The Sun.

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One Common Ground.

The Citizens' Union and the Republicans have but one common ground of opposition to Tammany Hall, namely, opposition to the Chicago platform. No other basis of union exists, or can be made while the Chicago platform exists.

The Citizens' Union can leave the Republican platform, the alternative of that of Chicago; but the Republicans, never! If the Citizens' Union abandons it, it will be notice that that organization does not desire an anti-Tammany union.

Desertion from the Republican platform is treachery to the main interests of New York city and of the United States.

That sums up the political situation.

The Fool-Killer Vote.

In the *New York Journal* of Wednesday last the Hon. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY, formerly Fool-Killer Extraordinary to the Democratic party, published over his own signature the subjoined announcement:

"It is too early for discussing the political situation. We are not ready. It is better to remain quiet and say nothing until the time arrives for action. Then we shall act, and act vigorously."

It is now currently reported that the Hon. WILLIAM C. WHITNEY is devoting his energies to an attempt to induce the Tammany leaders to ignore the Chicago platform this year; that is, to say nothing about free silver and other Bryan doctrines.

If this is Mr. WHITNEY's conception of vigorous action, he is no longer qualified to be Fool-Killer for the Democracy or for any other party. He is simply advising a policy of suppression and dishonest evasion for the sake of the personal comfort of himself and others. He is trying to help the Bryanized Democracy and the Sheehanized Tammany into power in the Greater New York by assisting to conceal the Bryanized face of the one and the Sheehanized features of the other.

What is the sort of vigorous action demanded of an honest, old-fashioned Democrat and a competent Fool-Killer in the present situation?

Repudiation. Not the evasion or suppression of the Chicago platform, but its utter repudiation. Until Mr. WHITNEY thinks the time has come for that sort of action, better would it be for him to remain quiet and say nothing.

A New President for the Cuban Republic.

It is not often that an army in the field votes in an election for civil officers of the Government under which it wages war. While the soldiers of the Cuban revolution are actively engaged in military operations, they are also interested in a political situation which is of importance to their country, about which we have printed a number of informing despatches. Last week the election of Deputies to the Assembly was held in the province of Havana, the revolutionists casting their ballots for candidates of their choice, under the guarantees contained in the Constitution of the republic. In Havana province there were 5,043 voters, all well armed, and all entitled to express freely their political opinions. There had been a good deal of sanguinary fighting in the days immediately preceding the election, but the men marched from the battlefield to the ballot box, carrying their rifles and machetes, fully prepared to meet Spain at any moment. It was a serious and significant incident; it honored the revolution and the republic.

In other provinces of Cuba elections of Deputies had previously been held, and their features doubtless resembled those of the election in the province of Havana. The Spaniards had entertained the opinion that the elections would be the cause of dissensions in the Cuban camps; but they have ascertained by this time that their opinion was incorrect. There are political divisions in revolutionary Cuba; but they do not interfere with that unity of spirit and purpose which has always existed in the ranks of the army of liberation.

The recent election of Deputies is more especially important because of its relation to the choice of a new President of the republic. The term of President CISNEROS expires this week, or on Thursday next, when the ballots for his successor will be cast by a body of delegates, sitting as a constituent convention. Among the men who have been spoken of as candidates for the Presidency are the present incumbent of the office, and Gen. CALIXTO GARCIA, and Dr. EUSEBIO HERNANDEZ, and Señor TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA, and Gen. BARTOLOME MASO, now the Vice-President. As for President CISNEROS, he told a correspondent of THE SUN that he did not care to be elected for another term; "the Spaniards," he said gaily, "paint me as an aged invalid, but I feel strong enough for service in the field." Gen. GARCIA is a man of marked ability, well fitted for the office of President; but he cannot be spared from the army, in which he ranks next to the Commander-in-Chief. Dr. HERNANDEZ is a clear-headed and energetic patriot, but he entertains ideas regarding the civil government of Cuba which are not in accord with those of most of his compatriots. Señor PALMA, who has long acted as Cuban envoy to this country, is a man of many accomplishments, but he desires that another Cuban shall fill the office of President.

