

closed down during the past week. The American Steel and Wire company on the 1st closed three of their principal mills in Cleveland, throwing 1,000 men out of employment. This was followed on the 2d by the Federal Steel Co.'s closing down of their South Chicago plants, known as the Illinois Steel Co., which has thrown out 3,000 men.

—At Chicago on the 3d Mrs. A. P. Stevens died at Hull House, where funeral ceremonies were conducted on the 5th by Mr. Salter of the Chicago Ethical society, and Mr. Taylor, of Chicago Commons. Mrs. Stevens was the originator of the Illinois juvenile court law, and during Gov. Altgeld's administration was an Illinois factory inspector. She had a national reputation in labor organization circles.

IN CONGRESS.

This report is an abstract of the Congressional Record, and closes with the last issue of that publication at hand upon going to press.

May 28—June 2, 1900.

Senate.

On the 28th the conference report on the naval appropriation bill was agreed to, after which Wellington spoke in favor of Teller's resolution of sympathy with the Boer republics which is printed at page 5375. The consideration of the sundry civil appropriation bill was then resumed. Bacon spoke in favor of Teller's resolution of sympathy on the 29th, which, after a long debate, was referred to the committee on foreign relations. Consideration of the sundry civil bill was then resumed and an amendment appropriating \$5,000,000 for the benefit of the Louisiana Purchase exposition to be held at St. Louis in 1903 was adopted. The senate was not in session on the 30th. On the 31st the sundry civil bill and on the 1st the military academy bill were passed and the consideration of the general deficiency appropriation bill was begun and resumed on the 2d, when it also was passed. On this day a bill to provide for Cuban extradition was passed by a vote of 46 to 10. It is printed at page 6691. After this Stewart spoke in opposition to the Philippine war and government bill.

House.

The Alaska civil code bill was passed on the 28th; and on the 29th, the senate and house, having disagreed on the naval appropriation bill, conferees were appointed. The conference report on the postal appropriation bill was agreed to. On Decoration day, the 30th, pension bills were passed. The joint resolution to amend the constitution so as to enable congress to suppress trusts was under consideration on the 31st. The consideration of this resolution, which is printed on page 6830, occupied all this day and was resumed on the 1st, when it was defeated by a vote of 132 to 154, having failed of a two-thirds vote. Conferees were appointed on the sundry civil appropriation bill on the 2d, and on this day Ray, of New York, introduced a bill to amend the Sherman anti-trust act of 1900, which is printed on page 6982.

MISCELLANY

THE GREAT REPUBLIC.

For The Public.

The Great Republic! This is she,
 "The eldest-born of Liberty,"
 With shackled limbs and drooping face,
 Led up and down the market place,
 Her children tolling at her side;
 Oh, Liberty, our ancient pride
 Is strangled in the clinking chains;
 Would that our fathers' blood might leap
 From ocean grave and churchyard sleep,
 From battlefield and mountain hold,
 To flash again the truths grown old—
 That men are equal in their birth,
 And equal in their right in earth—
 From altar rail and household fire
 To schoolroom desk and town hall spire!

Oh, Liberty! Where bidest thou?
 The Great Republic's children bow
 To tyrants fattened on their blood;
 And tolling through the griming mud,
 Are burden-bearers lashed and spurred,
 Bitted and bridled with a word—
 The word that was the power of kings;
 The word from which all slavery springs;
 The black word "Privilege!" It has been
 The fountain-head of civic sin;
 Injustice's daughter, born of Greed,
 A race of human ghouls to breed.

Oh, Liberty, thy lances speed!
 The Great Republic in her need
 Must summon from thy battle-might
 The strength to guard men's sacred right.
 Break thou the golden fetters through,
 Forged by the planet-owning few.
 The Great Republic is thine own,
 In deadly danger dearer grown.
 Be with her, and she yet shall stand
 Unfettered, on unfettered land;
 Her children nourished at her breast,
 With God's own peace and plenty blest;
 While new-born nations at her feet
 Learn Nature's lesson, true and sweet.

VIRGINIA M. BUTTERFIELD.

THE MAN OF COMMON SENSE.

"Twice five are ten," said I to the Kaffir.
 The Kaffir looked at his fingers.
 "Yes," said he, after a pause.
 "And two tens are twenty," I said.
 The Kaffir hesitated.
 "Count it on your fingers and toes."
 "Yes," said he, doubtfully.
 "Then," I continued, "five tens are fifty."
 "Oh, no," said the Kaffir, "that's sheer mysticism; no one has so many fingers and toes as that."
 He was a Kaffir.—Bolton Hall, in the Ideal Review.

THE SERVANT QUESTION.

To my mind failure to solve this problem proceeds primarily from failure to recognize the scope and character of the matter we assume to settle. It is not a little personal row among women, chiefly of importance to ladies' clubs and comic papers. It is an integral part of the great labor question, and it is an American question. We have first of all to recite

the declaration of independence in our kitchens—to establish household labor on the clear understanding that this work is performed in our country, not by servants, but by our peers.

To so much as name a servant question in a democracy, is to define an anomaly potent with all sorts of disorders, and dealing with domestic labor under this head tends inevitably to nothing but confusion. The end sought in a servant is—servility.

This is the inseparable condition of all the activities we engage in a servant. To impose servility on an American is degradation of character intolerable to a democratic spirit. His want and my money may effect a combination making this abuse possible, but a sense of the wrong perpetrated, more or less dumb and brutish according to the intelligence involved, operates constantly to cripple the laborer's usefulness and limit the power of production of the wealth which employs him. No profitable relation between mistress and maid is possible until popular conception of household labor reclaims it from the order of servitude and regards it in its true industrial character. Considering the Americanism of the servant question, it seems to me we must necessarily, for the sake of intelligent action, admit something further on the score of national characteristics. We must admit the commercial spirit of our people, and accept the fact that the relation between mistress and maid is before anything else a money relation, and that not poetic sentiment, not Christian charity, but straight business principles, are to govern. Love of independence and love of gain—the American soul's part in the twentieth century civilization—is the animating spirit of all our conflicts with our kitchens, and but to admit in our own minds that it is lawful and proper—constitutional in the individual and in our form of social existence—that our "hired girl" should demand both independence and the most money they can extract from us, is to bring the servant question out of the dark into the light where we can at least see the thing that is troubling us.—Flora McDonald Thompson, in The Cosmopolitan for March.

THE SUN'S ECLIPSE.

For The Public.

A glorious morning, indeed; the few clouds visible well out of harm's way, and old Sol shining his merriest. A day of days to get nearest nature, and everyone seemed to feel this.

Plum Branch is merely a "clachan,"