martyr's crown and live is reduced to the

somewhat felonious level of counterfeiting the

martyrdom. This is sad, when the cause

is as deserving as that of the brutes

of the Casino Español, and when the man

already carries so many claims, to the

astonishment of humble humanity, as Don

José Ferrer de Couto, Knight of the Order

of Santiago, Commander of the Royal American Order of Isabel la Católica, Knight of

the Order of Charles III., Honorary Member

of the Mexican Geographical and Statistical

Society, Fellow of the Commission of the

History of Spanish Infantry, of the Royal

Academy of Archæology and Geography

of Madrid, and High Cockalorum of

Spanish chivalry generally. This extraor-

dinary creature occupies the unpreten-

tious position of editing a Spanish sheet

in this city. This is a shame on the face of

it, for the Casino Español might easily give

its exhaustively titled champion more glorious

occupation than furnishing fun for the Ameri-

can people, who occasionally split their sides

over his lucubrations when the HERALD gives

them circulation. Don José Ferrer de Couto sees

the ridiculousness of his position; as a

Knight of the Order of (Butchers?) Santiago

he wishes himself well out of it: as Com-

mander of the Royal American Order of Isabel

la Católica he would get out of his attic chair

by finding an excuse that would hold water at

Havana; as Knight of the Order of Charles

III. he thinks of impending martyrdom: as

Honorary Member of the Mexican Geograph-

ical and Statistical Society he approves

of the idea and looks about for a

chance; as Fellow of the Commission

of the History of Spanish Infantry of

the Royal Academy of Archæology and

Geography of Madrid he writes such

tirades on America that he thinks we must

be mad to be rid of him; but finding that

nobody will take any notice of him whatever,

he resolves to spread the report that the Presi-

dent has asked somebody to ask his lawbooks

if the High Cockalorum of Spanish chivalry

generally cannot be imprisoned for writing

peppery nonsense at the dictates of his mas-

ers. Too bad, too bad! That ever a man so

gifted with titular appendages should find

himself in such grievous plight for martyr-

dom is sore distressing. He feels bad. So,

indeed, did his illustrious brother. Don Quixote

de la Mancha, feel as he sat watching his

rusty armor by night, hoping vainly against

hope that he would be arrested for any thing

but lunacy; so may a veteran "bummer"

feel who, wanting ten days' board and lodg-

ing on the Island, shams drunkenness only to

find that the sergeant at the station house

detects the fraud and orders the wretch to

have the restoration of his liberty, accelerated

by the patrolman's boot. A hard world it is

for the homeless vagabond; a harder world it

was for the forlorn and crazy Knight of

Cervantes; but who shall say with what

heavy fardel this life of disappointment

polyonomous entity, Don Jose Ferrer

de Couto, Knight of the Order of

Santiago, Commander of the Royal American

Order of Isabel la Católica, Knight of the

Order of Charles III., honorary member

of the Mexican Geographical and Statistical

Society, Fellow of the Commission of the His-

tory of Spanish Infantry, of the Royal

Academy of Archæology and Geography of

Madrid and High Cockalorum of Spanish

chivalry generally? We cannot help sympa-

thizing with him, and we are certain that the

great heart of the American nation will give

him a throb of condolence. Why, the alliga-

tors of Florida will shed silent crocodile

tears for him if he only breathes to them the

secret of his woe. What makes our condolence

more painful is that we can do nothing to help

him. He is harmless, and he knows it, and we

all know it. He may rave in Spanish, but we

can only smile at that. It is too good a joke

to have a real, original champion of the

Casino in our midst to be angry with him.

