

the interchanges and commingling have been constant, and there are a great many French business establishments in Bangkok, the capital of Siam. This is reached from any point in the outer world through the gulf of Siam, from the northern shore of which a few miles and at the end of a wide river emptying into the gulf is the capital. It seems that the French had demanded that their gunboats be permitted to pass up the river to that city for the alleged purpose of giving protection to French persons and property there, and the Siamese refused to admit the war ships. Last Thursday at 6 o'clock in the evening five French war ships arrived at the mouth of the river leading to Bangkok. Three of these vessels undertook to run the gauntlet of seven Siamese war ships and five forts, and the latter being unprepared for this, exploded their submarine mines too late, so that the warships passed through safely. Firing then began and was kept up for forty minutes. Fifteen Siamese were killed and thirty wounded, the French loss being three killed, two wounded and one dispatch boat sunk.

The News' dispatches show that, while no great engagement has yet taken place, desultory fighting is going on at various points and some of this has been quite severe, the burden seeming to fall principally upon the Siamese, who are evidently no match for the French in the game of war; this seems the more evident from the fact that the government of Siam is making overtures looking to a peaceful settlement. It is to be hoped these will be promptly acceded to and the legalized murders, piracies and robberies inaugurated brought to a close.

CHINESE MONEY.

Those who uphold the doctrine of free trade point to the fact that we deal with China to the extent of millions of dollars every year, the dealing being mutual, and yet a Chinese coin is a curiosity here. This is to show that trade is not effected between nations as it is between storekeepers and their customers, but is simply an interchange of products in which but little money ever changes hands. We do not think it much of a loss that these coins do not come; their value is so nearly nothing, that is of the smaller coins, their execution is so clumsy, and altogether they are such undeniable relics of primitive conditions that the only use we could put them to would be to exhibit them in cabinets.

China is declared to be the paradise of the numismatist. The collections of cash, according to Consul Bedloe's report to the state department, are something marvelous. There are small coins of bronze, brass, copper or silver, ranging in intrinsic value from one-twentieth of a cent to 25 cents. The oldest of these coins on record appeared about 2300 B. C. Over 150,000 different kinds of cash are preserved in collections. Some are wonderful examples of coinage, but most of them are clumsy and coarse. The numismatist can work all his life, spend very little money, and leave to posterity thousands of coins. All he needs to do is to confine his work to the collection of

cash, the small coins in brass and bronze, whose value ranges from one-tenth to one-fourteenth of a cent. Their workmanship varies, but it is usually very good. They are round like other coins but have a square hole in the center; just what purpose this answers, unless it be to string them together, is not known.

One thing is very certain, as many of us can testify—the Chinamen in this land do not use such coins, even in transactions between themselves. They do not acquire the practice of using "Melican" money by residence, as they bring none of their own with them and of course have none to take away. Those who think the heathen are not posted because they prefer silver ought to attempt to pass any kind of money on them that will not go for 100 cents on the dollar, and be undeceived.

THE MILK IN THE COCOANUT.

The silver agitation ought to have one wholesome result. It should put an end to any thought of the admission of any more Western territories as states. We want no more free silver senators and congressmen.

The foregoing lines are from one of those Eastern publications that seem to require a map to be made to remember that there is a good deal of the United States this side of the Mississippi river. We are sometimes vain enough to believe it much the better part, and at other times do not think it altogether vanity to think that way; one of such times is when we read such sentences as that above.

The News long since took the ground that the chief opposition to Utah's admission as a state came from goldite stateemen and a goldite press. Nothing within the grasp of human endeavor is more certain as to its outcome than the status of Utah's senators and congressmen on the silver question. They would be for the money authorized by the Constitution of the country—gold and silver, not gold or silver; they would advocate the restoration, so far as practicable, of old-time conditions when the people were just as honest as they are now and looked upon the silver dollar of 412.5 grains Troy as the unit of values. We speak thus confidently of what they would be because we are quite positive that they could not be otherwise and be elected, unless they practiced deception, and this is not anticipated.

So no more senators and congressmen are wanted from the West, because they would represent the West rather than the East! And yet that same paper and all others of its class deplore the sectionalism that is developed and growing in the land! How can we be otherwise than sectional and maintain the dignity and honor of the land we live on? Go to. If you compel us in self-defense to make ourselves a distinct and separate class, who must bow to the Gesler cap hung up in Wall street or be denied association with you in the halls of legislation if not elsewhere, do not complain of it when we accept the situation and proceed to make the most of it by rejecting your terms!

And yet we look to see at least four

more senators and two more representatives pledged to the remonetization of silver in Congress, perhaps as early as next winter, or at least before the session expires. Utah may not send either of them, but when her time comes she will do likewise. Not that we want to force our company upon the gold worshipers by any means, but that we do not intend to be bullied, coerced or cajoled out of our birthright and intend to have our voice and vote recorded in favor of our interests in the only place where they can be recorded to have effect.

DEATH-BED REPENTANCE.

The organ of the moribund Liberal party in this city is never so humorous as when it tries to be sober and serious on local politics. Under such circumstances its professions of honor are positively side-splitting, and its pose and pomposity as a counselor of prudence and a claimant for fairness are excruciatingly funny. Who, for example, is so dull-witted and stolid that he can refrain from laughing at the high moral tone in which it advises County Registrar Walden as to his duty! He must not countenance any partisan tricks, look you, and must sedulously see to it that no superfluous names are added and none that are not superfluous are omitted, from the list! He must not forget that his one object ought to be to secure the purity and honesty of the registration! They are many other delicate hints as to what he ought to do, and quite as many suggestions as to what he should not do. Not but what through it all runs a righteous sound and a goodly; but this is strangely at variance with the past record of the voice in question, and quite delicious in view of the fact that its only fear in the premises is that its good advice will now be heeded.

We hope the official referred to will give his self-elected mentor all the honesty and discrimination and fairness it asks for, and a good deal more than it really wants. The News will at all times insist that strict impartiality and justice be meted out to Liberals, as well as to Democrats and Republicans. We have no present reason to doubt that it will be. But we cannot help wondering at the sudden goodness that has come upon this most oracular cotemporary of ours. It must be a case of desperate illness, recalling that of another and a still more adroit character of whom the jingle saith:

When the devil was sick
The devil a saint would be;
When the devil was well
The devil a saint was he.

A SUGGESTION.

The News has been waiting patiently to hear of some practical steps being taken in the matter of retrenchment by our city and county officials. We know of no better place of commencement than the lopping off of sinecures altogether and reducing the salaries of those who are retained. It is a rather sweeping statement to make but a true one, that the number of such officials all told who earn what they are paid could be counted on the