ANNUNCIATION LEGENDS

TRADITIONS RELATING TO THE MIRACULOUS BIRTH OF CHRIST.

The Virgin Mary's Early Life and the Fanciful Tales Connected with Her Name—Coming of the Angel.

March 25 is the festival of the Annunciation, widely observed throughout the Christian world. I give below the apocrypal and legendary story of this event, which greatly amplifies the details furnished in the New Testament. My narrative begins at the time when Mary, having been reared from infancy in the temple at Jerusalem, had reached the age of fourteen years. Most of this matter is taken from the well-known apocryphal gospels, but some of it comes from legendary sources that are not so accessible.

Now, Mary had reached her fourteenth year, and not only were the wicked unable to charge her with anything worthy of reproach, but all good men who knew her life and conversation judged her to be worthy of admiration. But on account of her age there was occasion for the Pharisees to say that it was not the custom for a woman of her maturity to abide in the temple of God. Then the high priest publicly announced that the virgins who were settled in the temple and had reached this time of life should return home and seek to be married, according to the custom of the nation and the ripeness of their years.

The others readily obeyed this command, but Mary alone, the virgin of the Lord, answered that she could not do so, saying both that her parents had devoted her to the service of the Lord and that, moreover, she herself had made to the Lord a vow of virginity, which she would never violate.

The high priest, then, being placed in great perplexity of mind, seeing that neither did he think that the vow should be broken contrary to the scripture, which says, "Vow and pay," nor did he dare to introduce a custom unknown to the nation, gave order that at the festival, which was at hand, all the chief persons from Jerusalem and the neighborhood should be present, in order that from their advice he might know what was to be done in so doubtful a case. So they fell upon the plan of sending heralds through all the tribes of Israel, that all might come together unto the temple of the Lord. Then the heralds went out, the trumpet of the Lord sounded and all the people ran together. And Joseph the carpenter, of the house and family of David, also cast down his axe, and went out to meet the heralds.

THE ELDERLY JOSEPH.

Now this man, a native of Bethlehem, was well furnished with wisdom and learning, and had been made a priest in the temple of God. When he was forty years old, after the manner of all men, he married a wife. And she bare him four sons whose names were Judas, Justus, James and Simon; and two daughters named Assia and Lydia. And after forty-nine years under his care, Joseph's wife, a woman intent on the divine glory in all her works, departed this life even as it is appointed unto all men, leaving James still little. But Joseph, who was a righteous man, glorifying God in all things, went away with two of his sons, working at his trade of carpentry at which he was skillful, and living by the work of his hands, according to the law of Moses. And he had now for a year been a widower.

When, now, all the people had come together, the high priest rose and mounted on a higher step that he might be seen and heard by all; and when great silence had been attained he said: "Hear me, O sons of Israel, and receive my words into your ears. Ever since this temple was built by Solomon there have been in it virgins, the daughters of kings and the daughters of prophets and of high priests; and they were great and worthy of admiration. But when they came to the proper age they were given in marriage and followed the course of their mothers before them and were pleasing to God. But a new order of life hath been found out by Mary alone, who promises that she will remain a virgin to God. Wherefore it seems to me that through our inquiry and the answer of God we should try to ascertain to whose keeping she ought to be entrusted." Then these words found favor with all the assemblage.

And there was also held a council of the priests, saying, "Behold, Mary hath reached the age of fourteen years in the temple of the Lord. What, then, shall we do with her, lest perchance she defile the sanctuary of the Lord?" And when this took place they resolved unanimously that the Lord should be consulted upon this matter. And they said to the high priest, "Thou standest by the altar of the Lord; go in, and pray concerning her; and whatever the Lord shall manifest unto thee that also will we do." And when they all bowed themselves in prayer the high priest went in to consult God in the usual way, taking the robe with the twelve bells into the holy of holies, and he prayer concerning her.

PROPHECY FULFILLED.