We would give him some advice if we knew

to which of his titles we had best address

ourselves. His entire being would take too

long to absorb it. This may account for his

quaint misunderstanding of our institutions.

which led him to think that a threat

of imprisonment would be believed in

America for no other offence than

using ugly words in Spanish. The advice,

however, is to give up all ideas of martyrdom

in New York. Let him go to Havana and

wait the arrival of our ships of war, when, if

the Casino Español want martyrdom, he and

they can have it together. But he really can-

not be accommodated otherwise, although the

invitation to immure him comes from a series

of hidalgic individuals claiming one body

which calls itself everything in the calendar of

bombastic falutinism from Don José Ferrer de

Couto down to that cramming of swashbuckler-

ism into a phrase which struts, frets and pines

for cheap glory under the stunning guise of

the High Cockalorum of Spanish chivalry gen-

How the Cuban-Spanish Trouble

Might Have Been Avoided.

great governments is sure to lead to trouble,

and most likely to war. History shows this

to be true. Nations, as well as individuals,

presume upon the exhibition of weakness in

those with whom they have difficulties. Had

General Grant followed the generous and pat-

riotic impulse of his nature, which accorded

with the sentiment of the country, five years

ago, and had recognized the Cubans as bellig-

erents, the war would have been ended, prob-

ably, and Cuba would have been an indepen-

dent American State. His friend and Secre-

tary of War, the Jamented General Rawlins,

A weak and trimming policy on the part of

spurious martyrdom embodied

# NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT PROPRIETOR.

#### AMUSEMENTS TO-MORROW EVENING.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway, between Prince and Houston sts.—The Calldren in the Wood, WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and Thirteenth street-Hous,

UNION SQUARE THEATRE, Union square, near Broadway.-Leb Astray.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner Thirtieth st.-

BROADWAY THEATRE, 725 and 730 Broadway .- A GRAND OPERA HOUSE, Eighth av. and Twenty-third

PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn, opposite City Hall,-

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, 28th st. and Broadway. --LYCEUM THEATRE, Fourteenth st.-Still WATERS A BULL IN A CHINA SHOP.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, Sixth av. and Twenty-third st.-

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, 14th street and Irving place .-

METROPOLITAN THEATRE, 585 Broadway.-Variety MRS. P. B. CONWAY'S BROOKLYN THEATRE,-

TREATRE COMIQUE, No. 514 Broadway. - VARIETY

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway, between Houston and Bleecker sts.-The Marshe Heast. TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, No. 201 Bowery .-

BRYANT'S OPERA HOUSE, Twenty-third st., corner Sixth av. - Nagno Minstrelsy, &c.

BAIN HALL, Great Jones street, between Broadway and Bowery .- The Parguin. THE RINK, 3d avenue and 6th street, -Managerie and Museum. Afternoon and evening.

QUADRUPLE SHEET.

New York, Sunday, Dec. 7, 1873.

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SLAVERY IN CUBA exists under and is maintained by Spanish authority. The Cuban patriots have abolished it in their constitution and as far as their power goes. By supporting Spanish rule we rivet the fetters of the slaves. By helping the patriots, even indirectly through recognizing them as belligerents, this remnant of barbarism will be swept

THE KANSAS.—The United States steamer Kansas, which sailed for Cuban waters under the command of Commander Allen V. Reed. has undoubtedly suffered some serious accident to her machinery. In naval circles it is hardly believed that she has foundered, and we see no reason for unnecessary alarm. Commander Reed is a fine officer, having graduated No. 1 in his class, and he would be competent for any emergency. It seems probable that the Kansas has put into some port ander sail, and into one not in easy communication with the ordinary routes of travel. She was, in every respect, a seaworthy vessel when she sailed from the Brooklyn yard.

SPAIN IS SKILFUL AT DIPLOMATIC FRAUDS, and it is doubtful if even the distinguished Castelar is not acting in accordance with the spirit and practice of the nation. While appealing for support in his efforts to establish a republic, and asking the forbearance of the United States in the Virginius affair, is he not, as a Spaniard, first and above every thing else, humbugging the government at Washington? All governments in Spain, the most liberal, so called, as well as the most despotic, have pursued the same atrocious policy toward Cuba. It is doubtfut if Castelar has the will or the power to change that. There can be no guarantee of peace with Spain in the future, or of avoiding continual difficulties

The Frenzy of the Spanish Outlaws- | There must be no further delay for diplomatic War with the Spaniards and Free-

