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== Sixteen Pages ==

The reports of over four thousand reliable grain dealers and millers, covering the six principal winter-wheat States, which generally raise two-thirds of that crop, indicate half of an average yield.

Between five and ten millions of dollars were expended on firecrackers and like contrivances to make noise on last Thursday, and all there is to show for the expenditure now are a few hundred maimed persons and the remains of a number of burned buildings.

The New York Sun declares that the letter which Secretary Morton gave the press agents in reply to ex-Representative Taylor is not "crushing sarcasm," as the preamble thereof declared, but "squashy silliness," as if anything but bombast could come from that source.

Mr. Cleveland remained in the seclusion of his Buzzard's Bay home on the Fourth and took no apparent interest in the celebration in which Joe Jefferson and other neighbors enthusiastically participated. Probably he didn't like to do anything which his British friends would not approve.

The Journal's indorsement may not be so valuable as that of Senator Voorhees, but the authorities at Washington who are looking for a Democrat to make warden of the national penitentiary at Leavenworth, Kan., will go a long way before they find a man as well qualified as is Mr. James W. French.

Mrs. Lease declares that in her forthcoming book she will "roll back the dark and tear-stained curtain of the world's history and look down the long vista of years to connect the past with the present." Mrs. Lease, however, expects to receive compensation for this rolling of curtains and connecting past and present in a large sale of her book.

Rev. Edward Everett Hale defines a pauper as one who gets a living off of other people. This classification necessarily includes a great many more people than those who beg upon the streets or depend upon charitable societies. Our most select and aristocratic circles, in fact, contain members who would come under this head. It is a very fair definition, too.

The address which the Irish Nationalists of Massachusetts have issued is timely. Even if the Irish leaders in Ireland were united, the task of extorting home rule from Great Britain with the House of Lords as it is is well-nigh hopeless; but when these leaders dissolve into two or three factions they themselves present the greatest obstacle to local government for Ireland, and the Irish Nationalists of Massachusetts tell them so in very vigorous language.

The revolver habit is one of the few evils which come of universal cheapness. Everybody can own one, and many of those who can have no possible use for a life-taking weapon, purchase, load them and place them where some other person will be sure to pick them up. Of course, such persons are curious to see if they are loaded. They often do this by cocking the weapon and looking into the muzzle. They finger the trigger, and the result comes so quick that even curiosity is quenched.

New York has always been notoriously lacking in that form of local pride which leads its wealthy citizens to contribute to its beauty and glory. A change seems to be coming over the spirit of its dream, however. A fund of $250,000 has been raised by private subscription for the botanical garden which was recently ordered by the Legislature to be established in Bronx Park. Cornelius Vanderbilt is president of the Garden Association, and the prospect is that the institution will, in due time, be a thing of which the city residents will be proud.

Four years ago the organ of the Consumers' Gas Trust gave opinions and figures to show that natural gas would give out in a few years. It was a raid of the "bears" upon the small stockholders in the Trust. Since that time the same warning has been dinned into the ears of the people in this city by this trust and its spokesmen. The people, however, are no longer nervous about the matter. They are not taking much stock in the men who have so recently urged the city to purchase the Trust plant at its cost, and who are now predicting in reports of committees that gas will give out before the end of four years.

If the Fourth of July was celebrated in the South, the papers of that section and the press agents have not told us about it. Here is the organ of Secretary Hoke Smith, the Atlanta Journal, of July 4. Not a word can be found on the editorial page about the Fourth of July, the Declaration of Independence or anything of the sort. And yet Atlanta has been favored with a federal appropriation to aid in getting up an industrial exposition. Elsewhere in the issue there is no announcement that the day would be celebrated as it was throughout the North. There is nothing in the Journal's exchanges to show that in the heart of the South the Fourth was celebrated even with formal exercises. It seems that it is time that the South should adopt the custom of celebrating a day which has been made immortal by a proclamation written by one of the most conspicuous natives of that section.

YOUNG PEOPLE'S RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS.