Nor had they long to wait. In the hearing of all a voice issued from the oracle and from the mercy seat that, according to the prophecy of Isaiah, a man should be sought out to whom the virgin ought to be intrusted and espoused. And behold, an angel of the Lord stood by the high priest, saying unto him: "Zacharias, Zacharias, go out and assemble the people, and let them bring each his rod. And to whomsoever the Lord shall show a sign his wife shall she be." For it is clear that Isaiah saith: "A rod shall come forth from the root of Jesse, and a flower shall ascend from his foot; and the spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him, the spirit of wisdom and understanding, the spirit of counsel and strength, the spirit of wisdom and piety, and he shall be filled with the spirit of the fear of the Lord." According to this prophecy, therefore, he predicted that all of the house of David that were unmarried and fit for marriage should bring their rods to the altar; and that he whose rod, after it was brought, should produce a flower, and upon the end of whose rod the spirit of the Lord should settle in the form of a dove, was the man to whom the virgin ought to be intrusted and espoused.

Then lots were cast by the priests upon the twelve tribes, and the lot fell upon the tribe of Judah. And the priest said: "To-morrow let every one who hath no wife come and bring a rod in his hand." And the rods, having been handed over to the high priest on the morrow, he offered a sacrifice to the Lord God and inquired of Him. And the Lord said unto him: "Put all their rods into the holy of holies of God and let them remain there, and order them to come to thee on the morrow to get back their rods." Now, when all brought their rods, according to the order, Joseph also brought his, along with the younger men.

Now Joseph's rod was a short one, but it had had a wonderful history. God made it on the sixth day of creation, and upon it was engraven His ineffable name. Adam received it from his son Seth, who brought it out of Paradise, and from him it descended to Enoch, to Noah, to Shem, to Abraham, Isaac and Jacob. Jacob took it down into Egypt, where before his death he gave it to his son Joseph. When after Joseph's death the lords of Egypt spoiled his goods they carried away the rod to Pharaoh's palace, where it came into the hands of Raguel, a magician, who carried it into the land of Midian and planted it there in his garden. No one was able to come near it until Moses came, who read the letters that were upon it and immediately pulled it up. When Jethro saw this he said, "This is the man who shall deliver Israel from Egypt;" and on this account he gave Moses his daughter Zipporah to wife. With this staff Moses kept Jethro's flock forty years and not a single animal was injured by wild beasts. With it later Moses also performed his wonders and finally gave it to Aaron. David received it for a scepter, and the prophets sing of the root of Jesse, until it finally came to Joseph and the Messiah.

HIGH PRIEST'S TEST.

On the following day, then, all having assembled early, and an incense offering having been made, the high priest went into the holy of holies and brought forth the rods. And when he had distributed the rods but the dove came forth out of none of them, the high priest thought it necessary to consult God a second time, so he put on the twelve bells and the sacerdotal robe, and entering into the holy of holies, he there made a burnt-offering and poured forth a prayer. And an angel of God appeared, saying: "There is here a very short rod which thou hast counted for nothing and hast placed it with the rest, but hast not taken it out with the rest; when thou hast taken that out and given it to him to whom it belongeth, there shall appear in it the sign which I have spoken to thee of." It was the rod of Joseph, and because he was old he was, as it were, discarded, as though he could not receive it; but neither would he himself ask for his rod. And when he stood humble and the last, the chief priest, with a loud voice cried to him, saying, "Come, Joseph, and receive thy rod, because thou art waited for." And Joseph came, fearing, because the high priest called for him with so very loud a voice. But as soon as he stretched forth his hand to receive his rod, immediately from the top of it came forth a dove, whiter than snow and most beautiful, which, after resting upon the head of Joseph and fluttering a long time among the pinnacles of the temple, at length flew toward the heavens.

And the priest said to Joseph, "Thou hast been allotted to receive the virgin of the Lord to keep with thyself." And all the people congratulated the old man, saying, "Thou hast been made blessed in thine old age, father Joseph, seeing that God hath shown thee to be fit to receive Mary." And the priest having said to him, "Take her, because of all the tribe of Judah thou alone hast been chosen by God," Joseph began bashfully to address him saying, "I am an old man, and have children; why hand ye over to me this infant, who is younger than my grandsons? I am afraid lest I become a laughing stock to the sons of Israel." And the priest said to Joseph, "Fear the Lord thy God and remember what the Lord did to Dathan and Abiram and Korah; how the earth opened, and they were swallowed up because they despised the will of God. So will it happen to thee, if thou despise this which is commanded thee by God."

