LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

"POSTAL ABUSES."

SOME STATEMENTS OF THE POSTMASTER-GENERAL CHALLENGED.

To the Editor of The Tribune:

Sir: In your editorial reference to "postoffice development" you evidently accept the Postmaster-General's statement, that "a saving of $12,000,000 to $20,000,000 per year could be effected by the extirpation of the abuses of second-class privileges," and that this saving "would meet the cost of extending free rural delivery to every settled portion of the country."

If any correct figures or data were given to substantiate this assumed annual saving of so vast a sum as twelve millions of dollars, the high official's assumption would be accepted without question; but, as no such data are available, and the so called "abuses" are too indeterminable to be reckoned in dollars, it is in order to call a halt on public opinion on the whole matter—to be sure we are right before we go ahead.

Statements from the Postoffice Department have for many years been so generalized as to cover a multitude of sins of omission and commission. Correct or minute information on the real cost of mail transport, on quantities carried and classification of those quantities, has been so wofully wanting that official generalizations had to be accepted and analysis made quite impossible. An improvement on the Department's methods has occurred during the last four years, and from the just published testimony of the joint committee or commission to investigate the postal service we shall probably be able to get at data and facts—bottom facts—never before available. But we may, with entire propriety, ask for a suspension of judgment on the lines of cost and saving until all that evidence is tabulated and apparent.

We may now promptly set aside as both fallacious and improbable the twelve million dollar item so confidently announced by the Postmaster-General as solving the problem of free rural delivery; and we likewise discredit, deny, the existence of "abuses" the correction of which would save such a sum to the Government. Still further: We confidently assert that the PostOffice Department is fully empowered to extirpate all real abuses, to forbid all infractions of the postal laws, to refuse mail matter that is not legitimate and fully within the terms of the statute; and, as almost every publisher has been made to know, the Postoffice Department is so far a law unto itself that, by rulings, special constructions, orders and edicts, it readily meets any and every instance the postal service creates or makes necessary. This it does, and for a protestant there is no appeal, no remedy.

If it is urged that the "Library" issues are admitted as periodicals, at periodical rate of postage, by a misinterpretation of the law, and, therefore, that this is an "abuse," it is sufficient to say an Attorney-General of the United States gave that construction years ago; that it has wrought immeasurable good to the reading public; that every attempt in Congress to legislate the "Library" literature out of the mails at second-class rates has met with pronounced defeat. That, assuredly, legalizes this use of the mails, and to characterize such use as an abuse is an insult alike to publishers, to readers and to Congress.

But as this "Library" literature comprises but a mere fraction of the weight and bulk of second-class matter—not to exceed 3 per cent of the whole—its banishment from the mails would but slightly affect the postal revenues, and the "saving" be not more than $700,000 per year. It has been the policy of the Postoffice Department, for some inscrutable reason, to overstate the quantity of this kind of matter in the mails; but, as the officials have no data whatever, the overstatement is merely to make excuse for the Department's ceaseless efforts to make a case against these literal "books of the people." The per cent we state coming from the agents of the publishers who handle the bulk of the issues is very near to the actual amount, and will stand the test of any scrutiny.

Have we not a right, here and now, to demand of the Postmaster-General the real source of his tremendous saving? Is it in sample copies, supplements, trade lists, catalogues and matter extraneous to the publication? All that may be illegitimate to the law; but as he has full power to act in each and every instance of law perversion or infraction, the "saving" factor is yet to be indicated. Will he or any of his subordinates give the public the required information?

New-York, Dec. 15, 1900. ORVILLE J. VICTOR.

THE SPIRIT OF CHRISTIANITY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: In to-day's paper, in summarizing the Chinese Minister's lecture on Confucianism, delivered last night in Carnegie Music Hall, you say: "The principal difference between the two doctrines, he said, was that, while Christianity taught its people to be good for the sake of reward, and for fear of punishment, the lesson preached by Confucius was the practice of goodness for the sake of doing good."

This view of Christianity is radically at variance with those Scriptures on which Christianity is based. It is so commonly taken that I beg of you space enough to enable me to point out one feature at least of the discrepancy.

As disclosed by the Gospel, Christianity is concerned mainly with neither rewards nor punishments, nor yet with any kind of teaching. Instead of these, it is concerned mainly with gifts and helps. Three of its transcendant declarations are that the gift of God is eternal life, that Christ is come that we might have that life and might have it more abundantly, and that God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life.

Even concerning the trials of life, the Preacher, in Ecclesiastes, says, "This sore travail hath God given to the sons of man to be exercised therewith." This, and St. Paul's similar declaration about tribulation and exercise, become both of them intelligible when read in connection with the saying of our Lord, already cited, that we not only may have eternal life, but may have it more abundantly; for, whether it be the life of the body, the life of the mind or the life of the soul, in every case exercise is inseparable from abundant life.

We do not have to wait until we die before we can receive this gift of eternal life, or before we can know that it is ours. "Whoso eateth my flesh and drinketh my blood hath eternal life, and I will raise him up at the last day." "The Spirit itself beareth witness with our spirit that we are the children of God." "Even the Spirit of Truth, whom the world cannot receive, because it seeth him not, neither knoweth him, but ye know him; for he dwelleth with you, and shall be in you."

In other words, Christianity proffers to mankind a gift—the gift of eternal life. To this its every other feature is contributory and subordinate. It offers this gift to every man, for "Whosoever will, let him take the water of life freely." As St. John says: "This is the record, that God hath given to us eternal life, and this life is in his Son. He that hath the Son hath life, and he that hath not the Son of God hath not life." The Son, in His turn, says: "This is the will of him that sent me, that every one which seeth the Son, and believeth on him, may have everlasting life; and I will raise him up at the last day."

Is it strange or unreasonable that men who accept these statements as true, who believe themselves to be already in possession of this gift, and regard it also as of incalculable value; who believe also that God is offering the same gift freely to every human being who will accept it—is it strange or unreasonable that they should accept also and with eagerness their Lord's commandment, "Go ye into all the world and preach the Gospel to every creature"? It is not easy to see how they can be otherwise than eager and obedient.

New-York, Dec. 10, 1900. LAYMAN.