There is very little doubt that Gen. MASO, who has gained distinction as Vice-President, will be the successful candidate for the first place in the Cuban Government. The case is almost determined in his favor by the circumstance that he is the choice of the foremost leader of the Cuban revolution. In the letter of Gen. GOMEZ which we printed last Saturday he gave utterance to his hope that MASO would be the next President of the Cuban republic, and promised that he would advise the delegates to vote for him. "MASO was the soul of the revolution in its first days," said GOMEZ. GOMEZ affirmed that he knew that three of the provinces favored MASO, who, in his opinion, would receive the votes of a majority of the delegates. This letter of the Commander-in-Chief of the Cuban Army dispels the doubt that has long existed as to his attitude in the Presidential election. It had been reported that he preferred Dr. HERNANDEZ, and also that he desired the reëlection of the present President; the truth in the case is now for the first time made known. His influence with the Cuban Army, which comprises nearly the whole of the able-bodied patriots and voters in the island, is, properly, very great.

Some people may wonder that GOMEZ himself has not become a candidate for the Presidency. There are two reasons; one of them is that he is not a native of Cuba; and the other is that he cannot surrender the military leadership without endangering the Cuban cause. Under the ragged uniform of this veteran abides the genius of the revolution. And BARTOLOME MASO, in the office of Chief Executive, will surely be of more help to him than President CISNEROS has been, though the latter is a good and true man.

The political divisions among the patriots of Cuba are not such as to affect their devotion to the main object of the revolution. Some men are opposed to annexation to this country, while others desire it. Some seek for a republic upon the model of that of France; others would like a constitution resembling that of the United States. But all of them are as one in the demand for independence and liberty. All these diverse parties will have a hearing in the Constitutional Convention, next month, when the provisional charter, under which Cuba has heretofore been governed, is to be revised. It does not seem to us worth while to give much heed to such changes as may be made in the charter at this time. When Cuban independence shall be won, all questions can be brought up for settlement, and a new order of things will then be established.

While we take an interest in the coming Presidential election in Cuba, we are mainly concerned about the war, about the overthrow of Spanish rule, about the success of the heroic struggle for liberty.

The Story of Section Twenty-two.

This letter from a correspondent whose name ought to be a guarantee of careful investigation and precise statement, would do much toward clearing up the origin of the 10 per cent. discriminating duty affecting Canadian railways, provided the statements of our correspondent were correct and his understanding of the question involved was accurate:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If you can, and will, inform the public what the Hon. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, United States Senator from New Hampshire, means in a recent letter to a Boston newspaper relating to the 10 per cent. discriminating duty of the new Tariff law, you will oblige many persons who cannot make the Honorable Senator out. He says the law (section 22) 'was put through by chicanery or a legislative trick; that is,' he says, 'by writing it as new matter into a conference report where it was adopted by both houses of Congress without being noticed by more than those persons engaged in the scheme.'

"Now, sir, the *Congressional Record* and all the newspapers of the country showed at the time of the passage of the new Tariff bill through the Senate—and when a conference committee of the two houses was formed—that the bill introduced by Senator ELKINS from West Virginia imposing 10 per cent. additional duty on all goods brought into this country in foreign vessels from non-contiguous foreign countries had been made a part of the Tariff law, section 22. The section plainly contained the clause providing for the payment of the extra duty on these goods if landed in a contiguous foreign country, as Canada or Mexico, and thence brought here by railroad or other transportation.

"In the conference committee not a line of new matter was 'written in,' as can be seen readily by the report of that committee printed at the time, as stated, in the *Congressional Record* and all the newspapers in the land. The only change made in the section by the committee was the leaving out of one clause relating to goods on the free list—it not being thought advisable to impose the duty on them. If Senator CHANDLER can tell us where the chicanery comes in in this matter, also what he was about that he did not oppose the trick tooth and nail, when it was shown in the committee's report, he will satisfy us all better than by miscalling the business after it is done. LEGISLATIVE OBSERVER."