A GUARDIAN TO HER.

Then Joseph answered the priest, "I indeed despise not the will of God; but I shall be her guardian until I can ascertain concerning the will of God, as to which of my sons can have her to wife. Let some virgins of her companions, with whom she may meanwhile spend her time, be given for a consolation to her." The high priest answered, and said, "Five virgins, indeed, shall be given her for consolation, until the appointed day come in which thou mayest receive her; for to no other can she be joined in marriage." Therefore, usual ceremonies of bethrothal having been gone through, Joseph went back to put his house in order, and to procure things necessary for the marriage.

Now, there was also, not long after, a council of the priests, saying, "Let us make a veil for the temple of the Lord." And the priests said, "Call the undefiled virgins of the family of David." And the officers went away and sought and found seven virgins. And the priests remembered the child Mary; that she was of the family of David and undefiled before God. And the officers went away and brought her. And they brought them into the temple of the Lord. And the priests said, "Choose by lot who shall spin the gold, and the green, and the fine linen, and the silk, and the hyacinth, and the scarlet, and the true purple." And they cast lots among themselves what each virgin should do. And the true purple and the scarlet fell to the lot of Mary.

And when Mary had got it those virgins said to her, "Since thou art the last, and humble, and younger than all, thou hast deserved to receive and obtain the purple and scarlet." And, thus saying, as it were, in words of annoyance, they began to call her queen of virgins. While, however, they were so doing the angel of the Lord appeared in the midst of them, saying, "These words shall not have been uttered by way of annoyance, but they prophesied a prophecy most true." The virgins trembled, therefore, at the sight of the angel, and at his words, asking Mary to pardon and pray for them. So Mary took the true purple and the scarlet, and with the other virgins of like age, who had been given her by the priests, went away to her own house.

Now, at this time Zacharias was dumb, and Samuel was in his place until he spake. For Zacharias remembered the grace of the Lord when he prayed to Him in secret, and said, "Lord, my bones are become feeble, and my head is white with old age. Lord, never was I rejected in my prayers; hear, then, my petition. Give me a son to succeed me, to be mine heir of the house and lineage of Jacob, a son that may observe Thy commandments and be pleasing to Thee." Then an angel called to Zacharias, and said, "I declare to thee from God that thou shalt have a son called John; no man yet hath been known by that name. He shall affirm the Messiah to be the Word of God; he shall be a great person, chaste, a prophet and one of the just." And Zacharias answered, "Lord, how shall I have a son? I am old, and my wife is barren." The angel said unto him, "It is easy for the Lord that created thee, for God doth even as it pleaseth Him." And Zacharias said, "Lord, give me some sign of the conception of my wife." Then the angel said, "The sign that I will give thee shall be that thou shalt not speak in three days, but by signs." Then he went out of his oratory and made signs to the people to make their prayers, morning and evening. And the child John was conceived of the chaste kisses that Zacharias imprinted upon the lips of Elizabeth, his wife.

MARY'S COMPANIONS.

Now Joseph received Mary, with the other five virgins, who were to be with her, into his own house in Nazareth. And these virgins were Rebecca, Sephora, Susanna, Abigea and Cael. Then Joseph said to Mary, "Behold, I have received thee from the temple of the Lord, and now I leave thee in my house, going away to build my buildings, but I shall come to thee. The Lord will protect thee." And when Mary found James the Less in his father's house, broken-hearted and sad on account of the loss of his mother, she brought him up. Hence she was called the mother of James. Now the virginity of Mary was hidden from the prince of this world, but the time was come for God to have compassion on that which He had formed, for the King to go forth, and the barbarians to be defeated before Him.

