

until 140,000 words have been used, or until one side gives up. The rounds are to last two hours and forty minutes, and it is thought that ten days may be enough to complete the task. A Chicago sporting writer gives closer details as follows: "One combatant leaves off with a thrust of 1,000 words at his opponent. Three minutes are allowed the man on defense to rally. Then he is expected to make good his defense and lead the assault with another 1,000 word volley. After this round each fighter must stand up to three questions which may be put by those backing the other fellow. When the round is over the fighters will read typewritten copies of their own and their antagonist's remarks to be sure against mistakes or the interpolation of blows that were never given. Then each man affixes his signature, and with the addition of copyright procedure the documents will go forth to the world as the only official report of the day's business."

Then when all is said and done, the proceedings are to be printed in book form, presumably by the publisher of "Coin's Financial School," and the combatants will be understood to "whack up" on the proceeds. The whole thing has very much the appearance of a gigantic farce.

ELECTIONS IN ENGLAND.

The general elections in Great Britain, although the final results cannot be known until the beginning of the next week, have now proceeded far enough to indicate that the liberal party will be completely snowed under and that their opponents will have a majority much larger than at first anticipated. This is all the more significant because the question of the reform of the House of Lords seems to be the principal issue on which the defeated party is now before the country. Home rule for Ireland, reform of rural, local government, the disestablishment of the church of Wales, and temperance legislation, are the other prominent numbers on the program. It remains virtually the same as it was in 1892, since which time no new proposals have been added, and it is to be presumed that the supporters of the party, tired of living on expectations of reforms that seem as far from materialization as ever, have decided on a change.

Among the propositions incorporated in the Tory platform is one to place workingmen in a position to buy their homes with money furnished by the imperial treasury; that is, the government proposes to act as a building society for the benefit of the laborers. Others deal with the establishment of old-age pensions and the accident insurance for laborers, all of which schemes have received, in a cautious way, the support of Lord Salisbury and Mr. Balfour.

There are many important questions with which the conservatives will have to deal. The alliance between Russia and France is regarded as anti-English and will necessitate the adoption of measures for the protection of British interests. The situation in Turkey is daily growing more critical, and as Lord Salisbury is on record as favoring a decisive policy in the orient, more

friendly to the oppressed Christians than that of Lord Beaconsfield, developments may be expected of a very important nature.

Regarding the all-absorbing monetary question it is thought likely that, should an international conference be called, the English delegates would not be sent with instructions to oppose any and every measure proposed, as was the case at Brussels. This conjecture is founded upon the fact that Balfour is an avowed bimetalist and that Lord Salisbury leans toward the restoration of a silver, in theory at least.

"HISPANISM."

The statement by a prominent Spanish representative that this country owes everything, including its civilization and free institutions, to his country, and that finally a new something under the name Hispanism—analogue to Hellenism and Romanism in the Old World—must finally prevail in this continent, only shows with what ridiculous thoughts mortal man may be afflicted, when bad feelings are allowed the mastery over sound judgment. This gentleman is to recover the situation in Cuba and naturally sees things as through a dim glass. People in this country are willing to honor the memory of Columbus, although not a native of Spain, and of the noble queen who enabled him to start on his voyage of discovery, and even forget the men who perhaps preceded him, but when they look back upon Spanish rule on this continent and upon the condition of the unfortunate Cuban island, now in the throes of war for liberation from cruel oppression and misrule, they will feel thankful to a Providence higher than that of Spanish sovereigns that the government was terminated and liberty established. Hispanism on this continent is associated with too much that bears the imprint of mediocrity, brutality and fanaticism to have any chance of revival.

Spain might still be a great country if the very life of the ancient tree were not constantly endangered by the parasites that seem inseparable from institutions that have survived too long. If that country would accept true Americanism from us as a recompense for the discovery of this continent, it might still be saved for an excellent mission among the countries of Europe; but as it is, all talk about Hispanism in the western world must be regarded as an illusive dream. Americanism is now at work on Cuba against Hispanism, and although the former seems to be but poorly represented by a despised class, the Spanish legions have so far made but little progress against their old-fashioned machetes, and the prediction of the speedy subjection may be regarded as doubtful.

THE BANK of England was projected by a Scotchman, William Patterson, and established 1694. It starts with a government loan of \$6,000,000 at 8 per cent, secured on taxes. The charter appointed a governor and twenty-four directors, to be annually elected from members of the company possessing not less than \$200 in stock. The South sea bubble (1720), the Jacob-

ite rebellion (1745) and the failure of a number of country banks (1792) seriously affected the bank. The bank charter act of 1844 limited the note circulation to \$70,000,000, against a like amount lent to the government, unless a similar value in bullion were in hand. The act was suspended during the panics of 1847, 1857 and 1866.

COMPARISONS, like names, sometimes are odious, but it is safe to say that no American crowd would have treated a lady in the manner Sir William Harcourt's wife was treated by an English mob the other day. It appears that Sir Harcourt and wife were returning from a political meeting in a carriage and both were pelted with cabbage stalks and other rubbish. The lady was covered with filth, soiling her dress. Americans can be rough enough, but never do they forget the chivalry due to a representative of the better half of mankind.

ACCORDING to a government census taken five years ago but published this year, the population of Portugal, including Madeira and the Azores, is only 5,059,729, of whom 2,619,390 are women. Four-fifths of the population are unable to read and write. These figures would be hard to heat in any country of the world claiming to be civilized. By the way, what are the Catholics doing for the education of the Portuguese while they are spending their energy on educational schemes in this country and Canada? Portugal is a Catholic country.

THE ANNUAL report of the vital statistics of France for 1893, shows, for the first time since 1859, an excess of registered births over deaths. There were in all 287,294 marriages, 6,184 divorces, 874,672 births, and 867,528 deaths; excess of births, 7,146. In thirty-six departments there was an excess of births over deaths of 36,593, and in fifty-one departments an excess of deaths over births of 29,447.

SO GREAT has been the increase in the consumption of beef meat for food in Germany that the United States consul at Brunswick suggests the advisability of having American packers compete for the profit in this new industry. Fresh horse meat, it is reported, sells for 7 cents a pound when smoked. The average price paid by a German butcher for a horse is \$35.

THE MESSIANIC era may still be somewhat remote, says the *Jewish Messenger*, but out in distant Brownsville, Texas, there are signs of its approach when a Ladies' Aid society can be organized with a Jewess as president, a Roman Catholic as secretary, and a Quakeress as treasurer, while an Episcopalian orator appeals in its behalf.

THE STORMING of Norway, on July 5, decided to repay the outlay of Sweden for diplomatic and consular service up to July 1. The budgets were finally carried by votes of 69 to 45 and 72 to 42, respectively. This action points to an amicable settlement of the difference between the two countries.

DENMARK is one of the few countries in the world, if not the only one, where a free theater exists for the benefit of the poor. It was established in 1891 and has produced fifteen different plays by Danish and Norwegian authors.