EDUCATION THE REMEDY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: It is certainly significant of the deeper value of journalism when a paper like The Tribune admits, nay, invites, to its columns practical suggestions for the suppression of vice. Deep interest must be felt by all thoughtful readers in Dr. Blackwell's views as to measures likely to tend to such suppression, and it is with full appreciation of the risk of being considered unpractical that I venture to express a doubt as to the efficacy of any immediate remedy for an evil which has its roots in human nature itself. The only real remedy, and, therefore, the only lastingly practical one, lies, it seems to me, in an education which shall enlarge human minds upon the subject of pleasure. No evil has ever yet been suppressed from without; it may be restrained, it is true, but it is in human nature to get that which it conceives of as desirable, in spite of restraint. We can only hope to overcome evil by good, for the precise reason that the human being will always take the better thing, if it is recognized as better. The suppression of vice means the vindication of virtue, as yielding more satisfaction than vice can give.

Religion in its conventional aspect has failed to stamp out vice; respectability cannot insure escape from its glamour, but an education which awakens a love of purer and better enjoyments, which arouses intellectual interests of the higher and not the emotional kind, will, in the long run, tend to virtue. The remedy of good education is slow, but it is, in the end, sure, and therefore practical, and that is the only excuse for a letter of mere suggestion. T. R. R.

New-York, Dec. 12, 1900.

HIGHER PAY FOR GOVERNMENT OFFICERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The revenues of the United States have increased beyond the present needs of the Government, and this condition has arisen from various causes—general prosperity, increased imports (as well as exports) and a faithful and honest enforcement of the customs revenue laws.

It is believed by officials and importing merchants alike that never before have the customs revenue laws been so honestly, judiciously and faithfully administered as under the present Administration. Men in responsible positions have been selected for known fitness by training and character, and the result has been that the laws have been enforced without fear or favor. Old abuses have been corrected, undervaluations stopped and, as stated, revenues increased. The men directly responsible for these changes, whose work has borne immediately upon irregularities, are the examiners and the appraiser and assistant appraisers, who are the responsible heads of the appraiser's office.

Every large importing merchant in this city knows and deplores the fact that these men are shamefully underpaid for their responsible and important work. Before the revenue laws are changed to reduce our income, is it not fair that the old plea that we cannot afford to pay the people's servants in proportion to the real value of their services shall be abandoned and a hoary wrong be righted, in whole or in part?

The Government business should be done according to modern methods, even if this does involve increased cost. No other first class nation pays its best servants so meanly as does our own Government. This is a good time in which to do some acts of simple justice and wise policy. CIVIS.

New-York, Dec. 4, 1900.

ARBITRATION OF STRIKES.

A BILL BEFORE THE FRENCH CHAMBER TO MAKE IT COMPULSORY.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The bill on the compulsory arbitration of strikes presented to the French Chamber by the Minister of Commerce is a most interesting, if not important, experiment. Its practical working and effect will probably be watched with much curiosity even in the United States, where such a law would be of doubtful constitutionality, and in England, where it would be of questionable legality. It is analogous to the legalization, in politics, of the primary and the caucus. The results, however, of the bill may prove exactly the reverse of what its author and its supporters desire—that is to say, it may discourage strikes and reduce their number, instead of promoting and stimulating them. For Clause 5 states that the workmen entitled to vote on the subject must be electors, and—what is the most important point of all—that no strike can take place, nothing be submitted to arbitration, unless voted for by over 50 per cent of the qualified voters!

As it is well known that most strikes are, at first, to say the least, caused, in most cases, by a minority, and then forced upon the rest, the practical importance of this clause would seem to be evident. Moreover, in case of a properly constituted strike and subsequent arbitration, the decision of the arbitrators is to be equivalent to a contract during six months!

Many employers would probably welcome (if not actually instigate) a strike, or anything else, that would enable them to fix the rates of wages for six months in the future—even at a slight advance. They might gladly make the slight concessions demanded by the arbitrators if the employes were thereby to be bound for six months in the future by a hard and fast, inexorable law of the State. And the employers are thereafter protected by the Government, which enforces the contract as against the employes. An ideal position for capital! It should be remembered that the questions in dispute between employers and employes are usually apt to be concerning principles rather than any considerable difference in actual wages, and, moreover, it is not likely that any arbitrators would ever order any exorbitant, impracticable increase, or unreasonable changes, or any radical innovations.

The arbitrators are to be chosen in equal numbers by the employers and their men. The practical working, therefore, of the bill promises, I think, to tend toward stability, permanency and security, and it seems a conservative, concrete form of a radical theory. It is an interesting example of that bureaucratic, precise radicalism so peculiar to France, an inheritance, perhaps, of the Revolution. Nowhere else are red tape and the red flag so strangely combined. CARROLL BRYCE.

London, England, Nov. 26, 1900.

A FRESH APPEAL FROM INDIA.

JUSTIN E. ABBOTT SAYS THE DECCAN IS AGAIN THREATENED WITH FAMINE.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: There is a strip of country in the Deccan and North Guzarat where the rain has again been both insufficient and unseasonable. In this strip local famines are again expected this year. This is a very great disappointment to the poor farmers. At the beginning of the monsoon the crops looked finely. The soil that had lain fallow for a year brought forth all the more abundantly, but, being insufficiently watered, they have withered away. Starvation stares them in the face. The mitigating circumstances are that, in general, the crops in India being good, the price of grain imported into these suffering districts will be comparatively cheap, and, second, the Government will be able to cope with these smaller famines as it was not able when so large a territory was affected as has recently been the case. But the fact that the Government will be able to supply work to any who may need it does not mean that the suffering of the people will not need the special help that comes from private charity. There are many reasons why great numbers cannot go on to relief works, however much they may need work. And because they cannot go, they suffer in their homes and villages.

The territory that must again pass through a famine is, unfortunately, the mission field of the American Board, and its missionaries have again to look with concern to the future. They have already assumed the burden of the support of more than three thousand children and widows, and it looks as though the local famine in their district will compel them to take to their shelter even more of the starving children they may find later on. This is a noble work in the name of the best and highest humanity, but its financial burden is very serious. It has been undertaken in the faith that the friends of humanity who helped them save these children alive will not desert them now that they have been saved, but will join with the missionaries in caring for them, until, trained to some industry, they will be able to care for themselves.

The American Marathi Mission has taken up the subject of the industrial training of these children with earnestness. Teachers for many industries are already at work instructing the children, and soon the famine orphanages will be busy beehives. In former times missionaries in India were the pioneers in the education of the masses. It is their opportunity now to be the pioneers in the industrial training of the masses. There is little doubt that if the common people are properly trained in the use of their hands with slightly improved machinery, they can compete with the machinery of the West to a very large extent. Whatever aid can be given to missionaries in India for promoting their work among the masses will be the seed from which much future good may be expected.

JUSTIN E. ABBOTT.

American Marathi Mission, Bombay, India, Nov. 9, 1900.

