BIRMINGHAM ECCENTRIC.

PUBLISHED WEEKLY BY
WHITEHEAD & GROETSCH.

Entered at the postoffice at Birmingham, Mich., as second-class matter.

Europe must have an ordinance against Turkey-rafling.

The sultan is said to have broken faith. We didn't know that he had any to break.

It is evident that Lord Dunraven believes that yacht races should be sailed in printer's ink.

It is a mistake to suppose that people hate to be laughed at. Look at the comedian, for instance.

A young man who lacks in gallantry toward his mother-in-law and elder is likely to lack it toward a wife.

A woman in Greensburg, Ind., died of remorse because she didn't. No fears of an epidemic are entertained.

While not symathizing greatly with the sultan, we think it may be fairly said that his job is no sinecure.

The candidate discovers that "no cross, no brown," is about the shape of it under the kangaroo dispensation.

High breeding gracefully insists on its own rights. Good breeding gracefully remembers the rights of others.

Ex-cawah of Basoda may not be a very learned personage, but he is splendidly adapted to the purposes of comic opera.

We imagine we can hear Col. Dan Stuart praying for a restoration of the parity between lumber and physical culture.

Ordinary talk doesn't seem to affect the sultan. "After a while some of the war shouts may come along and give him a blowing up.

The sultan is decorating those who committed the atrocities, not necessarily for publication, but simply as an evidence of bad faith.

Coxy did not go himself, but he sent his son Jacob to help struggling Cubans to keep Spaniards off the grass. Give Coxey due credit.

A negro who wounded four people in Kansas with a hatchet has been released and the victims have been bound over to keep the peace.

New York, not being able to get either the republican or democratic convention, might try for the populists. They would not be afraid of the Tiger.

From the way oil wells are being discovered in Indiana it might be supposed that the earthquake had shaken part of Russia over to our side of the globe.

Men who feel that the safety of the country, and the success of candidates of 1896 will be dependent upon what they do will be very busy from this time on.

It is difficult for a man coming home late at night to realize that the towering female who stands at the head of the stairs is the timid little girl he asked to be his wife.

A Kansas man has been committed for contempt in refusing to taste beer in court. Most of his fellowmen will look upon him as being justly punished for despising an opportunity.

These repeated rumors of Senator David B. Hill intending to marry are very disturbing to that young man. Mr. Hill thinks the public should realize by this time that he is wedded to his art.

An inquiring man thrust his fingers into a horse's mouth to see how many teeth he had. The horse closed his mouth to see how many fingers the man had. The curiosity of each was fully satisfied.

A Polish journalist of Chicago has been sent to jail for four months just for saying that another man had been sent to the penitentiary, when, in fact, he had not, and there was no occasion for sending him. He apologized and explained that he had been taken in by a joker, who gave him the story, but as he was publishing a humorous paper the jury showed him no mercy.

The "Foreign Notes" editor makes a specialty of European war-clouds and he says it's a mighty clear day in the eastern hemisphere when there are none in sight. His very presence gives us nervous prostration every passing hour. The sporting editor considers him a little leery along these lines, and claims that European warcries are simply an enforced aid in getting a tinted edition of the lip-trills of the American prize ring, all blow and no blows.

How does it happen that the populists always bob up holding the balance of power in every big political contest of late years? During the memorable fight in the Illinois legislature which finally resulted in the election of Senator Palmer, the populist members of that body controlled the lease of the fight, and now in Kentucky, where recently elected legislature stands 68 democrats to 68 republicans on joint ballot, with the two populists controlling things as usual. The struggle for the Kentucky senatorship promises to be a remarkable one.

The sharpest church advertisement comes from Topeka, where it is announced that "thirty-five young ladies will on Sunday attend the First Baptist church dressed in bloomers." The young men are thus cordially invited. It would be worth something to have some old-fashioned preacher like Lorenzo Dow preach to them.

A resident of Buttes, Col., claims to have seen Schlatter riding on a white horse. Now let some one find the red-headed girl and the combination will be complete.

We often hear of a man who began life with nothing, dying worth a million dollars, but how rare and how few has it been to begin all over again in the west worth just the same as the man who began life here with a million and ended with nothing.

Spain threatens to sell Cuba to England to spite the United States. Perhaps England would want to know whether Cubans want to be bought before purchasing. England has got plenty of fighting without buying a fight.

GROVER'S MESSAGE.

HE DISCUSSES CUBA AND OUR FOREIGN RELATIONS.

Wants the Greenback Debt Retired and Cancelled and a New Lot of Low Rate, Long Term Bonds Issued—Declares Gold Our Only Salvation.

To the congress of the United States:

The present session of the legislative branch of our government occurs at a time when the country is in need of relief and the needs of the country give especial importance to the action of congress in our relations and the exigencies of our national finances. Many reports of the heads of the several administrative departments of the government fully and plainly exhibit what has been accomplished within the scope of their duties, the duties and present such recommendations for the betterment of our condition as their observation and experience suggest. I therefore refer to these reports for detailed information touching the affairs transacted and observation suggest. I therefore refer to these reports for detailed information touching the affairs transacted and performed at this time by presenting to congress the important features of my own action as related to our intercourse with foreign powers and to our domestic and financial problems which confront us. I shall confine myself to such matters of condition of those charged with the duty of their solution as I believe my full discussion would promote the people's good.

FOREIGN RELATIONS.

