WASHINGTON NEWS NOTES.

Items of Current Gossip Gathered by Our Regular Correspondent.

Washington, May 7 .- Looking into the House of Representatives yesterday I found two members still lingering in their seats, pulling out letters from look in vain for a poem of the length their desks and strewing the floor with fragments. They looked lone some and probably felt "like one who treads lone the banquet hall deserted." A dozen or two Democratic Congressmen are still in the city conferring and a score or two of Republicans whose seats are not in danger still hang round the White House and offer valuable sug-

gestions concerning the campaign. It is generally agreed that the House got ahead of the Senate in the windup, Uncle Joe and other prominent members having seconded the indignant speech of Bourke Cockran concerning the supurations of the President and Senate. The Senate bill providing an elaborate scheme of government for the Panama canal zone was relentlessly turned down by the House and the great river and harbor bill was flung into the waste basket just as it came from the Senate. These evidences of resentment on the part of the House made an impression and it is conceded that the good result was largely due to the vigorous cooperation of the Democrats. In personnel the Senate is much more masterful than the House. Indeed, people are inquiring what is to become of the House unless the present leaders are superseded by stronger men. Cannon, never a great leader, like Reed, is now off the floor; Grosvenor is a sort of inane clown; Hill is dominating only in his specialty, banking; Dalzell pipes only in falsetto; Tawney, the blacksmith, has not forged any thunderbolts yet, and Hepburn and Littlefield are so independent of party trammels that they are always considered insurgents by the Republican captains. Even Payne, chairman of ways and means, and ex-officio leader, is always in the attitude of a sluggish follower. "The old lead Steers" of Roosevelt's ranch badly reed reinforcing if they would hold their own.

Secretary Taft, in an interview with your correspondent a few months ago, attempted to justify the subju-gation of the Philippines by "the seizure of Louisiana under the purchase," as he termed it. I suggested that the Louisiana province was not seized, but was appropriated with the full consent of the people who dwelt there. I see that the Governor is out again exploiting the Louisiana Purchase as a justification of our criminal aggression in the east. Does he not remember that Jefferson refused to use force in Louisiana and that he sent Governor Claiborne as a commissioner to ascertain the wishes of the people? Governor Claiborne went to New Orleans and consulted the population, and, after obtaining authority to exchange the French flag for the America, re-ported to President Jefferson. "We raised the stars and stripes yesterday amid the acclamations of the inhabi-

Governor Taft knows perfectly well that that is not the way the stars and stripes were raised in various parts of the Philippine Islands while he was governor there. Acclamations instead of execrations. Does he really think there is at least resemblance between the two?

There is no doubt that the tariff question in its various phases will be prominent in the platforms of both parties and in the fall campaign. The Republicans will exclaim "We stand pat! But when we think the tariff needs revision, we'll revise it." The Democrats will retort that a party which has maintained an unjust law is not a party to be trusted to amend it in the interest of justice. Senator Aldrich, the Senate leader of finance, was greatly annoyed by Charles M. Schwab's letter demonstrating that steel rails sold to Americans for \$28 a ton were, under the tariff, delivered in England for \$19 a ton, a clear robbery of the American consumer of fifty per cent. Aldrich fumed, perspired, quibbled, and even denied but made no effort whatever to disprove the assertion. This revelation will enter into the campaign as well as the potency of the tariff as a trust-breeder.

The Hearst boomers met with a Waterloo defeat yesterday at the precinct election here. It seems odd that in the capital of this great republic that is the only kind of election that is ever held-an expression about as valuable as the straw vote taken on railroad cars. Self government does not exist in this district. We are taken care of like helpless children by three nurses called commissoners appointed by the President who tax us and spend ten million dollars every year ostensibly for our health and comfort. There are signs of a revolt against this state of things as a good many of our people are willing to face the perils of selfgovernment rather than to continue the meek and helpless subjects of an

Mr. Hearst is a particularly busy man. He spends some time every day at the spacious residence on Lafayette Park, where a boy baby looks up from a cradle and calls him "papa," or will, as soon as he makes use of that gift of expression which he must have inherited from his father. He spent some time in his suite of rooms in the Post building planning his campaign. We hear of him every day in New York. Yesterday he was in Baltimore with his mother. He answers several hundred telegrams a day and runs four daily newspapers by some method which is inscrutable.

