

About People and Social Incidents.

NEW-YORK SOCIETY.

Miss Alice Babcock, whose marriage to Henry Rogers Winthrop will take place on Tuesday, October 3, at Roslyn, Long Island, will have no bridesmaids, but will be attended by Mrs. Reginald Brooks and by Mrs. Maudie Langhorne Shaw. They will visit the Prince of Wales at Rome. The newly married couple will spend the winter at the Hotel Marlborough. The ceremony will be performed by the Rev. Ernest M. Stires, rector of St. Thomas's, in the drawing room of the Stowe place, near Roslyn, which is presided by Mr. and Mrs. Henry D. Babcock, the parents of the bride.

Mrs. Herbert G. Squiers and Miss Helen Squiers, the wife and daughter of the American Minister to Cuba, have arrived in town from Havana, and have joined Mr. Squiers, who is now in this city.

Mr. and Mrs. Lorillard Spencer, Jr., who were married on Tuesday at Newport, sailed yesterday for Europe, where they will spend their honeymoon. They will visit the Prince of Wales at Rome. The princess is the sister of Lorillard Spencer, Sr., and a lady-in-waiting of Queen Margherita.

Edmund L. Baylies has left town for Lenox, where he is staying with Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane at the Elms. Mrs. Baylies is still in Scotland. The Duchess of Marlborough is to spend a couple of days with her aunt, Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, at the Elms next week.

Mr. and Mrs. Francis Burton Harrison have arrived in town from Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. James A. Burden have likewise returned from abroad, and have gone to their country place, near Troy.

Mr. and Mrs. A. D. Juillard, who have been until now at Tuxedo, sailed yesterday for Europe, as did also Mrs. Seth Barton French, who plans to spend the winter abroad, and who will place her children at school in Europe.

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Endicott return to town at the end of next week, and will open their house, in West 38th-st., for the season.

Dr. and Mrs. William T. Bull, who are at Newport, return to town for the season on Monday next.

Mr. and Mrs. Marshall O. Roberts, who arrived the other day from Europe, have left town for Newport, where they are staying at the Breakers with Mrs. Vanderbilt. Marshall O. Roberts is the son of Mrs. Ralph Vivian by her first marriage, and, although born an American citizen, has held a commission in the British army and makes his home in England. His wife is the daughter of Sir George Murray, Secretary of the Postal Department.

Mr. and Mrs. Oliver Hartman have sold their house in Park-ave. and bought the house at No. 34 East 53d-st., which they will make their home in the future, when in the city.

Among those seen in town yesterday were Mrs. Hilborne L. Roosevelt, Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Alexander, Mrs. William Woodward, Mrs. Austen Gray, Mrs. Frederick Edey and Miss Ruth Vanderbilt Twombly.

SOCIAL NOTES FROM NEWPORT.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.) Newport, R. I., Sept. 20.—Luncheon was given this afternoon at Newport by Mrs. May E. Hall and Mrs. Perry Belmont, and this evening cocktail dinners were given by Mrs. William G. Roelker, Mrs. Clarence Pell and Mrs. E. C. Knight. Mrs. Stuyvesant Fish closed her Newport season to-day and with her daughter, Miss Marian Fish, started for their place at Garrison-on-the-Hudson instead of Hot Springs, where they had intended going.

Mr. and Mrs. Edwin D. Morgan will end their season here to-morrow and go to their New-York home, making the trip with Louis Cass Ledyard on his yacht.

Mr. and Mrs. J. L. Van Alen have gone to New-York for a few days.

Mrs. Frederick Pierson has returned to Newport from a visit at Bar Harbor.

THE PRESIDENT'S GUESTS.

Foreign Affairs Discussed with Messrs. Root, Lodge and Choate.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.) Oyster Bay, Sept. 20.—President Roosevelt discussed foreign affairs this evening with Secretary Root, Senator Lodge, of Massachusetts, and Joseph H. Choate, formerly Ambassador to Great Britain. The three guests arrived about 6 o'clock, in the midst of a thunderstorm. The President's covered carriage was waiting for them at the station. The President invited them to dine with him and remain overnight.

