

pens that her star will be placed on the official flag in the vacant space at the end of the fourth row of stars.

The chief depot for the distribution of flags in the Schuylkill arsenal in Philadelphia, and the month of May is the time the new flags are generally given out. This year, however, as the star for Utah cannot be added until the fourth of July, and new flags may not be distributed until that time. Each of the eighty army posts is furnished with one large hunting flag per year, for the life of one of these Old Glories is usually but twelve months, by that time the wind and weather having destroyed it. According to the arrangement explained above, the quartermaster-general's office will merely have to sew another star on the field, and the flag will be complete. The army posts having good flags will send them before the first of July to the nearest quartermaster depot. The new star will be added to the extreme right of the fourth line, and the flag will be returned to the post in time to fly on the glorious Fourth. If, however, a requisition is made for a new flag, the flag sent will be the new one, with the forty-five stars. It will cost the government fifteen cents to furnish and sew the new star on every large hunting flag, ten cents for the medium-sized star and five cents for the small star. That makes the expense for adding the new star fifteen dollars for the large flag, twenty dollars for the medium-sized flag and twenty-five dollars for the small flag. So the coming in of Utah will not be very expensive as to flags.

OUR ANTI-IMMIGRATION LAWS.

It is a curious and noteworthy fact that during the one hundred and nineteen years of American life as a nation, less than the last nineteen have witnessed the only real effort toward the restriction of foreign immigration. Formerly our statesmen sought in every way to encourage the coming of the surplus population of other countries to our shores, and the new arrivals were welcomed with every manifestation of heartiness and gratitude. About fifteen years ago, however, the matter of closing our doors against the tremendous influx began to be agitated in Congress with a prospect of success; two important considerations being urged upon public attention. One was that the resources, advantages and privileges offered by Columbia were no more numerous than could be utilized by our own people and such aliens as were already here. The other was that there had been a great falling-off in the morale and value of the immigrants; whereas the newcomers were formerly men and women of intelligence, vigorous in body and in the prime of life, and exercised an immense influence in the development of the country, they later were followed by a less sturdy class, aged, infirm, sometimes debased, and not infrequently actually criminal, it appearing to be a general idea with many of the European governments that it was in every way cheaper and more effective to dump these undesirable

elements into the United States than to care for them at home.

The first restrictive measure against improper immigration was therefore passed in 1882. It fixed qualifications which should be possessed by the newcomers, placed a duty of 50 cents on each alien admitted, and sent back to their native land some six thousand out of something over ten millions who tried to get into the country. Three years afterwards another law was passed, the alien contract labor law. It made unlawful the assisting or procuring the immigration of any alien under contract to perform labor in this country; and while it was more sweeping in its provisions than the preceding law, it had many loopholes, through which almost anybody might escape except a few preachers. It was amended in 1887 and 1888, but was still defective. Then came, in the latter year, the famous Chinese exclusion act, which, say what we may of it, was in violation of all our treaties with China and would have led to war with any less patient and supine nation. In 1891 a law was passed re-enacting the provisions of the act of 1882 and also of the contract labor law, with the enumeration of other classes of persons to be excluded, and with improvements in the administrative section; and then came the latest attempt at remedying the defects of all previous legislation, in the law of 1893. It is still in operation, and while superior to any of its predecessors, it is regarded as ineffective in accomplishing all that was hoped for it.

The question is one that has therefore received attention from almost every Congress for thirteen years past, and it is still an issue. Among the many other bits of work out out for the Fifty-fourth Congress, now in session, this is probably one of the least likely to escape attention and treatment.

THE PRICE OF CUBA.

Cuba at one time very nearly came into the possession of France. At least that is the story told by a writer in the *Fortnightly Review*, and it is interesting at this time as showing the value placed on the "gem of the Antilles" when it was for sale. What it would be now, should the United States be induced to make a bid, is another question.

According to the story, Senor Campuzano, a Spanish diplomat, was sent in 1837 to Paris on a secret mission. He carried with him a proposition from the queen regent, Maria Christina, to Louis Philippe to sell Cuba, the Philippine Islands and Porto Rico for the sum of 40,000,000 reals. For Cuba 20,000,000 reals was demanded, while Porto Rico and the Philippine Islands were for sale for 10,000,000 reals. The extravagant queen needed money for her expenses and she was quite willing to sell sundry parts of her country.

How the bargain came to naught is interestingly related. The Spanish envoy with shame burning in his face, but full of patriotism at heart, speedily obtained an audience with the French king. The secret treaty was read and agreed to as far as Cuba was con-

cerned. The portion that ceded that island to France for 20,000,000 reals was actually signed. But the articles relating to the other islands caused some discussion and a scene that ended the negotiations. Louis Philippe was noted for his cupidity. He objected to the price demanded and offered 7,000,000 reals. The indignation of the Spanish envoy rose to the boiling point. The king became imperative, pushed the treaty across the table to the envoy, and exclaimed: "The reduction of the price must be accepted. The terms are too onerous. Seven millions of reals is my offer, or else the contract must be thrown into the fire." Campuzano sprang to his feet, throwing over the chair on which he had been sitting, and, seizing the treaty, exclaimed: "Your majesty is in the right; the contract is worthless and only fit to be thrown into the fire." Without another word he strode across the room and flung the paper between the burning logs on the hearth, beating it down with the tongs until it was entirely consumed. The king sputtered and took snuff. Campuzano stood trembling in every limb with indignant passion, offering no apology. Presently the king, with Talleyrand and his secretary, withdrew, and the parting was without any courtly ceremony.

And thus it happened that Cuba, after a few minutes having been the property of France, reverted back to Spain, to fight at present for its liberty, at the cost of millions and many lives.

A BOTANICAL SUGGESTION.

In our city public schools many of the pupils draw great pleasure from simple lessons of botany. As a result, leaves, stem, buds, roots, and plants have for them a new interest, marking an improved artistic taste; running vines, green hedges and growing trees are rendered more beautiful because their nature is better understood. This fact is suggestive of an idea that could be made profitable in connection with many of the schools in Utah, especially in the country districts, though the city schools need not be exempt. At almost every school building in the country there could be a little garden plot, to afford means of supplanting the now bare walls of the schoolhouse and the hard ground or barren waste of sand near by. A plot a few rods square, with a circular rock mound or two, a few trees, some grass, a selection of vegetables, pinks, roses, pansies, violets, etc., with some ivy and other climbing vines and a few house plants—and the children could be taught how to make home beautiful, and at the same time acquire powers of observation, discrimination and comparison in botanical studies without passing beyond the proper limits of time for that branch. It will not do, as some have suggested, to say that the little ones will not take commendable pride in such work, or keep their share of the garden neat as a pin. They do it elsewhere, and produce on the school grounds some of the most beautiful small flower gardens to be seen anywhere. The children in Utah can do equally as well, and thus add an ele-