And the angel Gamriel was sent to Mary by God to announce the conception of the Lord, and to explain to her its manner and order. For in those days, when she first came into Galilee, Mary took the waterpot, and went out to draw water. Now whilst she stood near the fountain of Nazareth to fill her pitcher, behold a voice, saying, "Hail, thou favored one, the Lord is with thee, blessed art thou among women." Then she looked about right and left, to see whence this voice came. And the angel of the Lord appeared unto her, saying, "Blessed art thou, Mary, for in thy womb thou hast prepared a hatitation for the Lord. Behold, light from heaven shall come and dwell in thee, and through thee shall shine in all the world." Then Mary, becoming afraid, went away to her own home, and set down the waterpot; and taking the purple, she sat on her seat and spun it.

And while Mary thus wrought the purple with her fingers, the doors of her bedchamber being shut, there entered a young man of ineffable beauty, the angel of the Lord. And with great light he filled the chamber where she was, so that when Mary saw him she exceeding feared and trembled. Yet most courteously saluting her, he cried out, saying: "Hail Mary, O virgin highly favored by the Lord, virgin full of grace, the Lord is with thee; blessed art thou above all women, blessed above all men that have been hitherto born, and blessed is the fruit of thy womb!" And the virgin, who was already well acquainted with angelic faces, and was not unused to the light from heaven, was by this time neither terrified by the vision of the angel, nor astonished by the greatness of the light, but only perplexed by his words. And she began to consider of what nature a salutation so unusual could be, or what it could portend, or what end it could have. And she said to herself, "Shall I conceive by the Lord, the living God? And shall I bring forth, as every woman bringeth forth?"

THE ANGEL'S VISIT.

And the angel, divinely inspired, taking up this thought, said, "Fear not, Mary, as if anything contrary to thy chstity were hid under this salutation. For in choosing chastity thou hast found favor with the Lord, and therefore thou, a virgin, shalt conceive without sin from His word, and shalt bring forth a son. He shall be great, because He shall rule from sea to sea and from the river even unto the ends of the earth. The Lord God shall give Him the throne of His father David, and He shall reign in the house of Jacob forever; and of His kingdom there shall be no end, for as much as He is King of kings and Lord of lords, and His throne is from everlasting to everlasting. He who shall be born on earth in humiliation reigneth in heaven in exaltation. And they who do not confess Him shall perish, for His authority is in the lofty heights, and His kingdom doth not pass away."

The virgin did not doubt these words of the angel, but, wishing to know the manner of this, she answered: "How can that come to pass? For I am a virgin pure in soul and body, even as I was born. And while, according to my vow, I never know man, how can I bring forth without human seed?" To this the angel said: "Think not, Mary, that thou shalt conceive in the manner of mankind. For without any intercourse with man thou, a virgin, wilt conceive; thou, a virgin, wilt bring forth; thou, a virgin, wilt nurse. For the Holy Spirit shall come upon thee, and the power of the Most High shall overshadow thee, contrary to all fire of concupisence. God doth as pleaseth Him, and when He createth anything He saith, 'Be thou,' and it is. Therefore, that which shall be born of thee shall alone be holy, because it alone, being conceived and born without sin, shall be called the Son of God, the Most High. And thou shalt call His name Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins."

Then Mary stretched forth her hands and raised her eyes to heaven and said: "Behold the handmaiden of the Lord, before His face, for I am not worthy of the name of lady. Let it be to me according to Thy word." Moreover Mary conceived by the hearing of her ears. And Gabriel declared to her all the things that would be done by Jesus, on which account she rejoiced. Then the angel departed from her.

J. DE Q. DONEHOO.

[Copyright.]

The Marvel of the Age.

Leslie's Weekly.

The history of the bicycle reads like a fairy tale. Ten thousand years hence the plainest statement of the facts of its origin, development, uses it serves, and the place it occupies in our civilization will be regarded by the scholars of that time as we of to-day regard Plato's story of Atlantis or the fable of Deucalion. That men and women could sit balanced on a wheel of wire, braced and corded like a spider's circular miracle which it fashions in the witching hours of night, and on it sitting, outrun the horse, outspeed the dog, and go flying down wooded lanes with the flight of a bird, will be reckoned as a myth that haunts the imagination and laughs at the guessing of the wise. What, for improbability, can equal this strange and weird creation of man's inventiveness? Or what so elusively mock human belief when once it has passed into oblivion and, losing all record as a fact, has become merely a vague tradition? And if, amid the ruins of some old library a fragment of a manuscript should be discovered which told how it was used by rich and poor alike, how it was adopted into armies, added to the splendor of great public pageants, obliterated castes so that princes and peasants rode side by side in public parks, contributing to popular health and happiness beyond any other single invention of the world, what wonder and astonishment that old-time, long-buried document would cause among the then existing peoples on the earth.