"What's the news?" asked Secretary Root as he left the car. "I have just got in from Labrador and haven't the remotest idea of what is going on." Mr. Root said he expected to return to Washington about the first of October. In the interim he will spend some time in New-York City and near Utica. All the President's visitors will leave Sagamore Hill to-morrow forenoon.

Consul, Duchess of Marlborough, paid President Roosevelt a call this afternoon. She arrived at 3 p. m., with Mr. and Mrs. Clarence H. Mackay, in their wing touring car, and remained at Sagamore Hill about half an hour.

Secretary Loeb announced the appointment this afternoon of Arnold Shanklin, of St. Louis, as the consul general at Panama. Mr. Shanklin was endorsed by Senator Warner and Thomas Atkins, chairman of the Republican State Committee.

The members of St. Hilda's Society of Christ Episcopal Church were entertained at luncheon this afternoon by Mrs. Roosevelt. The organization is a sewing society, which each year makes and sends to New-York institutions a great many children's garments. Mrs. Roosevelt is an active member, frequently attending the meetings and working on clothes for the walls. It has been her custom each summer to entertain the members of the society. Last year she gave them a luncheon on board the Sylph.

PRINCE LOUIS AT HALIFAX.

Flagship Remains Outside the Harbor—An Official Welcome To-day.

Halifax, Sept. 20.—Prince Louis of Battenberg arrived here from Prince Edward Island to-day, and was received with honors. The prince came into the harbor on a small steamer and took quarters on the ship. He will remain here until the 25th, when one of the English ships will enter the harbor to engage in gunnery practice. The city's official welcome will be given to-morrow.

ADMIRAL DEWEY'S WINTER PLANS.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Admiral Dewey returned to Washington from Hot Springs, Va., where he has spent three months, and was at his office in the Navy Department to-day. The admiral's winter plans provide for a trip to the West Indies, where he will go to review the North Atlantic fleet at the maneuvers which will be conducted by Rear Admiral Evans. The admiral is looking forward to this trip with much interest, for, among other things, the fleet will have added to it a large number of new gunboats, the Pennsylvania, the West Virginia, the Colorado and the Maryland, which will form a division under Rear Admiral Brownson.

AMBASSADOR MEYER AT PARIS.

Paris, Sept. 20.—George von L. Meyer, the American Ambassador to Russia, arrived here from Berlin last night, and will remain in Paris until September 27, when he sails for America on the Kaiser William II. Mr. Meyer spent the day paying visits. He saw M. Nitti and Mr. de Martens, and will see M. Nitti after the latter's return from a visit to the President at M. Loubet's country seat.

MR. BACON LEASES A HOUSE.

Washington, Sept. 20.—Robert Bacon, of New-York, who will succeed Francis B. Loomis as Assistant Secretary of State, has leased the Quay house, No. 1412 K-st., between 16th and 17th sts., and will probably take possession early in October. It is a large, historic, and excellent house, and is the best section of the city, within a few squares of the White House, and was occupied by Paul Morton when he was Secretary of the Navy.

Mr. and Mrs. Elisha Dyer, jr., are visiting in New-York. There is a report in Newport that James Hays Hyde, who has spent much of the summer at Newport, visiting in the cottage colony, has been so much impressed with the place that he is to rent a cottage here and become a permanent summer resident.

IN THE BERKSHIRES.

(By Telegram to The Tribune.) Lenox, Mass., Sept. 20.—One of the most brilliant entertainments of the Lenox season was given to-night at Elm Court by Mr. and Mrs. William Douglas Sloane, who entertained forty guests at dinner. This was followed by a dance, to which fifty additional young people were invited. The dances and roses were used in the table adornment. The dances which followed from 10:30 o'clock introduced a cotillon. Mr. and Mrs. Sloane's guests were the representative Lenox cottagers and members of their house parties.

