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Legislatures for fifty years have refused to admit the Vincennes University claim—why should this body ignore such an array of precedents?

Under the leadership of Governor Odell the tax rate for State purposes in New York will be reduced one-half, but the grafters are made unhappy.

If those persons who are interested in grafting schemes upon the treasury should leave the lobbies of the Legislature, the State's business could be attended to.

Lieutenant Governor Gilbert may be denounced by a few men, but, all over the State, the people who are not directly interested in the normal school scheme are applauding him.

At the last the opponents of the ship subsidy bill seemed to be the most sorrowful mourners about its deathbed, but they will be more afflicted if the death of the subsidy bill shall lead to the death of the river and harbor bill, as is now predicted.

Representative Bishop says the people are opposed to the bills, "three of a kind," which the Senate has passed, calling for $420,000. There is no doubt of it; but their promoters say by their acts, as the dead Vanderbilt did not say, "the people be ——"

Captain Carter, now in prison at Fort Leavenworth, should make up his mind to serve his sentence. He lost hundreds of thousands of public funds, paying the money to contractors who had not earned it. In view of such facts it is absurd for him to rave about his innocence.

The North American Company, which succeeds the Oregon and Transcontinental, and is controlled by the J. Pierpont Morgan interest, started out by reducing its capital stock from nearly $40,000,000 to $12,000,000. This was done to put the company on a hardpan basis. When such successful managers of large properties wring 70 per cent. of water out of their inflated capitalization, others may well consider the wisdom of like action.

Attention is called to a communication in this issue of the Journal, from Mr. C. W. Edgerton, of Fort Wayne, relative to a pending bill which proposes to legalize all laws and ordinances passed and all acts done by town, township and school officers in Indiana since the year 1881. Mr. Edgerton thinks, and probably with reason, that the real object of the act is concealed under its sweeping phraseology. If there is any particular town or transaction which rightly calls for a legalizing act of this kind, such legislation can be easily and quickly obtained upon a statement of facts to the Legislature, but a sweeping act like the one referred to is so suggestive of some sinister purpose as to call for rigid inquiry.

The position of the President in regard to an extra session of Congress is said to be that if the constitutional convention of Cuba concludes its work and submits it to this government within the next two or three weeks he will call an extra session to consider the situation. The President is right in this position. The question of the present and future relations of the United States to Cuba is one of great importance. The President, under the general war powers of the Constitution, has carried the responsibility alone quite as long as he could be expected to. He has performed his duty well, and accomplished a great and good work in Cuba. Now, the time having come when the people are about to adopt a constitution and define their relations to the United States, it is the duty of Congress to divide the responsibility of the situation with the President. The interests involved are far too important to be subordinate to any question of expense, of personal inconvenience or anything of that kind. Congress has a duty to perform as well as the President, and he should exercise his constitutional power of calling it together to divide with him a responsibility which he has borne alone fully long enough.

It is cause of frequent complaint that the limited sessions of the Legislature are too much devoted to consideration of bills which are not of great public importance, to the neglect of matters which affect the general welfare. It was stated by an official, a few days since, that several measures deemed important by the Board of Tax Commissioners could not be brought to the consideration of the Legislature because so many members were interested in special measures. For instance, a combination in the Senate, as nine-tenths of the intelligent people of the State believe, has pushed through that body the bill creating the Columbus epileptic village, the "moral obligation" bill in favor of Vincennes University and the scheme to create a normal school which is not needed, while measures designed to facilitate the valuation of property and the assessment of taxes, to reduce the cost of school supplies by a state board, to create county boards of education and like measures of public importance must wait. Two-thirds of the session is over, and yet few measures of general importance have received final action in both branches. Such being the case, neither branch can afford to waste time over local and doubtful schemes the general purpose of which is to loot the treasury.

THE PRIMARY ELECTION BILL.

Representative Bishop, of Morgan county, is reported as saying that the House has made a mistake in regard to the primary election bill by limiting its operation to Marion county. When state and county conventions, boards of trade and commercial clubs, and when eight of every ten intelligent citizens who are party men without personal interest in manipulating primaries for revenue are in favor of the measure as presented to the House, it is evident that Mr. Bishop is right in his judgment. Unfortunately, the mass of citizens who desire such legislation have affairs of their own to which they must attend. They have no time in which to persuade legislators that such a law is needed. On the other hand, those who have a personal interest in manipulating primaries are often men who have time to impress their views upon members of the Legislature either personally or by letter. They are in position to speak of such matters as a primary election bill, and very naturally they assume to speak for the party and the public generally.