DUTY FOR RETIRED NAVY OFFICERS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: Your editorial note published this morning indorsing the decision of the Attorney-General that naval officers who have been injured, but not to an extent to incapacitate them from performing certain duties at shore stations, should be employed is to be commended. The case referred to is that of Lieutenant Mallison, who lost a leg as a result of an accident in 1895.

Prior to March 3, 1873, retired officers of the Navy could be employed on duty on shore, and very many were so employed with benefit to themselves and with a saving in the appropriation "for the maintenance of the Navy." The law was repealed at that time, but the provision that they could be ordered to duty in time of war remained on the statutes. It will be recalled that many of the retired officers were employed on active duty on shore during the war with Spain, and that they acquitted themselves with credit to the Government.

The Naval Appropriation bill passed by Congress at the last session provided that for a period of twelve years "any officer on the retired list may, on his own application, be ordered to such duty as he may be able to perform at sea or on shore, and while so employed shall receive the pay and allowance of an officer of the active list." In other words, such officer is to receive the difference between his pay on the retired list and that on the active list. I believe only five officers on the retired list have been detailed for active duty, notwithstanding a considerable number have applied for duty. Of the retired officers on active duty one is Admiral Walker, another is a medical director, one is a commander and two are lieutenants. And now Admiral Crowninshield has suggested that the law be repealed. The law is only of recent passage, and to most of the retired officers it seems that it has not had a thorough test. The Attorney-General's decision was not whether Lieutenant Mallison should be employed on active duty, but that he ought to be promoted to the next higher grade and be continued on duty in that grade wherever his services could be utilized. E. M.

New-York, Dec. 6, 1900.

THE MENACE OF SPANISH NATIONS.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: The recent family reunion of Spanish nations at Madrid suggests much concerning the position of Anglo-Saxons upon this continent. A Spanish union might grow into a Latin union, with France at its head, and including Italy and Portugal. It might be only a union of sympathy, in which case it might include Cuba, Porto Rico and Manila. This would breed no good to the United States in case of difficulties with any of the Latin countries of Europe or America. In view of such possibilities, and even quite independent of them, it may well be asked, Is the United States doing the wisest thing in protecting the whole of the continent from Mexico southward against the naturally friendly Anglo-Saxon race, and preserving it for the Latins, who are natural rivals?

It would appear as if rather an understanding should have been arrived at long ago with Great Britain such as would not have discouraged British emigration to South America, or prevented such parts as should so desire from becoming part and parcel of the British Empire. Such colonies could have been no sort of menace, but would have been bulwarks of protection to the United States, while they might have prevented the complete Latinizing of the largest portion of this continent. While swallowing a frontier the width of Canada, how absurd it seems for the United States to choke over the extension of British authority in South America. There is no tittle of evidence, so far as I know, that Britain desires a foot more of South American property than rightly belongs to her; but the Monroe Doctrine, from no high moral motives, but only as a supposed protection to United States interests, prevents Great Britain from resenting possible affronts from South American countries as this Nation would resent them, and as other nations resent them among themselves. On account of Canada Britain has a relationship to the United States different from that of any other European nation, and for the sake of this country Britain should be excepted from the terms of the Monroe Doctrine. The doctrine was promulgated from a fear of the Holy Alliance, and now it gives a monopoly of the country to Roman Catholic Europe. ALEXANDER W. STIRLING.

Atlanta, Ga., Dec. 8, 1900.

DISFRANCHISEMENT HIS REMEDY.

UNIVERSAL, UNLIMITED FRANCHISE, CORRESPONDENT THINKS, IS THE CAUSE OF MISGOVERNMENT.

To the Editor of The Tribune.

Sir: That there is a gathering of the forces of law, order and decency against the Tammany regime of misrule in this city is evident enough, but to cure the disease now afflicting the body politic it is not enough to complain of the effects of Tammany's government, nor yet to paint pictures alike harrowing and revolting of crime and vice triumphant in our midst, if we rest our efforts there. Of all the communications that have come under the eyes of the writer, but one person, the Rev. Dr. Crowe, of West Eighty-first-st., has pointed out the cause of our misgovernment and indicated the remedy. The cause is universal, unlimited suffrage; the remedy is disfranchisement.

It ought not to need proof that the voter should possess certain qualifications ere he be allowed to exercise the privilege of suffrage, for the reasons are axiomatic. However, lest some carp or others fear that liberty is menaced, here are the three propositions:

First—Inasmuch as we provide free schools at the public expense, no one unable to speak, read and write decently the English language, and also furnished with a common school education, should be permitted to vote. It costs the taxpayers a good deal to provide free schools; so, it is only fair to say to the ignorant and the lazy, You must step one side and let the lawmaking be done by those of understanding. Likewise, our taxes are heavy to maintain courts, justice and the police, and it costs heavily to restrain malefactors and punish them and at the same time to protect the decent portion of the community from them. Hence, the second proposition should be to disfranchise the criminal, the rowdy, the drunken and the lawless elements of our society. As it is, the ignorant, the rowdy and criminal classes are the chief support (along with our ignorant foreign population) of Tammany misrule. But for them Tammany could not exist; for it would be shorn of its strength, and, like Othello, "find its occupation gone." Lastly, only those paying some tax should vote, even if that tax be no more than a poll tax of say $25 to $50. The municipal taxpayer is most grievously oppressed, the burden of taxes being mainly borne by real estate owners. Yet on Election Day he is urged to do his duty as a man and a citizen, only to see his vote nullified by the hordes of the ignorant, the lawless and the impoverished classes. These last put the brutal knaves into power that have ever misgoverned and insulted the decent citizens, and will so continue to do if we do not apply the remedy.

We might as well look at the facts and diagnose the disease before we begin to treat it. Otherwise, our results will parallel that of the individual afflicted with Bright's disease of the kidneys, or with tuberculosis or heart failure, that should go to a chiropodist instead and get his corns pared. The fathers of this Republic of ours never intended to give universal suffrage. We have tried it, and it doesn't work well, nor is it just. In the South the ignorant element of the population is properly being barred out from the suffrage; the sooner we tread in their footsteps the better for good government, for enlightened and competent rulers, and the suppression of the lawless.

A MANHATTAN TAXPAYER.

New-York, Dec. 3, 1900.

TAMMANY'S ENORMOUS WASTE.

"THE NEW-YORK VIGILANT" SHOWS THAT A LARGE SURPLUS DISAPPEARS.

"The New-York Vigilant," the organ of the City Vigilance League, has published recently several articles which are intended to show that enormous sums of money are wasted or diverted from the city treasury by Tammany officials. In one of the articles it is declared that, while the Budget for 1899 was $93,520,082 03, "the amount actually collected from the people by taking the previous year's balance and by taxation, sale of bonds, premiums, dock and water revenues, and other income that goes into sinking funds, fines, penalties, interest, rents, assessments, franchise charges, wharfage, license and permit fees, etc., amounted to $172,576,846 13, and the payments therefrom amounted to $153,819,542 69."