The social colony was interested in the first production of comic opera, "Sunny Shelly," in Pittsfield, after the success of the benefit of the newly named House of Mercy Hospital, in which Miss Cutting, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter Cutting, took a prominent part. Miss Cutting's solo dance was the feature of the performance. Among those who occupied boxes were Mrs. George Westinghouse, Richard Goodman, Miss Goodman, Mrs. D. Sloane, Charles Lester, Miss Bigelow, Mrs. Frank Lawrence, Mrs. Charles M. Adams, Miss Sophia Purdiss, Miss Clementine Adams, Baron and Baroness von dem Busche, Mrs. Robert Winthrop, Grenville L. Winthrop, Mr. and Mrs. John Sloane, Mr. and Mrs. Thomas S. Clarke, Mrs. James P. Ludlow, Mr. and Mrs. William Pollock, Mrs. and Mrs. Walter E. Maynard and Mr. and Mrs. William J. Field.

Fourteen pairs started this morning in the tennis tournament for prizes offered by Miss Josephine Durand, daughter of the British Ambassador and Lady Durand, at the Lenox Club courts. Only the first round was played, because of wet courts from recent rains. In some places the courts were covered with sawdust to make the play possible, but even then the balls bounced so high, and a second round was put over until to-morrow morning. There were very interested spectators. The results follow:

Mrs. William B. O. Field and A. Du Puy defeated Miss C. Folsom and Count Bressler, 7-5, 6-2. Miss D. Sloane and Mrs. Charles M. Adams defeated Miss Collier and Samuel R. Ker-nochan, 6-3, 5-0. Mrs. Foster and Ernest Reed defeated Miss Parsons and T. C. Richardson, 6-3, 6-1. Mrs. J. S. Durand and J. C. Greenleaf defeated Miss Marion Oliver and George W. Durand, 7-5, 6-2, 6-4. Miss Durand and Baron von dem Busche defeated Miss Burns and Egmont Schenck, 6-4, 7-5.

Mrs. S. P. Shoter, of Savannah, will entertain the Berkshire Hunt at breakfast on Saturday morning, following the run in Richmond.

John Innes, of New-York, is a guest of Grenville L. Winthrop, at Ethelwyn.

Miss Helen Parish, of New-York, entertained a large party at her home at Lenox to-day. Miss Marion Oliver, daughter of the Assistant Secretary of War and Mrs. Oliver, is a guest of Mrs. Josephine Durand.

Mrs. John E. Alexander and Miss Anna Webb have gone to New-York for the remainder of the week.

Miss Hitchcock, of Washington, daughter of Secretary and Mrs. Hitchcock, is a guest of Mr. and Mrs. M. D. W. Field.

Count Joseph Wenzelsheim, of the Austrian Embassy, started to-day for Washington, after spending the summer in Lenox. The Austrian Ambassador and Mrs. von Henselmüller will spend the remainder of September in Lenox.

Mr. and Mrs. E. G. Easton, Mr. and Mrs. L. Godwin, Mr. and Mrs. John H. Thayer, Mrs. L. Ledford, Mr. and Mrs. Powell, Mr. and Mrs. T. Durand, Mr. and Mrs. John T. Topping, of Pittsburg, are at Shadow Brook.

Mr. Mortimer Durand has offered a trophy for a handicap golf match at the Lenox Links on Friday morning.

Mr. and Mrs. John Butler Swann, who have been spending the summer in Stockbridge, are to go to Toronto, Ontario, where they will live. Mr. Swann is a son of Mrs. John B. Swann, of New-York.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Folsom, of New-York, are to spend the winter at Bonnie Brae Cottage, in Stockbridge.

Mr. and Mrs. George W. Folsom have issued invitations for a dinner on Friday evening in honor of Lord Claud Hamilton and Miss Hamilton, of London.

Mr. and Mrs. William D. Sloane are to entertain the Duchess of Marlborough for the week at Elm Court.

MELVIL DEWEY RESIGNS.

To Leave State Library and Other Offices on January 1.