It is very curious that, although Porto Rica is said to belong to the United States, a Porto Rican has none of the privileges of a citizen of the United States. A native of Porto Rico who is a graduate of Cornell University and Law School, writes me that he is denied the right to be examined for the New York bar on the sole ground that he is not a citizen of the United States. Neither a Porto Rican nor Filipino can be admitted to the bar in this city. I inquired at the State Department vesterday if a Porto Rican could get a passport to enable him to travel in Europe and they said no; the only protection have would be a passport from the Governor of Porto Ricone could about as much protection in Russia or Turkev as a passport from the Governor of Arizona would be. And this

is justice! The hammock season has arrived. A large stock to select from at Osteen's Book Store.

JAPANESE POETRY.

the Utmest Brevies.

Japanese poetry is absolutely confined to lyrical effusions of the utmost brevlimited to three, four or five lines and seldom exceeds a few dozen. One would of Bryant's "Thanatopsis." Japanese literature has never invaded the epic field and knows no metrical form which even remotely resembles an ode, a ballad or a long poetic narrative like "The Ancient Mariner." Also minor metrical arrangements like the rondel, triolet, villanelle, etc., are absent. Of what, then, does Japanese poetry consist? If one discusses its apparent lack of scope and resources with a Japanese, he is sure to point to the "Manyoshiu Kogi" (Collection of Myriad Leaves). True enough, its bulkiness is most alarming, as it extends to 122 volumes. But it proves to be only an anthology of short poems, each complete, bearing no relation to other stanzas, except in the choice of subject, the work being divided into poems of spring, summer, autumn, winter, poems of parting, love, sorrow, etc. Collections of this kind, admirably printed and supplied with numerous indexes and elaborate commentaries, are published at intervals under the auspices of the government. They represent the classical poetry of Japan.-The Reader.

FEMININE INTUITION.

The Philosophy of the Girl at the Candy Counter.

The girl at the bonbon counter put up five large boxes of judiciously selected candy under the personal supervision of a nervous young man. He left a card for each of them, handed over a list of addresses for their delivery, paid his bill and walked out looking decidedly glum.

"Ought to bag a sweetheart out of that broadside," remarked the cashier.

"Guess again," said the salesgirl. "It's caramels to car fare that he has a sweetheart and that he has quarreled with her, their first, probably. He is sending that candy to his ladylove's dearest friends, because he knows they will not fail to tell her about it.

"A candy counter is the horoscope of the human heart to girls who can read it. When a young man buys a pound of candy, any old thing handy, without looking twice at it, his affections are not very deep set. When he begins to get particular in his selections, Cupid is getting in his fine work. The lovers' quarrel inevitably ends in such a reckless display as you saw just now. When the reconciliation takes place, we shall have nothing in stock good enough for that fellow. When he's married, he'll stop coming."-New York Press.

ANIMALS WITH HANDS.

The Use of the Paws In Conveying Food to the Mouth,

Kangaroos use their hands very readily to hold food in and to put it to their mouths. As their fore legs are so short that they have to browse in a stooping position, they seem pleased when able to secure a large bunch of cabbage or other vegetable provender and to hold it in their hands to eat. Sometimes the young kangaroo, looking out of the pouch, catches one or two of the leaves which the old one drops, and the pair may be seen each nibbling at the salad held in their hands, one, so to speak, "one floor" above the other. In "Alice In Wonderland" the lizard is always making notes on a slate and then trying to rub them out again with his fingers. Many lizards' feet are so like hands that it is rather surprising that they are only used for running and climbing. But that is the main purpose to which lizards apply them. The slow, deliberate clasping and unclasping of a chameleon's feet look like the movements which the hands of a sleepwalker might make were he trying to creep down the banisters. The chameleon's are almost deformed hands, yet they have a certain superficial resemblance to the feet of the parrots, which more than other birds use the foot for many of the purposes of a hand when

To see many of the smaller rodentsground squirrels, prairie dogs and marmots-hold their food, usually in both paws, is to learn a lesson in the dexterons use of hands without thumbs. Rats and mice do not, as a rule, "clinch" what they hold, but merely support it in their paws, the movements being much less human than they appear. Nothing more readily suggests the momentary impression that a pretty little monkey is remotely "a man and a brother" than when he stretches out his neat little palm, fingers and thumb, and with all the movements proper to the civilized mode of greeting insists on shaking hands. But no one feels in the least inclined to grasp the clawed digits of any of the rodents which use their paws to hold food. They are only "holders," not hands.--London Spectator.