The openings of American markets to Argentine wool by the last tariff act, the settlement of the Venezuelan dispute between Brazil and the Argentine Republic by friendly arbitration, the signing of an arbitrator, in favor of Brazil, and the progress of Japan and China in their struggle, are all commented upon favorably. The civil war between China and Japan, while relatively insignificant, except as it affects the settlement from the delicate duty they undertook to perform as friendly mediators, rendering such service to the subjects of either belligerent within the territorial limits of the other as the neutral power permitted, developed a condition of things which, while not entirely unexpected, was calculated and called for prompt and strong action. Either from lack of will or lack of control by the central government of the military commanders of the local authority, the dispersion of military forces, the demoralizing national disaster, or as a matter of deliberate purpose, the outbreak of the dissolution of traditional conservatism of the Chinese population to all foreign intercourse, the fact became apparent on the occasion in which separate powers were compelled to land forces for the protection of their subjects that there existed practically no power in China competent to enforce its will throughout the empire, or to afford adequate protection to foreigners. Placing upon the local authorities of the several treaty ports the responsibility for the safety of foreigners, the latter have generally exhibited a spirit of moderation and conciliation toward the Chinese, which entitles them to the confidence they have manifested in the ability of the native officials to deal with the situation. Cases of individual violence or wrong have been few, and in general the spirit of the Chinese has been friendly toward foreigners. The opportunity of the Chinese government to afford full protection to foreigners has been greatly restricted by the actual military situation, which has rendered it necessary to withdraw the greater part of the military force from the interior to the vicinity of the treaty ports, leaving the country districts substantially undefended. The result has been that the local authorities have been practically powerless to prevent local disturbances, which have been directed against foreigners, and that the latter have been obliged to rely upon the military forces at the ports for protection. This condition of affairs has been recognized by the government in the instructions issued to the commanders of our naval vessels in Chinese waters, directing them to exercise the greatest forbearance consistent with the assertion of adequate protection to American citizens and their property, and to abstain from any participation in the contest between China and Japan. The presence of our naval forces in the harbor of Chemulpo, Corea, during the recent outbreak of the Japanese troops against the native government, was sufficient to protect the interests of our citizens at that place. The reports of the commanders of our vessels manifest the fact that no European state is as jealous of the rights of foreigners in China, or as vigilant in the assertion of such rights, as the United States. The moderation and firmness of our representatives have been fully appreciated by the Chinese government, and have greatly contributed to the feeling of security among our citizens. The cordial relations between the United States and China have been unaffected by the war, and the feeling of friendship for this country on the part of the Chinese government and people has been shown in many ways. The government of Japan has given abundant evidence of its desire to maintain the most friendly relations with the United States, and has scrupulously observed its treaty obligations. The ministers of both countries have been received at their respective capitals, and the full establishment of international intercourse between Japan and the western powers may be considered to have been accomplished. The abolition of the system of extraterritorial jurisdiction in Japan, which has been accomplished by the recent treaties, will probably be made to the commencement of the year 1899.

Your attention is the unsatisfactory condition of the long-expectant jurisdictional dispute between the United States and Great Britain, in which the latter has refused to accept the disinterested offer of friendly arbitration, which this government tendered, in the belief that it would be the most appropriate method of settling a controversy involving the extent of territorial dispute between them can be reasonably expected to be found in the principles of international jurisprudence, and the resort to such arbitration should include the whole controversy. The claim and refusal of the powers referred is permitted to draw from the mind any thought of the options to default and to declare that it will only consider the award if it be favorable to them on one side or it, in view of these considerations, the government of Great Britain persists in refusing to accept the principle upon the British government for a definite settlement of the question of boundary between its territory and that of Venezuela, or would not submit the territorial controversy between the two countries to impartial arbitration. The friendly counsel of the United States would be tendered, not in the interest of either party, but in the interest of both, and submitted in the confident belief that it would probably be made to the common benefit.

Attention is the unsatisfactory decision of the question of the respective jurisdiction of the United States and Great Britain in the Behring sea award. It will be remembered that in the award of the tribunal of arbitration convened at Paris, in pursuance of the treaty between the United States and Great Britain, of February 29, 1892, power was conferred upon them "which in the event of their disagreement as to the result of the concurrent regulations to be submitted by the respective governments to the tribunal, shall determine what concurrent regulations are necessary, and how they shall be put in force for the protection of the fur seals referred to in the said recitals." The regulations submitted by the two governments differed in many essential particulars, and the tribunal, being unable to agree upon a joint recommendation, as provided in the 7th article of the treaty of September, 1892, by the terms of which it was to have determined after that date any vacancy in a consulate or vice consulate of the United States at a salary or compensation from official fees of not more than $1,500 a year, or $2,000 if it should be filled either by transfer or promotion from another consulate, or by appointment from the department of state of a character specially designated by the president for the position to be filled, or by the appointment by the president, by and with the advice and consent of the senate, of a secretary of legation, having previously served in that capacity for a period of four years, and fitness for consular study, or by the appointment of a citizen of the United States selected by the president and sent to a foreign country for the purpose of such examination, to be qualified for appointment to a consulate. It is to improve the consular service ought to have legislation providing for a system of examination for admission to the service, and for the appointment of consular officers only after they have passed a satisfactory examination. I am strongly in favor of such legislation, and shall be glad to recommend a plan for the purpose. I am also in favor of legislation providing for the appointment of consular officers to the larger ports, and for the appointment of consular officers to the larger ports, and for the appointment of consular officers to the larger ports, and