The craze for organization which has swept over the country in the last ten years has no more remarkable exemplification than the Christian Endeavor Society, the Epworth League, and Baptist Young People's Union. The purpose of the formation of these societies was to further religious sentiment and activity among young people—certainly a commendable object in itself. At the time, however, the Journal expressed a respectful doubt as to the necessity or utility of establishing independent associations for this work when that much older organization, the church, seemed intended for the same purpose and offered every opportunity for religious development. This attitude of inquiry, rather than criticism, was met with great disapproval by friends of the movement, and the Journal was informed with much emphasis by "Endeavorers" themselves and by a number of ministers that its theory was wrong, inasmuch as the society was working within the church, was subordinate to it, and really a part of it. That it was highly favored by the young people was evident from the rapid increase in its membership from the beginning until now, when the aggregate runs into the hundred thousands and its conventions include 20,000 or more delegates. That it has not proved to be quite the pliable and harmonious adjunct to the church which its early promoters promised is also suggested by occasional expressions from the pulpit, from the religious press and in private conversation. The organization has grown so large that it has become a power in itself, and in some churches dictates the course it prefers when a conflict of opinion arises between it and the church authorities. It is, in fact, not subordinate, but coordinate, or approaching thereto. Whether this is objectionable in any or all respects, the Journal does not undertake to say, not caring to enter into a discussion of church polity. Neither does it mean to intimate that much good is not accomplished by the society. On the contrary, it believes that an organization for the promotion of moral and Christian ideas and conduct which arouses so much enthusiasm among its members as seems to exist in the Endeavor and kindred associations must be of benefit, whether it remains under the complete control of the older religious institutions or not. The only purpose in alluding to the matter here is to call attention to the growing importance and independence of the society.

If a criticism were ventured upon, it would be as to the wisdom of holding mass conventions of young people, even for religious purposes. The utility of mass conventions of any sort is questionable, and the purpose meant to be gained by this annual gathering has never been made clear to the public. At all events, what might have been done by the comparatively few delegates at the earlier meetings can hardly be accomplished now since the affair has grown unwieldy. In fact, this overgrowth will probably result, sooner or later, in a change of methods and an abandonment of the general conventions. Meanwhile, it must be admitted that there are obvious objections to the assembling together of a multitude of unchaperoned young people from all parts of the country, even for the sake of conducting a thousand prayer meetings simultaneously in darkest Boston. Young American men and maidens conduct themselves properly, in the main, especially when they are bent on a Christian errand, but even pious youth sometimes lacks in wisdom and needs the protection of discreet guardians. The Boston convention certainly affords an outing which will be enjoyed to the utmost by the Endeavor delegates, but it is at least open to question whether the outing would not be of more benefit under other conditions.

THE WORSHIP OF FACTS.

A new weekly paper, called Information, has been started in New York. It undertakes to present facts, and nothing but facts, briefly and to the point. Whether its information is accurate, whether the facts really are such or not, the Journal, not having examined the publication, cannot say; but this matters little. The public already has too many facts. Information is being continually thrust at it and rammed down its throat. Each individual making up the great aggregate called the people is expected to know something of everything. The cramming process is begun when he is a babe in arms, it is continued in the kindergarten and followed up in the higher schools. The child must know a little natural history, a little botany, a little chemistry, a little geology, a little physiology and a little of half a dozen other ologies, besides something of many other branches useful and ornamental. If at the end of its school age it does not know very much about spelling, if it cannot read intelligently, if it is weak in mathematics and gets tangled in the small problems of making change, if it is uncertain of its grammar, if it cannot reason clearly, all these defects are because too much and too many kinds of information have been pumped into its mind. It has not been able to digest the load, and, consequently, a large part of it remains useless. Much is forgotten and much is unavailable by reason of its fragmentary state. It is the exceptional person, young or old, in this day, who knows a few things and knows them well, or, even knowing many things, knows one well, and yet it is the mastery of one thing that makes success. But the cramming process does not end with school days. The Gradgrinds with their worship of facts are omnipresent. They edit the so-called literary magazines and revel in "informative" articles, they occupy the lecture platform and the public, they teach summer schools; everywhere and at all times facts are to be had without stint.

Now, facts are very well in their place, but the accumulation of them is not wisdom, and fewer of them fill all ordinary human requirements than is commonly believed. Perhaps the time will come when the modern craze for information will be modified; when knowledge will be sought or imparted for special purposes and not simply for the sake of filling the mind with facts as a shed is packed with cordwood. When that time comes other mental faculties than the statistical will have a chance to develop. The logical and the reflective powers and the imagination will take their own place and the store of information be put in the background until needed. When that time comes the question will no longer be asked why there are no poets or novelists or essayists equal to those of a by-gone day.

THINGS WHICH GO TOGETHER.

A few days since two citizens were discussing the relative wealth of two counties not widely apart, with equal populations, farming lands of about equal fertility, and with the same advantages of reaching the market. One of them contended that the appraisal of the properties for the purpose of taxation should be the same, maintaining that if the one was a better county than the other it was due to the industry of the inhabitants, which should not be taxed. The other contended that the better highways, the better tilled farms, the improved stock, the better school advantages, and, altogether, the more intelligent and progressive population of the one county made its property more valuable, and for that reason the two should not be put upon the same plane when valued for the purposes of taxation. "A farm of the same number of acres and otherwise about equal as to fertility and markets in —— county would not sell for three-fourths as much as that in —— county," he said, "chiefly because the last named has a much more progressive population; it has better roads because it has a higher grade of inhabitants; it has better schools and schoolhouses because it has a class of people who will have the best; its county and township affairs are more prudently managed because a more intelligent people demand it; the trade of its county seat is much larger for the same population because the people are better off, have more to sell and more with which to purchase. A great deal more satisfaction can be got out of living in —— county than in the other."