Best Fed Sailors In the World.

The navy ration is of course provid ed for by law, and the daily diet of the enlisted man must conform in some degree to this prescribed regime, but in finite is the variety and ample is the dietary realm of Jack, the sailor. As compared with the daily bill of fare of the workingman on shore the odds are greatly in favor of the sailor. Should he be inclined to grumble at his dally fare it must be from caprice of appetite, for what laboring man enjoys better and more wholesome food? His food must be well cooked, for no bad cooks are allowed in the navy. Where a cook is incompetent he is reported. for Jack Tar's stomach must be kept in a healthy condition if our ships are to be manned with a sturdy lot of sail ors. His food must be of the best quality, for it is no secret that Uncle Sam demands the best article in the market and gets it.-Gunton's Magazine.

AVOID CHURCH BELL

It is Confeed to Lyrical Erasions of A CAME FOM LISSON AND HANGS IN A NANTUCKET CHURCH.

ity. The Japanese poem is generally The Story of its Purchase by Captaia Clasby and its Transportation to This Country-A Very Good Clock

and a Very Fine Bell. Beneath the outlook in a Nantucket church is the belfry, in which swings the "old Spanish bell." Knowing that this is now a Unitarian church, the visitor will be surprised to see a Catholic cross on the bell. If he could read Portuguese and had not previously acquainted himself with the history of the bell he would be still more surprised at the inscription on it. The translation of this inscription is as follows: "To the Good Jesus of the Mountain the devotees of Lisbon direct their prayers, offering Him one complete set of six bells, to call the people to adore him in his sanctuary. Jose Domingos Dacosta has made it in Lisbon in the year 1810." Of course the bell must have an interesting history to account for this inscription. That history is briefly as follows:

A plague was raging in Lisbon and certain people in that city prayed to the Virgin Mary for the cessation of the plague and vowed to place a set of six bells in the Church of the Good Jesus of the Mountain if their prayers were heard. "The Mountain" is the name of a certain district in the city of Lisbon in which there is a very venerable church called as above. Shortly after this the plague ceased, and, accepting this as the answer to their prayers, these devotees of Lisbon proceeded to fulfill their vows. The work of casting these six bells was intrusted to Jose Domingos Dacosta, the best bell founder in Lisbon.

The six bells had been cast, the master's labors had been crowned with success, when Captain Clasby of the Nantucket whaling fleet chanced to visit Lisbon. He had long wished to buy a bell for use in his native town. In company with Captain Cary he visited the bell foundry of Jose Domingos Dacosta. Captain Cary, it seems, was a connoisseur in bells. Dacosta applied the lever to one bell after another as he struck each to ascertain its peculiar tone or tone quality, but each time Captain Cary said. "That will not do."

At last Dacosta raised and struck the bell whose history we are describing. Captain Cary was delighted with the result. "Ah, Clasby," he said, "you need look no further. That's the bell you want. She is a beauty. She sounds on B."

"Well, sir," remarked Dacosta, "we consider that to be the finest bell that sic to proceed where it broke off.

we have in our foundry." bell, since it belonged to the set of chimes designed for the Church of the Good Jesus of the Mountain and was Captain Clasby would have no other. Finally Dacosta decided, since the bell he could cast another to take its place,

that it would be all right to sell. So Captain Clasby bought the bell, and it was brought to Nantucket by Captain Cary, whose vessel was going home first. In Lisbon, just before he set sail, Captain Cary heard of the declaration of war with Great Britain, for it was now the year 1812. On the way over they were spoken by a British sloop of war. Fortunately the Britisher had been at sea for some time and had not yet heard of the declaration of war. "The commander asked Captain Cary the news, but Captain Cary says he took especial pains not to tell all he knew. If he had told, our precious beil would probably never have seen Nantucket. It might now be either at the bottom of the sea or it might be swinging in the tower of some English church.

The bell was landed in Nantucket and placed in the store cellar of Samuel Cary, where it remained until 1815, when it was purchased and placed in the tower where it now hangs. About \$500 was given for the bell-the society paid about \$550 and the rest was raised by subscription. Even some Friends

or Quakers subscribed. After the bell had been in use a little while the agents of the historic Old South church in Boston heard of it, and they sent a letter to the agents of the South church in Nantucket, saying that they had a very good clock in their lower, but no bell; that they had heard that the South church in Nantucket had a very tine bell, and they would like to know for how much the bell could be bought.