There is a growing sentiment that the intelligent voters in a party are better qualified to select candidates by voting directly for them in lawfully conducted primaries than are delegates elected, when there is a contest, by men who are coaxed or hired to vote in precinct after precinct, and who often represent their own interests. The mass of voters care very little about the election of precinct committees in legal primary elections, as is proposed by the bill of Senator Joss, but they do desire to have the privilege of going to a primary election held under the forms of law and voting for the men whom they would have for candidates for mayor, councilmen, county officers and even congressmen. In this city and in other cities in Indiana such party voters have no voice and could have no voice in the selection of candidates under the present vicious primary system.

It has been stated as an objection to the Minturn bill that it will involve the county of Marion in an expense equal to that of holding an election. It need not; in fact, the candidates must pay a part of the expense. But if the cost should be equal to that of a regular election, the result would be worth it to those who desire reforms in local government. Nor is it true that a Democratic mayor will appoint the primary election officers in this city, since the bill distinctly provides that these officers shall be elected by the City Council.

THE CONTROL OF THE FITTEST.

The statement of Dr. Lyman Abbott, in a lecture in Boston the past week, that "the barbaric dog has no right to the manger when the Anglo-Saxon ox desires to feed" is likely to call forth indignant protest from those persons who sustain the theory that to hold and use a territory is the inherent right of those who find themselves in possession of it regardless of their misuse of it or unfitness to maintain civilized government. Nevertheless, whatever may be our sentiments as a theoretical quality, the practice of the American people from the earliest settlement until the present time has been to drive the barbaric dog from the manger that the civilized ox may feed. Our policy in this continent towards the Indians, the more it is considered in regard to the well-being of the race, has less ground for criticism. It is absurd to say that a few hundred thousand aborigines had the right to North America when the millions of civilized peoples needed it as an arena for the development of the highest civilization.

Along this same line much is now being said of the sacredness of the sovereignty of the people of Cuba and the Philippines over the territory they occupy. There are those who boldly declare that we must recognize and respect the sovereignty of the people of Cuba to establish independent government, no matter if instead of stable government revolutions should take the place of elections. Sovereignty, unless the exercise of it by the ruling power insures the liberty and security of the individual, is an evil rather than a good. Spain exercised the right of sovereignty over Cuba, but its exercise was so unjust to the Cubans and so troublesome to the United States that Congress destroyed it by making war upon Spain. Suppose, as seems probable, that the Cubans are incapable of maintaining a stable government that will give the people security and protect the material interests in the island, is the United States to permit Cuba to become another Santo Domingo or Colombia simply because of sentimental scruples about the sacredness of sovereignty as applied to that people?

It is said that the peace of Europe is the law of Europe. Certainly, sovereignty does not hinder the combined powers of Europe from checking sovereign governments or nations in their designs. Victorious Russia was compelled by the powers to stop at the doors of Constantinople and agree to a treaty not to make a separate treaty with Turkey. The Crimean war was fought and the treaty of Paris made to deny Russia the right to make separate arrangements with Turkey and the Balkan states. Sovereign Turkey, only a few years ago, was compelled by the decree of the powers to desist in the purpose to conquer Greece and place hard conditions upon that government. To-day, by an avowal of the Monroe doctrine, the United States has practically made itself the protector of the sovereignty of the nations in this hemisphere by warning Europe that it cannot take the territory of any of them. Thus we have assumed, and Europe has admitted, the primacy of the United States in the new world. The same conditions should obtain here as in Europe: peace should be the law of the new world. For that reason, Cuba, to which the United States has given sovereignty, can have no right to assume an independence which will involve the island in revolutions or in intrigues with Europe. Under the name of sovereignty we cannot permit Cuba to assume the powers which belong to a great nation, thus bankrupting its people and probably involving it in war. It must stand in the same relation to the United States that Belgium, a minor nation, holds to the European powers. Belgium is sovereign and independent, but its neutrality and protection are guaranteed by Great Britain. The United States cannot consent to see Cuba involved in a war with a European power, because it would end in the island passing under foreign control in violation of the Monroe doctrine and in disregard of our interests. For the peace of America and in recognition of the independence which is the gift of this people, as well as for the well-being of the Cubans, the United States should insist upon a recognition of rights which we cannot waive and of common interests which Cuba cannot ignore.

A WARNING TO CONGRESS.

Senators Hale and Lodge deserve credit for the strong and earnest protests they made on Thursday against the steady increase in appropriations by Congress. A Republican Congress need not pay much attention to such protests by Democratic members, for they are actuated by insincere and unfriendly motives, but when they come from honored leaders of the party and from the party press it is time to heed the warning. Congress should not deceive itself. The people are not indifferent to their own interests nor to the acts of their representatives. They know this is a great country and they favor liberal provision for the support of the government and all necessary expenditures, but they are getting alarmed at the steady and progressive increase of appropriations and are demanding that Congress call a halt. It has gone too far already, and should go backward instead of forward on the same line. The increase in public expenditures during the last quarter of a century has been out of all proportion to the legitimate needs of the government. The amounts carried by the appropriation bills have increased by leaps and bounds until the total has reached a really alarming figure.