The article further declares that "the controlling, the handling, the banking and the spending of these vast sums, the manipulating of contracts and the general patronage involved in their expenditure for a solid period of four years, give to Tammany and its leaders tremendous financial power and opportunity, which are sedulously improved."

One of the reports declares that there were 25,879 employes of the city government in 1899, with salaries amounting to $38,920,086 97, and 45,344 such employes in 1900, with salaries amounting to $47,876,273 42.

THE CROWELLS DISAPPOINTED.

NO TANGIBLE CLEW TO THE FORTUNE SAID TO EXIST IN ENGLAND AWAITING CLAIMANTS.

Somerville, Mass., Dec. 15.—Every person in this city who bears the name of Crowell is dejected and disappointed because of the return from England without a fortune of L. W. Crowell, who was sent by all the other Crowells to look in England for the fortune, estimated by some to be $30,000,000, by others to be $150,000,000, which it was understood was to be distributed to the Crowells of the world, who number 450. Mr. Crowell says he is confident that the wealth is existent, but he can show no papers to prove his statement. The millions of unclaimed money are supposed to have been left by Elisha Crowell, who died in Bristol, England, in 1812.

Austin Crowell, one of the leading members of that family here, to-night stated that he believed the story of the Crowell millions was a hoax. The legacy story is connected in a way with two Crowell deaths. Two weeks ago Austin Crowell's father died suddenly, and it was declared that his end was caused by shock following the news of the accession to great wealth. Then John Crowell, a distant relative of this man, was murdered or committed suicide in Wakefield, and it is said that the Crowell millions were the cause of his death, and that he was murdered by some one who hoped to receive his share of the great English legacy.

GOVERNMENT EXAMINES WIND CAVE.

SOUTH DAKOTA NATURAL CURIOSITY MAY BE MADE A RESERVATION.

Rapid City, S. D., Dec. 15.—Wind Cave, situated about twelve miles from Hot Springs, is destined to become as famous as the Mammoth Cave of Kentucky. The Commissioner of the General Land Office has received orders from the Secretary of the Interior to have the Wind Cave property thoroughly investigated by a special agent and geologist, to determine whether or not it shall be set apart by the Government as a National resort. There has been a great deal of controversy over the land for some time. Two big law suits have arisen, the first one by the Wind Cave Company against Elmer McDonald, the second by the South Dakota Mining Company against Jesse D. McDonald, both involving a homestead entry. Both cases were appealed to the Commissioner of the General Land Office, and finally to the Secretary of the Interior. An order was then made by the Secretary of the Interior to have the property examined.

COLLEGE ENTRANCE EXAMINERS CHOSEN.

The College Entrance Examination Board of the Middle States and Maryland, which recently effected its permanent organization to bring about uniform entrance requirements, has selected the chief examiners for 1901 in the different branches of study as follows: Chemistry, Professor Ira Remsen, of Johns Hopkins; English, Professor Francis H. Stoddard, of New-York University; French, Professor A. Guyot Cameron, of Princeton; German, Professor M. D. Learned, of the University of Pennsylvania; Greek, Professor Herbert Weir Smyth, of Bryn Mawr College; history, Professor Lucy M. Salmon, of Vassar College; Latin, Professor Charles E. Bennett, of Cornell; mathematics, Professor Henry Dallas Thompson, of Princeton, and physics, Professor Edward L. Nichols, of Cornell.

The place of treasurer has been accepted by Joseph C. Hendrix, president of the National Bank of Commerce. Mr. Hendrix is a trustee of Cornell University, and served for a number of years as president of the Brooklyn Board of Education.

BUDDHIST PLEA FOR CHINA.

HIGH PRIESTS IN JAPAN APPEAL TO THE ECCLESIASTICAL FOR RESTRAINT OF MISSIONARIES.

Six high priests of Buddha, representing "the Great Japan Buddhists' Union, at their headquarters within the Kenninji Temple, in Kioto, Empire of Great Japan," have issued a circular letter which has been sent to every civilized land. This letter has been issued in connection with what its signers describe as "The Chinese Emergency," and is addressed "To All the Ecclesiastics in the World."

The document, prepared by these leaders of the different sects which embrace the religion of Buddha, deals with the causes which led to the recent anti-foreign uprising in China and suggests a possible solution of the troubles there. It gives an analysis of the Chinese character and lays the principal blame for the difficulties at the doors of the foreign missionaries, apparently upon those who are non-American.

A copy of the circular translated into English and printed in Kioto, Japan, was received in this city yesterday. It fills thirteen printed pages and is signed by the six high priests as representatives of the Tendai, Shingon, Jodo, Rinzai, Shin and Obaku sects.

The following two proposals are submitted in the document:

First, that the ecclesiastical authorities in the world should exercise their influence in restraining the missionaries in China from proceedings which are likely to create suspicion on the part of the Chinese as to the existence of their secret connection with the foreign policy of their own countries. They should, for example, be withheld from inducing their own governments to carry out schemes conducive to successful aggrandizement at the expense of China, on the plea of persecution inflicted—a plea frequently resorted to whenever more or less suffering has been inflicted on them by the Chinese. Nor should they be allowed to claim compensation for damages incurred as they have hitherto done, for nothing can be more incompatible with the true principles of religion.

Second, to withhold the missionaries in China from all forms of procedure which might possibly be regarded as disturbing the social institutions of China. They must, in fact, be prohibited from any line of conduct subversive of the ancient customs and manners of China, or derogatory of her laws, or liable to be recognized as producing abuses of misprision through partiality displayed toward the converts as against non-believers—proceedings which can in no way be reconciled with the legitimate doctrine of religion. True, the Chinese civilization is as yet rudimentary, and improvements may, in many respects, be necessary in the customs and manners of the country. Still, nothing can be a greater mistake on the part of foreigners than to attempt to overthrow the whole organization at one blow, with a view to substituting their own customs and manners.

SUITS AGAINST T. A. HAVEMEYER.

ONE FOR RENT OF BARNS; THE OTHER FOR ALLEGED SLANDER.

Hempstead, Long Island, Dec. 15 (Special).—It was learned yesterday that Theodore A. Havemeyer had been served with papers making him a defendant in a suit to recover $100 for rent of barns at Hempstead. Mr. Havemeyer is also a defendant in a suit for alleged slander brought by Arthur W. Brierley, a real estate agent of Hempstead.

