

THE SUNDAY JOURNAL

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 1900.

Telephone Calls (Old and New) Business Office, 238; Editorial Rooms, 181

TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION.

BY CARRIER-INDIANAPOLIS AND SUBURBS Daily, Sunday included, 50 cents per month...

Weekly Edition.

One copy, one year, \$6.00 cents Five cents per month for periods less than a year.

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JOURNAL NEWSPAPER COMPANY, Indianapolis, Ind.

Persons sending the Journal through the mails in the United States should put on an eight-page paper a ONE-CENT postage stamp on a twelve-page paper a TWO-CENT postage stamp.

All communications intended for publication in this paper must, in order to receive attention, be accompanied by the name and address of the writer.

Rejected manuscripts will not be returned unless postage is enclosed for that purpose.

Entered as second-class matter at Indianapolis, Ind., postoffice.

THE INDIANAPOLIS JOURNAL

Can be found at the following places: NEW YORK-Astor House and Fifth Avenue Hotel.

CHICAGO-Palmer House, P. O. News Co., 217 Dearborn Street.

CINCINNATI-J. R. Hawley & Co., 154 Vine Street.

LOUISVILLE-C. T. Deering, northwest corner of Third and Jefferson streets, and Louisville Book Co., 235 East Main Avenue.

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Mr. Bryan seems to be laboring under the delusion that he has the only copy of the Declaration of Independence in existence.

The report that the enthusiasm of the French for Kruger is on the wane is not a surprise.

Thus far the proceedings of the constitutional convention in Cuba have not given assuring evidence of capacity for self-government.

The expiring activity of the Boers in South Africa is so coincident with Mr. Kruger's arrival in Europe as to suggest a preconcerted plan.

Young Mr. Phillips, who engineered the recent corn, is praised for having made only \$90,000 out of the deal when he might have made \$90,000.

During the last decade there has been much talk about the great loss of commerce which New York City has experienced.

The late clerk of the Cincinnati Educational Board, who is found to have been an embezzler to the amount of \$100,000, is said to have been "a prince of good fellows."

The immigration authorities at New Orleans, acting under directions from Washington, have allowed a party of immigrants from Porto Rico destined for the sugar plantations in Hawaii to land and proceed to San Francisco.

Almost every session of Congress nowadays is an epoch-making one.

It is said that President McKinley is exerting his influence with Republican congressmen to secure as large a reduction of war taxes as possible and holding appropriations down to the lowest figure compatible with the necessities of the government.

Nothing funnier has occurred in recent years than the catching of Richard Croker for an income tax of \$5,000 in England.

There would be a fine sense of retributive justice in making Mr. Croker contribute \$5,000 of his Tammany spoils to the British-Bour war tax.

The Interstate-commerce Commission has decided that in fixing rates of transportation stock in railroads issued without consideration, as is the case in most reorganizations by foreclosure, is not entitled to any consideration as against the rights of the public for reasonable charges.

An article in the Atlantic Monthly shows that the Panama canal route is superior to the Nicaragua. Indeed, it is so strong that one is led to suspect that it is the work of an attorney rather than a volunteer desiring the best for the United States.

This is probably the first of the efforts to distract the attention of Congress and thus prevent the passage of any bill at the coming session.

One of the most important features of the army bill as given to the public is that which practically breaks up the staff corps as a permanent institution in which officers serve during their entire military career.

By the provisions of the bill line officers will be appointed to staff duty for a term of years, after which they will return to the line. This proposition is not a new one, but it is the first time that it has been a feature in an army bill.

It will be opposed by the staff and those whom it can influence, but the general opinion is that such a change will be beneficial.

Newspaper readers of the present day often comment on the frequency of reports of terrible catastrophes and accidents.

These reports are not pleasant reading, yet they are news. They are such matters as are related and discussed with the greatest possible interest in private circles, and therefore are proper for publication.

The newspapers do not make them. They occur in the regular course of events either

as natural phenomena or accidents and catastrophes incident to modern civilization, dense populations, etc. Cyclones, hurricanes, tidal waves, landslides, cloudbursts and such things are no more frequent now than they were a hundred or five hundred years ago, but the modern facilities for gathering and distributing news make the reports of them more numerous.

It is reasonably certain that the next new State to be admitted will be Oklahoma, and it seems quite likely it may be done at the coming session of Congress. The territory has much better claims for admission than either New Mexico or Arizona, having a much larger and more homogeneous population than either of them and being much more advanced in development.

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minor authors "all of whom have succeeded in spite of the editors." It is the first duty of the magazine editor, he says, to keep literary aspirants out of his periodicals and to keep the celebrities in. To the literary aspirant he offers the somewhat brutal advice "get a reputation first."

The only point to this confession is that it proves what would-be contributors have long believed, namely, that magazine editors were lying when they issued their semi-annual assurances to writers that they were sitting up nights reading the productions of unknown authors in the hope of making a "find." Why they should see fit to make such assertions in the face of facts showing the contrary has never been clear.

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"MODERN FABLES," by George Ade.

The Modern Fable of the Old Time Pedagogue Who Came Down From the Shelf and Was Sufficiently Bumped.

(Copyright, 1900, by Robert Howard Russell.)

Once there was a hard-grained Old-Timer who was living in the Past. He dated back to the Time when they harvested Grain with a Cradle and the Man who could sport a Velvet Vest and a pair of Blue-Topped Boots was considered a Hot Member.