What are we going to do about it? The thing for Congress to do is to call a halt and substitute a policy of retrenchment for the prevailing one of extravagance. "We are rushing along," said Senator Lodge, "to the billion dollar mark in our appropriations, and we have got to draw the line." Senator Hale warned Congress against piling up extravagant appropriations and said: "When the people once realize the situation, those who are responsible for these expenditures will call upon the rocks and mountains to hide them from the wrath of the people." These are not the vaporings of Democratic politicians; they are the honest warnings of trusted Republican leaders. The Journal repeats and emphasizes them. It is time for Congress not only to call a halt, but to inaugurate a policy of severe retrenchment.

The Russian tariff edict relative to American products does not necessarily foreshadow ill feeling between the two countries, but it may mark the beginning of a tariff war and perhaps of strained trade relations. The edict is evidently intended as retaliation for the decision of the secretary of the treasury imposing double duty on sugar imported from Russia under the provision of the tariff law which requires that to be done on sugar imported from any country that pays a bounty for its exportation. There seems to be involved a question of fact whether Russia really does pay an export bounty on sugar. However, the imposition of the extra duty on our part is promptly followed by an increase of 50 per cent. in the duties on a large line of American manufactures imported into Russia, including steam pumps, machine tools, steam engines, bicycles, dynamos, sewing machines, etc. Our exports to Russia in these lines have increased very rapidly during the last few years and now constitute a large item in our foreign trade. The matter is of sufficient importance to justify prompt investigation, with a view, if possible, to early adjustment.

A bill which ought not to have passed the Senate, and which should be killed in the House, is Senate bill No. 84, providing that a person who has been convicted and sentenced under a criminal charge may be released on bail pending an appeal to the Supreme Court. The effect of the passage of this bill would be to multiply the delays and uncertainties of the law and to increase the chances, already too numerous, for criminals to escape justice. As the law now stands an appeal to the Supreme Court does not stay the execution of the sentence in a criminal case, except where the punishment is to be death. The Wood bill would practically stay execution of sentence in all cases where the punishment is imprisonment by admitting the defendant to give bail. The effect would be to encourage crime by adding to the avenues of escape and to promote appeals to the Supreme Court for the sole purpose of hindering and defeating justice. The administration of criminal law is lax enough already without still further weakening it by legislation in the interest of criminals.

As a rule very little reliance is placed upon the complaints of persons who have been dismissed from positions made against those who have dispensed with their services. Now and then there is an exception, but it is as rare as any exception to a general rule. When not made for political considerations it is fair to assume that subordinates are removed because of their inefficiency, since under nonpartisan administration it is not probable that the official responsible for administration would discharge a subordinate who had proved himself to be competent and faithful. Out of position, such men naturally nurse their removal as a grievance and often seek revenge. Even if truthful, little matters are magnified, and, if untruthful, as unfaithful men usually are, they make stories to the injury of the official with whom they desire to get even.

INDIANA EDITORIAL NOTES.

In one respect this will be a better year than 1900. Bryan will not be nominated at Kansas City this year.—Rockport Journal.

Mrs. Carrie Chapman Catt, who is talking so loudly about women being under the iron heel of man, should be told that most men wear rubber heels nowadays.—Plainfield Progress.

The conviction of George Ray, of Shelbyville, for fraud and general boodling, is only an example of what might be done in several communities where political sentiment is one-sided.—Richmond Item.

If the Muncie normal school is such a fine thing it is wondered why the people of that enterprising city do not try to keep it instead of shoving it off on the State to maintain. The State already has enough of such State institutions, and there is no good reason why it should assume the responsibility for the support of the Muncie normal. The bill should be killed by the Legislature.—Logansport Journal.

Logansport is the latest city to take up the fight against the use of trading stamps. Let the good work proceed. Nine-tenths of the concerns in the stamp business are irresponsible, and do not redeem their pledges.—Goshen Times.

In Iowa 137 new banks were organized last year, and yet Iowa is not the stamping ground of the bloated capitalist. It is a State of small cities and a great agricultural industry, where the farmers think it is better to use the banks than to abuse them.—Terre Haute Express.

Kansas people may select one of three courses. They may enforce the prohibition law; they may repeal it, or, they may continue their public confession that they are and have been since 1880 the most untruthful and hypocritical gang that ever claimed relationship with the American people.—Lafayette Journal.