The trouble began last summer, when the large barn on the country place of Mr. Havemeyer was struck by lightning and burned to the ground. Near the Havemeyer place are the premises of M. Heilman, of Manhattan, containing several large barns. These Mr. Havemeyer decided to lease for several months at $50 monthly. The lease was drawn for three months, but after some discussion it was decided not to sign any leases at all. Mr. Brierley says Mr. Havemeyer engaged the barns for three months. Mr. Havemeyer paid $50, and engaged other quarters. A bill was sent him for $100, but it is alleged he refused to pay it. Finally Mr. Brierley wrote that unless the bill was promptly settled an action would be brought. Mr. Havemeyer drove to the real estate office, and, according to Mr. Brierley's allegations, made some remarks to which Mr. Brierley took exception.

Mr. Heilman has brought the suit for the $100. The case will be heard in Justice Gittens court here. The slander case will be tried in the Supreme Court in Nassau County.

Mr. Havemeyer was not at his country home to-day.

COLUMBIA'S ANNUAL GAMES.

CLASS OF '01 WINS RELAY RACE—"MAXEY" LONG ON DEFEATED MILITARY TEAM.

The second annual indoor games of the Columbia University Track Athletic Association were held last night in the 8th Regiment Armory, at Park-ave. and Ninety-fourth-st. The feature of the evening was the interclass relay race, which was won by the class of '01. The men who represented the class were S. Baker, F. P. Delgado, J. A. Meehan and W. M. Van Cise. Another race that aroused much enthusiasm was the one mile military relay, in which "Maxey" Long represented the 23d Regiment. His team mates let their opponents get such a lead that when it came for Long to run it was found that he could not help his team much. The race was finally won by the 22d Regiment, and the 23d Regiment finished second. The sixty yard dash, open handicap, was won by T. J. Fitzpatrick, of the New West Side Athletic Club. In the final heat he tied with H. Fried, of the Star Athletic Club. It was decided that another heat would be run, and Fitzpatrick won. The sixty yard dash, handicap, closed, was won by W. P. S. Earle, '04, and the 880 yard run, also closed, by C. A. Baker, '02. E. B. Johnson, '03, the scratch man in the sixteen pound put handicap, won with a put of 40 feet 6 inches, and F. P. Whitaker, '04, the pole vault handicap, with a jump of 10 feet 1 inch. Following is the summary:

Sixty yard dash (open, handicap)—Won by T. J. Fitzpatrick, New West Side Athletic Club (16 feet); H. Fried, Star Athletic Club (12 feet), second; W. H. Powers, Columbia University Athletic Association (17 feet), third. Time—0:06⅘.

Sixty yard dash (closed, handicap)—Won by W. P. S. Earle, '04 (3 feet); V. Godwin, '04 (5 feet), second; W. M. Van Cise, '01, third. Time—0:06⅘.

One mile (open, handicap)—Won by J. J. Tarrell, Battery E, 13th Regiment; C. L. Brady, Xavier Athletic Association (85 yards), second; E. M. Carrette, 22d Regiment Athletic Association, third. Time—4:35⅕.

Eight hundred and eighty yard run (novice)—Won by M. J. Connors, Villanova; H. J. Bartholomae, Columbia University Athletic Association, second; L. V. V. Sweezy, Columbia University Athletic Association, third. Time—2:16⅘.

Attempt to break the one mile indoor record of 4:28⅘ held by himself, E. W. Hjertberg. Time—4:41⅘.

Sixty yard hurdle (open, handicap)—Won by S. Baker, Columbia University Athletic Club (8 feet); T. J. Fitzpatrick, New West Side Athletic Club (12 feet), second; G. M. Riemer, 23d Regiment (scratch), third. Time—0:07.

Eight hundred and eighty yard run (handicap closed)—Won by C. A. Baker, '02 (30 yards); G. C. Atkins, '02 (15 yards), second; J. B. R. Verplank, '04 (70 yards), third. Time—2:06.

Sixty yard hurdle (handicap closed)—Won by S. Barker, Columbia University (8 feet); W. H. Powers, Columbia University Athletic Association (9 feet), second; J. T. Hanneman, Columbia University Athletic Association, third. Time—0:08⅘.

One mile military relay race—Won by 22d Regiment, W. S. Edwards, Phil Sayles, H. Arnold and McLaughlin; 23d Regiment, W. M. Long, I. Dalton, T. Turner and R. W. Northbridge, second. Time—3:36⅘.

Four hundred and forty yard run (handicap closed)—Won by J. A. McAnerney, '02 (7 yards); C. A. Baker, '02, second; W. J. Carlin, '03 (15 yards), third. Time—0:55.

Pole vault (handicap closed)—Won by F. P. Whitaker, '04 (10 inches), 10 ft. 1 in.

Sixteen pound shot put (handicap closed)—Won by E. B. Johnson, '03 (scratch), 40 ft. 6 in.; J. B. Stewart, '01 (scratch), 34 ft. 3 in., second; R. A. Henriquez, '04 (36 inches), 34 ft. 3 in., third.

Columbia interclass relay race—Won by class '01, S. Barker, F. P. Delgado, J. A. Meehan and W. M. Van Cise; '04, second.

THE FREDONIA NORMAL SCHOOL FIRE.

BOARD OF DIRECTORS SAY EVERY FIRE PRECAUTION WAS PROVIDED—TO REBUILD.

Dunkirk, N. Y., Dec. 15.—Coroner Blood will at once fully inquire into the deaths of the six young women and the janitor who lost their lives in the fire at the Fredonia Normal School yesterday. Up to a late hour to-night only one body had been recovered.

A meeting of the Board of Directors was held this afternoon and a bill will be drafted and introduced in the next Legislature for rebuilding the school. Members of the Board state that every provision for safety which they could make had been made. The fire escapes, one for each wing of the building, were in the best pattern, consisting of a circular steel stairway, standing clear of the building, and connecting with a window at the end of a hall by a wide steel platform. These stairways had railings which prevented any danger of falling off, and both escapes were in perfect condition. There was no fire used in the building, the whole building, also the hot water provided, being heated by steam from the electric railway power house. The building was lighted with incandescent electric lights. There were two standpipes with hose, and four stairways in different parts of the building. Two janitors were employed, and both were on duty when the fire was discovered. Kilfire tubes were placed in every part of the building.

STEWART STRUTS IN SING SING.

PROUD OF THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE YOUNGEST PRISONER—SLEEPS SOUNDLY.

Alexander Stewart, the youthful convicted murderer, spent the first night of his twenty years' sentence, in cell 1,121, Sing Sing Prison, Friday night. He slept as peacefully as he would have had he been in his father's house.