There is a great deal in this. The difference in communities accounts for much of the difference in the values of property. Whether or not a locality is desirable in which to live has a greater influence upon the property in residence portions of cities than any other element. Desirability depends largely upon the inhabitants. Hundreds of illustrations of this fact can be found in all the larger cities, where values in property have been depreciated because, one by one, the buildings have been captured by people who were not desirable neighbors, and whose notoriety decent people would not share by even living in the same block. Nor does the wealth of a few occupants give value to a locality as a place of residence, but the character, stability, thrift and intelligence of the community. Values in residence property in this city are best sustained or are appreciating in those parts where the occupants insist upon having what are known as "good neighbors." It may be laid down as a general principle that anything in a locality which tends to make it undesirable as a residence for intelligent and decent people makes war upon its value as property.

And so in counties; those which have intelligent and industrious people are those in which property will be the most valuable. With the best of land, no progress will be made by a people who have neither thrift nor ambition, but do as little labor as will enable them to exist. Indolence is to them the state of bliss. The mandate which gave Adam an opportunity to make something of himself, namely, to eat his bread in the sweat of his face, they regard as a penalty to be shirked, and eat as little bread as possible. Such sloth and unthrift are so contagious that in two or three generations they bring whole communities into a condition in which only lawlessness thrives. They are worthless communities. The more industrious, thrifty and intelligent the community, the more property it will have to be taxed. It is upon this theory that education creates a desire for more things and a purpose to get them that a State tax for support of the public schools can be defended.

SUMMER OUTINGS AND THE SUMMER GIRL.

The summer vacation question is one that occupies more and more attention each year. The number of city residents who prepare for an outing as the season comes around annually increases. As a matter of fact, a large majority of people who live in cities do not take a trip to the seashore or country or otherwise recreate themselves, but, nevertheless, the custom of doing so is becoming more fixed and receives general approval. It is undoubtedly a good thing for every man, woman and child to have a change of scene and occupation during the year. For most persons of mature years, rest from every form of mental or physical labor is to be desired, but comparatively few realize what is best for them, and the tendency is to flock to already crowded resorts, and in uncomfortable quarters and with other unsatisfactory accommodations to take part in the feverish life of the summer hotel. In discussing this subject in a current magazine, Robert Grant lays the blame upon the daughter of the family—the summer girl. She, not unnaturally, wants to go where there are other young people; where there is dancing, flirting and gayety, and where she may meet the imagined man who is to be her fate. Her parents prefer other and quieter surroundings, probably, but she dominates them and has her way. Mr. Grant admits that the girl has virtues, but he charges her with tramping on the prostrate form of her mother from the 1st of July to the 1st of October with more energy and determination than she does during the rest of the year. That he is fairly correct no one who has observed the ways of the summer girl can deny. In the majority of families her rule is supreme. The wishes and convenience of other members of the household give way to her desires. Though her father and mother need quiet and rest more than all else, she wants lively society and activity, so they all go where peace and rest are impossible and return when vacation is over more weary than when they started. Writing from the standpoint of a middle-aged man and a father, Mr. Grant counsels rebellion against this despotism. The girl has rights, he admits, but they are not paramount to those of her parents. Many parents will doubtless agree with him, but they are likely to realize that rebellion is too late. Like the rule for the training of a gentleman, which requires that one begin with the grandfather, the parents need to begin with the daughter before she has reached the summer-girl stage. The American girl has all the merits she has been accredited with, but she has some faults, and they come from the fact that she has been put too much in the foreground. Her parents, not she, are at fault for the belief she entertains that she is entitled to the first consideration on all occasions. They, and not she, are to blame for her domineering spirit and her aggressiveness—traits that are not admirable. Faint indications are observed here and there, however, that the mother is beginning to object to being shelved at middle age and to feel that it is not necessary that she sacrifice her inclinations to suit the daughter's social convenience. The American mother has been in shadow for a long time, but she is really a delightful person, and society and the individual will alike be benefited when she emerges from obscurity and takes her proper place. When that event takes place the question of summer outings for the family will at once have fewer complications than those noted by Mr. Grant as existing now.