President McKinley is right in his contention that to Congress belongs the duty of deciding when our authority shall be withdrawn from Cuba. It was Congress that ordered the war with Spain, to end the deplorable conditions in Cuba, and it should be the same authority that passes on the Cuban constitution.—Vincennes Commercial.

Indiana to-day mourns by the earthly tabernacle of one who, by the development of the rare genius with which he was endowed, won for himself fame in the world of letters and added lustre to the name of the State of his choice. Maurice Thompson is dead in the flesh, but in his "Alice of Old Vincennes," and his other works, which have delighted thousands, he will live forever.—Anderson Bulletin.

There's a law-abiding saloon keeper over in Greencastle. A band of Carrie-Nationesque good women invaded his place of business and began to sing hymns. He courteously called their attention to the fact that they were violating the Nicholson law and politely informed them that he was compelled to prohibit their vocal demonstration. Naturally the ladies were much astonished at this reproof, but they graciously obeyed the saloon keeper and the law.—Muncie News.

FROM HITHER AND YON.

An Ominous Choice.

Cleveland Plain Dealer.

"Jim, the bartender, must be going out of business."

"What makes you think so?"

"He's just gone and married a woman with a hatchet face."

Partially Correct Diagnosis.

Chicago Tribune.

"I don't like your heart action," the doctor said, applying the stethoscope again. "You have had some trouble with angina pectoris."

"You're partly right, doctor," sheepishly answered the young man. "Only that ain't her name."

How Truth Got in the Well.

Chicago Times-Herald.

"Pa," asked little Georgie, "how did truth get into the well?"

"Oh, I dunno," his pa replied, "unless she was thrown in by some fellow who was expecting a visit from the tax assessor. Now keep quiet; I want to read about Mrs. Nation."

Infantile Pessimism.

Puck.

Aunt Emma—Well, Mary, I haven't seen you for a long time. I hear that you have a little sister at your house. I suppose she cries sometimes.

Little Mary—Cries? Well, I should say she does! Why, I never saw any one that appeared to look on the dark side of things as she does!

Immersion.

Detroit Journal.

"Go bury thy sorrow!" said I.

The man bowed his head and went his way. That night I came upon him drinking heavily.

"Is this the way you bury your sorrow?" I said.

"Hush! this is a burial at sea!" said the man, with a bitter, haunting smile.

I felt much pity for him, hereupon, and would have had something had he asked me.

DENIED BY ROOSEVELT

SENSATIONAL STORIES ABOUT HIS ADVENTURES ARE ALL FAKES.

Written by Persons Who Were Not Within Hundreds of Miles of Him—Saw No Bears or Wolves.

COLORADO SPRINGS, Col., Feb. 17.—Governor Roosevelt was in Colorado Springs to-day, the guest of P. B. Stewart, who was one of the members of the hunting party in Rio Blanco county during the first three weeks of the hunting. Governor Roosevelt is in the most excellent health and spirits, and will return to the East in perfect condition for the arduous duties upon which he is to enter so soon. His time until the inauguration will be taken up with attending to his vast correspondence, the accumulation of six weeks. A public reception will be tendered him in this city to-morrow afternoon at 5 o'clock. He expressed the desire that nothing in the nature of a banquet be held, and the reception will be simply a public informal handshaking occasion, granted to the people of Colorado Springs by the Vice President-elect because of the extremely friendly feeling that has sprung up between them. Governor Roosevelt is much annoyed over the hair-raising stories that have been circulated concerning his hunting experiences. To a representative of the Associated Press he gave the following statement to-day:

"No correspondent of any newspaper, no man who wrote to, or gave any information to any newspaper, was within forty miles of where I was hunting at any time during the five weeks I was out. The sensational stories, such as those describing adventures with bears and wolves, were deliberate and willful fabrications, and, I understand, were written by men who were not within hundreds of miles of where I was. We did not see a bear or wolf on the entire trip. Aside from lynx and smaller game our hunting was confined to hunting the so-called mountain lions or panthers. I got twelve of them. I never enjoyed a holiday more. I have never been out with a better hunter than John Goff. His hounds are, without exception, the best I have ever seen for the work.

"As I am obliged to go East in view of the nearness of the inauguration, I am, much to my regret, unable to address the State Legislature. I cannot sufficiently express my appreciation of the generous courtesy and hospitality with which I have been treated in Colorado, and I shall eagerly hail the first chance to again come to this State."

NEED A STRONG NAVY.

Views of Gen. Fitzhugh Lee, Who May Be Soon Retired.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., Feb. 17.—Colonel Fitzhugh Lee, talking to the Kansas City Military Order of the Loyal Legion, at a dinner at the Coates House, held in memory of the anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine, said: "The American navy is a pride to the Nation, and it should be looked after, for it will be of importance if ever there should be a war with a foreign nation in the future. No nation could send an army to this country and be successful. And we want a navy that will be a defense as sure and strong."