When the intelligence of the seizure of the Virginius and the swift murder of some of her passengers at Santiago de Cuba first aroused the indignation of the American nation the HERALD called upon our government to take such decisive action as, under like circumstances, would have been taken by England, Germany or any other great Power. We insisted that it was within the province, as it was the duty, of the President, without the previous authorization of Congress, to reclaim our property, to guard our flag from further insult and to protect the lives of the unfortunate beings who still remain alive in the hands of the Spanish butchers. We urged that this could not be effectually done unless such vessels as could be immediately pressed into service were sent to Santiago to enforce the demand for the surrender of the Virginius and her people. The President and his advisers preferred to attempt the accomplishment of these ends through diplomatic negotiations with Madrid, and forthwith we were assured from official quarters that the Castelar government repudiated the action of the Cuban authorities, had despatched orders to the Captain General to suspend further executions, and was prepared to make reparation for the injuries we had suffered. While the partisan organs of the administration and the Hessian press, subsidized by Spain, were glorifying this prospect of a peaceful and honorable termination of the difficulty, we cautioned the President and his advisers that any paper settlement they might make with the authorities at Madrid would be torn to pieces and scattered to the winds by the volunteers and the ruffians of the Casino Español. We insisted that the only way to insure the safety of the remaining prisoners, to secure reparation for the present outrage and protection for the future, was to occupy, with our own forces, the island of Cuba. The first proof of the soundness of our position came in the intelligence of the slaughter through our valuable special despatches from Madrid, which set forth the demands made by our government and disclosed the opposition they had encountered from some of the members of the Spanish Cabinet, as well as from the Spanish mob. Our citizens will recall the stupid efforts of the Cheap Jack journals to discredit our information : efforts which were not abandoned until the recapitulation of the demands in the President's Message confirmed our correspondent's despatches. When we knew the terms that had been submitted to Madrid as the conditions of a peaceful settlement we applauded the honorable position taken by our government and professed our willingness to do all in our power as the leading journal of the United States to strengthen its hands. We decried any further criticism of the acts of the administration, since it seemed resolved to maintain the national honor, and we declared it to be the duty of all good citizens to give the government in the hour of danger a generous, confiding and hearty support.

At the same time we had no faith in the power of the Castelar government to enforce the terms of the proposed settlement in Cuba. even if they should be accepted in Madrid. We again cautioned Mr. Fish that Spain holds no real power in Cuba; that the volunteers and the pirates and slavers of the Casino Español-as has been said in the Spanish Senate-are the real rebels of the island: that after the settlement had been made on paper it would still have to be enforced with cannon and bayonets at Havana. When the Fish-Polo protocol appeared; when it was known that we had retreated from our demands and made a compromise unsatisfactory to the people, insufficient for the vindication either of honor or justice, damaging to the principles we had upheld at the cost of war, and destitute of security for the future, we saw with pain that our government had degraded the nation for the sake of securing a hollow truce. Peace it could not be called; for the outrages and insults for which it was to be an insufficient atonement might be repeated by the Spanish Cubans before the ink with which the protocol was written had dried on the page. But we repeated our warnings to the administration at Washington that the conditions of the protocol, tame and dishonorable as they are, would not be complied with at Havana, and that the outlaws who had insulted our flag and butchered those who had trusted their lives to its protection would not hesitate to resist forcibly the orders of their own authorities.

What picture is presented to us to-day? While our people have been surfeited with rose-colored 'lies diplomatic' from official sources at Washington, and nauseated with the fulsome praise bestowed upon the administration by its organs for its "honorable settlement" of the Virginius difficulty, our special despatches from Havana and Santiago de Cuba afford us a glimpse of the condition of affairs in those cities. The people in open revolt against the home government; the Colonial Minister told that the orders he brings from Madrid will not be obeyed; the volunteers holding councils of war and dictating terms to Spain and the United States; the American Consulate guarded by troops; the life of a Herald correspondent openly threatened; the American residents at Havana in danger of being massacred as relentlessly as the Virginius captives were butchered at Santiago, and no United States war vessel in the harbor to protect them from the fury of a bloodthirsty rabble! The froth and bluster of the Spanish Cuban press and of the ruffians of the Casino Español may well pass unnoticed, for they are the bombast of fools and cowards; but we can no longer close our eyes to the fact that the orders of the Madrid government cannot be enforced in Cuba; that the humiliating terms upon which we have agreed to settle this crowning outrage are cast back in our faces with words of defiance, and that even if we should succeed in obtaining possession of the Virginius by a trick which would be no surrender, we cannot hope hereafter to remain at peace and to live in good neighbor-

hood with the outlaws who rule in Cuba. The time for words has gone by-the moment of action has arrived. The fiat must go forth, "Cuba shall be free!" In that alone shall we secure satisfactory indemnity for the past and complete security for the future. The about Cuba, but through the independence of | blood shed at the slaughter house wall of Santiago must consecrate the soil to freedom.

