

him where he could do the best work. Still, he can no doubt cut a tolerable figure in the class room if he gives his mind to it. Great minds like his can do almost anything well; and it is fair to assume that he will make the effort. Meanwhile his past services in the peculiar line of intellectual development which he has made so successful, will be sorely missed; and while Brewer himself may be better for a closer attention to his Greek classics and advanced mathematics, it is an open question whether Harvard itself will not be a severe loser.

FOR COUNCILMEN'S BENEFIT.

City Councilmen may think in the exaltation of their wisdom that newspapers have no right to comment upon or criticize what appears to be an improper appropriation of public money; but so far as the News is concerned, we desire to announce the intention of doing that very thing at every possible opportunity, let the beneficiary and his friends be whom they may.

The Harigan sidewalk claim for something over four hundred dollars has already been discussed in these columns, and the reasons given why it should be disallowed. The information which led to this conclusion was obtained from official documents belonging to the city, and from personal conversation of the writer with members of the City Council and of the board of public works. The claim was shown by these documents to have been unfavorably reported upon several times, and by them and by the members referred to, to be a claim which ought not to be paid. Since that time the Mayor of the city, who is not given to hasty conclusions in his official actions, has sent to the Council his veto of the appropriation, with the best of reasons therefor. Last night the veto was overridden, and the Council by nearly unanimous vote decided again that the money should be paid.

Now, there may be some reasons why Mr. Harigan is legally entitled to this money; but if so, why are they not imparted? It may be that previous reports of Council committees and of the board of public works should be at this late day and in this summary manner brushed aside, and the money be voted out of the public treasury. It may be that the Mayor's objections are untenable, and that the News's statement in the case was unjust. But until some proof of the fact shall be given, a great many people will refuse to believe that in the latest action the Council has done right. We regard it as a duty to call the matter again to public attention, and insist that no body of men elected as the servants of the people are so dignified and mighty that they can afford to refuse any proper information which the people, their masters, demand.

The News happens to know that a great many thousand reside in this city are distressed every year to pay the city part of their taxes; that these residents are opposed to the easy and at times extravagant outlay of the money which has cost them so much to pay in; that they are particularly indignant at the payment of claims

where the contract and stipulations have not been complied with and where no legal right of demand exists. They hold that the municipality has much better uses for its money than to fritter it away or make anybody a present of it. And in all these things the News agrees with them. As to Councilmen who object to their colleagues giving information that the public has a right to have, we submit that their notions of propriety are open to amendment, and we move to amend accordingly. The correct idea is, not that public officials must not be criticised, but that their course in every case must be so open, just and consistent as to be at all times above criticism.

ARMIES OF EUROPE.

An estimate in round numbers of the present military resources of the great powers of Europe has been made. It is particularly interesting at this time, when the political storm clouds are assuming such threatening aspects.

If the latest accounts are reliable, the powers are seemingly contemplating a division of Turkey after all. England, it is understood, has offered Russia a large slice in exchange for Egypt, and Austria is making overtures to St. Petersburg looking to the occupation of Constantinople. But such a division cannot be effected without bloodshed, for the last resource of the sultan will be the proclamation of the "holy war" and the gathering of his multitudes around the sacred green flag. This means that every Mohammedan capable of carrying arms will rally and fight for victory or an honored place in Paradise. It means that the property of the whole nation is to be laid on the altar of the so-called sacred cause. Turkey cannot be disposed of except at a great cost.

The British army is the smallest of of the six powers usually called great, but the naval force is equal to those of any of the other three combined. England's army, including 90,000 whites in India, consists of about 300,000, made up as follows: 25,000 cavalry, 40,000 artillery, 4,000 horse-artillery, 7,000 engineers and 224,000 infantry. In case of war the army could be raised to 600,000 by royal proclamation. England can at any moment embark 75,000 infantry, 6,000 cavalry and 250 guns to any point where her interests are threatened.

Italy maintains a large army. Her friendship with Austria and Germany necessitates this, the understanding being that she is to assist the two against Russia and in return receive protection against France, if need be. The peace footing of the cavalry is 28,000, but in a week it can be raised to 40,000. Every man in Italy between 18 and 40 years of age is liable to active service. The infantry is therefore in times of peace 250,000 and in times of war 850,000. The Italian army is said to compare favorably with the French.

France has a peace army numbering about half a million, and this number can at short notice be increased to nearly four millions. In twenty-four hours she could put 500,000 men into the field.

The German emperor probably com-

mands the finest army in Europe. The peace footing of the German army is probably a little less than that of France, but the war footing is higher. It is estimated at five millions.

Austria-Hungary's effective war strength is a little over two millions. The emperor could in a week mobilize on the eastern frontier 250,000 men. Every Austrian is liable to service until he is sixty years of age.

Russia's standing army is the largest in the world. It numbers in times of peace 1,250,000, and in case of war the European provinces alone would raise it to four millions, and in case of an emergency one million more could be added.

Turkey has a peace army of about 200,000, and it is estimated that this number could be raised to 600,000. The sultan, however, by proclaiming a "holy war," would rally a large portion of the Mohammedan population in his empire, including that of Egypt and Tunis. It would take time to concentrate the forces at the points of danger, but eventually he would have a vast multitude in the field.

HUMANITY IN CLUBS.

A doctor by the name of Nelson, living at New London, Connecticut, has patented what he calls "an humane police club," which is described as having a wood core of hickory with an elastic envelope of soft India rubber. Its merits are that it is strong and effective, safe, humane, and nearly indestructible; in its use, the human brain is not injured, the normal skull fractured, the skin broken nor blood brought except at the nose; it may break an arm or blacken an eye; experiments on cadavers, animals and violators of the law confirm these claims; it stuns and stupefies temporarily with rapid and complete recovery; it is not a sandbag; it does not make a dangerous concussion; on the contrary its use is safe; rather it is an elongated arm and fist, core corresponding to bone, rubber to skin and flesh; most of which claims are certified to by police superintendents in various cities of the Union, Canada, and Scotland.

The anxiety lest criminals in the hands of the police should be hurt beyond possibility of quick recovery, and the offer of a weapon whose use guarantees against such a calamity, are very proper and gratifying evidences of an advanced civilization. But is it not possible that Dr. Nelson's endeavors in the present instance have begun at the wrong end of the proposed reform? Current history shows that where one tough is clubbed by a policeman, a dozen honest people are clubbed by toughs. This being the case, it seems to us the effort should be first to induce a little more humanity in the footpad and burglar elements. They make much more use of clubs than the police do, and their victims are always more deserving of public sympathy. They are the fellows who need humane clubs—and the more humane they can be made the better. If they will go as far as they ought to in this direction, we shall be ready to advocate that the police go without clubs at all.