

hands of the presiding officer himself. It is not to be supposed that under either rule members were or will be counted who really were not or are not present; so that whatever difference there is seems to be largely imaginary—there is a slight variation in the practice but not any in the principle.

If men elected to Congress to represent the various districts of this great nation, and to transact the nation's business, know no better way of fulfilling that important trust than deliberately to sit and block all proceedings, the country ought to feel to congratulate Mr. Reed on devising and employing his scheme to force some of them into sight and temporary usefulness, and ought to thank him that, as inventor, he did not patent it. The great majority of the people of these United States will agree that it is better to count a quorum, in this perfectly legal and proper way, than to permit any number of dumb and recalcitrant representatives to disgrace themselves, their constituents and their country by childish proceedings which are an insult to the dignified term of "parliamentary obstruction." If members would do their duty there would be no need of any such rule; for even if the opposition preferred not to be registered for or against any pending question, and hoped thus to leave the result to appear in the minutes as having been decided by less than a majority, there always is, as a matter of fact, a majority, whether present or not. The party which organizes the House and elects the Speaker is itself to blame if business can be stopped by the tactics of the minority. Especially in a Congress like the present one is the majority placed in a humiliating light. With over sixty votes to spare in the full House the Democrats have not only not been able to rally enough to overrule the tricks of a compact opposition, but they have been forced to resort to a plan which a short time ago they branded as tyranny and bossism of the grossest sort. Mr. Reed's famous Congress couldn't spare quite so many Republicans without being left in the minority, but it easily contained enough to have made quorum-counting unnecessary. As it is, neither party has anything to boast of over the other; honors seem to be fairly easy.

CENT PER CENT.

An astonishing illustration of the growth of capital when assisted by even a very low accretion of interest has been called forth by a recent statement by Master Workman Sovereign of the Knights of Labor. It was made in the course of an after dinner speech; and while for that reason its absolute accuracy might be doubted, it will serve nevertheless to point the multiplication lesson which it seems to invite. Mr. Sovereign proceeds to draw a comparison between the wealth of the Vanderbilt family and the presumptive savings of Adam, if our common ancestor had survived to the present day; and he said that even if Adam had been so fortunate as to earn \$50 a day since the creation, and had been remarkably prudent in saving, the venerable patriarch would still

have to labor 5,000 years to attain the wealth of the Vanderbilts.

The statement was so impressive that calculators at once set to work to verify or disprove the gentleman's conclusions. Whether or not his figuring was found to be correct we do not know; those mathematically inclined may test it for themselves. But the important and interesting part of the problem is that Mr. Sovereign forgot all about the interest on Adam's savings and didn't figure it in. It happens to make all the difference in the world as to the grand total or product. We take the amended problem, as worked out by the Boston *Herald*, again leaving it to those who would rather prove than question the solution, to verify its figures. If Adam had earned but \$1 a day, instead of \$50 a day allowed in the computation, and had saved only 1 cent a day, and invested his first year's savings, say \$3, so as to bring in the very moderate return of 3 per cent per annum, that little sum of \$3 compounded at 3 per cent would have made our worthy ancestor so enormously rich that all the wealth of all the Vanderbilts and Astors and Goulds—nay, of the whole body of American millionaires—would not amount to one-thousandth of his possessions. Why, at the end of the first 1,000 years Adam would have had the really incalculable sum of \$24,419,979,611,149, and at the present the mere figures to represent his accumulation would exceed our power of realization. Of course the whole problem is an irrelevant and perhaps absurd one; but it illustrates, better than a large sermon could, the progression of small saving at continued interest.

AMERICA AND SAMOA.

Now that the cession of Pago Pago harbor to the United States is finally accomplished, the most ardent advocates of this government's taking a hand in the control of islands in the Pacific Ocean probably will conclude that the territorial limit of extension is about reached, and that efforts hereafter should be directed to the field circumscribed by the boundaries thus laid out. Pago Pago, which almost cuts in two the island of Tutuila, in the Samoan group, is regarded as one of the finest harbors in the world. It has plenty of deep water, without dredging, to float the combined navies of the world, and, being well sheltered, it affords protection from the hurricanes which sweep over that part of the globe. Had the fleets which were at Samoa been in Pago Pago instead of Apia harbor, the disaster which has made the latter place famous would not have occurred. In its location, it is as far again from the United States as is Honolulu, being two-thirds the distance to Australia. It is in line north and south with the most westerly limit of the mainland of Alaska, and east and west it lies between southern Peru and northern Australia.

The negotiations for ceding the harbor to this country were completed by W. L. Chambers, U. S. land commissioner to Samoa, who has just returned home. The land question had become so important that Germany, England

and this country had to unite in a commission to settle it in order to prevent continual turmoil, as a result of disputed claims, between citizens of the three governments which might involve the nations interested in serious disputes. The aggregate of these claims which the commission had to settle was 3938. These were for over 2,000,000 acres of land on the Samoan group, the entire area of which consists of but 9,000,000 acres. The English had the greater portion of the claims, the Germans coming next and the Americans last. The first named had more claims than both of the others combined; in fact, every foot of land was sought to be gobbled from the natives, and numerous claims were made for the same tract. The commission, however, cut right and left into these, giving the natives preference and then adjusting the title of the others. In this way over 700,000 acres were awarded to the natives, the rest going to the foreign element, the Americans securing the largest amount in proportion to their claims.

While the settlement of these land disputes will go a long way toward preventing the troubles which afflict Samoa and cause outbreaks against the ruling powers, yet the islands cannot expect anything like permanent peace until the system of government is changed. As it is now, the islands are virtually ruled by Germany, England and the United States, through their consuls, who run affairs pretty much as they like. The government is settled on one island, Upolu, and the others get little benefit and know nothing of what is going on in the way of improvements. About the only knowledge they have of the government is the visit of the tax collector, who takes \$1 per year for each man, woman and child. This is galling to the natives, who do not comprehend the justice of the system, which yields them no benefit that they can see, for the money, it is said, goes mostly to pay high salaries to a foreign minister and chief justice, and other officials. By the recent adjustment of claims and the cession of Pago Pago, the American influence has been largely increased, and as the Germans have predominated heretofore, any prospect of a change, either to American or English supremacy, is favorably looked upon by the people. Naturally the trend of affairs is in favor of the United States, and it is not improbable that the Samoan group will yet mark the southwestern limit of American domination in the Pacific. Pago Pago is now the most distant point held by this government.

KEEP THE BALL ROLLING.

Utah as the pioneer of industry in the West has set the ball rolling in the line of representative displays of home manufactures, and her example is about to be followed by surrounding states. Colorado has arranged already for an industrial fair such as has been open in this city during this month. It is to be conducted under the auspices of the manufacturer's exchange of Denver, on the same general plan as the Fair here. A similar movement has been commenced in Idaho, and