negotiations or through erroneous notions of expediency. It would not be creditable to the American Republic if she were not prepared at a short notice to deal with an island close at her doors, whose authorities have been unable in five years to suppress a rebellion such as has existed in Cuba, and an effete nation, three thousand miles away, whose hands are already tied by the cords of civil war. Our government appears at last to have become convinced of the fact we have long insisted upon-that Castelar and his friends are utterly powerless in Cuba and unable to enforce their paper decrees. But the same infatuation which led to a long diplomatic correspondence, in the hope of preserving peace, now seems to drag us back and hold our arms when war is inevitable. Why is our administration thus palsied? Do the authorities at Washington fear that we are not prepared for hostilities? We must certainly be in a better condition for war than Spain or Cuba can be, and if we are dallying with the Spanish government for the purpose of gaining time we must not forget that we are also affording our enemies an opportunity to make preparations to meet our attack. This policy of hesitation is deplorable. The blow we have been driven to give should be dealt at once. With as little delay as is required for their transportation we should land twentyfive thousand men at Matanzas, holding that port as our base of operations. The railroad from Havana to Matanzas being in our possession, we should at once isolate the former city, and our fleet would do their proper work outside its harbor. A proclamation of freedom to the slaves should be our first act of possession. Our government should place in the hands of the Cubans and the colored population still held in servitude fifty thousand stands of arms, with sufficient ammunition, and should land on the eastern part of the island such Cubans and volunteers as may select to fight under the Cuban banner. A strong colored force could be raised in New York at once; men who would do of poor Fry and his fellow victims; the next | good service in the field and incite the rising of their own race against the Spaniards in all parts of the island. The President should place the facts before Congress without delay, and ask for power to protect with the army and navy the lives and property of our citizens. The policy of diplomatic procrastination for the sake of making preparations is a fatal error and may cost us many valuable lives. A war has been cruelly and brutally forced upon us. Let it be made short, sharp and decisive; and while we deplore its necessity let us remember that its sacrifices will not be without some recompense if it sweeps from existence

> ACTIVE PREPARATIONS are still the order of the day, we are gratified to report, at our navy yards, fortifications and arsenals. Secretary Fish and Admiral Polo may fail in getting out the Virginius, and if they do fail the country will expect Secretaries Robeson and Belknap to take the matter in hand.

the last vestige of human slavery.

Captain Fry's Letter. It is a matter of no common occurrence for a man in the full flush of health to be called suddenly to take an eternal farewell of all that his heart holds dearest. When this demand is made and the circumstances are such that the world's attention is directed to it, that world is apt to listen respectfully to the words and watch the conduct of the man, and feel for the moment the emptiness of life compared with the beauty of a heroic death. Such a spectacle as this was presented on the evening of November 6. The scene was the Bay of Cuba, over which the moon peacefully shone. The locality was the Spanish man-of-war La Tornado. The man was Captain Joseph Fry, and the transaction was a letter which Captain Fry was writing to his wife. There are very few personages in this little tragedya man about to die, and his wife hundreds of miles away, unconscious of his fate. The scene is one of those paradoxes which Providence brings about, contrasting the beauty and peacefulness of nature with the distortion and agony of man. That letter has since been published, and very touching it is. It will be republished wherever the English language is understood, for it strikes one of the tenderest chords in the harp of home affection. It is full of that poetry which sometimes comes to the most commonplace man or woman in the sudden prospect of death. It is the purest breathing of conjugal and parental affection, at a moment when all the dross subsides from earthly passion and the heart is left clean and pure upon the brink of the grave. At that sad hour, with all that is grand and sweet in life fading away, and the amazement of the tomb confronting him, Captain Fry compressed his thoughts with a simple eloquence that is not always attained by a practiced writer, even under the inspiration of a sympathetic theme. He avers that the anguish of his wife is his sole regret in dying, mentions with a very pardonable pride the proofs of respect and attachment he has received, even from the president of the court martial, expresses the satisfaction of a gentleman in having been recognized as one, commends himself to the children whom he is forever leaving, adjures his wife to turn for consolation to Him alone who permits this fearful agony, bids her not dread death, for that when it comes it will come as an angel of rest, and announces, with the dignity of a man whose face is damp with the breeze from the unknown world, that he dies in the religion of his childhood. Wherever the story of the Virginius outrage shall go the story of this letter will go too. It is a letter that many an eye will weep to read, and that any man at such an extremity might envy the power of being able to write.