To Cure Hiccoughs.

Philadelphia Record.

The conversation suddenly drifted to hiccoughs, without any apparent reason, just as conversations may take a turn in any unexpected direction when several men are sitting around a table in a club. "Every once in a while a story crops up in the news about somebody who is hiccoughing to death," said the newspaper man. "I remember once there was a man in Norristown who was afflicted in that way. I went up there about a week after his case had been exploited and found that he had received over a hundred letters from all over the country advising various cures, each of which was inafallible. I believe the man finally died." "That sometimes happens, and when it does all the science of medicine is baffled," said the doctor. "But the ordinary, everyday case of hiccough is generally caused by indigestion, coupled with an overindulgence in liquor. In such cases there is no reason why the affliction should not be cured at once. A simple remedy, and one that seldom fails, is to find the pulse in the left wrist with the middle finger and thumb of the left hand. Press as hard as possible, and at the same time hold the breath until the lungs feel like bursting. Nine times out of ten it will effect a cure."

When Love Went By.

When Love went by I scarcely bent
My eyes to see which way he went.
Life had so many joys to show,
What time had I to watch him go,
Or bid him in, whom folly sent?

But when the day was well night spent,
From out the casement long I leant.
Ah, would I had been watching so
When Love went by!

Gray days with dismal night are blent,
Lonely and sad and discontent;
I would his feet had been more slow.
Oh, heart of mine, how could we know
Or realize what passing meant,
When Love went by?

—Theodosia Pickering.

Something New.

Ice-cream sandwiches. They will please you. Made by the Indianapolis Creamery, 302 Massachusetts avenue. Phone 1532.

OUR CONSULAR SERVICE

EX-MINISTER DENBY INDICATES HOW IT MIGHT BE IMPROVED.

Consuls Are Given Important Powers, They Should Be Carefully Chosen, and Service Be Permanent.

My diplomatic experience was confined to the far East and in this article I shall in the main restrict my observations to the consular service in that quarter of the world. We have extraterritorial jurisdiction in China, Siam, Corea, Turkey, Persia, Zanzibar, Tonga, Samoa and Maskat. We exercise jurisdiction also over sixty-four islands in the Pacific ocean, commonly called Guano islands. By extraterritorial jurisdiction is meant that the countries named have agreed that they will exercise no jurisdiction, either civil or criminal, over our citizens, but that the American consuls may exclusively hear and determine all cases affecting them. In 1860 Congress passed a law conferring upon our consuls such jurisdiction. From the necessity of the case great powers are given to the consuls. Constitutional rights of the citizen were in some cases disregarded, as, for instance, there were to be no indictments by grand juries which were not provided for, and trials were to take place before the consul and two or more assessors, up to four in capital cases, without a jury. Civil causes were triable up to the amount of $500 involved by the consul, and above that amount by the consul, assisted by two assessors. If an assessor disagreed with the consul an appeal lay to the minister.

It will be seen that in the countries named our consuls are clothed with all the functions of courts of law. The American can be sued nowhere in those countries except in his own consular court. Civil causes of great importance are often brought in this tribunal. In China alone there have been four murder cases tried in the court of the consul general at Shanghai. From these statements it must be apparent that great care should be taken in selecting consuls for positions in the East and the far East. While it is not absolutely necessary that a consul should be a practicing lawyer, still he should be well informed on the principles of common law, the statutes of the United States, admiralty and equity law. To instrust the liberty and lives of Americans and the property of the denizens of all nationalities—for all may sue Americans—to persons who are entirely uninstructed in legal principles, is a dangerous experiment, as has often been shown in practice.

NEEDS OF CHINESE.

