

volume he was just issuing in Latin. The volume was entitled "Rudiments of Geography."

Waldseemüller commenting on the letter said:

"Now truly, as these regions are more widely explored and one-quarter part discovered by Amerigo Vespucci, as may be learned from the following letters, I see no good reason why it should not be justly called Amerigen, that is, land of Amerigo, or America, from Amerigo Vespucci, its discoverer, a man of sagacious mind, inasmuch as both Europe and Asia derive their names from the feminine form."

This was his explanation for the name Amerigen in his geography. The copy purchased in Washington is one of the edition originally published in Lorraine. This copy was bought some fifty years ago in Paris for 20 cents. In 1846 it was sold for 150 francs. In 1867 it was sold for 2000 francs. Mr. Wellsworth will not state what he paid for the book.

It has long been a question among scholars whether America was not originally the name of this continent, and that Vespucci got his name of Amerigo from his book of travels in it, and published in Europe. If this book bought in Washington contains the paragraph quoted above, and if it is proved to be authentic, then the question of the name of America is forever settled.

#### MONEY THE "WAR-GOD."

BISMARCK may have uttered a great truth when he declared that the next European war would be fought on the bourses. Certain it is that no belligerent whose dealings and credit in the financial centres are not of considerable magnitude and of unquestioned stability, can expect to make any figure in the next great conflict that may shake the continent.

Armies and fleets now-a-days are the creations, if not the creatures, of cash. With an overflowing treasury and with resources for making good any inroads upon it, no nation today need be very greatly afraid of any other nation. Not that columns of credit can be literally arrayed against battalions and batteries, and conquer or repulse them in the field. Not that colossal revenues and no army, on the one side, can meet in actual engagement with trained, even though ill-paid, soldiers and an empty treasury, on the other. Not that bribes can be used with certain success against the invader, nor that hired mercenaries can be at once and in sufficient force employed to repel him. We mean none of these things. But we maintain that the systems of continental commerce, finance and exchange are so intermingled and so dependent one

upon the other that no sooner can one ruler move out upon a line of hostilities than the others are in a position to make war upon his securities, cripple his resources, demolish his credit and plunge him into bankruptcy. This plan of defense is most successful when preventive in its character; it is not to be despised, however, even though the armies are already afield and the guns have sounded forth their dreadful alarm.

In this view of European war preparations, it must be said that Russia has succeeded in fortifying itself most impregnably. Loan after loan has been issued, and Russian securities, owing to the enormous resources behind them, have been held firm in the market. The Czar's government has thus been able to place to its credit vast sums, which, being left as balances in the money centres of Europe, have served as an additional guaranty that the country was amazingly prosperous at home and had no intention of disturbing continental peace. But suddenly a draft is made upon these large balances and they are called in. Europe is aroused to the fact that when Russia takes all the money it is entitled to, the other nations will be left short. A counter-movement is made by England, whose great ally, the house of Rothschild, refuses to handle the latest Russian loan of sixty millions, and begins, in turn, to call in his balances. America suffers with the rest in these transactions. We may not strike a blow, but we have to pay the price like the others. Our gold goes abroad to strengthen the English, French and German bourses which are weakened by Russia's demands—an explanation which accounts for, if it does not ameliorate, the money stringency of the United States.

The European quarrel as it stands is a very pretty one. It is a case of diamond cut diamond, of Greek meeting Greek. We may be pinched in the combat ourselves, but it cannot fail to be interesting, and, as it proceeds, may prove profitable. It indicates at least that the world is moving. The warrior who thought Providence was on the side of the heaviest artillery afterwards admitted that the winner in battle achieved victory more often as the result of the ablest diplomacy. If he were alive today he might, in the present complications, learn that a better armament than either heavy artillery or able diplomacy is shrewd financiering and a heavy bank account.

It is extremely difficult to convince most of the men who write verses for the newspapers that good poetry is scarce this year.

#### AN UNOFFENDING CITIZEN MALICIOUSLY ASSAILED.

THE Democratic mass meeting held May 15th, in the Theatre, was numerously attended. It was an enthusiastic and orderly gathering, the speeches being unusually free from buncomb and rabidity, while the applause with which the utterances of the speakers were greeted showed that the large audience was in hearty sympathy with the object of the occasion.

While it is both natural and proper for a public journal to lean toward those who are in accord with its own views and policy, it is its duty also to be just to those who are not in sympathy with its course. The report of last night's meeting which appears in the organ of disfranchisement shows the usual disposition, which characterizes that paper not only to be unjust but vindictive to its political opponents. The report is misleading and misrepresentative, being tortuously twisted in an absurd attempt to hold the occasion and the speakers up to public ridicule.

It is not, however, in the misrepresentation of the enunciations of the speakers in which the paper referred to specially shows the smallness of its caliber and the malignancy of its nature. These peculiarities were markedly exhibited in the venomous yet childish insults directed toward Selectman Howe. Throughout the report of the meeting the name of that gentleman occurs several times in almost every paragraph. Actions and a demeanor are attributed to him that he never manifested, as he simply acted the part of a quiet and attentive listener throughout the proceedings. He was selected out of the large body of people as a butt for the ridicule of a bitter and unprincipled scribe, simply because his course as a public officer has occasionally been opposed to the desires of the organ of slander. On this account he has been assailed in the most insulting and absurd manner at frequent intervals. The insults directed at him in this morning's issue of the sheet in question merely cap the climax of a pyramid of personal abuse under which it has sought to bury him. Fortunately, Mr. Howe can afford to allow the foul blast of this virulent newspaper to blow toward him without taking the slightest notice of its fulminations. And there is one good feature about the matter: many of the people present at last night's meeting will be still more inspired with the growing disgust that is felt in this community by all classes regarding the line of conduct pursued by the journalistic advocate of disfranchisement.