Albany, Sept. 20.—Melvil Dewey to-day resigned as director of the State Library, of the Home Education Department, and of the Library School. His resignation of the State Library and of the Home Education Department was accepted by the State Board of Regents, to take effect on January 1, 1906. The board decided that "in view of Dr. Dewey's offer to continue to assist, so far as he shall be able to do, in the conduct for the time being of the library school, the date for the taking effect of his resignation as its director, and his compensation therefor, be left for later determination."

BRYANS BEGIN TOUR OF THE WORLD. Start To-day on Trip Which Will Keep Them Abroad a Year.

Lincoln, Neb., Sept. 20.—Mr. and Mrs. W. B. Bryan, accompanied by their son and daughter, Henry and Elizabeth, will start on their tour of the world. They will sail from San Francisco for Japan on September 28, stopping in Honolulu for a day or two. They expect to reach Tokyo on October 15.

THEIR ONLY WEAPON.

From The Boston Herald. Another choice sample of Collins wit was furnished on the occasion of his return from a visit to his native country. He was asked to bring home a shillelagh as a gift to Joan Boyle O'Reilly. The presentation of the gift was made the occasion of a banquet, at which scores of the friends of both these distinguished Irishmen were bidden. The postprandial exercises were something like the following: "The shillelagh is the only weapon of the Irish people. As he handed it to the recipient, he said in conclusion: 'Boyle O'Reilly, now take the shillelagh and defend the Irish people to the Holy Land and other countries, and will spend next summer in the large cities of Europe. Mr. Bryan expects to be gone not less than a year.'

WHERE IT REALLY RAINS.

From The Lahore (India) Tribune. Saturday and Sunday witnessed the first really heavy rain in Lahore in over a century. The rain was a storm which moved into Lahore on Saturday about 10:00 a. m. and was accompanied by a heavy shower of rain in the two days. Such a deluge has brought the usual consequences, and the railway line between Lahore and Amritsar is now closed.

announced his decision not to support the Gorman amendment. This was ridiculed by the opposition as the desperation of a drowning man catching at his last straw; but when the votes were counted Garland was found to have won a decisive victory. In Garland's view the new "ancestor" test struck unfairly at the foreign element in Baltimore's citizenship—at the Hebrew, the Pole, the Irishman, the Gorman and the Italian. He could see no cause for denying the right to vote to a naturalized citizen because he might not have mastered the meaning of every obscure phrase in the state constitution, while waiting a similar qualification requirement in the case of the ignorant voter of native parentage. And a large majority of the Democrats in the one ward in which this issue was directly submitted enthusiastically subscribed to his theory of equal rights and privileges.

The Baltimore of 1905 differs from the Baltimore of 1855. It is broader, more tolerant, more democratic. It has outgrown the prejudices and passions of the Know-Nothing era. It is too progressive to set up an election system discriminating against foreign born citizens simply because they are foreign born. It has become enlightened enough to believe that native Americans constitute no privileged caste, and that a good citizen "needs no grandfathers."

OUT OF POLITICS.

The Democratic statesmen who with such patriotic fervor and airs of high morality have been rushing forward to denounce the wicked Republicans who accepted campaign contributions from insurance companies, and to demand the prohibition of such contributions under extreme pains and penalties, will, we hope, virtuously rejoice over the impetus given to their demand by the testimony of Mr. McCall yesterday, showing how widespread is the evil which they make such a virtue of denouncing. It seems, indeed, that their concern was based largely on personal knowledge of conditions through their having sought contributions from insurance companies. Naturally, if Judge Parker and Mr. Belmont and Mr. Sheehan, with their high purposes and austere morality, found themselves tempted to ask Mr. McCall for the property of the widow and orphan in order to promote pure politics, they could well appreciate the danger to the country of letting Republicans ask the same favors—and get them. It is, perhaps, a bit unkind of Mr. McCall to hint at Judge Parker's activity in raising money from corporations, but when the time his notes were taken up by Tammany contractors as the price of an aqueduct job, Judge Parker was young then, and had not come to take the broad view of the evils of corporation contributions which so ennobled him in the last campaign. Nevertheless, Mr. McCall pretty effectively takes the discussion out of politics when, speaking of the last campaign, he says:

My life was made weary by the Democratic candidates chasing me for money, and this campaign of the very men who to-day are being interviewed in the papers and denouncing these men who contribute to campaigns, their shadows were crossing my path every step I took looking for money. One—the candidate himself, Parker—if he would show up his books for that corporation money as chairman of the State Committee, he would find a dollar in the world; he would take every dollar that was paid to him.