Stewart, who is only fourteen years old, was an object of curiosity to his fellow prisoners. To see the boy marching in lockstep from his cell to the messroom in the line with the hardened second term convicts was almost too much for even the keepers, who are used to a good deal. Stewart struts about with an air of braggadocio, with a sneering smile, and apparently proud of his crime and the distinction of being the youngest criminal in the prison.

"We will have to manage the boy with care and try to make him realize how awful is his crime," said Principal Keeper Connaughton last night. "I do not like the idea of having such a youngster as he to deal with, but the law must be upheld. He will not be placed in any of the shops to work until Dr. Irvine, the prison physician, advises it."

There are sixty convicts in the prison who were under sentence there before Stewart was born. The oldest convict in the prison is eighty-three. Stewart is classed among the second term men, and will not be allowed to march in the new military step which was recently established among the "first termers."

FARMER KNOCKS OUT TWO MEN.

BARTENDER AND CABMAN BADLY HURT AND CAB WINDOWS BROKEN—SAYS HE WAS ROBBED.

Carl Carlson, a powerful Swede, and a farmer on Long Island, came to the city yesterday to see the sights. He wandered into a saloon at No. 107 Greenwich-st., where he became partially intoxicated, and was finally put in a cab by the bartender, Daniel Murphy, of No. 10 Rector-st., who told the cab driver, James Ford, of No. 40 Greenwich-st., to drive around for a while.

Carlson dropped to sleep, but near West Broadway and Grand-st. he came to sufficiently, he declares, to feel Murphy's hand tugging at a gold watch worth about $50. He resisted, and the two had a terrific fight in the cab. The windows were smashed, and finally the door knocked off its fastenings, and the two men rolled out into the street. Then Ford got down from his seat and went to the assistance of Murphy. One blow from Carlson's fist split Ford's nose and sent him sprawling to the sidewalk where Murphy lay, only half conscious.

Policeman Farrell, of the Macdougal-st. station, arrested all three men. While Murphy and Ford were being patched up at St. Vincent's Hospital Carlson discovered that he had lost $200, and declared Murphy had taken it. Ford and Murphy were taken back to the station and locked up. Carlson was also made a prisoner because of intoxication.

BOOKS OF THE WEEK.

THE TRUTH ABOUT THE PHILIPPINES. From Official Records and Authentic Sources. A Reference. By H. H. Van Meter. 12mo, pp. 432. (The Liberty League.)

A DAY'S SONG. By John Stuart Thomson. 16mo, pp. 124. (Toronto: William Briggs.)

SISTERS THREE. By Jesse Mansergh. 12mo, pp. 280. (Cassell & Co.)

THE GIRL WITHOUT AMBITION. By Isabel Suart Robson. 12mo, pp. 267. (Cassell & Co.)

A MEMORIAL OF THE CHESS TOURNAMENT FOR MASTERS AND AMATEURS. Arranged by the City of London Chess Club, A. D., 1900. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

CRITICAL STUDIES. By Ouida. 8vo, pp. 314. (Cassell & Co.)

THE STORY OF THE HEAVENS. By Sir Robert Stawell Ball, LL. D., D. Sc. With twenty-four colored plates and numerous illustrations. New and revised edition. 8vo, pp. 568. (Cassell & Co.)

VASARI'S LIVES. Vols. IV and V. "Temple Classics." 24mo. (The Macmillan Company.)

THE CIVILIZATION OF THE EAST. Translated from the German of Dr. Fritz Hommel. By J. H. Loew. 24mo, pp. 141. "The Temple Primers." (The Macmillan Company.)

SURVEYS HISTORIC AND ECONOMIC. By W. J. Ashley. 8vo, pp. 476. (Longmans, Green & Co.)

THE ANGLO-AMERICAN ALLIANCE IN PROPHECY; or, the Promises to the Fathers. By Martin Lyman Streator. Vol. I. 8vo, pp. 565. (New-Haven, Conn.: Our Race Publishing Company.)

OUTLINES OF THE HISTORY OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE. By T. N. Toller. 16mo, pp. 234. (The Macmillan Company.)

THE INFLUENCE OF CHRIST IN MODERN LIFE. Being a Study of the New Problems of the Church in American Society. By Newell Dwight Hillis. 12mo, pp. 416. (The Macmillan Company.)

RELIGIOUS MOVEMENTS FOR SOCIAL BETTERMENT. By Josiah Strong. 16mo, pp. 137. (The Baker & Taylor Co.)

SYLVANA'S LETTERS TO AN UNKNOWN FRIEND. By E. V. B. With illustrations. 12mo, pp. 190. (The Macmillan Company.)

THE SETTLEMENT AFTER THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA. By M. J. Farrelly, LL. D. 8vo, pp. 323. (The Macmillan Company.)

THE HISTORY OF DON QUIXOTE. By Miguel de Cervantes. Translated by Thomas Shelton. In three volumes. 8vo. "Library of English Classics." (The Macmillan Company.)

SHAKESPEARE'S "MEASURE FOR MEASURE," WITH "THE HISTORIE OF PROMOS AND CASSANDRA." 24mo, pp. 192. "Cassell's National Library." (Cassell & Co.)

THE TREASURY OF THE PSALTER. An Aid to the Better Understanding of the Psalms in Their Use in Public and Private Devotions. Compiled by the Rev. George Putnam Huntington, D. D., and the Rev. Henry Aiken Metcalf, M. A. With a preface by the Bishop of Central New-York. Fourth edition, with corrections and additions. 12mo, pp. 610. (E. & J. B. Young & Co.)

THE MAGAZINE OF ART. Folio. (Cassell & Co.)

A NEW PRONOUNCING DICTIONARY OF THE SPANISH AND ENGLISH LANGUAGES. Compiled by Mariano Velázquez de la Cadena. Revised and enlarged by Edward Gray and Juan L. Iribas. First Part—Spanish-English. 4to, pp. xx, 681. (D. Appleton & Co.)

SELECTED LETTERS OF VOLTAIRE. Edited for school use by L. C. Syms. 12mo, pp. 249. (American Book Company.)

THE STRUCTURE OF THE ENGLISH SENTENCE. By Lillian G. Kimball. 12mo, pp. 244. (American Book Company.)

ELEMENTS OF ASTRONOMY. By Simon Newcomb. 12mo, pp. 240. (American Book Company.)

AN AMERICAN ENGINEER IN CHINA. By William Barclay Parsons. 12mo, pp. 315. (McClure, Phillips & Co.)