"NEW YORK, Aug. 28, 1897."

The mistake of "Legislative Observer" seems to be in supposing that the whole of section 22 is concerned in the controversy, and that the whole of section 22 was substantially the Elkins bill, introduced early in the session. It is not so well understood as it ought to be that the main part of section 22, imposing a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. on goods imported in foreign vessels, except when such foreign vessels are entitled by treaty to equal privileges with ships of the United States, is an old provision. It figured in the tariff of 1883, in the tariff of 1890, and in the tariff of 1894. It was contained in the Dingley bill as it passed the House of Representatives on the 31st of March last, appearing in that measure as section 16. It practically amounts to nothing in favor of American shipping while the existing treaties stand. It will become of great importance whenever those treaties shall be abrogated.

The section that passed the House and went to the Senate was as follows:

"SECTION 16. That a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. ad valorem, in addition to the duties imposed by law, shall be levied, collected, and paid on all goods, wares, or merchandise which shall be imported in vessels not of the United States; but this discriminating duty shall not apply to goods, wares, and merchandise which shall be imported in vessels not of the United States, entitled, by treaty or any act of Congress, to be entered in the ports of the United States on payment of the same duties as shall then be paid on goods, wares, and merchandise imported in vessels of the United States."

When the Dingley bill went to the Senate that body did not change the House provision relating to discriminating duties except in one unimportant particular. The Finance Committee had recommended that the entire section be stricken out. The Senate on July 3 disagreed to this amendment proposed by the Finance Committee. It retained what was section 16 of the House bill, but on motion of Senator ALLISON made an amendment striking out the words "or any act of Congress." With this insignificant change the section went from the Senate to the conference committee in precisely the same form as it had gone from the House to the Senate.

The Elkins bill was not at any time incorporated in the Tariff bill, and it has no relation to the Tariff bill, except as it afforded a wise suggestion which some uncommonly astute and patriotic mind or minds in the conference committee had the genius to recognize and adopt.

This Elkins bill was the first bill introduced into the Senate during the recent session. It was introduced by Senator ELKINS on March 15, referred to the Committee on Commerce, and discussed and explained by its author in a long speech on April 5, which was printed in full in the *Congressional Record* of April 8. Its provisions were three in number, all of great importance when taken together:

1. A discriminating duty of 10 per cent., prescribed exactly in the language of the present law as printed above, but with the clause as to treaty exceptions omitted.

2. A provision that the discriminating duty of 10 per cent. should apply not only to goods brought directly to our ports in foreign vessels, but also to goods brought to Canadian or Mexican ports by foreign vessels, and thence by land into the United States. This part of the Elkins bill, the germ of the legislation which has stimulated so much of public interest and curiosity, was as follows:

"The additional duty imposed under the provisions of this act shall apply, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary of the Treasury, to all goods, wares, and merchandise not of the growth, production, or manufacture of countries contiguous to or bordering upon the territory of the United States when imported into the United States by land transportation or land vehicles or conveyances through or from the ports or other places of countries bordering upon the United States, if the same shall have been brought to such ports in ships or vessels not of the United States."

It will be seen at a glance that the second provision is a logical and legitimate consequence of the first provision, absolutely necessary to the main purpose of the law.

3. A broad provision abrogating all treaties, or clauses of treaties, which stand now in the way of the collection of a discriminating duty of 10 per cent. in favor of goods imported in American vessels.