Two Chicago papers loudly demand a reform in the methods of celebrating the Fourth of July. So far as Chicago is concerned the demand is well grounded. Six persons were killed and scores of others mutilated, some of whom will die, while many will carry the evidences of their folly during life. This injury is attributed to "small boys who are excusable, to hoodlum who are never excusable, and to adult idiots whose proper place is the insane asylum." Hoodlums threw giant crackers into cable cars, injuring several people, and grown persons fired revolvers and rifles in the streets. In fact, Chicago seems to have had a very bad case of Fourth of July, and to have in its vast population several thousand people whom it would be better off not to have, even if their loss should make its enumeration smaller than that of New York. It would seem, however, that if a score of those malicious persons who threw giant crackers into street cars had been arrested and sent to the house of correction the evil could be prevented. As for persons who fire revolvers in the streets of a city, a brief period in the penitentiary might prove a warning to others. But outside of Chicago there was a great deal of recklessness and carelessness in the use of firearms and the Chinese inventions to make noise. This city escaped serious injury or damage, though the firing was almost incessant for twenty-four hours. Much of it, however, was under the direction of the heads of families, which probably prevented the accidents which are recorded in other cities. The affrays about saloons, which are the cause of a large part of the fatalities of the Fourth, were avoided here by the general observance of the wholesome law requiring that such places be closed on holidays. They can be avoided in most cities by similar methods. It is probable, however, that city governments will soon find it necessary to prevent the firing of crackers, pistols, etc., in the streets and alleys.

BUBBLES IN THE AIR.

By Medical Advice.

"Going on a vacation this summer?"

"Certainly. My doctor says that I am in need of about two weeks' hard work to put me in good health."

Aftermath.

Although the Fourth is three days past,
Still in the air there lingers,
A mingled scent of powder smoke,
And arnicated fingers.

Failed.

"No," said Mr. Wheeler, "I have my doubts about the bicycle being able to displace the horse. The time I tried it, the horse and buggy came out of the collision without a scratch."

Missing.

"Where are the brains?" asked the King of Mbwpka.

"Please, your Majesty," explained the chef, "he hadn't any. This is the man who could not talk about anything but 16 to 1, your Highness may be pleased to remember. I think his brains had all run to whiskers."

The explanation seemed plausible.

Rev. Dr. Talmage has been studying the workings of a newspaper office pretty closely, judging by the following remarks:

One of the great trials of the newspaper profession is that members are compelled to see more of the sham of the world than any other profession. Through every newspaper office day after day go all the weaknesses of the world—all the vanities that want to be puffed, all the revenges that want to be reaped, all the mistakes that want to be corrected, all the dull speakers that want to be thought eloquent, all the meanness that wants to get its wares noticed gratis in order to save the tax of the advertising column, all men who want to be set right who were never right, all the crack-brained philosophers with stories as long as their hair and as gloomy as their finger nails in the morning, bereft of soap—all the bores who come to stay five minutes but talk five hours. Through the editorial and reportorial rooms all the follies and sham of the world are seen day after day, and the temptation is neither to believe in God, man or woman. It is no surprise to me that in this profession there are some skeptical men. I only wonder that newspaper men believe anything.

What he says of this acquaintance with shams and follies and weaknesses is true. Newspaper workers have the seamy side of human nature revealed to them, and early in their professional life they learn not to accept as truth all that seems on its surface to be such. They become quick and accurate readers of character, and cease to be surprised at any of the revelations which insight and circumstances may make; nevertheless, it is not true, as Mr. Talmage seems to imply, that they are apt to doubt both God and man. They do become cynical after a fashion, but it is a mild, good-natured cynicism. Having ceased to have illusions concerning their fellow-creatures, they expect nothing, and are not disappointed, but they learn tolerance. They smile satirically at the weaknesses of humanity, but they are not misanthropic because of them. On the contrary, they are most kindly and sympathetic in their attitude toward mankind. The ability to penetrate shams does not necessarily embitter them; it makes them better able to appreciate the good which exists, in spite of humbug and vanities. Possibly the disillusionment might lead to more general distrust and skepticism were it not that the born newspaper man possesses a sense of humor which is his salvation. It enables him to laugh at the foibles of human kind and carries him safely over all the depressing incidents of his work. He laughs because he is amused, and not because he is soured. Perhaps he does not look upon life with the seriousness that it deserves, but he is unable to see that to take it seriously would benefit himself or others, and so he laughs at it and is able to bear what it brings.

As it will be often inconvenient for the Boston member of the School Board to attend the sessions, a pair might be arranged with a member of the minority.

LITERARY NOTES.

King Humbert has made Mr. Robert Underwood Johnson, assistant editor of the Century Magazine, a Knight of the Crown of Italy.

Hamlin Garland is on his "ranch" in Wisconsin writing a novel during the forenoons and hoeing strawberries during the afternoon.

Samuel Minturn Peck and William H. Hayne, it is said, are to take the platform together. Peck weighs two hundred and Hayne ninety-seven pounds; but they are both good poets.

