

our existing tariff laws, and it is a circumstance which campaign orators on both sides should try to explain to the public. For the same period exports from New York only exceeded those of last year by 4½ per cent. This presentation of trade relations must result in a heavy balance of trade against us at the end of the year, provided it continues.

Another rather curious feature of our trade relations presents itself in reference to gold. During June and July, \$25,000,000 of the yellow metal left these shores. During the month of August just closed \$8,000,000 left New York City alone. In former years the outflow of gold was heaviest in April and May, in this year it was heaviest in June and July, and according to acknowledged authorities, heavier than for any two months combined on record. In the month of August there has usually been an inflow of gold. It 1887 it was nearly \$8,000,000, and in 1891 (last year) it was over \$1,000,000, but this year the tide has been \$6,000,000 outwards.

Where this gold goes to is not definitely known. Some say to Austria, others to other countries. Is it a conspiracy of European governments to corner American gold and produce a panic here? or what is the secret cause of this change?

AN EXPLANATION OF PREVAILING STRIKES.

DURING last week there were reported about fifty labor troubles in various parts of the country. These include strikes, lockouts, and grievances relating to union organizations. The vast majority of the strikes failed in their object, only a few successful, there were some compromises, and a number yet remain unsettled.

In one of his messages to the Forty-ninth Congress, President Cleveland said:

"The discontent of the employed is due in a large degree to the grasping and heedless exactions of employers, and the alleged discriminations in favor of capital as an object of governmental attention. Laboring men are not always careful to avoid causeless disturbances. But I suggest that instead of arbitrators there be created a commission of labor, consisting of three members, who shall be regular officers of the government, charged among other duties with the consideration and settlement, when possible, of all controversies between labor and capital."

This suggestion was ignored by Congress. Compulsory arbitration is now talked of, but its practicability is questionable. One authority asks whether if the case were decided in favor of the employers the laborers could be compelled by force to work. Orrin W. Weaver, chief assistant of Carroll D. Wright, commissioner of labor, says that compulsory arbitration would not do. It has been tried in Ohio, New York and Massachusetts, but it has achieved very little good. In the last named State it has accomplished a little.

Mr. Weaver was asked recently by a St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* correspondent to what he attributed the prevalence of strikes in this age. He replied as follows:

"To human nature. We are undergoing a great transition, which has been in course of development for the past forty or fifty years. There are periods in the history of civilization when all things, so to speak, are stationary. There is no perceptible change. The established order of things moves in its established grooves, without any remarkable or violent mutations. These periods are succeeded by periods of radical social revolutions, and all of a sudden we are in the middle of changes and a general turmoil, like the great labor strikes of the present. The causes are not always outwardly apparent. It is to be sought in the immutability of human nature. The conditions are changing by which society is surrounded. A new direction is given to human thought. Socialism is an entirely modern phenomenon. It was not known during the periods of industrial stability. Workingmen read more and reflect more. Literature is cheaper, and ideas, right or wrong, are spreading faster than they did fifty years ago. New machinery is constantly introduced; new inventions follow fast one upon another; and the minds of people are receiving new impressions and keep constantly alert for changes. In short, we are living in a time of rapid changes, when no settled order is to be thought of. Strikes have been raging for years; they will probably continue for a hundred years longer. It is a question we have been unable to solve satisfactorily, and it is not likely to be solved until the course of intellectual activity once more subsides into a regular and definite channel."

GEORGE WILLIAM CURTIS.

A PROMINENT character has departed from the journalistic arena of New York. For many years George Wm. Curtis ranked as one of the literary and political lights of Gotham. A dispatch in last evening's *DESERET NEWS* states that he passed away at 5 o'clock yesterday morning.

Mr. Curtis was a native of Rhode Island, where he was born in 1824. In 1842 he and a brother joined the Brook Farm association near Roxbury, Mass. In 1846 he visited the old world, and on his return to this country published a book entitled "Nile Notes of Howadji." Two years later he published "The Howadji in Syria." His next step was as editor of *Putnam's Magazine*, and he also contributed to the *New York Tribune*. Subsequently he became connected with the *Harper's*, and in their publications his lectures and essays formed a noticeable feature. He was the writer of "The Editor's Easy Chair" in *Harper's New Monthly Magazine*, but it was as editor of *Harper's Weekly* that he was best.

Though an extremist in Republican party politics until 1884, he was an ardent civil service reformer. In fact he might be said to have made a sad of this idea. And to a great extent the civil service laws now in force in this country may be attributed to his exertions. He attended the Republican National Convention of 1884, and made a speech of unusual severity and bitterness against the Democratic party which he characterized as an "organized appetite." But when Mr. Blaine was subsequently nominated he withdrew from the party, and became one of Grover Cleveland's most earnest adherents.

His death at the present time will remove one great complication from New York party politics. It was his adhesion to the Democratic party that caused the disaffection among New York Democrats, and not personal dislike to Cleveland. For a quarter of a century *Harper's Weekly* had been a violent and extreme caricaturist of Irish Democrats. At that time Nast flourished, and his grotesque and sometimes indecent daubs stared at one from every stationer's window in the city.

Eugene Lawrence was a contributor to the *Weekly*. His efforts were entirely of the old know-nothing type, and Catholics looked on Curtis as a reviler of old hates. When extreme Catholics and sensitive Democrats found *Harper's Weekly* and its editor at their side, they naturally enough felt alarmed. This was really the secret of the disaffection. And now that Mr. Curtis, who was looked upon as head of the Nast-Lawrence clique is gone, New York Democrats will not be heard in denunciation of Cleveland.

What is called the Mugwump element on the Atlantic seaboard has, in the death of Curtis, lost one of the leaders who gave it character. He was a strong writer, an acute thinker, and his influence in the political world was more than is generally understood.

THE CHURCH SUITS AGAIN IN COURT

THE litigation over the property of the late corporation of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints has been simplified greatly by the dismissal, at the instance of counsel for the Government, of the following cases: F. H. Dyer, receiver, vs. David M. Stewart, Robert McQuarrie and Church of Weber Stake and City of Ogden; F. H. Dyer, receiver, etc., vs. R. J. Taylor and L. W. Shurtliff; H. W. Lawrence, receiver, vs. James A. Eldridge et al.

The last named involved the Salt Lake property known as the Council House corner, and the others, property formerly owned by the Church in Ogden, including the Tabernacle square, Titling office grounds and the old Stuart property. These are now exempt from escheat.

The case now before the Supreme Court of the Territory comes up on exceptions taken to the report of the Master in Chancery, who, after a long investigation decided in favor of the turning over of the personal property of the late corporation for the use and benefit of the district schools.

It will be remembered that the Supreme Court of the Territory decreed the personal property of the Church had "become escheated to and the property of the United States." This was based on the assumption that the personal property of the Church had been used for and devoted, among other things, to the promulgation and maintenance of polygamy or plurality of wives. We say the "assumption" because no such evidence had then been before the court. The Supreme Court of the United States subsequently dissented from this part of the decree, and ordered that the personal property should be devoted to "such charitable uses, lawful in their character, as may most nearly correspond to