After that Judge Parker's "I told you so" sounds a little forced. Perhaps the Democrats will now see that this evil is not one out of which anybody can make political capital. It is to be hoped so. The matter is far too serious for demagoguery and juggle. It is an abuse for which neither party is to blame. It springs from the moral tone of the whole community and from confused ideas of business propriety. Honest men without thought of wrongdoing have been parties to it. It is now time to avoid plays for partisan advantage and seek in humbleness of spirit a remedy for conditions which no man and no party, but the whole community, created.

It is a sad day for Plunkitt, but he sorrows not as one without hope. He has fallen, but the cause dear to his heart will not lack adherents. "Honest graft" will still flourish, though the 15th District know Plunkitt no more. He is not permitted to enjoy the personal reward of his greatness in substantial products of "graft," but his is the traditional fate of great discoverers. Those who come after him will do the work he planned for himself, and he has the consolation of knowing that he lives for posterity. When McManus has enjoyed his brief day of "graft" and been forgotten, Plunkitt will still be famed as the prophet and philosopher of the Tammany theory of government. The substance of "honest graft" has suffered no eclipse. Mr. Murphy is actively planning for four years more of opportunity to extort profitable contracts for his family from the public service corporations. If he succeeds in re-electing Mayor McClellan he may well feel with Plunkitt that the opportunities for "honest graft" undisturbed for such a term really leave no excuse for "monkeying with the Penal Code." The defeat of Plunkitt has added to the prestige of the Sullivans, and nobody who knows the Sullivans is at all troubled about the decay of "honest graft" under their auspices. Some of their followers are perhaps more inclined to "monkey with the Penal Code" than Plunkitt thinks desirable, and would disturb Commissioner McAdoo's comfort if that gentleman were not too fully occupied with resenting criticism about lawlessness to do effective work in suppressing it. But since "Big Tim" has been in Europe and acquired a lot of culture and some broad views of statesmanship it may be expected that he will see the wisdom of the Plunkitt counsel of moderation and restrict his followers to "honest graft."

THE CAUSE, NOT THE MAN.

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A COLOMBIAN DICTATORSHIP.

If the report that President Reyes has established a virtual dictatorship in Colombia should prove true, it might be regarded by thoughtful men with a considerable measure of equanimity and resignation. That would not be because they approve of dictatorships as a general rule of government, but because they realize that desperate diseases need strong remedies, and, without any wish to speak unkindly of Colombia, it must frankly be said that for many years that country has been suffering from very grave civic maladies. One of its own historians has said that at the time of the establishment of its independence it was already prematurely old and corrupt. Its history for four score years, marked with revolutions and counter-revolutions, has been little more than a record of the struggle to correct that impression, and certainly the regime of the last generation, beginning with a revolution based upon the principle that it was folly to pay debts unless under mortal compulsion, has not commended the government of that country to the favor of the world.

