

The Personnel of Congress.
WHO THE MEN ARE WHO MAKE LAWS FOR THE UNITED STATES.

(From the Washington Evening Star.)
It is the lawyers, after all, who rule this glorious country of ours. The Senate of the United States consists of 76 members, and of this number 59 are practising lawyers. Of the 293 members of the House of Representatives, 219 are lawyers. The President and Vice-President of the United States are lawyers, and nearly all the Government departments are headed and directed by the same profession. In the Senate, especially among the Senators themselves, each member's ability is gauged by his rank as a lawyer. When the status of an incoming Senator is under discussion, the remark is very frequently made: "He is a fine lawyer and will make a good Senator." Because the man is a good lawyer the supposition with Senators is that he must therefore be a first-class statesman. Why the people of the United States give such preference to the profession of the law in selecting their legislators and rulers is a problem that cannot be answered. In the Senate there is only 1 physician, and in the House there are but 6. There are among the Senators 8 business men or merchants, 1 doctor, 1 editor, 2 planters, 2 farmers, 1 banker, 1 mine owner and 1 operator and 1 of no profession or business.
Besides the 219 lawyers in the House there are 25 merchants, 5 bankers, 3 capitalists, 2 inventors, 5 manufacturers, 2 teachers, 12 farmers, 6 physicians, 1 architect and builder, 4 editors, 2 ministers, 1 stonecutter, 1 insurance agent, 2 millers and 3 owners and operators of transportation lines. The oldest member of the House is Mr. Wait, of Connecticut, who is sixty-nine years of age, and the youngest member is Mr. Frost, of St. Louis, who is twenty-eight years of age. Fernando Wood has been longer a member of the House than any of his associates, and next in time of long service is Judge Kelly, of Pennsylvania. Mr. Stephens, of Georgia, is generally spoken of as being older than any other member of the present House, but Mr. Wait has about one year the advantage of him in that respect.

The Stinging Tree.

Though the tropical crabs of Queensland are very luxuriant and beautiful, they are not without their dangerous drawbacks, for there is one plant growing in them that is really deadly in its effects; that is to say, deadly in the same way that one would apply the term of fire; as if a portion of one's body is burnt by the stinging tree, death would be the result. It would be as safe to pass through fires as to fall into one of these trees. They are found growing from one and two inches high to ten and fifteen feet; and in the old one the stem is whitish and the berries usually grow on the top. It emits a peculiar, disagreeable smell, but it is best known by its leaf, which is nearly round, but having a point on the top, and is jagged all around the edge like a nettle. All the leaves are large, some larger than a saucer. Sometimes, says a traveller, while shooting turkeys in the scrub, I have entirely forgot the stinging tree until warned of its close proximity by its smell, and I have then found myself in a little forest of them. I was only stung once myself, and that was very lightly. Its effect is curious. It leaves no mark, but the pain is maddening, and for months afterward the part, when touched, is tender in rainy weather, or when it gets wet in washing, etc. I have seen a man who treats ordinary pain lightly, roll on the ground in agony after being stung; and I have known a horse so completely mad after getting into a grove of trees that he rushed open-mouthed at every one who approached him, and had to be shot in the scrub. Dogs when stung will rush about, whining piteously, biting pieces from the effected part. The small stinging trees are as dangerous as any, being so hard to see, and seriously imperilling one's ankle. The shrub is usually found growing among palm trees.—*Scientific American.*

The absence of Chinese women in the East has compelled the males to intermarry with the whites. There are in New York at the present time nearly 300 Chinamen who have white wives. They are mainly Spanish and Irish women, the Mongolians preferring the latter on account of their skill in domestic labor. Few of them allow their wives to work. This is due to a spirit of gallantry which is visible even in the West. This intermarriage of races commenced about six years ago. Consequently a young Chinese generation is springing up, the oldest of whom is about five years of age. As these children are becoming very numerous, they may become an important factor in strengthening the kindly relations between our citizens and Chinese immigrants. In a year or two some of them will be old enough to enter school. Not only have the Chinese married Spanish and Irish women, but there is a Chinaman in New York who married a colored woman. The pair have three fine-looking children.—*Ex.*

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Correspondence.

The "Young P. E. Islander" on the Irish Land Question.