The promised book of unpublished Ruskin drawings will appear in August. These sketches were made about fifty years ago, and their subjects are all Italian. Some are in colors and all will be produced in facsimile.

The English sales of "Trilby," counting all the editions, have reached thirty-four thousand copies. The recently-issued large-paper edition was practically exhausted by subscribers and booksellers before it was published.

B. W. Yeats, the young Irish poet, is mentioned as reminding one of Stevenson. He wears a scarlet sash and a sombrero in the streets of Dublin, and has "a tall, willowy frame, with the tint in his cheeks of the wild olive."

Mrs. Frances Hodgson Burnett and Mrs. Louise Chandler Moulton were the American writers who were of the company invited by the New Vagabonds, a man's club, in its recent dinner, in London, to leading "lady authors."

A granduncle of Mr. Rudyard Kipling, an ancient gentleman verging on ninety years, has lately burst upon the world as a poet. His verse does not suggest the powers of his honored relative, but it is comparatively well-meaning.

Mr. Walter H. Page has resigned the editorship of the Forum. Mr. Page has been in the service of this review for more than seven years, and has had exclusive editorial control for more than four years. It was he who reduced the price of the Forum to 25 cents.

Thackeray always alluded to his books in a half comic, half satiric vein, and would rarely express any preference, speaking in a contemptuous strain of them all. His friends believed, however, that he regarded "Vanity Fair" as his best. One says, because it paid him best.

Mr. Owen Wister has in mind the writing of a novel. It is, he says, to be "a serial on 'The Bannocks,' taking in their wars, on the borders of Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The scene will be largely laid at Oyhee and Malheur. There is a great fund of fact, romance and detail of various sorts in the subject. To me the Bannocks seem very interesting."

Emile Zola has been on the acute point of total break-down of mind and body, and has suspended all work for the present, under the peremptory command of his physicians. Hence "Rome," which was to have begun as a serial publication in October, cannot possibly start before the end of the year. Zola himself has learned to ride a bicycle, and is out with it all day long.

The business aspect of the novel in England is thus reviewed by an article in Chambers's Journal. It seems that the average production there is three every twenty-four hours, and, including reprints, some two hundred more. When there is a novel that has marked life in it, Mudie will take three thousand copies. If popularity means merit, Mrs. Wood is the great author, for over one million of her books have been bought. During five months, fifty thousand copies of Hall Caine's "Manxman" have been sold. Neither publishers nor public always know what is a good book at the start. For instance, five months elapsed before a few hundred of Barrie's "Auld Licht Idylls" were sold.

It is announced that Mr. Du Maurier's new novel, "The Martians," will not be published before a year from next December. The author has now completed about two-thirds of his manuscript, and so laborious and painstaking is his revision that he will need at least eighteen months to finish his work. The new story will have nothing to do with "Trilby." It will be concerned, in the opening chapters, with school life in France, and then will be English life in various strata of society, and there will be much about the artistic world of Dusseldorf and Antwerp. There is to be a supernatural element in this tale, too, and a love story, with a proper accompaniment of laughter and tragedy. The story will be so long as to run through twelve numbers of Harper's Magazine, where it will first appear in serial form

ABOUT PEOPLE AND THINGS.

Mr. Richard Watson Gilder having gone abroad to stay six months, the Century is now without an editor-in-chief. During Mr. Gilder's absence Mr. Robert U. Johnson will edit the magazine.

The sums which Dr. D. K. Pearsons, of Chicago, has given to various colleges and schools in the last five years aggregate more than $1,000,000. Nearly half of this has been given within a few months.

The Rev. William P. McQuaid, pastor of St. James Church, Boston, received a gift of $2,500 from his parishioners on the twenty-fifth anniversary of his installation, which was celebrated last Sunday.

The Marquis of Lorne, although the husband of the Princess Louise, is, in the sight of the law, a commoner, and in state and official papers he is described as "John Campbell, commonly called the Marquis of Lorne."

Herr Wilhelm Pentzel, of Frankfort-on-the-Main, Germany, who died the other day in Port Said, left 15,000 marks, almost $4,000, to the waiters in a restaurant where he was accustomed to take his meals. He was a man of wealth.

Although she is famous for her charity, and for the keen interest that she takes in the welfare of her subjects, the Queen of Italy is greatly given to display in dress, and is certainly the most extravagant woman in her husband's kingdom.

California fruit crop in ten years has increased sevenfold, and its value last year was $50,000,000, $10,000,000 more than that of the gold mines in the State. The experience of California shows that the demand for fine fruit is practically unlimited.