In China some provision should be made for the education in the Chinese language, consular duties and law of a corps of students. The system of Great Britain in that regard may well be copied. She maintains at Peking a corp of students who remain there under instruction three years. When the course is completed they are sent to the consulates to act as clerks. From time to time they are promoted until they become full consuls. They serve nowhere but in China. They are stationed during their service in all parts of the empire. They speak the language perfectly and they know the Chinese better than any other class, unless it be the missionaries. Their reports on Chinese trade are of inestimable value. As, to some extent, the result of their labors, the foreign population of China is two-thirds British, and the trade of England is nearly 90 per cent. of the entire volume of trade.

It is to be noted that the members of the consular corps of all nations except our own are appointed for life, and mostly retire at a certain age with pensions. I do not advocate the bestowal of pensions, for reasons which it is useless to go into here, but undoubtedly the consuls in the far East should receive appointments for life, or during good behavior.

Outside of the missionaries there are no persons in this country who speak Chinese. Those who have learned to find employment in the business houses or in the legations or consulates and remain in China. One of our consuls goes to his post in the East with the reasonable certainty that he will remain there in an official capacity not exceeding four years. There is little inducement to him to learn the language, for whose acquisition all his time would be insufficient. He has not much time to spare from the performance of his official duties. He must take everything at second hand. He is in the power of his interpreter, who in most cases is a Chinaman, and, sometimes, not the most honest person in the world. If this class is not slandered its members, sometimes, at least, take bribes, utter false permits and enter into fraudulent combinations to influence the unsuspecting consul.

NO EXCUSE FOR BAD SERVICE.

We have had, and have, bright men in the consular service in the far East whose natural ability enables them to overcome all obstacles and to hold their own with their colleagues of other nationalities. But in this paper I am generalizing. If even appointments for life or good behavior should not be made, still the executive has within its own hands a complete remedy. Every man in either the diplomatic or consular service makes a reputation, which is as well known in the Department of State as a man's reputation is in the village where he resides. The department knows and gauges at his true value every man under its control. From his official dispatches it knows, of course, of his efficiency or the reverse as an officer, but it knows more than that. It knows him personally in his daily conduct and habits. If he drinks too much or becomes dissipated in any way it is known at Washington. Sometimes the minister is surprised to receive a notification to examine into the habits of a consul and report the result. If the consul is making money outside of his salary the fact is immediately reported to the department. If he makes debts which he does not pay the department is very soon advised and applies a remedy or dismisses the offender. In a small Chinese concession the consul lives in a fiercer "light than that which beats upon a throne." There are always kind or patriotic people to report his doings, and as most men have some enemies these reports are sometimes unfavorable.

With all this knowledge, why cannot the Department of State see to it that good men, those who have rendered distinguished service, shall be kept in office? I could name of my own knowledge consuls in the far East who made splendid reputations, whose retention was desired by every American and all the foreigners and natives, but who, when a change of administration came, were ruthlessly superseded. As it is almost certain that Congress will not adopt for the consular service the system of appointments during life or good behavior, let the administration keep good men in office in spite of political changes of the executive. This rule can be extended to the diplomatic corps as well, but as the ambassador or minister occupies a peculiarly confidential relation with his government it may well be claimed that he should be of the same political party as his chief. As the consuls are simply business and judicial agents, this argument is not applicable to them.

A COMPLICATED SYSTEM.

The consular system is complicated. We have consul generals, consuls, consular agents and commercial agents, and to each of these officers there may be subordinate officers, such as vice consuls, etc. We have also thirteen consular clerks, who receive $1,200 per annum. The design in appointing these clerks was to prepare them to become consuls, and, originally, it was intended to give them consulships as fast as vacancies occurred, but the scheme utterly fell through. The consular clerk knew that if he was appointed a consul he would, in all probability, only hold the office three or four years, and he preferred a life job at $1,200 to a slightly higher salary for a year or two. He, therefore, positively, refuses to give up his clerkship. As clerk he has grown gray, and he prevents the appointment of a new clerk as long as he lives. Some of these clerks act as prosecutors in the consular courts, and get the usual fees. Some practice law on their own account in the consular courts. Some make a little money by doing odd jobs for the consul, and occasionally they are detailed to act as consul during an interim, and are allowed the fees for unofficial work. Altogether, the system should be amended. The consular clerk should be compelled to accept a consulship if one is offered to him, so as to make way for a new recruit, who should, in turn, learn the business. If this is not done the class should be abolished and its place supplied by the students whom I have alluded to. Consular agents are an anomaly. The President appoints as many of them as he pleases. They are not salaried officials. The act of Congress provides "that the only allowance to any vice consulate or consular agency for expenses should be an amount sufficient to pay for stationary and postage on official letters."