The Nantucketers replied that they had a very fine bell in their tower, but no clock; that they had heard that the Old South church had a very fine tower clock, and that they would like to know the price of the clock.

The agents offered to pay \$1 a pound for the bell. Since the bell weighs 1,575 pounds, this would have made the price \$1,575, making a net profit of \$1,075 above the price paid for the bell and \$1,225 above the amount contributed by the society. It seems that the old Nantucketers must have had some sentiment after all and were not purely mercantile in their spirit.

If the Nantucketers had agreed to sell, as they might have done, our bell would probably be hanging in the historic tower of Old South church in Poston today. That might have been a great honor for the bell, but it would have been a great deprivation for Nantucket. Moreover, it would now be spending its time in elegant leisure instead of being a very useful bell where it is. The history of this bell is like a verifable parable of human life. The possibilities which occur in the history of the beil repaind us of the possibilities which aboutd in every life. - Cor. Springfield Republican.

The highest shot tower in the world is in Villach, Austria, Bullets from the Treer level fall 210 feet.

GERMAN WORK PEOPLE.

Their Amusements Are Few and

Mostly Confit ed to Sunday.

Amusements ph., a comparatively small part in the lives of German work people, and such as they have are mostly confined to Sunday. Cames have not taken hold of them; they go to no football or cricket matches, although there are matches, and other classes in Germany show a growing taste for games and sports. I went to see a football match between Dusseldorf and a neighboring manufacturing town. A similar match anywhere in manufacturing England would have attracted from 10,000 to 20,000 sons of toil, who would have shouted themselves hoarse from beginning to end. At the German match not one put in an appearance. When I left the field toward the close of the game the spectators, who had slowly increased during the afternoon, numbered exactly sixty-five. They were not workingmen, and they showed no excitement whatever. They played the association game, not very well. The national game in Germany is kegel, a kind of skittles, and it is played at public houses, but not by workingmen or seldom by them. They play cards sometimes, but not a great deal. In short, games may be ruled out as an item in industrial life. Theaters and music halls count for more, but for nothing like so much as in England and in America. They are less numerous in proportion to population and are only visited by the working classes to a limited extent on Saturday and Sunday.-Detroit News and Trib-

HERBERT SPENCER.

He Was a Great Phrase Maker and Had Some Odd Ways.

Herbert Spencer was no linguist. Because of eye strain which affected his health he did not even know German. His pamphlet on education was, however, translated into fifteen languages, including Japanese.

Spencer was a great phrase maker. It was he who popularized the word "evolution" and explained one of the phases of the Darwinian doctrine as "the survival of the fittest." He also introduced Comte's coined word "sociology."

He was a bachelor and long lived in boarding houses. Finally he set up an establishment of his own, where he could have about him people of his own choosing. A favorite relaxation in his later years was to sit in the open doorway of his house and listen to a piano played in a distant apartment. He had the player trained. A thump of his stick was the signal for her to stop, another thump for the mu-

Spencer was fond of playing billiards. not see his way clear to selling the | youth to a game. The philosopher had four strokes and scored two while the youth ran out. Mr. Spencer put away his cue with deliberation and said to appropriately inscribed and all, but his opponent: "A moderate degree of expertness in a game of skill is agreeable and even creditable. Such dexterhad not yet been consecrated and since ity as you show is evidence of a misspent youth. Good afternoon."

Drinking Healths.

This was a Roman custom. The drinking was accompanied by some such words as "Here's to myself," "Here's to you" and "Here's to I shan't say who." The ancient Greeks also drank healths. When Theramerus was condemned to drink hemlock he said, "Hoc pulcro Critiæ."

The ancient Saxons also had the same custom. Hengist invited King Vortigern to a banquet to see the new levies. After the dishes were removed Rowena, the beautiful daughter of Hengist, appeared before the scene holding in her hand a golden cup full of wine. She then made obeisance and said,

king, your health." The king drank and replied, "Here's to you." The Greeks handed the cups to the person they toasted and said, "This to thee." Our custom of holding out the cup comes to us from ancient Greece .-American Queen.

which in modern English means, "Lord

Thistles.