Now, the Senate had just refused to repeal that part of existing law which was embodied in section 16 of the Dingley bill as it came from the House. The discriminating duty of 10 per cent. had been deliberately retained for future usefulness. It will go into effect whenever the treaties giving to foreign vessels equal privileges with our own in this respect shall be abrogated. It is right that the 10 per cent. discriminating duty should remain in the tariff, for Congress may decide at the very next session to abrogate those treaties in the interests of American shipping. But without such additional protection as was proposed in the second provision of the Elkins bill, and was actually incorporated into section 22 (formerly section 16) of the Tariff bill by the conference committee, the law providing for the 10 per cent. additional duty would practically be ineffective. Foreign vessels bringing goods dutiable under that law could escape the duty simply by landing at Canadian or Mexican ports, and allowing the Canadian or Mexican railways to do the rest. The net result of an enactment designed to benefit our commerce would be to transfer such part of the importing business as might be done in foreign bottoms from New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, New Orleans, San Francisco, and Seattle to Halifax, Montreal, Vera Cruz, Victoria, Vancouver, and Acapulco.

Some member or members of the conference committee had the wit to perceive that section 22 was a one-armed, one-legged, and one-eyed protector of American interests, so long as it lacked the supplementary and necessary provision in regard to land transportation which Mr. ELKINS had incorporated into his bill. And the conference committee thereupon gave effect to the first part of section 22, and respected the intention of the Senate when it refused to repeal the discriminating duty, by adding these words to the definition of merchandise which shall pay the additional 10 per cent.:

"Or which, being the production or manufacture of any foreign country not contiguous to the United States, shall come into the United States from such contiguous country."

That went back to both the Senate and the House for approval or rejection, and those Senators and Representatives who are now crying out against the judicious interpolation as a trick and a crime have only themselves to blame if they did not read the conference report.

The hue and the cry that is now raised by the Canadian Pacific and some of its New England friends will serve a good purpose if it fixes the exact responsibility for the insertion of the provision as to land transportation. THE SUN, too, and a majority of our fellow citizens would like to know the name or names of the men who perceived that without the Elkins supplement section 22 would be meaningless and impotent. We hope that instead of holding themselves too modestly in the background they will come forth to be honored by an immense majority of their fellow countrymen.

The Great Georgia Historian.

A report at once mournful and encouraging comes from Georgia. It says that the Hon. TOM WATSON of Thomson has determined to bankrupt politics by getting out of it. The prospects of Middle-of-the-Road Populism do not seem attractive to Mr. WATSON. Besides, he is becoming a sort of a plutocrat in the practice of his profession as a lawyer, and it is difficult for him to pursue plutocrats with proper zeal.

It seems almost impossible that Mr. WATSON should desert politics, and politics will not amount to much without him, but literature will make imperishable gain. His history of France has brought happiness to all who have read it, and, when translated into French, it will give the French people new and remarkable ideas about France; and he is now engaged on another historical work of the first importance. He is writing a book about JOAN of ARC, a book which will undoubtedly be a sufficient recompense for that heroine's persecutions at the hands of the English. Every chivalrous person will regret that the Maid of Domremy is not alive to read what will be the most spirited and blithesome account ever written of her career. It is the peculiarity of THOMAS's historical method that he lends gayety and facetiousness to every event which he touches.

Mr. WATSON is an accomplished maker of history, but we love him best when he writes it. There will be hands only less able than his to hold up the initiative and referendum, but there is no other hand than his to scatter humor over the glorious history of France.

Rising from the Ranks.

The War Department some time ago ordered no fewer than twelve non-commissioned officers and privates, who had passed their preliminary examinations for commissions, to report to-morrow at Fort Leavenworth for their final examinations. The striking fact was that at that time, as now, several scores of West Point graduates were still holding commissions as Additional Second Lieutenants; in other words, the normal grade of Second Lieutenant was full, and all these were surplus under the provision of law for such cases.

Nothing could more clearly show the earnest desire of the military authorities to keep up the custom of promotion from the ranks, without a break, if possible, even for a single year. It is worth remarking further that out of these twelve candidates, comprising a sergeant-major, a first sergeant, a sergeant, seven corporals, and two privates, Corporal OVENSHINE is the only one who is the son of an army officer. There are five natives of Southern States among the candidates, one each from Tennessee, Kentucky, Alabama, South Carolina, and Georgia, six from Northern States, and one a native of British India. When the recent orders appeared it was said that other candidates might be examined at Leavenworth.