A big duck ranch at Damariscotta, Me., is making considerable profit for its proprietor. With twelve large incubators he has raised about 25,000 ducks this season, and marketed them in Boston and New York at prices ranging from 30 to 40 cents a pound.

At Malton, in England, the justices of the peace have granted a special license to sell liquor to a hotel keeper "for the occasion of the annual temperance demonstration in Castle Howard Park," because "the public has been much inconvenienced in the past" by the absence of such a license.

Capt. Henry Bundy, now sixty-seven, is one of the most interesting characters on the great lakes. He is known as the "sailor evangelist" and for twenty years has been doing missionary work among the lake marines. He distributes tracts, sells Bibles, and when a family is unable to purchase a Bible he presents it with one.

Selling silver polish to support herself and father, Miss Foote, daughter of C. B. Foote, president of the late failed Commercial Bank, of Cincinnati, goes from house to house daily. The young woman is well educated, but could find nothing to do. She manufactures and sells the polish, and what she makes supports herself and father, and is their only income.

Jules Lemaitre, the new "Immortal" of the French Academy, has been a success in almost every field of literary endeavor that he has essayed—in poetry, the drama, criticism and novel writing. He is forty-two years old, and has had a much shorter career in literature than most men who have been chosen members of the academy. He made his first venture as an author in 1863 with a small volume of poems. Soon afterwards he turned his pen to play writing, and, scoring a hit at the start, he has since turned out an acceptable drama every two years. He is an agreeable satirist, and in some respects his style resembles Renan's.

Miss Corinne Blackburn, the Kentucky Senator's charming daughter, is his most active political supporter. She is accredited with having secured his election over Gen. "Cerro Gordo" Williams some years ago, and has come over from Europe to try to revive her father's fallen fortunes. She is described as tall, graceful, handsome, with dark brown hair and eyes, a clear complexion, a vivacious manner and a wide knowledge of public men and affairs.

A mouse ran by. She did not scream
Or wildly raise her head,
"I do not mind such animals,
With bloomers on," she said.
—Life.

In years agone when he had not
The five and twenty cents,
He watched the daily ball game through
A knothole in the fence.
He sits within the grand stand now
And marvels much to know
Why he sees not half what he saw
Through the knothole long ago.
—Detroit Tribune.

And so beside the silent sea
I wait the muffled oar;
No harm from Him can come to me
On ocean or on shore.

I know not where His islands lift
Their fronded palms in air;
I only know I cannot drift
Beyond His love and care.
—Whittier.

SHREDS AND PATCHES.

Every man has his devilish moments.—Lavater.

Do not speak of your happiness to one less fortunate than yourself.—Plutarch.

She will never be a new woman until she is satisfied with an old hat.—Nashville American.

All the world loves a lover, but the owner of a soda fountain just dotes on him.—Detroit Tribune.

Debs is writing about the "causes of discontent." One of the causes is Debs.—Chicago Tribune.

It's easy enough to tell a Yale man anywhere this year, but you can't tell him much.—Boston Globe.

If the Englishmen want that cup they had better send over their Prince and his Britannia.—New York Tribune.

There are people who think they could be very good Christians if their circumstances were better.—Ram's Horn.

"Coming through the Rye" is no longer a popular song with New York saloon-keepers on Sunday.—New York Mail and Express.

When Shakspeare said true love's course never ran smooth he had no idea of a courting couple out on bicycles.—Philadelphia Times.

There is plenty of evidence already that during the long cold winter months not a single fly got frozen or mislaid.—Somerville Journal.

A man may attack a roast turkey valiantly, and yet quail on toast when suddenly called upon to respond to one.—Tammany Times.

The spirit of '76 is all right, but several prominent Americans are to-day greatly interested in the spirit of '96.—Philadelphia North American.

It would be somewhat embarrassing if the courts should go ahead and discover that Dr. Buchanan is not legally dead.—Washington Post.

Neal Dow's ninety-one years lend color to the hope that eventually we shall have a centenarian who does not use tobacco or rum.—Detroit Tribune.

An exchange inquires whether it is not possible to take the new woman too seriously to heart. Not where she is lovely and willing.—Northern Budget.

SPARRING FOR AN OPENING.

A Peculiar Form of Dueling with Pistols in the Far West.

Denver Field and Farm.

"One of the things that strikes the tenderfoot with surprise," said a Western surveyor, "is the way the tough men in the far West, when they happen to run counter to men of their own kind, will refrain from shooting until one gets the drop on the other. So quick and ready are the shooting men of the real sort that when facing each other on guard neither can fire so quickly that the other will not return the shot before falling. Thus it may happen that two bad men who have sworn death to each other may meet often without exchanging shots, because neither one can catch the other unprepared.