Anent his appointment as brigadier general in the regular army and the report that he would be retired in the near future, General Lee said: "How long do I expect to remain in the active service? It may be for a year and it may be forever," and then he added, seriously, that next summer probably would be a little more definite. Mrs. Lee and her daughter accompanied the general here, and left today for Huachuca, A. T., where Mrs. Lee goes for her health. General Lee returned to Omaha.

RECENT PUBLICATIONS.

Paris.

Grant Allen, who died recently, probably was the most versatile English writer of the last decade. He knew how to write delightful, clean fiction; his short stories were always entertaining, his sketches never lacked interest and usually impressed the reader with the belief that they were true word pictures of what the writer saw and heard; his natural history articles showed he was a thorough student of biology, and his work entitled "Paris" (printed in two volumes) proved he had a marvelous knowledge of the churches, art galleries and other places of interest in the French metropolis. In fact, if he had written nothing else, "Paris" would have kept his name long in memory after his death. The work is not a guide book; there is nothing in it that savors of Baedeker. If might properly be called "an expert review of the many works of art to be found in Paris," but it is really more than a mere review; it is critical, technical and descriptive. Mr. Allen spent thirty-five years in foreign travel, and much of this time was devoted to studying the architecture, sculpture, painting and minor arts of the countries he visited. He was therefore well qualified to judge good from bad, and his conclusions should have greater weight than the hastily-formed opinions of many so-called critics. Mr. Allen, in his preface, disclaimed any pretense of posing as a connoisseur or an art critic, but the reader of his work will say he was both, and that he was too modest to claim genius in either line.

The first volume tells of the origin of Paris (old and new), the Ile de la Cite, the Palais de Justice, the Sainte Chapelle, Notre Dame, the Roman Palace, the Musee de Cluny, the hill of Ste. Genevieve, the Louvre, the Salle des Primitifs, the Salle Duchatel, the Salon Caree, the Long Gallery, the German, English and French schools, and hints on the paintings on the Louvre. The second volume treats of the Madonnas in the Louvre, tells how to study the paintings in the Louvre, describes and explains the various collections of sculpture—classical, Renaissance and modern—and has chapters on the modern city, the great boulevards, the Faubourg St. Germain, and St. Denis, with a "conclusion devoted to places of historic interest outside the great city."

No city in the world has furnished more material for history than Paris. There is something of globe-wide interest in every church and public building, and each notable painting is either founded on an historic incident or is a part of history itself. All this has been explained by Mr. Allen, who said, in describing his method: "A church, as a rule, is built over the body of relics of a particular saint, in whose special honor it was originally erected. That saint was usually one of great local importance at the moment of its erection, or was peculiarly implored against plague, foreign enemies or some other pressing or dreaded misfortune. In dealing with such a church, then, I endeavor to show what were the circumstances which led to its erection, and what memorials of these circumstances it still retains. In other cases it may derive its origin from some special monastic body. * * * Whenever I have to deal with such a church I try as far as possible to exhibit the effects which its origin had on its architecture and decoration, to trace the image of the patron saint in sculpture or stained glass throughout the fabric, and to set forth the connection of the whole design with time and place, with order and purpose."

Concerning paintings its author said he intended his work to be mainly historical, antiquarian and, above all, explanatory. His criticisms are those of the most authoritative experts. What he aimed at, he said, was "to put the intelligent reader in such a position that he may judge for himself of the aesthetic beauty and success of the object before him. To recognize the fact that this is a Perseus and Andromeda, that a St. Barbara enthroned, the other an obscure episode in the legend of St. Philip, is not art criticism, but it is often an almost indispensable prelude to the formation of a right and sound judgment. We must know what the artist was trying to represent before we can feel sure what measure of success he has attained in his representation."

The books will prove of great value to tourists who wish to "do" Paris in a few weeks, and they also will be found interesting to people who never expect to cross the sea, but who desire to know something about the greatest art treasure city in the world. Both volumes are generously illustrated. L. C. Page & Co., Boston.

Farmer Brown and the Birds.