Ordinarily the outlook for the actual promotion of such as may pass would be dark indeed with these scores of West Point graduates waiting for places. But we think the prospect for the reorganization of the artillery and the infantry is better now than for a long time. The ways have been provided for securing adequate revenues for the Government, and that combination of hard times with a poverty-stricken Treasury which has hitherto put off line reorganization will no longer be an obstacle. When Congress comes together in December this measure, most desirable for the public defence and safety, will be urged strongly, and should it be successful all the West Point graduates and the men from the ranks will find vacancies, with others in plenty for the academy graduates of June of next year.

Most wisely, therefore, has the War Department continued the examination system for the enlisted men. If the successful candidates should not be commissioned, after all, it would be, indeed, keeping the word of promise to the ear and breaking it to the hope; but we trust that no such result will occur. We must continue to furnish that incentive to good conduct and ambition which comes from the knowledge that the recruit may carry his shoulder straps in his kit.

Is He an Irresponsible Idiot?

The Hon. JOHN BROOKS LEAVITT, Chairman of the Citizens' Union of the Fourteenth Assembly district and miscellaneous reformer, has written to the Hon. TAYLOR MORE, Secretary of the Citizens' Union of the Fourteenth Assembly district, a letter in which he declares that the "situation is very critical" and that the Citizens' Union may have to nominate somebody besides Mr. LOW. The personal opinions of Mr. LEAVITT are possibly not of the highest importance, but they have the merit of frankness. Here is one of them, expressed in this same letter to the Hon. TAYLOR MORE:

"To me Boss PLATT is more odious than Boss CROKER, because he poses as a respectable man, a churchgoer, and to the sins of bribery and corruption he adds the damnable sin of hypocrisy."

It is likely enough that Mr. PLATT regards Mr. LEAVITT as an irresponsible idiot, and a prosecution for criminal libel would make the irresponsible idiot very happy by bathing him in publicity. Still, the reckless falsehoods of "reformers" of the Leavitt type ought to be resented and punished. The fact that these people are fools does not justify them in being liars and slanderers.

The writings of Mrs. E. D. E. N. SOUTHWORTH, Mrs. ANN S. STEPHENS, and two other writers have been removed from the Enoch Pratt library of Baltimore, but the reason can scarcely be that they are considered injurious in their tone. Mrs. SOUTHWORTH's works are so numerous that the cost of rebinding them must be a considerable expense to a library, and those of Mrs. STEPHENS, though much less numerous, make a library of more than twenty volumes. Every circulating library of any size has to exclude certain works, mainly on account of the expense of binding as compared with the literary value of them. Besides, most novels have their times and seasons, and even the most popular novels may cease to be in demand. But why should the authors complain if a library does not buy their books? Private readers will have to buy the works which are not to be found in the public libraries.

GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS is still unreconciled.—*Pittsburg Dispatch.*

He can't help it, and he wouldn't if he could. He enjoys being unreconciled.

Albany is to be singularly favored to-day. The Hon. B. R. TILLMAN will speak at a picnic and barbecue to be held under the auspices of the Patriots of America. He is described in the advertisements as "the only farmer, pure and simple, in America. He represents 35,000,000 engaged in agricultural pursuits alone, and talks to the people upon the Hustings, in the open under the trees, speaking plainly and bluntly the language of the common people, for he is one of them." We should have said that he was one of the particularly uncommon people, but that is a detail. "Do not fail to hear Senator TILLMAN, the people's friend," continues the advertisement. "Ox Roast, Bicycle Races, Balloon Ascension."