THE ARAPILES.—The Spanish iron-clad which has been undergoing repairs at the Brooklyn dry dock, being at length ready for sea, would have been off but for some unforeseen accidents that have resulted in her defention. For instance, on Friday last the floodgates of the dock were out of gear and could not be made to work, and yesterday, as bad luck would have it, at two o'clock in the morning, a barge laden with two hundred tons of coal sprung aleak and went down right in front of the gateway of the dock, completely blocking the passage. We presume that the barge was drifted against the dock by the tide; but we have not heard as yet that any of the sailors went down with the sinking

The Would-Be Martyr, De Couto. "The blood of the martyrs is the seed of the succumbed to the timid, un-American and Church." Some ecstatic minds in all ages pro-Spanish policy of Secretary Fish and the have aspired to suffering for an idea. They longed to be "planted," that their bone dust coterie of Spanish agents that influenced the and blood might be the manure of their idea, State Department. The recognition of the Cubans as belligerents would not have been a if not its actual seed, to seek sunlight in future ages. This is pleasant for the idea, cause of war, and it would only have been but it is the death of the man. Life has its even-handed justice to Spain for her recogniallurements, and if a man can give his cause tion of the confederates and the aid she afforded them during our civil war. But that the benefit of martyrdom without actually opportunity was lost, and we are now suffersuffering it, so much the better for the man. It involves a delusion someing the consequences. May we hope the leswhere to accomplish this. Circumstances son will not be lost? The time has come for decided and vigorous action. If even we beyond the man's control may place escape war, which seems hardly possible, the the spurious crown of martyrdom upon way to settle the Cuban question is to recoghis brow, or he may manufacture it himself. nize the Cubans as belligerents. Unfortunately, circumstances are not to be trusted, and the man who would have a

CUBAN HIFALUTIN.-There is an editor in Cuba who says that if the Virginius is given up he will leave the island forever; and he clearly supposes that this is equivalent to giving it up to desolation and ruin. In his notion of his own importance he somewhat resembles General Grant's editorial bull pup in this city; but we fancy that his readiness to leave the island if the ship is given up will be as nothing to his eagerness to get away if she is not given up.

#### The Religious Press on the New Episcopal Departure and Other Pertinent Topics.

Our religious contemporaries devote more attention than usual this week to the current topics of the day. Among these may be enumerated the new departure in the Episcopal Church, led off by Bishop Cummins; the polity of the Plymouth church, the new Chief Justice, the war with Spain, the President's Message, the vindication of Justice as exhibited in the case of Tweed, Ingersoll and Company, the wreck of the French steamer

and other matters of present interest. The Methodist, commenting upon the Cummins departure, remarks that "in the nature of the case the controversy cannot stand still. The Anglo-Catholies are thoroughly logical, and accept fearlessly every legitimate conclusion from their principles. They are not Protestants, nor do they wish to be. The whole sacramental system-the sacrifice in the Eucharist, the mediatory priesthood, the priestly supremacy over the laity-is in the ideas which they profess to draw from the Prayer Book. In this country the confraternity of the Blessed Sacrament has already taken a distinctly Roman Catholic position, and, though its proceedings are only known to us through the medium of the English papers, they have none the less excited consternation among moderate High Church men. The Evangelical Episcopalians are a declining party. They make no headway in their own Church. Timid and spiritless, they are easily swept down by the courageous assault of their antagonists. In Philadelphia, their centre of power, they have declined concurrence with Bishop Cummins, and, unkindest cut of all, they have repudiated him for doing what they themselves ought in consistency to da." The Methodist concludes:-

It is said that Bishop Cummins has not the ele It is said that Bishop Cummins has not the elements of character essential to such leadership as he has assumed. We do not know as to that, but he has honesty, and that is much—a good record, and that is much; above all, he has courage, the quality in which Evangelical Episcopahans have hereto ore shown themsetives dedicient. Sometimes beginnings which are ridiculed accomplish the greatest results. Bishop Cummins may fall—he certainly has the odds against him—but he will have successors, who will effect the reformation on which he has set his heart.