Under this title Frances M. Fox tells a story which is at once original, instructive and charming. It is a story with a purpose, the purpose being to show what good friends of man birds are and how poorly their friendship and services are repaid. The plan of the story is simple and unique. Farmer Brown, a really kind-hearted and good-natured farmer, shoots at a pilfering crow and accidentally kills a wren. The birds regard it as a causeless murder and court is convened to try the farmer for the crime. All the birds are given names and personalities. The bluejay, the meadow lark, the robin, the brown thrush, the bluebird, the oriole and many others attend the court. The court consisted of a long-eared owl as justice of the peace, a hawk owl as associate judge and five other owls as a court of appeals. The bluejay acted as prosecuting attorney and the sparrow hawk was appointed to defend farmer Brown. The raven acted as sheriff. Twelve common birds were impaneled as a jury. Many witnesses were examined, including Jim Crow, who gave his address as "tenth story, room number 15, Pine Grove avenue," and his occupation as "state food inspector." The kingbird gave his occupation as inspector of bee hives. The song sparrow lived in dry grass cottage, on meadow path, and belonged to a concert company. The oriole lived in swinging-cradle cottage, Branch street, near the cornfield. The meadow lark said: "They call me professor of entomology, and my home is arched cottage, on Grass lane." Many other witnesses were examined, some testifying for and some against farmer Brown. He was finally found guilty and sentenced to have his eyes pecked out. Sparrow Hawk, his counsel, appealed, and the court of appeals, consisting of Justice Great Horned Owl and Associate Justices Barn Owl, Barred Owl, Acadian Owl and Screech Owl affirmed the verdict and sentence. Then Sparrow Hawk appealed to the eagle, king of all the birds. The eagle commmuted the sentence to an order that on a certain day all birds of every kind, character and description should leave farmer Brown's farm and appear there no more. The carrying out of this order caused the farmer's crops to become a prey to bugs, worms, grasshoppers and insects and he was almost ruined. Finally he died and the birds sang above his grave. Then the eagle revoked his order, the birds all returned to the Brown farm and it prospered again. This simple story is told in a quaint, humorous style and equally well calculated to interest adult and young readers. No prettier plea for birds has been written. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

The Furniture of Our Forefathers.

This is a timely book because it throws light on a subject in which many persons are interested. Whatever throws light on the domestic life, everyday habits and home environments of other times is of true value, and if it relates to our ancestors it has personal interest. This book by Esther Singleton presents for the first time a clear and comprehensive account for the amateur of the different styles—the Puritan, home-made things, the quaint Dutch belongings, the rich furnishings of the Southern colonial mansions—the ways of telling genuine things, historical associations of special pieces, technical details, values and marks, and much other unwritten lore relating to the furniture used by our ancestors. Before writing the book the author traveled through the New England, middle and Southern States, and in many places had reproduced for the first time notable pieces of furniture, some of which have peculiar historical or personal associations. Some of the illustrations, which are numerous, are very beautiful, representing pieces of furniture that range all the way from plain and simple to massive, gorgeous and unique. Then there are descriptive chapters on beds, carpets, glass, parlor furniture, chamber furniture, kitchen utensils, cabinets, chests, chairs, etc., all of which are illustrated. The work, which in its complete form will make a large and sumptuous book, will be issued in eight parts, each containing thirty or forty illustrations done in the finest style of modern art. Part I, which is at hand, is devoted to "Virginia and the South, Seventeenth Century; Carved Oak and Walnut." Part II will treat of "Philadelphia and the South in the Eighteenth Century," and so on. New York: Doubleday, Page & Co.

The Binks Family.

A subtitle of this story by John Strange Winter designates it as "The Story of a Social Revolution." It depicts also a social revolution. The Binks family is a typical English one of the middle class, the head of the family being a sort of "hustler" who begins as a milkman, then becomes a dairyman and owner of cows, finally a property owner and quite a well-to-do person. He is, withal, a good-hearted, manly sort of man, and his wife is a true helpmeet and good woman. Their daughters are good girls and pretty, though reared in an atmosphere of milk cows. The story, which purports to be related by one of the daughters, tells in an innocent, artless way how the family gradually rose in the social scale through various degrees of honest vulgarity until they reached a point where they were able to live in a handsome country place, where they supported the local charities, subscribed to the hunt, etc. Finally, the girls are married off well, one of them to a rich banker, and the story ends happily. As a social study and picture of English middle life it is interesting. New York: G. W. Dillingham Company.

The Fourth Generation.

In the preface of this book Sir Walter Besant says in regard to the text on which this story is founded: "Visiting the iniquity of the fathers unto the third and fourth generation"—that here is a question which has never been fully answered. "Every man must find his own answer, or must acknowledge sorrowfully that he can find none. I venture to offer in these pages an answer that satisfies myself. It substitutes consequence for punishment, and puts effect that follows cause in place of penalties." The hero of this story, Leonard Campaigne, already an M. P., has been brought up in entire ignorance of the various misfortunes and crimes which have occurred in his family for the last three generations. This knowledge comes to him in a perfect avalanche after one of his dutiful visits to his enigmatical great-grandfather, who has lived for over seventy years without speaking to a living soul. The story is ingenious, and it is not necessary to add that it is well told; it has also a brevity in argument and detail the lack of which in some of his earlier stories make the author's books somewhat wearisome. Published by the Frederick A. Stokes Company, New York.