"Take the case of Wild Bill and Jim Currie, for example. Both men of undoubted nerve and skill, they were enemies for years—by some accounts they exchanged shots at long range—but they never pulled trigger on each other at close quarters, and when Bill was assassinated by a wretch years afterward at Deadwood it closed the feud. Clay Allison, the New Mexican dead shot and mankiller, found one man who wasn't afraid to stand up to him, and was just as quick with his gun as himself. That man was Mace Bowman, some time a deputy sheriff of Colfax county. They spent a whole afternoon together, each trying to get the drop on the other, but neither one could accomplish it. It was a performance, though, of a kind to make an inexperienced man shiver. There was bad blood between them, and this afternoon when they met in Lambert's barroom, in the old town of Cimarron, and got to drinking the enmity began to rankle.

"It was perfectly understood between them that if either one got the drop the other, the slower man, would die, and, this being agreed upon, both maneuvered for an opening. Facing each other with such pleasant intentions, they laughed and joked and drank together, all the time watching each other like cats. As a diversion in the proceeding they would lay their pistols, the barrels crossing, on the bar counter, step back to the other side of the room, and then, at an agreed signal, made a rush for the pistols. But neither could seize his weapon quickly enough to get the advantage of the other. Once, as they were taking a drink together, Bowman, with whisky half way to his lips, suddenly smashed the glass to the counter and drew his pistol. But as it came up Allison's revolver met it half way.

"The men were looking into each other's eyes and a sign in either's that a trigger was to be pulled would have meant the death of both men, which was more killing than either one wanted. This dalliance with death went on through the afternoon, until at last, at the coming of evening, the two men, becoming savage, declared that they would bring the duel to an issue. They cleared the room of spectators and had already taken their places in corners diagonally opposite to begin shooting when W. R. Morley, of Cimarron, a strong friend of both men, rushed in between them at the risk of his life and by expostulations and entreaties managed to get them off the idea of the duel and mutually agree to separate without further trouble. So the two contestants backed out of the room at opposite doors and rode out of town different ways, saving an encounter which would almost certainly have resulted in the death of both."

HOTEL READING ROOMS.

Their Principal Patrons in New York People Not Guests at the Hotels.

New York Sun.

In one respect at least New York differs from all other American cities, and that is in regard to the importance of the reading rooms of its hotels. There are in New York 229 hotels, exclusive of apartment houses with restaurant attachments. Every hotel in New York or elsewhere—every genuine hotel, that is—has a reading room, and in it are to be seen gathered the most important accessories of a hotel—the news stand, the telegraph office, the telephone office and the railroad and steamboat ticket office. In a country hotel the reading room is the seat of great activity, and it seems to be the bounden duty of the transient male patrons of the hotel, as well as the regular male boarders, to be in the reading room as long a time as possible between meals, and usually a late comer is obliged to wait his turn for a seat at one of the writing desks or tables or for a chance to read one of the newspapers which are kept on file.

According to the observations of all hotel men throughout the country, the smaller the town the more important the hotel reading room; the larger the town the less important the hotel reading room. It is apparently in corroboration of this rule that the reading rooms of most New York hotels, though furnished in attractive style and well calculated to serve the convenience of guests, are usually deserted, or, if not deserted, are patronized chiefly by persons not guests of the hotel. In other words, men not stopping at the hotel, but, meeting friends in its main corridor, utilize the conveniences of the reading room. Added to these are a few of the transient guests, who for the most part come to New York on business or pleasure from great distances, and especially from interior towns. Boston men, Philadelphia men, Baltimore men and Buffalo men are not great patrons of the reading rooms of New York hotels, but transient guests from the small towns of the country are, and some of them sit for hours at a time conning the back numbers of newspapers, or writing mechanically and then nervously destroying letters to friends and relations.

The paradoxical thing about hotel reading rooms in New York is that though ostensibly maintained for the use and convenience of the hotel guests, they are at the service in nearly every case of persons who are not only not guests of the hotel, but who furthermore are resident New Yorkers. Nearly every hotel in the city has a large number of patrons who are known as "regulars," who stay for several months at a time, and who are seen very little in the hotel corridors or in the reading room. Occasionally a patron of a New York hotel, perhaps one of its oldest guests, will find it necessary to write a letter or to consult a newspaper file, and when he does he is usually compelled to wait until an outside person not a guest is ready to take his departure. In some country hotels the announcement is made: "This reading room is for the use of guests exclusively." No such announcement appears in New York hotels, perhaps for the very excellent reason that the reading rooms are not for the use of guests exclusively, but for persons not guests chiefly. The New York hotel reading room, instead of being a center of political activity, social gossip and news interchange, as in the country, is as quiet usually as Philadelphia on Sunday.

COFFEE PLANTING IN NICARAGUA.

