

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 8, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—I have had the pleasure to receive your letter of the 5th instant, and in reply would say that in my judgment the Constitution of the United States is better and stronger than it was a hundred years ago. The great people that has grown up under its protection is more capable of sustaining free institutions than at any earlier period. Every generation, no doubt, will find evils to be guarded against and good principles to need development and defense. A more intimate unity of feeling throughout the nation, and a subordination of local and particular interests to the general good, and a watchful attention to preserve our industrial and social independence of Europe, must for years to come be the great duty of this people. I can foresee no danger of a serious or permanent desertion of this duty on the part of our fellow citizens. So long as there is no such desertion we can readily overcome any perils that may menace us, whether from foreign syndicates, individual aliens, or other sources.

If I am correct in my views on this matter, I see no reason why any patriotic American citizen need feel any apprehension for the perpetuity of his beloved nation. Therefore, speaking for myself, I cannot possibly feel any great degree of concern as to the stability of the noble institutions which this great, prosperous and powerful country is now in the enjoyment of. In a careful and thoughtful perusal of what I have here written I think that any one may find a full and complete answer to all four of the questions which you have propounded to me, and which I think are of very great importance to every true-hearted, thoughtful American citizen.

I am very respectfully your obedient servant,

WILLIAM M. EVARTS.

BISHOP POTTER AGREES WITH CARDINAL GIBBONS.

Rt. Rev. H. C. Potter, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of the See of New York, agrees with Cardinal Gibbons, the head of the Catholic Church in this country, in thinking that we are most in danger from an absence of religion and a departure from Christian principles on the part of those in authority. His letter is appended.

DIOCESAN HOUSE,

29 Lafayette Place,
NEW YORK, Nov. 21, 1891.

My Dear Sir:—The four questions which you ask me are certainly of the most vital interest and importance to all the people of these United States, and, like all such questions, they are not easy to answer, nor are replies to them to be hastily formulated. In reply to your first question, "Will our present republican form of government last one hundred years longer?" I would say that I have no accurate data which would warrant me in expressing an opinion as to how long the present government of the United States will endure.

Your second question, "If not, why not?" I am equally unable to answer satisfactorily.

In reply to your third question "What is its greatest peril?" I would

say that in my judgment the indifference of the people to righteousness in their rulers and to integrity in the administration of the government is the greatest peril with which we are threatened as a nation.

In reply to your fourth question I would say that there is not the smallest probability that aliens and foreign syndicates will ever attain control of this country by buying up its land and business enterprises and eventually change the form of government. The drift of the world is not toward monarchial government, but away from it, and our danger is not in the direction of monarchy, but rather of anarchy; not from foreign syndicates, but from domestic syndicates, and then from the recoil from that tyranny which great monied combinations seek to impose. I am, my dear sir,

Sincerely yours,

H. C. POTTER.

SENATOR WADE HAMPTON SAYS, KEEP EUROPE'S DANGEROUS ELEMENT OUT.

Hon. Wade Hampton, the junior United States Senator—In point of service—from South Carolina, writes as follows:

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, Dec. 9, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Time alone can give the answer to your first question, "Will our present republican form of government endure 100 years longer?" and also to your second, "If not, why not?"

With regard to what is the greatest peril of our government, I think it is the accumulation of money in the hands of a few persons and the unscrupulous use of wealth.

I apprehend no danger to republican institutions by foreign immigration or capital in the way pointed out by your fourth question, but I think that great harm is done to the country by allowing nihilists, communists, and paupers of other lands to become citizens of ours. Very respectfully, yours,

WADE HAMPTON.

SENATOR JOHN SHERMAN, OF OHIO, THINKS THE CONUNDRUMS TOO HARD.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 7, 1890.

Dear Sir:—I never venture to prophesy for the future. No one could answer your questions with any confidence, though I hope that our government will last for many years. The perils of the future can not be anticipated. Any man would usurp the properties of the infinite if he attempted to reply to your questions.

Very truly yours,

JOHN SHERMAN.

POSTMASTER GENERAL WANAMAKER HAS FAITH IN OUR STAYING POWERS.

Postmaster General Wanamaker's answer, like a stick of old-fashioned molasses candy, is short and sweet.

OFFICE OF THE POSTMASTER GENERAL,

WASHINGTON, D. C., Nov. 21, 1890.

Dear Sir:—In reply to your favor of 19th instant, just received, I would say that I have full faith in the perpetuity of our institutions. I firmly believe that our republican form of government

will improve steadily and endure lastingly. This answer, I think, covers all the questions you present to me, and they are most important ones.

Yours truly,

JOHN WANAMAKER.

SENATOR INGALLS OF KANSAS, THINKS THE PAST A GUARANTEE OF THE FUTURE.

UNITED STATES SENATE CHAMBER,
Washington, D. C.,
December 9th, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—In reply to yours of 5th, I think that the Anglo-Saxon race on this continent have thus far overcome every obstacle in their unprecedented experiment of popular self-government. They have made too many sacrifices to leave any doubt that they will solve the problems of the future as successfully as those of the past. Very respectfully yours,

JOHN I. INGALLS.

GENERAL WM. T. SHERMAN ANSWERS CHARACTERISTICALLY

NEW YORK, December 23, 1890.

My Dear Sir:—Your questions can only be answered by some newspaper editor. Newspaper editors are the only true prophets now living to my knowledge. Truly yours,

WM. T. SHERMAN,
General.

VIOLENT STORM.

NEW YORK, Jan. 25.—A violent wind and snowstorm in this city last night and early this morning proved one of the most disastrous to telegraph, telephone and electric wires that ever visited this city. Poles and wires are down all over the city. Many narrow escapes are recorded, and the fire alarm and telephone service were rendered nearly useless. A big force of men was put to work repairing as early as 6 o'clock this morning.

So serious is the condition of affairs that Chief Inspector Byrnes sent out the following instructions to all police captains this afternoon: "The recent storm having impaired the fire telegraph lines, you will instruct officers on patrol that when fires occur, after sending in the alarm in the usual manner from the fire alarm box, to go at once to the nearest fire engine house and report."

The city tonight is in darkness, save as far as gaslight is concerned. By much delayed trains come reports of utter prostration of all means of communication in and from outlying towns to New Jersey.

This morning seven huge telegraph poles on Fourth Avenue were broken off close to the ground, falling with a great crash into the cut of the New York Central Railroad, effectually blocking the track. A passenger train came thundering down the track and could only be stopped within a few feet of the wreckage.

At 2:10, on East Broadway, an immense tree fell into the street and narrowly escaped a carload of streetcar passengers. In its descent it carried down an immense number of wires of every description.

All telegraph poles on Seventh Avenue, from Forty-second Street to Fifty-ninth, are lying flat on the pavement. The heavy poles on Fifty-ninth Street