The Human Hair.

This is believed to be the only book devoted exclusively to the subject indicated in the title which treats it at all completely. The object of the work is to present to the public, in easily intelligible form, all the facts of any importance concerning the human hair, and particularly those which pertain to the cause, prevention and cure of the conditions and diseases which result in injury to and often total loss of it. With this idea the author gives in nontechnical language a large amount of practical information on the lines indicated. The book possesses interest for every person concerned in the cure of hair diseases, or in the care and preservation of the hair, and the chapters relating to the arrangement and care of ladies' hair and to hair dyeing and bleaching are of special interest to women. The author, J. R. Stitson, is evidently an expert in every phase of the subject. New York: The Maple Publishing Company.

The Laborer and His Hire.

This work treats of the ever live and ever perplexing question of the relation between capital and labor and the resultant questions of wages, supply and demand, distribution, etc. It is an earnest and honest attempt to reconstruct some of the accepted principles of political economy and make a practical application of them to existing conditions. The author, I. M. Shanklin, makes no concealment of the fact that his sympathies are entirely with the wage earners, as is natural, he having for many years belonged to that class himself. The book is a strong plea for justice to labor and laborers, and for a practical remedy for the hardships to which they are subjected under the present order of things. Washington: The Neale Company.

Musical Studies and Silhouettes.

In this work students and lovers of music will find the divine art treated from a high point of view. It treats of the philosophy rather than the technique of music and seeks to present the sociological element in the nature, story and effects of the art of melody. The line of treatment may be inferred from the chapter headings, which are "Sociology in Music," "Realism and Idealism in Music," "Beethoven and His Nine Symphonies," "Italian Music and the Last Two Operas of Verdi," "Three Symbolic Operas," "The Italian Sources of the 'Orpheus' of Gluck," "The Exotic in Music," "Silhouettes of Musicians." The book is translated from the French of Camille Bellaigne, and published by Dodd, Mead & Co.

The Love of Landry.

Not content with the laurels won as a writer of verse, Paul Lawrence Dunbar presents a second novel to the world which he calls "The Love of Landry." It is a love story which grows and blossoms on a Western ranch. The heroine is a New York girl whose physician has ordered the Western climate and out-of-door life for her health, and comes West, where she meets the hero, a somewhat quixotic but entirely likable young man, who has come to work on the ranch, of which he is part owner. The story is prettily told and quite readable, though Mr. Dunbar is evidently more of a poet than a novelist. Published by Dodd, Mead & Co., New York.

Gwynett of Thornhaugh.

This novel, by Frederick W. Hayes, is a sort of sequel to "A Kent Squire," by the same author, in that it begins where the other left off and details a succession of dramatic events that grew out of a certain alleged royal intrigue. The scene of the story is laid in the early part of the eighteenth century, shifting from England to the continent, and it introduces some historic characters of the period. The plot is mysterious and complicated enough to excite the interest of the reader, and the story is full of romantic and stirring adventure. New York: The F. M. Lupton Publishing Company.

The Soul of the Street.

The half dozen stories by Norman Duncan which form this volume have a distinctly original touch in them. They relate to the Syrian quarter in New York, a locality little known, and introduce some interesting Oriental characters and phases of life. There is a queer commingling of Oriental and American atmosphere in the stories, and an equally odd mixture of tragedy and comedy that gives them a peculiar sort of interest. New York: McClure, Phillips & Co.

His Lordship's Puppy.

This is a pretty story for very young readers, its two heroes being a sweet baby boy and an equally sweet puppy dog, of which he became the delighted possessor. At first the puppy belonged to a titled nobleman, but he was so mischievous that he had to be given away, and it was his good fortune to fall into the hands of a little master who appreciated him. The story discloses a sympathetic feeling for dogs as well as for children. Philadelphia: The Penn Publishing Company.

The Road to Nowhere.

The author of this very entertaining and unique child's book, Livingston B. Morse, dedicates it to "Alice in Wonderland," and, indeed, "The Road to Nowhere" is a story of somewhat the same type. The talking animals and human flowers are very cleverly illustrated by Edna Morse. It is a book children will love and "grown ups" will like to read to them. Published by Harper & Brothers, New York.

On Life's Stairway.

Mr. Frederic Laurence Knowles, author of this volume of verse, is well known in the literary world, both by his own name and by a pseudonym. He has done some good editorial work and written excellent short poems. This volume contains nearly a hundred, abounding with fine thoughts poetically expressed. Boston: L. C. Page & Co.

Through Old Rose Glasses.

