

course; this was a species of recognition which failed to recognize, in that it put silver in the place formerly occupied by copper. Naturally the metal has been fluctuating along the scale ever since, its inherent royal qualities keeping it aloof from iron and lead, and the operation of law excluding it from unrestricted company with its former associate. Its going up and coming down could not be regulated as other commodities were, by the law of supply, demand and opportunity, for the reason stated, that although driven from the home in which it was reared the nobility of nature could not be taken from it, so, like Mahomet's coffin, it has hung between heaven and earth ever since, the creature of the speculator and the constant menace of the interest-gatherer and wealth-boarded. So much for the law of 1873 and what it accomplished.

A few years later (in the Forty-fourth Congress) under the leadership of Richard P. Bland, a member of Congress from Missouri—who occupies the same places yet in all respects—those who could see coming and desired to avoid such contraction in finances as must inevitably produce collapse, rallied and by energy and persistence succeeded in getting through a bill providing for the coinage of \$2,000,000 silver dollars of the weight of 412½ grains every month and making them legal tender without limit. But as the single gold standard was not in the least disturbed, this semi-recognition of silver was practically unavailing, the taint of merchandise still clinging to it; and thus the contest was kept up and thickened until the pressure became so strong that in 1890, the now famous Sherman law was enacted as a compromise measure—a sop to Cerberus. It directed the secretary of the treasury to purchase 4,500,000 ounces of silver bullion per month if so much was offered at the rate of \$1 per 371.25 grains, upon which silver treasury notes redeemable in coin were issued. It provided that 200,000 ounces were to be coined into dollars monthly until July 1, 1891, after which only enough to redeem the certificates was to be coined. With gold the only standard money of the country, and it being obtainable in exchange for silver certificates, it is easy to observe that not many dollars of the other metal were needed for redemption purposes at any time. So that while silver was and is steadily accumulating in the treasury vaults, gold has steadily been flowing out, the spirit of the compromise being thus negatived and the advocates of the gold standard being provided with an additional argument besides.

We cannot for the reason stated and for the want of time go further back than 1870 in giving our correspondents the information desired as to silver production. The figures stand as follows for that and the succeeding years, those for 1892-3 not being at hand:

1870.....	12,375,000
1871.....	17,789,000
1872.....	22,237,000
1873.....	27,651,000
1874.....	28,850,000
1875.....	24,618,500
1876.....	30,010,000
1877.....	30,783,500
1878.....	34,960,000
1879.....	31,550,000
1890.....	30,320,000

1881.....	33,260,000
1882.....	36,200,000
1883.....	35,730,000
1884.....	37,800,000
1885.....	39,910,000
1886.....	39,440,000
1887.....	41,260,000
1888.....	45,780,000
1889.....	50,000,000
1890.....	54,500,000
1891.....	58,330,000

These figures represent ounces of refined bullion.

DISPOSING OF LAWS.

Richard III said in one of his more contemplative moods, "Why should the laws be made but that we're rogues by nature?" If he had lived in this age of the world, he might have added, "And why should not our inclination be gratified whether there are any laws or not?" While altogether Machiavellian and not to be recognized by proper-minded people, both expressions have an aptness in surrounding circumstances which is easily to be seen. Richard eased his conscience or that quality which filled the place of conscience by laughing at one set of bad men planning to punish other bad ones, and we (speaking in a catholic sense) let the others make the rules while we give them our own interpretation.

There are severe laws against prize-fighting in every state and territory, with one or two exceptions, in the Union. This being the case, one would think that when a match was made the details would be attended with the strictest secrecy and only the "favored few" on the inside know anything about it; but that isn't the style at all. The widest publicity is given the affair by the press—the newspaper and the Associated too—so as to secure the largest possible attendance. All the minutiae of posting the stakes, the fighters' training and condition, and the entire dramatic personae of the affair are given to us long beforehand; and instead of the location being imparted quietly to patrons as was once the rule, this is the best known information regarding the whole affair! The officers are no longer dodged, they are invited; the fighting is done with padded hands—padded so as to be a little more harmful than when uncovered—and the clugging goes on till one or the other of the contestants is knocked into a bloody, senseless heap. No arrests, no trouble, everything over. We are a great people.

DON'T FAIL TO REGISTER.

A painful apathy regarding registration is reported from some quarters; it does not of course amount to a general condition, because only one here and there is so affected, but anything of that kind even though confined to but a few is a matter of profound regret. "Whoever would be free themselves must strike the blow," and whoever would maintain the freedom that they have must see to it that no portion of the means by which the safeguards are erected and maintained are thrown away or even overlooked for any length of time. Let

all be on the alert and then, in the absence of improper means, results can never be harmful.

We also hear of remissness on the part of some few regarding naturalization. This is regrettable for two reasons, either of them sufficient: The one already given, and the lack of that disposition to assimilate with American institutions which should be a leading characteristic of every man whose home is in this country. We think a man should not live in a land which he is not willing to become one of the joint owners of if he has any means of getting out and away; but we do not think this has any reference to most of the cases spoken of and we hope not to any. The privilege of being an American citizen on an equal footing with any and all others is one whose magnitude cannot be described with words and should be sought with eagerness, not dallied with or put off as a matter that can be attended to at any time; and having received the priceless boon, without registration it becomes like an unused faculty in a man—of no practical avail at the times and places where its power is most pronounced and least misunderstood.

Let there be no further dilatoriness in these important matters. Let each understand that his vote is as big and potent and consequential and counts just as much as any other man's, and let no circumstance or person place any discount on it. The time within which registration can be accomplished is now quite brief, and it is not safe to wait till the last day. Each one owes it to himself, to his family and to his people to see that his name is on the list and properly there.

THE RACE IN OHIO.

In the nomination of Lawrence T. Neal the Democrats of Ohio have at once done a felicitous and an infelicitous thing. He is the logical candidate, because with Major McKinley as the Republican leader it was necessary, in order to give a sharp edge to the issue, that a radical tariff reformer and free silver advocate should receive the Democratic nomination, and this has been done. Besides, Mr. Neal as the author of the substitute tariff plank in the Chicago platform of last year placed himself naturally in the lead and to ignore him would unquestionably have been a cause of disastrous criticism, which the party, fighting uphill as it does in a state that has given 80,000 Republican majority, cannot afford to invite.

On the other hand, while the administration faction lost their candidate for governor, they carried everything else. A qualified endorsement is given to the Chicago platform as a matter of political custom and the President and his policy are approved. This makes it necessary for the candidate to either ignore the state platform and sail in on his personal views for support, or abnegate himself and address his energies in the campaign to the exclusive support of the platform. We think he will hardly care to figure merely as an incident in the canvass, a sort of stalking horse as it were; and if so the cause of silver will