Many years ago Mexico was in an equally evil plight. "To Mexicanize" was a verb of common use in this and other lands, indicating the process of degrading a government to the lowest possible level by means of either force or fraud. But there arose a man—"one still, strong man in a blatant land"—who knew how to rule men for their own good, even against their will. He was called a dictator, and he was. But because of his dictatorship Mexico was lifted from the mire of base contempt and made a great nation which the other great nations of the world delight to honor. If ever a country needed a political redeemer, Mexico did. If ever a country found a political redeemer, Mexico found him in Porfirio Diaz—general, president, dictator or whatever he may be called. When Rafael Reyes was chosen President of Colombia the remark was often made by those who knew him well that he was a man of the Diaz type, who, it might be hoped, would exercise upon Colombia some such influence as that which Diaz had so successfully exerted in Mexico. That did not necessarily mean it was to be done through a dictatorship, veiled or open. Since then we have seen no indication that President Reyes has sought despotic powers. He has apparently been striving in perfectly constitutional ways to reform the government of his country, and especially to reorganize upon a solvent basis its disordered finances. To what extent he has made progress does not yet appear. But we believe the best judgment of the world is that if any Colombian can do the much needed work he can, and, moreover, that any means he may employ to do it will be above suspicion of self-seeking and will be aimed at nothing but the good of his country. If such should prove not to be the case, the world would have to confess itself grievously disappointed and dejected.

MORE PARK RAIDS.

It is gratifying to observe that the attempt to despoil Pelham Bay Park for the construction of a racetrack has been blocked, and that the man who undertook it has been ordered to repair the mischief he did—we wish we could say before being dismissed from the place for which he has so completely demonstrated his unwisdom. Nevertheless, when we see what people—citizens and taxpayers—are trying to do to another of our great parks we cannot wonder much at the conduct of the Park Commissioner in The Bronx.

We refer to the efforts which are still being made to destroy some of the finest parts of Prospect Park in order to provide a railroad company with a storage yard under it. This precious scheme first came up months ago, when we exposed it and denounced it as it deserved. But the railroad company has not abandoned it. On the contrary, it has gone about promoting it in what it doubtless thinks is an uncommonly shrewd way. It has given people in Flatbush to understand that it will not and cannot give them the transit facilities which they so greatly need unless it can have the use of the park, and so has frightened them into petitioning for the spoilation of the park.

It is an amazing spectacle. We do not blame the people for wanting the improved transit facilities. They need them badly, as does everybody in Brooklyn. But it is an insult to intelligence to pretend that such facilities cannot be provided without the spoilation of Prospect Park. The storage yard can be provided elsewhere, without trespassing an inch upon the park, only—and here is the Man and Brother of sable hue in the woodpile—it will cost the company a little more to make it elsewhere. That, indeed, is why railroad companies are often so desirous of getting into parks, because they think they can get the park land for nothing. Make it plain to the subway concern that it would have to pay more for the use of the park than for adjoining land, and it would with record breaking celerity discover that some other site was decidedly more convenient and commodious for its storage yards.

Our friends in Flatbush have been frightened with false fire into a foolish and unworthy course. The railroad company has been "bluffing" them. As soon as it finds out, as it ought to very soon, that it cannot have Prospect Park for car yards, it will go on with its enterprise in some other place. The road will be built and operated just the same, but storage will be found for the cars outside of the park. Instead of petitioning the Park Commissioner to prove false to his duty and to sanction the spoilation of the park, the people of Flatbush should encourage and support him in the stand he has taken against such sordid vandalism, and the same time demanding that the subway shall be built and operated promptly, without any more nonsense. If the existing company will not do it unless it can have the park, somebody else will.

AMERICAN DIAMOND MINES.

A chance that the United States may become a producer of natural diamonds on a commercial scale has been developed within the last few days. Mr. David Draper, a mineralogist of long experience in South Africa, came to this country less than a month ago for the purpose of studying the indications afforded by a certain locality in Elliott County, Ky. Since his arrival he has identified a species of soft rock there as the mineral in which diamonds are embedded at Kimberley. The material resembles clay, is sometimes blue and sometimes yellow, and is deposited in the form of nodules and "pipes." How it came there it is not yet clear. Whether or not it will pay to work such extensive accumulations of the substance which are known to exist in one neighborhood in America is equally uncertain, but the fact that diamonds are associated with a similar formation in the Transvaal and Cape Colony is beyond question.