The Methodist-which, by the way, since its typographical transformation, has become one of the 'livest' religious papers of the dayalso touches on "Mr. Beecher and his neighbors," and is not surprised that Plymouth church has resented the letter addressed to it weighs upon the unsuccessful aspirant to by its two congregational neighbors.

The Christian Union (Henry Ward B has nothing to say in regard to the present Plymouth church congregational imbroglio. After quoting Judge Davis' remarks in pronouncing sentence upon Ingersoll, the editor

Words such as these, from a court of justice in Words such as these, from a court of justice in this city, so long under the rule of thieves, are like the introduction of wholesome air into a building long befored with unwholesome and deathly vapors. To Judge Davis are due the grateful thanks of all good citizens for the firmness and impartially with which he has held the scales of justice, and for the courage which he has shown in vindicating the outraged majesty of the law. The Christian at Work thinks there is some-

thing to be thankful for in the conviction of Ingersoll and Farrington. "The citizen will breathe freer as he reads the news, and the protection of the courts will be no longer the meaningless thing it so long has been."

The Independent celebrates its twenty-fifth birthday, and that is all it does do, editorially. But it is full of advertisements, and "that's what pays."

The Christian Leader (Universalist, Rev. Dr. Chapin), talks about "shutting up the kingdom of heaven." This is worse than fencing in Niagara Falls and charging stamps for admission to view them. The Leader, under the above caption, criticises a sermon of the Rev. T. Dewitt Talmage, which is characterized as an "explicit proclamation of the doctrine of eternal terments."

The Christian Intelligencer devotes the most of its editorial space to the consideration of the Plymouth church matters, which, having been settled, have lost their public interest.

The Observer, touching on the renunciation of Bishop Cummins, affirms that it is the leading topic of remark in religious circles, and in the words of a well known but now dethroned Tammany chieftain, asks, "What will they do about it?" The editor says the movement is sustained by a considerable number of substantial laymen, and a few clergymen have given in their adhesion."

The Freeman's Journal gives an editorial upon the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, which occurs to-morrow (Monday) and will be observed in all the dioceses of the provinces of New York and elsewhere. The Journal also indulges in other topics of interest to its readers.

The Evangelist regards it as an important feature in the newly nominated Chief Justice that he has an "iron frame." The Evangelist does not often indulge in irony.

The Catholic Review asks : - "Would it not be in order, in view of the increasing devotion throughout the world to the Sacred Heart, for the province of New York to petition the Holy See to hasten, so far as can be done, the canonization of the Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque?"

The Church and State, commenting upon the new Episcopal movement, says:-"Much as

showed both wisdom and liberality in this | and impossible as we find it to reconcile these matter; but after his death the President proceedings with our convictions of duty, it would be vain to deny its significances and the merest folly to disregard the tendencies which it indicates."

The Chicago Interior sympathizes with the Rev. Mr. Cheney's (condjutor with Bishop Cummins in the new departure) theology, but not with his way of maintaining it. It thinks that Mr. Cheney's true course was to submit to censure or leave the Church.

The Jewish Times elaborates upon the Holy Scriptures, averring that those are the true friends of the Bible who divest it of its supernatural, miraculous character, and is proud to say that the Jews themselves, the custodians of that treasure, are first and foremost in presenting it to the world in its true light. and thus contribute to the work of emancipation from the yoke of a false religion, imposed upon mankind by means of a gross misrepresentation of the Bible.

We are glad to notice that religious revivals are occurring in various parts of the country, especially in North Carolina, where there is such ample room for the dispensing of divine grace, among the Methodists.