The consular agent, however, is allowed to do business, usually over the protest of the merchants who are engaged in importing or exporting. All the invoices of the exports pass through the agent's hands and he is enabed to ascertain the values put on their goods by the merchants, and may thus gain valuable hints as to their business. Protest against such a system came to me while I was minister to China.

COMMERCIAL AGENTS.

Commercial agents somewhat resemble consular agents. They are unlimited in number. They have no salaries, but have fees. It is plainly to be seen that the whole system is cumbrous and expensive. It would be better for the government to simplify it by appointing a consul wherever one is necessary. Of course there may be an exception to this rule where the number of consuls to a country is limitesd.

As to the compensation of consuls it must be said that in the East, at least, it is small. The consul at one of the concessions in China is compelled to maintain a refined and rather expensive mode of life. He represents his government and he has to support its dignity. He is entertained by his colleagues, who are usually paid more than he is, and who occupy houses owned by their governments. He must return their civilities. He must give dinners to distinguished people. It is expected that he will put up noted Americans, and he must keep open house for the officers of the navy who visit his port. I knew a consul in China who has done all this for some years on $2,500 a year. It is plain to be seen that he has great difficulty in making the two ends meet, but he, like the consular clerk, has some compensation in the fact that his office comes under the civil-service rule, and he is not removable except for cause. I notice to-day that an appropriation has been asked for the payment of the expenses of students, so it would seem that the system that I have advocated in this article is to be tried.

I am persuaded that the State Department is perfectly cognizant of all the evils existing in the consular service, and that by degrees they will all be remedied so far as executive action alone can do so. Great reductions have recently been made in the number of commercial and cousular agencies and more, no doubt, will follow, but without congressional action no radical remedy can be applied.

A fundamental idea now existing must be done away with, and that is that the consular service must be made self-supporting. If the service accomplishes great and valuable results for our foreign trade, as it undoubtedly does, there is no reason why it should be expected to collect sufficient funds for its maintenance any more than the army and navy should.

I regard the chief desideratum in the effort to improve the consular service to be the making it permanent—particularly in the far East. If this were done there would be no difficulty in securing the very best material for consular posts. We see every day that distinguished lawyers give up their practice which pays them large sums of money for life positions on the bench to which small salaries are attached. Such an enactment would take consular appointments entirely out of politics, and if to it were added the requirement of passing an examination before competent examining boards all the other evils about which so much has been written would shortly disappear.

CHARLES DENBY,
Formerly Minister to China.
Evansville, Ind.

Fairbanks's Front Seat.

Washington Letter in Boston Transcript.

Speaking of the Indiana contingent, Mr. Fairbanks has obtained possession of a front seat in the Senate. The exit of Messrs. Chandler and Carter liberated two very desirable desks, and the senior senator from Indiana, always alive to the possibilities for self-government, got in his application early. He is now in the front row just at the left of the presiding officer. His old seat was on the rear row and was not among the most eligible. Mr. Beveridge was assigned to a seat on the Democratic side when he first arrived and has become rather attached to the neighborhood. He made no effort to better his position. But, then, Mr. Fairbanks is a candidate for President in 1904, and it is more necessary for him to keep in the forefront where people can see him than for Mr. Beveridge, who is said to be willing to wait till 1908.

It Must Not Be Pulled.

Chicago Evening Post.

And now we have the Janice Meredith curl. Any gentleman who sees a lock of a girl's hair dangling over her shoulder need not warn her that her tresses are coming down. She is simply indulging in the new fashion—one long, languishing, lonesome ringlet which has "escaped from confinement," as the novelists say. It is supposed to be particularly bewitching—so much so that in talking to a man it is proper to make sure that the love lock trails over the shoulder nearest to his eye.