"Through Old Rose Glasses" is the title of an entertaining collection of short stories by Mary Tracy Earle. Most of the events are enacted in Virginia, and the chivalrous devotion of the Southern gentleman to the women he knows and loves is well depicted. The book contains eight tales and is published by Houghton, Mifflin & Co., Boston.

Current Periodicals.

"The German Idea of a Gentleman" is the title of a short paper in the International Magazine (Chicago) for February, by Carina Campbell Eaglesfield. What she has to say is of interest as bearing on the influences of men's minds and characters of their environment and political life.

The American Kitchen Magazine, published in Boston, and of which Mrs. Mary J. Lincoln, a teacher of cookery, is one of the editors, is a practical little periodical, and contains much matter relating to domestic affairs which cannot fail to be of use even to the experienced housekeeper.

Brush and Pencil, the Chicago art magazine, improves with each issue, and is taking a place among the leading periodicals of its class. The current issue contains a number of most pleasing illustrations. The editor, Frederick W. Morton, is the author of an illustrated paper treating of Charles Dana Gibson and his art.

The opening number for the new year of Poet-Lore (quarterly) opens with a tale in verse, "The Chariot of Fire," by James Edgar Smith. This is followed by a short play in four acts, by N. H. Musselman. It contains much conversation and not much action. There are essays on "Poetic Interpretation of Nature," "Early Colonial Poets," "Shakspeare's Fidelity to History" and "Santayena on Browning." The study programme relates to "Macbeth." Among the reviews, is one of American poetry of the past year.

The Bookman for February contains nothing of especial interest, perhaps because there is a lull in literary activity and writers are lying quiet waiting on their publishers, or looking for inspiration to renewed efforts. There is a good deal of gossip about authors and their plans—Mrs. Atherton, Winston Churchill, Conan Doyle, Grace Denio Litchfield and others. Among the books reviewed are Marion Crawford's "Rulers of the South," Mrs. Steel's "The Hosts of the Lord," Lafcadio Hearn's "Shadowings," Norman Duncan's "The Soul of the Street" and H. S. Merriman's "Isle of Unrest."

Everybody's Magazine has begun an interesting series of articles telling the experience of a young New Yorker, who decided to move out of the city and make a permanent country home. Among other features of the number is a paper on "The Government of a Great City," by Bird S. Coler, controller of New York city. Literature about animals being in order, A. R. Dunmore contributes to it something a little out of the common, being a study of the habits and characteristics of a beaver in confinement at the Washington National Zoological Garden. In "Photography as a Fine Art," the progress made in the art is traced.

In its new shape the Literary Era (Henry T. Coates & Co., Philadelphia), promises to take a leading place among the periodicals dealing with books, their makers and literary topics generally. William S. Walsh has in the February issue a paper on "Chap Books and Chappie Books," under which latter appropriate title he classes such publications as "The Philistine." Mr. Elbert Hubbard will not like this. True to the instincts of its Philadelphia editors, the magazine departs somewhat from the strictly literary field and conducts a genealogical department. It is edited by Thomas Allen Glenn, and is at present dealing with Welsh ancestry.

Le Modes is a new monthly fashion magazine, published in Paris and handled in this country by Manzi, Joyant & Co., 176 Fifth avenue, New York. Its text is entirely in French. Its costume plates and illustrations, some of them in color, are much superior in artistic merit to those found in most periodicals of the class. It is of the same size and elaborate make-up as Le Theatre, including colored plates and a cover in colors. Each number will contain a summary of fashionable events, articles on the painters of woman, accessories to the toilet, interior furnishings and decoration, together with a full review of the fashions and sports and outdoor pastimes.

M. De Witte, Russian minister of finance, suddenly become an object of interest to Americans, will be the subject of a paper by Henry Norman in the forthcoming issue of Scribner's Magazine. De Witte is regarded as the most powerful political man in the empire. Mr. Norman has recently returned from a visit to St. Petersburg, and writes of existing conditions. The new economic and industrial Russia is a creation of this man, and a recent dispatch says: "His love of peace, his determination to develop Russia's internal resources, and his pronounced American sympathies are sufficient reasons why the world, and especially America, should congratulate Russia." More recent dispatches indicate that his love for America will not be allowed by him to stand in the way of Russia's interests.

Pearson's Magazine for March opens with an illustrated article showing the curious shapes taken by water when thrown from a bucket to the ground. The eye hardly realizes these forms and their variety, so quickly do they pass, but they are caught by the camera. "Wheeling on the Bottom of the Sea" is the title of an article by C. M. McGovern, which professes to give an account of a tour of a submarine boat in the neighborhood of New York. It sounds as if the author had allowed his imagination free scope, and the reader is left in doubt as to whether the bo