The few diamonds that have been discovered in the United States were distributed over two or three states near the Upper Lakes. Like those from Brazil and India, they were found in gravel. They had probably been transported by the great ice sheet of the glacial period hundreds, if not thousands, of miles from the laboratory in which they were manufactured. It is suspected that they came from Canada, but there has never been any satisfactory clew which would guide the wisest prospector to the spot where they originated. On the other hand, when "blue ground" was recognized south of the Ohio River, it was obvious that if the revelation was to lead to important results the search should be conducted in the immediate vicinity. Accordingly, on the strength of Mr. Draper's report, a quantity of the material has been mined, a small plant for washing it has been erected and before long it should be possible to learn whether or not the hopes which have recently been excited are well founded. If they are, the country may experience a sensation scarcely less thrilling than those created by the first discoveries of gold in California more than half a century ago and of petroleum in Western Pennsylvania a decade later.

At the present time, according to Mr. Draper, no deposit of kimberlite is known outside of South Africa other than the one in Eastern Kentucky. A hunt for such geological formations will be promptly instituted, however, if diamonds are actually found in that region. There are many extinct volcanic craters in the United States which promise to become centres of speculative and scientific interest. None of them may contain kimberlite, but all doubt on that point should be set at rest, and it probably will be.

HOUSTON'S BLUE GOGGLE CLUB.

The poet who writes sonnets to his mistress's eyebrow belongs to a past generation. To do such a rash thing to-day might bring him, dazed and we-be-gone, into the police court. For he it known to all the masculine species, poets or plain everyday folk, that maiden charms, like the wine when it is red, are not to be looked upon without a special permit from the police court. Houston, Tex., has gone further, and enacted a "gog gog" or anti-furtive, ordinance, and

in that pleasant Southern city, where the maidens are, presumably, fair to look upon, that oldtime privilege of the homelier sex, immortalized by rare Ben Jonson, has been abrogated and thrown into the aldermanic lumber room. The Houston swain who should now dare to sing or quote, and, worst of all, to look the lines

Drink to me only with thine eyes,  
And I will pledge with mine,  
would be in danger of the lockup.

Of course, there is reason for the new law, and also unreason. Unfortunately, there is room to believe there is plenty of both, so closely are folly and wisdom blended even in aldermanic dignity. That, however, is not a matter with which Houston swains need concern themselves. It is their business not to look upon the maiden when she is fair, and as all maidens are fair in law the new Houston ordinance practically forbids looking upon them at all.

To meet this condition of affairs has taxed the wisdom and ingenuity of the young men of Houston, but they seem to have succeeded, temporarily at least. The masculine intellect when severely taxed generally rises to the occasion, and in the present instance it seems to have fairly met the crisis confronting it by the organization of the Blue Goggle Club. As indicated, the members of the club will wear blue goggles in streets frequented by the charming maids of Houston, and in this guise they can scarcely be said to make the forbidden "gog gog" eyes. To render assurance doubly sure, however, the members, when in the blue distance they perceive a damsel approaching, will be expected to glance modestly to the pavement to turn their goggles skyward and inspect the finery of the blue above, turned a deeper hue by their safety appliance. Having safely passed the blooming perils of their way they may again be permitted to direct their gaze in a horizontal line until another danger signal is descried on the horizon.

The battle royal between Tammany chieftains in the 15th and among the McCarrenites and anti-McCarrenites across the big bridge has helped to discover who's who. The vanquished will now learn what's what.

The Democratic managers in Virginia are now reduced to desperate straits in campaign logic. Mr. Swanson is appealing for support on the ground that the Republicans, if successful this year, will repeal the new state constitution. If the Republicans win under the new constitution they will hardly feel like going back to the old one, under which their record of defeats stretched back for more than twenty years.

Mr. Rockefeller continues to warn young men against the perils of drink, but so far he has not directed their attention to the grave dangers arising from burning the midnight oil.

Sweden and Norway should make up and get ready for the Hague Peace Conference.

"Big Tim" grows bigger, but Boss Murphy is full grown, and knows what is his due as Tammany's chief and also how to collect it.