The Loom of Dreams.

I broider the world upon a loom;
I broider with dreams my tapestry;
Here in a little lonely room
I am master of earth and sea,
And the planets come to me.

I broider my life into the frame,
I broider my love, thread upon thread.
The world goes by with its glory and shame;
Crowns are bartered, and blood is shed;
I sit and broider my dreams instead.

And the only world is the world of my dreams,
And my weaving the only happiness;
For what is the world but what it seems,
And who knows but that God, beyond our guess,
Sits weaving worlds out of loneliness?

—Arthur Symons, in the Saturday Review.

Pile and Fistula Cure.

Sample treatment Red Cross Pile and Fistula Cure and book on piles sent free to any address. Rea Bros. & Co., Dept. 25, Minneapolis, Minn.

Wondrous Beauties

Our new silk garments are positively the prettiest and most "fetching" of anything ever shown in the way of ready-to-wear goods. A visit at this time will prove of great interest, for mere words cannot describe the splendor of these silken gems.

$24 to $75 Satin Foulard Dresses in every good color and every strikingly new fashion.

$13 to $50 Silk Etons, some plain and collarless, others elaborately trimmed.

$12 to $95 Separate Silk Skirts—a bewildering assortment to choose from, and not one of our styles can be found in other stores.

$5 to $35 Silk Petticoats—such a profusion of styles and colors are seldom found under one roof.

$5 to $40 Silk Waists in the most artistic effects. Plain shades in taffeta or peau de soie. Also fancy stripes and Persians.

$16.75

A Tailor Suit Special. Coat is the new double-breasted tight-fitting Eton, trimmed all around with stitched taffeta edge. Skirt is latest flare shape. Materials are Cheviot or Venetian. Colors are black, brown, blue, tan, castor or gray.

Bested & Langen

39 East Washington Street

National Bicycles

Roadster, $40. Cushion Frame, $50.

This wheel has never been equaled in quality and mechanism. It is individual in construction, and its simplicity is its strongest point. Many new improvements have been introduced, and it will interest you.

Have your wheels put in repair for the season. We employ only the best workmen in this department, and will call for and deliver wheels to any part of the city. Come to us for sundries at moderate price. Wheels for rent.

WATSON & CO., 136 East New York Street.
Old Tel., 1625.

Maryland Club
Pure Rye Whiskey

It tastes old because it is old

CAHN, BELT & CO., Baltimore, Md.

Indianapolis Drug Co., Sole Distributers
INDIANAPOLIS, IND.

Ask for MARYLAND CLUB And see that you get it.

We Make..... Baldwin Pianos

You pay no middle-man's profit when you buy of us. Every price is discounted and every piano backed by a reputation of thirty years as dealers and manufacturers. Grand Prix, Paris, 1900

Telephone 47 | D. H. BALDWIN & CO., Manufacturers | 145 N. Penn. St.

Family Washing NICELY DONE. Telephone 1121. PROGRESS LAUNDRY.

EDUCATIONAL.

VORIES'S BUSINESS COLLEGE
Phone 1264. Busiest Place.
Five times larger than any other business school in this State. Second largest in the world. Investigate.

Indianapolis BUSINESS UNIVERSITY
Our trade mark. Shun imitators.
Enter Day or Night Schools
Get Catalog. N. Penn., When Block. E. J. HEEB, Pres.

Sunday Journal, by Mail, $2 Per Year.

PHYSICIANS.

DR. J. B. KIRKPATRICK
Diseases of Women and the Rectum. Piles cured by his safe and easy method. No detention from business. Office, 31 East Ohio.

DR. C. I. FLETCHER
RESIDENCE—1022 North Pennsylvania street. OFFICE—712 South Meridian street. Office Hours—9 to 10 a. m.; 2 to 4 p. m.; 7 to 8 p. m. Telephones—Office, 907; residence, 427.

JOHNSON-WOODBRIDGE CO.,
128-130 South Delaware St.,
Glass, Paints, Oil, Lead, Enamel, Brushes, Etc., Etc.,
Wholesale and Retail.