in time of war; in fact, it requires a large army to keep the people there in a state of subjection. Canada is sparsely settled, so is Australia, hence England must be on her guard. Only her powerful navy holds back greedy and aggressive Germany. Less than a year ago England made peace with France, her closest neighbor, and long time enemy. France is game and has a strong navy, but has not felt able to attack England. Fearful that Germany would again involve her in war, France readily agreed to make friends with England, which caused Germany to desist from efforts to provoke war with France.

But this only placed matters on a peace footing near home. England still had fears that Germany and Russia would make trouble in China or in India. She does not care to fight Russia at a great disadvantage

to protect India. Japan proved to be the missing link. With the right kind of an alliance with Japan, the English statesmen believe that there will be no war against either country, nor any attempt to seize territory claimed by either. As Russia failed to whip Japan, she certainly will not go to war with the two countries. France and the United States do not love Germany, and both are on the most friendly terms with England, so there is nothing to fear from either.

Turkey, Italy and Spain are not to be considered, hence England has made the stroke of her life and has assured peace for years to come. Our Government is in thorough harmony with England and Japan as regards the integrity of China, and it certain that Germany will not attempt to get a slice of that empire as long as matters stand as they are.

The Edelweiss.

If, when you are grown to be men and women, you take a journey to Switzerland you will see the beautiful Alps and perhaps climb far up among them. They are not the highest mountains in the world—the Himalayas are higher—but they are very high, and many of them forever wear a shining crown of snow. Rivers of ice, called glaciers, wind between them and become rivers of water down in the valleys. It is not easy to climb among them, but many people have a great love for mountain climbing, and can ever be satisfied until they have reached the very top of some high mountain that others dare not climb. There are others who go up among these heights to breathe the pure air, to see the far peaks around the horizon, and to catch the wonderful colors that the sun casts on the snowy peaks, and in the shadowy valleys. They also love to look for Alpine flowers. There are many kinds of them, but the one that is dearest to the heart of the climber is the edelweiss, the starry white flower that blooms above the snow line. It is a brave little plant, never caring for the cold, and, like the mountain climbers, always trying to grow a little higher up the steep slopes. The flower is clothed in a soft white wool that makes it look like a white velvet star, and its leaves are short and thick, like little fingers, all around it. When the little cards of pressed Alpine flowers are made, the edelweiss is always set in the centre, because it is the best-loved flower. The Swiss people make many of these every year, and sell them to people who come from all lands to live for a while among their beautiful mountains. They glue them upon postal cards, then cover them with a paper almost as clear as glass, and send them across the sea to us! Some flowers love to live in the woods, like the violet and trailing arbutus, and some like to live out on the dry, hot plains, like the cactus, and other flowers love fields and gardens, but the brave little edelweiss loves its own mountain heights, and will live nowhere else.—Picture Lesson Paper.

Alton B. Parker is reported as having accepted a \$100,000-a-year job as counsel for a rapid-transit concern in Brooklyn. Isn't this the man who once ran for President? The name sounds familiar.—Portland Oregonian.

In preparing for his war against the United States, President Castro, of Venezuela, is having a gunboat built in this country. There is not wanting humor in the fellow, though it be involuntarily.—Philadelphia Record.

She who foresees calamities suffers them more than twice over.

OPINIONS IN A NUTSHELL

The only way to prevent graft is to elect honest men to office and then see to it that they remain honest.—Durham Herald.

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If some people could get it into their heads that notoriety was not fame they would figure less before the public.—People's Paper.

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The Mikado's illustrious ancestors must have been guilty of a few moments of drowsiness when the Mikasa went to pieces.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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Warder of the Pit: "Heat No. 786,543 with forfeited policies, quick. Here comes one who was president of a life insurance company."—Washington Times.

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Herr Most, the anarchist, says he wishes he was now in Warsaw or Odessa. He has the entire sympathy of the American people in his desire.—Mexican Herald.

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Thomas Paine's bust has been placed in Independence Hall, and, to the great disappointment of many, it is made of marble instead of asbestos.—Philadelphia Telegraph.

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It is said that seventy-five per cent of the school teachers in the United States are female. They teach us when we are young and learn us after we get grown.—Wilmington Star.

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"As much more corn has been raised this year than we can eat," asks a Kansas paper, "what shall we do with it?" Well, maybe we may have to drink some of it.—New York Evening Mail.

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Secretary Bonaparte recently got lost in Boston and had to be directed to his hotel. If we had to be in Boston it would not make any difference whether we were lost or not.—Springfield News.

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Wu Ting-fang denies that he is in any way responsible for the Chinese boycott, but we suspect Wu wasn't asking all those questions for nothing when he was in our midst.—Atlanta Constitution.

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From the dressmakers' convention rings the cry of "corsets for men." The cry has been heard before, but man still clings to his slithering suspenders and hit or miss waistcoat.—New York Journal.

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Oh, by the way, the New York Life's contribution to the Republican National campaign fund in 1904 was \$150,000. Mr. Cortelyou can check that item off his list. Next.—New York Evening Telegram.

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One widow of a soldier who fought in the Revolutionary War still survives and draws a pension at the age of ninety-one. It must have been a marriage of the cradle and the grave.—New York Evening Sun.

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The talk of intervention in Cuba because several men were killed in an election riot disregards the fact that we live in a very large glass house ourselves. Intervention under what may be called the public order section of the Platt amendment would be justifiable only in case of a condition of civil war.—New York Evening Sun.

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The Russian losses in ships at Port Arthur, Vladivostok and the Sea of Japan during nineteen months of war were \$113,000,000, according to the Government's statistics. For the fiscal year ended June 30th last—a year of peace—the United States spent \$117,300,000 on the navy. The comparison is suggestive.—New York World.