The *Chicago Times-Herald*, considering with proper gravity the populous new American party founded at St. Louis, observes that the party consists of Col. SELLERS and JAMES H. PHELPS of Detroit. "Who the deuce is PHELPS?" inquires our esteemed contemporary. There are ignorances not to be pardoned. The American party consists entirely of Col. SELLERS, and "JAMES H. PHELPS" must be one of his political pseudonyms. When a man founds a good, great, and original party he is going to be careful about whom he takes into it.

An Alabama poet has written a thousand poems and never had one published.—*Augusta Chronicle.*

He ought to be made laureate of his State, and yet there is nothing remarkable in his modesty. The main joy of producing poetry must be found in the satisfaction which it gives the producer. As long as he or she is satisfied, what difference does it make whether the applause of the public is secured? Doubtless many persons who never publish their verses gloat over them in secret with profound satisfaction. The public may or may not like a poet's works, but it is reasonably safe to suppose that he likes them.

Some superfluous censure has been given to the Hon. WILLIAM JENNINGS BRYAN because he is said to "travel on railroad passes." What better means for injuring railroad corporations is there than to induce them to carry passengers for nothing? If Mr. BRYAN doesn't pay his fare on the railroads, it is because he knows the wickedness of corporations and refuses to contribute to them.

This is a great and an important day, for it is to behold the meeting of the Debs Social Democracy at St. Louis. The Debs Social Democracy must include a great deal of the most curious talent in the country, and its confabulations cannot fail to be sonorous and powerful. Mr. DEBS himself is a thinker of much productivity, and in the matter of proclamations, few men can exceed him. While not as profound an economist as Gen. COXEY, he exceeds that gentleman in eloquence and epithet. And the assembling of him at St. Louis will make nations quake.

Our esteemed contemporary, the *New Haven Register*, is waging a spirited war against the word "chump," a vocable of Volscian sound, but not without its power. It connotates a certain hopeless fogginess of the intellectuals, and a density of conduct which reflects no dishonor on the moral volitions of the person connotated. Probably the so-called "chump" is so because he was born so, and should not be blamed; and perhaps the word which expresses him should not be blamed either. It is far from beautiful, but there seems to be a rude vigor in it; and probably it will live.

It is estimated that each day the people of Philadelphia swallow over two hundred thousand pills.—*Philadelphia Inquirer.*

And yet the people of Philadelphia are tolerably healthy.

WHY SETH LOW LEFT THE REPUBLICAN PARTY.

Further Contemporaneous Testimony as to His Attitude in 1888.

From the New York Tribune of July 8, 1888.

The Democrats are dodging. Now, we don't want to begin this campaign by calling anybody hard names, but Speaker Carlisle, Gov. Hill, and the rest must understand right here and now that the cowardly trick of singing one tariff tune in New York, Connecticut, and New Jersey and another in Kentucky and Texas is utterly played out. It won't do, gentlemen, it won't do. You won with it, not by it, last time, but you can't do it again. In 1884 Sam Randall stumped this State and took his solemn oath all over its territory that the Democratic party would not disturb the protective tariff. That's what he said in bold, clear words, and his pledges were one of the forces that pulled Cleveland through by his eyelashes. And yet he hadn't been in office three years before he gave the lie to Randall's sworn vows, gave it directly, talked free trade to his party, with the sugar patronage in one hand and the birchrod of Presidential disfavor in the other, and smashed Sam Randall in his own State because he didn't like it.

There's no use shamming—we will say the word right out—there's no use lying about what he meant, for his meaning was put into the Mills bill, and there it is now—free trade from start to finish. Henry Watterson says so in Kentucky, Frank Hurd says so in Ohio, J. S. Moore says so, and he ought to know, for he framed the bill; all the Free Traders say so, except, mark you, except when they come as Democratic orators in New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. Then they hedge and shuffle and apologize and sneak and play the familiar rôle of coward.