Polonius was a famous Secretary of State in his time, though he was once taken for a fishmonger; and Mr. Fish's resemblance to the garrulous, meddlesome and feeble old man is marvellous. In his diplomatizing with Admiral Polo he was first able to agree that the case of the Virginius was like a camel, then that it was backed like a weasel, and, finally, he understands that it is very like a whale.

Leading Ladies and First Old Women. Scarcely anything is more notorious than the fastidiousness of actors and actresses who have acquired some small reputation with respect to their acceptability of certain rôles which they may be called upon to perform. A suit, which has just been determined in favor of the defendant, and which was brought by an English actress who a season or two ago had a share in leading parts at our principal comedy theatre, is an amusing and not an uninstructive instance of this. The actress affirmed that she had been engaged as leading lady by the manager of a theatre on East Fourteenth street, but that some months after the season began he wanted her to appear as the Baroness in "Frou-Frou." This she indignantly refused to do, alleging that the rôle of the Baroness was usually given to that member of a stock company technically designated as "first old woman." The consequence was that the actress ceased to be a member of the theatre in question, and the injury done to her feelings and pocket resulted in the suit we have just mentioned. Now, there are a certain kind and degree of professional pride which are to be respected. They are those which render it impossible for an actress ever to do anything but her best. In the present instance the part of the Baroness happens to be more than usually brilliant, considering that it is not the most prominent in the piece. It is full of sharp and sounding cynicisms, glittering verbal stings and biting rejoinders, uttered by a woman of the first fashion, who gives fascinating but dangerous advice to the heroine. In fact, it is a part which even a leading lady, with laurels fresh upon her, need not by any means despise. And as for the imagined loss of professional prestiga which the occasional assumption of such a rôle is supposed to entail, that is the sheerest nonsense, for which the vanity of the individual, and not the conscience of the artist, is responsible. We have no admiration for so mordant and acrid a tenacity, and think that the sooner such leading ladies as indulge in it are reminded that certain "first old woman" rôles are not too insignificant for them the better. It is better to shine as a "first old woman" than to flicker as a leading lady.

Mr. Fish has been weighed in his own scales and is found wanting. The United States Minister at Madrid "doubted the sincerity" of the Spaniards in the terms made through Polo. He apparently knew the true character of the men with whom he was dealing and knew when the point was reached at which fighting was imperatively necessary; but poor old Fish insisted on a little more gabble, thinking the Spaniards could not possibly resist his wonderful skill in negotiation. and we hope he is proud of the result.

THE NEWS FROM MEXICO speaks of a provincial riot, produced by religious dissension and nativist intolerance, and of serious, and rather alarming, progress on the part of the revolutionists in Yucatan. This is not healthful for the material interests of the Republic. although it is said that the national territory is just now peaceful at all other points.

## The Prize Fighters' Paradisc.

Pennsylvania can take the palm. The old "Keystone State" can take rank as the prize fighters' paradise in this country. And hardly a paradise, after all; for, inasmuch as the first recalcitrant sinners were expelled from the original paradise, the authorities of Pennsylvania failed to expel the prize fighting sinners who trespassed upon her sacred soil on the 3d inst. It seems that, notwithstanding unusual publicity had been given to the matter, all the preliminary arrangements for a regular "mill" between two bruisers from Newark. N. J., were allowed to be perfected in the populous borough of Wilkesbarre, in Luzerne county, and the combatants, with their friends, permitted to depart openly for the scene of conflict, a few miles from the borough, where the ring was staked, without a word, sign or token of opposition from the local or county authorities. Everything was in readiness for the "battle." One castor was cast into the ring (which is generally a square), and the gnarled muscular developments of one gladiator gave indications to his backers that they were safe in their calculations that he would prove the "better man." (They were mostly betting men on the ground.) Alas, however, for human pluck and human fortitude! The heart of the party of the other part failed him when he was called to the scratch, and he sat whimpering, like a whipped schoolboy, in his corner, pleading for a postponement of the fight on account of injuries alleged to have been received the night before from some of the other side, but which injuries were proved to be fabulous, according to our reporter's description. And now ensued a scene that baffles description. It was not this movement meets with our disapproval, only a question whether two pugnacious indi-