In the fourteenth century thistles were used as food for cattle, and they were considered as a crop. In the old priory of Lindisfarne there is a note in the archives of 1344-45 of thick leather gloves required for the harvest ers of the thistle crop. It is curious that, though the thistle is the emblem of Scotland, the Scot never seems able to say which kind of thistle is the true national emblem. It is said that a thistle which resembles Carduus marianus was figured on the old coinage of the day of James V., who was first to put thistles on the Scotch money. The horn spoons sold in Edinburgh sometimes have little silver thistles on the enu of the handles.

What Did She Mean? Kitty-Do you think Nellie Breese is

Pessie-I don't know. Why?

Kitty-I told her Fred Simmons gave

me a very flattering compliment, and she said any compliment that Fred could give me must be flattering .-- Roston Transcript.

The Dominant Janitor. Mrs. McCall-And what did you say

your eldest boy's full name was? Mrs. De Coursey-Michael Brannigan De Coursey.

Mrs. McCall-Well-er-that's rather

Mrs. De Coursey-Yes; but, you see, when he was born we were living in a flat and we didn't want to move out. Mr. Michael Brannigan was the janitor.-Philadelphia Press.

The Same Brand. "I really must send the cook away. George; she uses such dreadful language sometimes."

"What kind of language, dear?" "Well-oh, the same as you use, you know!" Brooklyn Life.

KEYS OF THE BASTILLE.

These Historic Relies of Old Paris

Owned by an American. The keys which locked the great gates of the Bastille at the time of its fall have been in America for a number of years. For nearly a centucy they remained in the possession of the family of the Frenchman who took them from the famous prison, though they have recently come into the possession of an Englishman living in

Quebec. When the mob stormed the prison on July 14, 1789, a Parisian, Carrier Lechastel, is said to have been the first to rush over the drawbridge as it fell. It was he, at any rate, who overtook a fleeing jailer and took the keys from him. The mob immediately stuck the keys on the end of a spike, and an immense throng paraded with them through the streets. They were considered one of the most valuable trophies of the revolution.

Lechastel kept the keys, and they remained in his family until 1859. when a descendant of the family emigrated to America, taking them with him. Eventually the keys were sold to John Hamilton of St. Louis, who kept them for twenty-five years, exhibiting them from time to time, when they were sold to a Canadian.

One of the keys was obtained in France by General Lafayette and was presented by him to George Washington a year or two before his death. It hangs in the mansion at Mount Vernon and has been seen by thousands of visitors there.

The keys at present are very old and rusty. The largest of them is twelve inches long and is quite heavy. The smallest is of fine workmanship, the socket being shaped like the ace of clubs, and is supposed to have belonged to the treasure rooms. This and another key measure six inches in length, while the other two are about ten inches and much heavier.-Washington Times.

Really Antique.

An excellent plaster of paris cast may be seen in one of the Egyptian galleries of the British museum of the famous sycamore statuette known as the "Sheikh-el-Beled," or "Village Sheikh." The original dates from 3900 B. C. and is still in perfect condition, although it is the oldest known specimen of wood carving. It represents an overseer of the workmen engaged in building the pyramids close to Sakkarao, where it was discovered .- London

Killing Sharks by Electricity.

In the British navy the engineers have a curious way of killing sharks. They seal up a dynamite cartridge in an empty can and put the can inside At first Dacosta demurred and could | Once at Brighton he invited a smart | a lump of pork. The pork is thrown overboard on a wire which has been connected with an electric battery. When the shark takes the bait, the engineer presses a button, which explodes the cartridge and kills the fish.

> Willing to Waive That. "Miss Angeline," began the poor but proud young man, "if I were in a position to ask you to be my wife"-

"Good gracious, Mr. Throgson!" she exclaimed. "In a position? The idea! Do you think I would want you to get down on your knees?"-Exchange.

When a man is determined to rise in the world, it is better not to interfere with him too much. If his purpose is right, he will be a dangerous wrestler. -Schoolmaster.

A Sharp Dig.

Mrs. Buxom-That hateful Mrs. Knox made a very mean comment upon my age today.

getting old? Mrs. Buxom-No, indeed! She said I

Mr. Buxom-Did she say you were

"still looked quite young."-Exchange.

Henpecked.