Manufacturers of celluloid goods want the public to believe that such merchandise is not explosive, though they are willing to admit that it is combustible. It will probably be asserted that the bombardment in the upper part of the building at 8th-ave. and 124th-st., which burned yesterday, did not proceed from the ignition of celluloid billiard balls. Any such contradiction, however, should be accompanied with a more credible explanation of the racket in order to prove convincing.

An announcement comes from Colorado that deposits of pitchblende have been uncovered in that state which promise to lower the price of radium. So many other stories of the same kind have been told in the last two years, and have proved misleading, that it won't do to trust this one implicitly. All the same, the world will hope for its verification.

THE TALK OF THE DAY.

"Papa," asked the small boy who was reading the magazine, "what does it mean by severing home ties?"

"When you mean," replied the paterfamilias from behind his newspaper, "is a term used to describe a man's feelings in regard to tearing apart certain articles of male neckwear usually presented to him by a wife with a fondness for bargain sales."

THE "WHEN" POEMS.

"When" verses, sold now by the yardstick. Are the kind that are most often seen. As you'll find, if you glance through the pages of "The Evening Post."  
"When Genevieve Goes on the Golf Links,"  
"When Barbara Beats Me at Bridge,"  
"When Vera Goes Early to Vespers,"  
"When Little Comes over the Ridge,"  
"When Molly Makes Muffins Each Morning,"  
"When Tilly Puts Tea on the Hob,"  
But one poem is yet to be written—  
"When Cora Eats Corn off the Cob."  
(Dubuque Telegraph-Herald.)

Few persons know why August has thirty-one days. July, which takes its name from Julius Caesar, has thirty-one days, and August, who completed the calendar, declined to submit to the indignity of seeing his own month brought below the inferiority of one day less. The astronomers had accordingly to reshuffle the calendar, and after twenty-four hours from February's glory in order that August might face the world on a footing of perfect equality with July.

No Doubt of His Honesty.—It is only a few years since Wooscock missed for good the familiar face of Alf Church, for a long time Deputy Sheriff of the city of New-York, who was straggled forward and blunt in all his dealings. One day a grocer went to Alf for information about a certain substance which are known to exist in one neighborhood in America is equally uncertain, but the fact that diamonds are associated with a similar formation in the Transvaal and Cape Colony is beyond question.

Daniel O'Connell once unraveled a queer plot in a will case. Witness after witness swore that they saw the document duly executed. At last a witness of the other side expressed the lawyer's attention—"the life was in him," over and over repeated.

"By the virtue of your oath, was he alive?" he asked one witness.  
"By the virtue of my oath, the life was in him," he was answered.  
Then O'Connell turned to the man and very slowly and very solemnly said:  
"Now I call upon you, in the presence of your Maker, who will some day pass sentence upon you for this evidence—I solemnly ask you—and you answer for your perjury—was not there a live fly in the dead man's mouth when his hand was placed upon the will?"  
Cornered and pale with fear, the witness confessed that this had actually happened.

A Cold Storage Romance.—He—Had an odd experience the other day. One morning my breakfast table was laid with an inscription on it. It said: "The finder may write to me," signed "Mary Sibley."  
She—What reply did you get?  
He—The postmaster refused to send it, saying that Miss Sibley had died several years ago. (Louisville Courier-Journal.)

In Michigan three sisters are living whose combined ages are 25 years. All have been married.  
An Ohio man who won a prize for foretelling the weather was able to make such a good record because he used his father as a barometer. When the old gentleman had a headache or a cold or a pain in the back he corresponded to a certain sign, and a small boy follows the elephant. To use a tender old father the way might look cruel and inhuman, but it is not, for the aged ones would have the pains away, predictions or no predictions. So many might as well consult him only when he is dead and made to perform useful labor. Of course, were the son to hang his feeble old father on a nail on the wall, he would be a good deal more than a prophet. He would be a man who wanted to know about the probability of occasional showers that would be a trick that could easily be classed as reprehensible. (Chicago News,