LORDS OF THE NORTH. By A. C. Laut. 12mo, pp. 442. (J. F. Taylor & Co.)

THE CHRISTMAS STORY FROM "DAVID HARUM." By Edward Noyes Westcott. Narrow 12mo, pp. 107. (D. Appleton & Co.)

TWENTY-FIVE STEPPING STONES TOWARD CHRIST'S KINGDOM. By O. P. Fradenburgh, Liberty, N. Y. 12mo, pp. 203. (No publisher's name.)

OLDE LOVE AND LAVENDER AND OTHER VERSES. By Roy L. McCardell. 12mo, pp. 93. (Godfrey A. S. Wieners.)

THE NEW DISPENSATION AT THE DAWN OF THE TWENTIETH CENTURY. By J. Wilson. 8vo, pp. 320. (Lemcke & Buechner.)

LIFE OF RICHARD WAGNER. Being an authorized English version by William Ashton Ellis of C. F. Glasenapp's "Das Leben Richard Wagner's." Vol. I. 8vo, pp. xiii, 400. (Kegan Paul, Trench, Trübner & Co.)

EXILED TO SIBERIA. By William Murray Graydon. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 333. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

THE STORY OF KING ARTHUR AND THE KNIGHTS OF THE TABLE ROUND. For Boys and Girls. By Dr. Edward Brooks. 12mo, pp. 383. (The Penn Publishing Company)

HIS LORDSHIP'S PUPPY. By Theodora C. Elmslie. 12mo, pp. 205. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

THE BOER BOY OF THE TRANSVAAL. From the German of August Niemann, by Kate Milner Rabb. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 336. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

BOCKERS AND HIS CHUM PEGGY. By Margaret Compton. 12mo, pp. 218. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

EARNING HER WAY TO COLLEGE. A Story for Girls. By Mrs. Clarke Johnson. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 373. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

A MAID OF KING ALFRED'S COURT. A Story for Girls. By Lucy Foster Madison. Illustrated. 12mo, pp. 362. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

THE WALCOTT TWINS. By Lucile Lovell. 12mo, pp. 211. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

THE YOUNG FINANCIER. By William O. Stoddard. 12mo, pp. 269. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

IDEAL DRILLS. Arranged by Marguerite W. Morton. 16mo, pp. 180. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

A CLASSICAL DICTIONARY. Edited, with Introduction, by Edward S. Ellis. 16mo, pp. 208. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

CONUNDRUMS, RIDDLES AND PUZZLES. By Dean Rivers. 16mo, pp. 155. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

PLUTARCH'S LIVES. Edited, with Introduction and Notes, by Edward S. Ellis. 16mo, pp. 237. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

CARD TRICKS. By Ellis Stanyon. 16mo, pp. 129. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

BOXING. By J. C. Trotter. 16mo, pp. 139. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

GOLF. By Horace Hutchinson. Revised. 16mo, pp. 179. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

THINGS WORTH KNOWING. By John H. Bechtel. 16mo, pp. 279. (The Penn Publishing Company.)

AMERICA PICTURESQUE AND DESCRIPTIVE. By Joel Cook. In three volumes. Each 12mo. (Philadelphia, Penn.: Henry T. Coates & Co.)

SHALL WE BELIEVE IN A DIVINE PROVIDENCE? By D. W. Faunce. 16mo, pp. 202. (Funk & Wagnalls Company.)

THE COUNTESS OF THE TENEMENTS. By Etheldred B. Barry. 12mo, pp. 98. (Dana Estes & Co.)

IVANHOE. A Romance. By Sir Walter Scott. With Twelve Colored Illustrations by Charles E. Brock. 12mo, pp. 523. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

JOHN HALIFAX, GENTLEMAN. By Dinah Maria Mulock (Mrs. Craik). With Twelve Colored Illustrations by W. Cubitt T. Cooke, L. M. Fisher and F. C. Tilney. 12mo, pp. 421. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

WILLIAM HOGARTH. By Arthur Dobson. New and Enlarged Edition. 8vo, pp. 338. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

THE POETICAL WORKS OF SIR WALTER SCOTT. With the Author's Introductions, Notes and Appendices, together with the Annotations of J. G. Lockhart and others, and Frontispieces by Marshall Brown. Four volumes. 16mo. (J. B. Lippincott Company.)

IRISH BRIGADE MEMBERS DINE.

COLONEL LYNCH SAYS HE WILL CHALLENGE WINSTON S. CHURCHILL TO A BOER WAR DEBATE.

The annual dinner of Meagher's Irish Brigade Association was held last evening at the Sturtevant House. The brigade included the 69th, 63d, and 88th New-York Volunteers, and later on the 116th Pennsylvania and the 28th Massachusetts. The brigade fought in the battle of Fredericksburg, December 13, 1862, and the annual dinner is held in celebration of that event, although it was found more convenient to hold it last night.

Colonel Arthur Lynch, commander of the Second Irish Brigade in the Boer army, was one of the guests. Major McBride was unable to accept an invitation.

When Colonel Lynch was introduced he spoke in part as follows:

I estimate that at the present time the Boers have eighteen thousand men in the field, at least. I make this estimate in part from recent dispatches of Kitchener's in which reference is made to the forces commanded by De Wet, Delarey and Lemmer, of the Free State forces, as well as Louis Botha, Ben Viljoen, Grobler and Chirstina Botha. It would appear also that the Boer forces are being reinforced. If that is true, the reinforcements must come from the Afrikander population in the British colonies. And if it really is true that they are taking the field, England will never overcome them.

I have a friend who is a British officer in French's column, and I recently saw a letter written by him. He said that French was the best general they had, and that they were fighting every day. Now that has not been mentioned in the dispatches, so I judge that all the British commands are having to do more fighting than is mentioned in the reports.

Colonel Lynch announced his intention of challenging Winston Spencer Churchill to a joint debate of the issues involved in the South African war, to take place in Cooper Union, or other place to be agreed on.

Each of the veterans wore a rosette of boxwood, such as they had worn in their caps at the Battle of Fredericksburg.

It was after 9 o'clock when the banquet began, Captain O'Connell presided at the guests' table, with Colonel Lynch on his right hand. Not the least conspicuous man among the diners was Joseph Schaefer, the only German who served in the 69th for the three-year term.

GENERAL DE WET.

AN ESTIMATE OF THE BOER LEADER BY A MAN WHO WAS HIS CAPTIVE.

The Pall Mall Gazette.