Good Profits Are Made and the Crop Never Fails.

Minneapolis (Minn.) Journal.

Considerable interest in the raising of coffee in Nicaragua has been felt in Minneapolis and St. Paul lately on account of the return of W. H. De Savigny, a former resident, who has been in Nicaragua for the last two years. A company has been formed for carrying on the business in the Central American State, and it is probable that several more of the residents of the two cities will go down to Nicaragua in the near future.

Mr. De Savigny was a resident of Merriam Park. He heard of the new coffee plantations in Nicaragua and went there to investigate. He was so impressed with the prospects that he staid, and is now in possession of a farm of about 120 acres, from which he took his first crop the last winter. The new company, which is the outgrowth of the investigations made originally by Mr. De Savigny and his friends, is called the St. Paul and Nicaragua Coffee Company, and its $60,000 worth of stock is held by parties living in the two cities. It has already invested in 1,500 acres of coffee lands, and will have trees in bearing in a few months. In talking of the coffee industry in Nicaragua Mr. De Savigny said:

"I know of no investment which offers such large and sure returns as that of coffee raising in Nicaragua. In the first place, the regions of the world where coffee may be successfully grown are very few. The product of the eastern coffee fields is very much reduced, and the Brazil output is comparatively small on account of the troubles in that country. The Brazil coffee is the cheapest in the market, while ours is the very best. We get the price paid for the finest Mocha, which, by the way, does not reach the American market at all. The Mocha, so called, which you buy in a grocery store is probably a Nicaraguan coffee, and, as it is just as good, you are quite as well off.

"For the American market we have the advantage of being near at hand and having a fine climate. The coffee regions of Nicaragua are in the mountains a couple of hundred miles from Corinto, the Pacific seaport, and half as far from Managua, the capital. As coffee will not grow at all at less than an altitude of 1,000 feet and does best at 3,000 feet, the coffee region is, of course, high enough to be healthy. We have never had any sickness since we went to Nicaragua. The temperature ranges from sixty-eight to seventy-eight degrees—never colder or warmer. Labor is plenty and cheap, and lands so far have not been very costly. At the present rate of investment, however, the lands will soon all be taken up. Capital is going in very fast, especially from the United States. I should say that within the last twelve months at least $250,000 has been invested in our district."

Mr. De Savigny is near Matagalpa, which is the chief town of the coffee region. It is a place of perhaps 4,000 people, with few advantages in the way of schools and civilized necessities, but inhabited by a peaceful and rather industrious people, who are fast becoming impregnated with the Yankee vim which is introduced by the American investors. The recent separation of church and state in Nicaragua, Mr. De Savigny says, is likely to bring about the introduction of public schools and other important adjuncts of modern civilization.

When harvested the coffee crop is hauled from the Matagalpa district to Managua or some station on the railroad to Corinto. This is a wagon haul of 120 miles, but labor is so cheap that the expense is but a trifle. A railroad extension will soon be built at Matagalpa. The cost of the crop laid down in New York or Liverpool the planters figure from $6 to $7.50 per hundred pounds. The average price paid in the last few years has been about $22.50. These figures indicate why Mr. De Savigny regards the business as the most profitable in which any one can engage. Another element in its excellence as an investment is that a coffee plantation once started is good for fifty years. The trees bear after two years and then live for fifty years, and a crop failure has never been known in the country.

LEGISLATURES OF THE WORLD.

Differences In Apportionment and System of Representation.

New York Sun.

The recently elected Italian Chamber of Deputies consists of 534 members. The present German Reichstag consists of 393 members. The next House of Representatives at Washington, exclusive of Territorial delegates, will consist of 356 members. The English Parliament consists of 680 members, including those elected in Ireland and Scotland as well as those elected in England. Of these members 465 are chosen from English constituencies, 103 from Irish, 72 from Scotch, and 30 from Welsh. The French Chamber of Deputies consists of 622 members.

It appears from these figures that although popular control over the choice of representatives is most popular in the United States, the lower House of Congress is a smaller body than the popular branch of the Legislature of Great Britain, Germany, France or Italy. The Belgian Parliament, prior to the extension of universal suffrage and the adoption of the multiple system of voting, consisted of 124 members, the number varying according to the number of qualified electors in each district. The Hungarian House of Magnates consists of 735 members, and the Hungarian House of Representatives of 445. The Dutch Parliament is constructed on the basis of one deputy for every 45,000 of population. The representation of all the Swiss cantons in the National Council is 135.

In the choice of representatives few European governments conform with the American plan of selecting representatives on the basis of the number of voters only. In England, for instance, where the right of suffrage has been extended to the point of being almost universal, or manhood suffrage, as it is called in the United States, nine university districts continue to have representation as such, and the divisional lines of par