To the Editor of the Examiner.
DEAR SIR,—A writer in the Montreal True Witness over the signature of "A Young P. E. Islander," has been giving the people of Montreal his views on the Irish land question. As I have been a sympathizer with the oppressed of every clime, I should like to see the case of the oppressed tenantry of Ireland put before the people of this country in a more respectable way than "A Young P. E. Islander" has put it. Letters such as that, bearing the signature of "A Young P. E. Islander," injure infinitely more than they serve a good cause. The letter is miserably written; and no intelligent person could read it without a smile. It is the most bombastic nonsense I ever saw in print. Ignorance of the question he undertakes to discuss is conspicuous in every line. Words are used in many cases apparently without any regard to the meaning they usually convey; and the grammar of almost every sentence is such as to make the bones of Lindley Murray rattle in his grave. It is all incoherent rhapsody. I would venture to say that there is not "a Young P. E. Islander" of 12 years of age attending our city schools, but could write a better letter. Prince Edward Islanders are generally pretty "successful abroad," but if this "Young P. E. Islander" whoever he may be—cuts no better figure than he does at English composition, I fear it will be some time before his success will be chronicled. Lest it might be thought that I am unfairly criticizing this latest *allumatum* to the British Government, I will give a few specimens, from which some opinion of the merit of this elegant production may be formed. In one place he says:—"Look at Irishmen in America! Do we not see them prosperous and happy, and free from the vices attributed to them at home in Ireland, such as poverty, indolence and ignorance?" The manner in which this profound political economist answers this question is worthy of admiration. He says:—"We do, and the sole reason is the sweat of their brows is not coiled into money in order to keep and support in luxury and debauchery in England or Ireland, landlords who never saw America."

Now, I would like to ask this learned Theban, what does he mean by "attributing vices to people? This is not English at all; and, while in the interrogative mood, I wish to know from him in what school of philosophy did he learn to rank poverty among the "vices?" I always understood that it was from the precious metals, gold and silver, that money was coined; but it appears that our Canadian Panell has discovered that money is coined from sweat. I am sure it would be worth seeing after going through this mint. This is certainly an important discovery, and a knowledge of it should be communicated to the Master of the Mint at once.

Here is another gem not unworthy of the Augustine age. He says:—"The meeting held in Nordheimer's Hall was one calculated to be productive of much good, because, when the voices of all classes and creeds in Montreal and elsewhere is forwarded to Her Gracious Majesty, I do infer that it will tend to induce her to call together her Ministry for the purpose of passing an act compelling landlords to amend their law of land letting, and stimulate Irish commerce."

Such a conglomeration of ignorance, nonsense and bad grammar I never saw jumbled into one sentence before. The "Young P. E. Islander" must think that the telephone has been laid across the Atlantic, otherwise what could he mean by "forwarding" the "voice" of the people of Montreal to the Queen. She is beyond hearing distance without the telephone is brought into play. The emphatic form in which the words "I do infer" are used in the above sentence have no meaning at all. The next clause of the sentence, referring to the calling together of the Ministry, shows a degree of ignorance unparadiseable in any schoolboy. A man coming forward as the champion of 6,000,000 of people, and hailing from an Island whose young men are not behind the age in intelligence, ought to know, if he knows anything, that no Ministry can pass an Act of Parliament. It requires the Queen, Lords and Commons of England to do what this learned "Young P. E. Islander" of ours expects a Ministry to do, and what he says they will be compelled to do. To show that this great advocate of Irish tenant right is ignorant even of the simplest rules of grammar, I'll give another sentence as a proof. Speaking of the linen trade between which and the question of tenant right there is not the least connection, he says:—"She took away her linen trade by imposing heavy duties on them."

What he could mean by bringing in the linen trade and the question of commerce generally, is what I cannot understand, unless he considered that the question of Tenant Right didn't afford sufficient scope for his genius. It is well known that the Irish people would be quite satisfied to get some measure of Tenant Right at present without minding the question of trade at all. Another specimen of "A Young P. E. Islander's" ignorance is found in the following sentence:—"Ireland sends to Parliament in England 160 members yearly, to represent her."

This shows pretty clearly the ability of "A Young P. E. Islander" to handle Irish questions. Ireland sends but 165 members to the Imperial Parliament. But a writer who says money can be "coined" out of "sweat," and that ministers can pass acts of Parliament may be pardoned for such a slight inaccuracy. The most amusing part of this lucubration is found in the financial calculation that he makes. He estimates that if Ireland had a Parliament of her own each member would spend during the session \$2,000. He then calculated what the 160 would spend, and even in this simple calculation he makes a mistake of \$9000, and seriously urges this as a remedy for the present distress. Let any person make the calculation, and he will find this great cure for Irish distress would, if divided among the population, amount to the extraordinary sum of about 5 cents each. Instead of remedying the distress it wouldn't rise *Pooten* enough for a good Donnybrook shindy. I might give a few more specimens of "A Young P. E. Islander's" style, but in his own elegant language they might be "productive of distressing results." On some future occasion I may probably take the pervasion of this noble appeal for Ireland in hand for dissection. The writer, no doubt, wishes it to be regarded as one of the grandest efforts. Yours truly,
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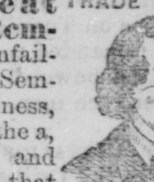
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