"Hi Peck hed ter git out o' bed 'n' mail a letter fer thet sharp tongued wife o' hisn."

"Pore feller! Driv from piller ter post!"-Princeton Tiger.

Up at Night.

Parke-Does your baby keep you up

Lane-I should say so. Why, I haven't been home before midnight for a month.

Fitting. "What's your idea in beginning with

pie and eating your dinner backward?" "My stomach's upset."-Cornell Wid-

Ill fortune never crushed that m: whom good fortune deceived not .-- B

THE SLED BOAT.

Ingenious Combination Devised by the Fire Island Life Savers.

The life savers attached to Uncle

Sam's stations on Fire island encountered great difficulties and dangers in crossing the Great South bay to the Long Island shore, either by water craft or ice craft. Still, naturally enough, they had a longing to visit family and friends when the great is land sea was choked with drift ice or partly frozen over. These ingenious people long ago realized the needs of a vehicle capable of traveling on either ice or water safely, and years ago they launched the first "scooter," a boat constructed to travel on both ice and in water. It was a small boat, made fast to a sled, which was pushed on the ice and rowed on the water. This crude mode of travel, with the wind against or across the boat, made the trip one of tremendous exertion. In the course of time a sail was tried, at first square rigged and very small, but it was used only when the wind was fair. Then a special boat was built which was partially decked, and the sled was made lighter until at last the scooter of the present day came about, with nothing left of the sled but the bottom of the runners, shod with iron, or, better still, as experience has shown, with brass. And so has developed the wonderful scooter of the Long Island lakes and bays, a swift iceboat that will sail in the water and from one element to the other quickly without a jar.-Exchange.

GOLD NUGGETS.

The Process In Nature by Which They Are Formed.

That gold is formed from solution is generally recognized. The miner receives the theory because it explains the making of gold to him, but he often wonders how it is done, so here is what has been seen: Daintree once prepared a solution of gold and left in it a small piece of metallic gold. Accidentally a small piece of wood fell into the solution. The solution decomposed. the gold assumed a metallic state and collected and held to the small piece of undissolved gold, which increased in size. Another investigator heard of this and made a dilute gold solution. in which he immersed a piece of iron pyrites and left it there a month. He added also organic matter, and at the month's end the pyrites were covered with a film of metallic gold. Pyrites and galena were next tried, and each was covered with gold. Gold, copper pyrites, arsenical pyrites, galena and wolfram v.ere also tried, with similar results. Metallic precipitates were tried, and while they threw down the gold as a metallic powder they did not cause it to cohere nor to plate any of the substances tried. Organic matter thus seemed the necessary chemical agent. Through the wood used in these experiments gold was disseminated in fine particles. Imagine these experiments conducted by nature through ages and the result could be a nugget. -Mines and Minerals.

The Cook Approved.

Out in Columbia road lives a gentle woman of ample means, who recently advertised for a cook. The establishment is entirely in accord with an excellent social position, but is by no means pretentious, so when a well recommended cook called and mentioned her price as \$40 a month the lady of the house answered that a wage of that figure was quite out of the question.

The cook dwelt a little on her superior ability in the matter of gettingup smart luncheons and dinners, but the mistress of the house answered that she wouldn't think for a moments of paying \$40 for a cook. The cheflady rose to depart. She was perfectly affable, and the gentlewoman's determination evidently impressed her as

"I see how it is," she said approvingly. "You are trying to live within your income."

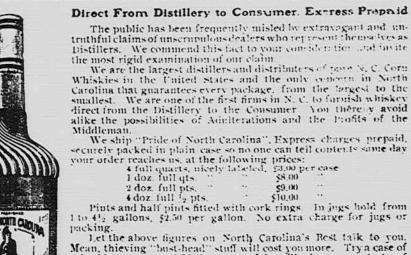
most commendable.

And she departed, doubtless to find somebody who isn't making that cffort.-Washington Post.

Kean and Macready.

When Edmund Kean and Macready, intense rivals, played in the same pieces at Drury Lane it was usual to consult them in the course of the evening as to what they would appear in next. One night when the prompter was sent to ask Mr. Macready what he would play with Mr. Kean the great tragedian frowned upon him till he blushed. "Sir." he roared, "how should I know what the man would like to play?" The prompter retired to seek the desired information from Mr. Kean. "Sir." said Mr. Kean sharply, "how should I know what the fellow can play?"

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