"Back to the Mines, Grandpa!" shouted one Roguish Youngster in the Back Row. "Then all of them began to Talk about him in French, which he could not understand. They said he was a Homard, the same being French for Lobster."

"Stop all this Hissfulint' Tomfoolery," exclaimed the Old-Timer, with Rising Anger. "Talk United States and don't Jabber about the Spelling!"

"We don't, Monkey with Spelling any more," replied the Boy. "We simply start in and learn to Read the first Crack out of the Box."

"Well, since you are so Gay, let me ask you if you can make a Bird in the Free-Arm Movement without taking the Pen from the Paper?"

"Say, you must be a Fossil of the Lower Silurian Epoch," said the boy. "Whoever dug you up ought to have Labeled you and put you in a Cabinet. We don't make Science any more. The Vertical System is now the Whole Thing."

"And I guess that'll Hold you for a While," said the Biggest Boy in the Room. "I think you'll Lie Quiet for a few minutes after that Last One."

"Where do all you Sophisticated Brats get your Rich Vocabulary of Slang?" asked the Old-Timer, who was now thoroughly Warm under the Collar. "Is that included in your Course of Studies also?"

"No, we acquire that sort of thing," said the Little Girl who had first spoken. "Yes, and most of you have acquired about three Quarts too much for your own Good," said the Old-Timer. "I may be a few Stacks shy on this Billy Baxter Style of Kidding and I don't claim to know how to cut up a Rat or design a Bolt of Wall Paper, but I think I can give all of you several Homely Hints on General Deportment and Respect for your Elders."

"With that, I'll produce one of the Gods and make a Come-Along Sign to the Biggest Boy."

"What are you going to do?" asked the Boy, turning pale.

"You," was the Response, for the Old-Timer was On to a few of these Farce-Comedy Gags.

"Surely you must know that Corporal Punishment has been relegated to the Archives of the Past. The System and violates every Tenet of the New Science of Mind Culture," said the Boy.

"I have not read this Year's League Rules," said the Old-Timer, "but I know what is coming to you."

"We must be governed by Moral Suasion," said the Argumentative Youth. "If I am not susceptible to the ordinary Discipline then I may be Punished by being Dismissed from the Room."

"I don't call it Punishment unless you can count the Wells," said the Old-Timer. "I attribute my own Success as Bookkeeper in a Hardware Store to the Fact that I was pounded Black and Blue at least three times a Week all during those Happy Days at the Little Red-Schoolhouse. The only Way to dispel the Latent Cussedness from a Child's System is to Thrash it out." Saying which he grabbed at the Boy, who broke ground with his feet, with his Left hand worked the Fitzsimmons Shift and had the Old-Timer spinning like a Top. Then the Boy did the Jab-and-Retreat Act a few times and waited for an Opening before he put in the famous Corkscrew punch and terminated the Battle.

"They helped the Old-Timer back into his Chair and dusted his Clothes and explained to him that there was a Gymnasium in connection with the School, having a Jovial Waterweight as Instructor in Physical Culture."

"You should have slipped in an Uppercut when he spread his Guard," said the Little Girl with Glasses as she straightened his Cravat for him. "You certainly had your Nerve with you to take on our Planning Half Back, who has been in Training all Fall."

"Children, you are one too many for me," said the Old-Timer, who had failed to hit. "I have been of the First Water and I give in before Moral Suasion. School is dismissed." Moral—Stay with the procession or you will never catch up in these days.

A list of complimentary Oriental phrases. "Why, you speak English very well." "I should be obliged to meet at 10 o'clock in Connecticut."

Lives of great men now remind us of the lives of our living heroes. And departing leave behind us Footfalls on the sands of time. —Judith.

He occasioned a great deal of laughter By naming his dog General Shafter. —T. D. Folks have nothing new to offer. For you see, it is several years after. —Detroit Journal.

The Rabbi Took Charge. Letter to The Outlook. Upon a vessel which sailed from Europe early in the present month it was found that there was no clergyman among the first-class passengers, save a Jewish rabbi. A notice was posted that all who were disposed to join in the singing of hymns were invited to meet at 10 o'clock Sunday morning. The rabbi said that he would be willing to read some passages of Scripture, and this offer was gladly accepted. At the appointed hour many passengers, including Roman Catholics, representatives of many Protestant denominations, and perhaps a very difficult target, gathered. The rabbi immediately took charge and gave out "America," which was heartily sung. This was followed by "The Star-Spangled Banner," and the congregation to join him (in repeating the universal prayer), and led devoutly in the Lord's prayer.

Last of the Monitors. Boston Journal. It is safe to say that the monitor Nevada, launched at Bath on Saturday, will be one of the last vessels of this type to splash into American waters. The Nevada and her three sisters, Florida, Arkansas and Wyoming, were the only monitors of the harbor defense series of the early weeks of the Spanish war, when every port along the coast was threatened by Secretary Root for an armor-clad. These monitors are relatively small, light of draught and cheaply constructed, but they are a very difficult target, and yet mount formidable artillery. But they are unfit to keep the sea. They are being gradually drawn on the spot of cruising squadrons, and they are very uncomfortable and unwholesome as floating homes for their officers and men.

Chicago Evening Post. The newly-discovered "gold field" of Indiana bids fair to do two things—make money for hotel keepers in the vicinity and keep other excitable people from note lucrative operations.