Of personal acquaintance with the notorious Free State guerilla fighter I cannot boast, although early in June I found myself his prisoner, and as such remained for several weary weeks. I only saw him once, and that at night, or rather in the darkness of the small hours of a winter morning. It was on the occasion of his attack on a construction train near Leeuwspruit, when he cleverly managed to take all his prisoners, numbering some two hundred, and the whole of his convoy, across the line and into the fastness of the east of his country almost within sight of our advancing troops. It was only a glimpse of him that I obtained, but that glimpse served to imprint upon my mind the picture of a powerful and dominating personality. The Boers had been firing hotly upon the train, and the prisoners had been hurriedly conveyed behind a large kopje in order to be out of the way. There was a good deal of confusion among our guards, who hurried backward and forward, shouted orders to one another and generally seemed in doubt what to do next. Then came along a figure on horseback—through the darkness one could discern that it was a magnificent upstanding horse, very different from the useful but rough looking pony bestridden by the ordinary burgher—galloping along the line, issuing commands as he went, and getting immediately obeyed. The confused mass of wagons, prisoners and guards sorted themselves out into some sort of order, the word was given to march, and that quickly, and the curiously assorted column got under way. Chaos had given way before the voice of the master. "You must go quickly," I heard him say as he passed by the prisoners, who, wearied by a twenty mile tramp, were lagging behind; and the electrical energy of the man seemed to infuse itself into us all—captives and bewildered guardians alike.

I never came into contact with De Wet again, but during the next few weeks, and, indeed, while I remained a prisoner, evidences of his striking personality and the influence which he wielded were constantly brought to my notice. A passionate man this De Wet, though, according to his lights, a just one; no mere Choctaw, as Carlyle might have said, but a man having within him some glimmering of the divine fire, and not without his ideals. In all that he has done—in all the wanton damage and petty guerilla tactics which have become associated with his name—I do not think he has ever been accused of the unsoldierlike crimes of cruelty or treachery.

THE STRONG HAND.

Christian De Wet has certainly tried—or did try in the early days before his case was so obviously and hopelessly forlorn—to check those excesses among his men which have been too often tacitly permitted, if not openly encouraged, by other guerilla leaders in other times. Theft from prisoners he has endeavored to put down with the utmost severity. Thus, after the Derbyshire Militia had capitulated to him at Rhenoster River on June 7, it came to his ears that an officer had complained that, in spite of the General's mandate that private property was to be respected, a pair of valuable field glasses had been taken from him. To the officer in question comes De Wet, who says that in the confusion attending the capture of so many men it is almost impossible to keep all his troops under control, but "if you can point out the man I will make an example of him. I will blow out his brains with my own hand." And he would have done it, too—dared to do it with the certainty that none of his men would have murmured. That is more than would be the case with any of the other Boer generals, whose hold over their subordinates has ever been of the most fragile character. But it has truly been said that De Wet has his men under a sort of charm—they do his bidding whether they will or no. He is severe upon them—if any show signs of lagging or faltering in the face of a heavy fire, sjambok in hand he rounds them off or flags them back to their places like so many Kaffirs, while for their physical needs he shows little concern. When food was growing short and our troops were pressing him hard, some of his men complained of the poorness of their rations. In reply they got the stoical one, "A burgher who can't live on meat and mealies is no man for me." Yet he is not feared by his men—they relate these things of him with pride and affection in their voice, as if to say, "See what a fine fellow our General is!" They respect and admire the strong hand, even though it crushes them. De Wet knows what sort of material he has had to do with.

LENIENT AND CANDID.

The lot of a prisoner can never be a happy or even an easy one, but I do not think De Wet has ever done anything unnecessarily to embitter the path of those who have fallen into his hands. It has been said that he has not fed them properly; all I can say is that we had practically all he had to give. On the other hand, instances of his consideration are not hard to find. When we were his captives it was the custom for farmers in the neighborhood of the various laagers to drive in, bringing produce for sale. No doubt these good people thought that here was a prime opportunity of spoiling the Egyptians, for their prices were at first exorbitantly high. Evidently this came to De Wet's ears, for he issued a mandate to the effect that the prices of the commodities were to be: One shilling a dozen for eggs, 1 shilling a pound for butter and 1 shilling for a loaf. These prices were to be adhered to, and in the event of attempts being made to charge more the veldt cornet had orders to turn the delinquents out of the laager and not permit them to come in again.

Unlike most of the Boer generals, De Wet has believed in treating his people with a certain amount of straightforward candor. He has openly said that he is well aware what must be the upshot of the war, but has simply expressed his intention of giving the English as much trouble as possible. At Potchefstroom, shortly before the entry of General Hart's brigade, he addressed a meeting, and said that he could not stop the English from coming in, but he and his men would get out on to the veldt again, and amid the kopjes play their old game, harassing the invader, and waiting for an opportunity when a small party can be attacked with the prospect of success. Here again the man's better qualities came out. They were warring, he said, against the British soldiers, and not against the defenceless British inhabitants of the country. Among them he had many of his best friends, and he asked those around him not to molest the British people who had remained in Potchefstroom as neutrals—not to molest them nor to injure or destroy their goods. The appeal did little good, however. The riff-raff of the country, the men of no nationality, who recognize no leaders, were not going to let such an opportunity pass them by. De Wet is credited with having occasionally made some rather caustic remarks at our expense. Thus, anent the corps to which I have the honor to belong, "I don't trouble about the Yeomanry; I can always catch them when I want to!" This, of course, was a mere piece of braggadocio (the Yeomanry must have given him a rather lively time in June and July), but there was just that grain of truth in it which caused the humor to be rather unpalatable to those whom it concerned.

It is quite a mistake to suppose that De Wet in his rapid flights and doublings has taken all his force with him. On the contrary, he has never had the same set of men with him long, barring, perhaps, a handful of stalwarts who have fought hard from the early days of the war. He has found the pursuers hot on his track; he has broken up his force and fled; safe away, he has picked up a few men here, a few men there, and so got together a considerable party once more; and this the power of the man's magnetic personality and the glamor which his exploits have shed over his name have enabled him to do again and yet again. But his force is dwindling, and all his toil can avail him little in the end. A bold and cunning guerilla leader he has shown himself to be; but what has he accomplished? He has got away times out of number very cleverly, has shown himself an adept at getting out of a tight place. And that is really all. He has never shown himself to be a general; more, he has never attempted anything in which great generalship could come into play. His line of conduct in these latter days in encouraging his men to a resistance which he knows is futile is criminal; he shows himself here in his true colors—as a guerilla leader, pure and simple, albeit as a man he is not without his redeeming qualities. And as such he will probably be given, in days to come, a passing notice by the historian, if, indeed, his name, like that of many a guerilla chief who had his little day, be not altogether swallowed up in the mists of oblivion.