At the County Democracy meeting on Thursday night Gov. Hill said in his tricky speech: "The Democracy do not believe in free trade. There is not one line in our platform that will bear such a construction." And even Mr. Carlisle, who is supposed to be at least honest enough to stand by his principles, declared: "The Democratic party does not advocate free trade." Perhaps this was word-juggling, so far as Carlisle was concerned. Perhaps he meant that it did not advocate it in New York, but had resolved to establish it just the same. But the speeches were essentially dishonest, tricky, evasive. They were an attempt to repeat the Randall dodge.

Young Mr. Seth Low, over in Brooklyn, has left the Republican party and has stated the reason why. There may be some other than the ones he has assigned. He might probably have consented to postpone his departure until after we had elected him Governor had such a movement seemed to him hopeful. But it evidently didn't, and so he is going right away. The reason he gives is clear, and we don't question its sincerity so far as it goes. He deserts because "the Republican platform is a determined onslaught upon free trade."

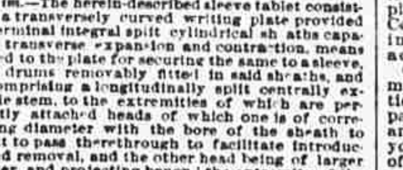
That is it, exactly. Mr. Low understands the Democracy, and takes what Carlisle and Hill say for just what it is worth. He has given away the trick. Now, gentlemen, don't be coy with Mr. Low. Don't protest that he misunderstands the issue. Don't tell him that he is a Burchard and a Jonah, and will ruin the Democratic game if he goes on talking that way in the doubtful State of New York. Don't wink at him and touch your fingers to your lips and grow hot and restless while the rich young importer unconsciously exposes your conspiracy. Just stand up like men, accept him for whatever he may be worth to you, and debate the tariff question honestly. For if you don't, we shall have to use Seth Low as a sort of whip with which to lash you back into the free trade ring from which, in the doubtful State of New York, you are trying to sneak away.

Patent Issued for a "Crib."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In looking through the last issue of the United States Patent Office Gazette I came across the inclosed illustration, which seems to indicate that the Federal Government has given official sanction to the reprehensible practice of cribbing. Every one with any pretence to higher education must be familiar with the roller crib, a strip of paper inscribed with valuable formulas or dates rolled around two terminal bits of wood after the fashion of ancient manuscripts. An acquaintance of mine in his sophomore year passed a highly successful examination with the aid of such a device. He improved on the ordinary crib by the addition of an elastic band, by means of which the roll could be snapped up his sleeve upon the near approach of a lynx-eyed tutor.

Since the patent was not withheld on the ground that the production of the article was opposed to morality, may it not be impeached as lacking novelty? Naturally it would be difficult to establish this point, as all intended witnesses to the prior use of the crib would probably refuse to answer on the ground that their testimony would tend to incriminate and degrade them. But must students and others hereafter pay royalties on cribs?

"588,553. SLEEVE TABLET. FRANK A. CARSON, Gainesville, Tex. Filed April 30, 1896. Serial No. 589,719. (No model.)



"*Claim.*—The herein-described sleeve tablet consisting of a transversely curved writing plate provided with terminal integral split cylindrical sheaths capable of transverse expansion and contraction, means attached to the plate for securing the same to a sleeve, rotary drums removably fitted in said sheaths, and each comprising a longitudinally split centrally expansible stem, to the extremities of which are permanently attached heads of which one is of corresponding diameter with the bore of the sheath to adapt it to pass therethrough to facilitate introduction and removal, and the other head being of larger diameter, and projecting beyond the extremity of the sheath to form a handhold, and means for engaging a circumferential groove in one of the heads of each drum to prevent accidental longitudinal displacement thereof, substantially as specified."

Perhaps the patentee had no thought of evil application, but saw only that his invention might be of great service to long-winded statesmen blessed with short memories, whom it might unobtrusively remind to interlard their speeches with such phrases as "communism of pelf," "public office a public trust," "tariff for deficit," and "innocuous desuetude."

NEW YORK, Aug. 26. A. G.

A Citizens' Union View.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You say that Seth Low cannot accept the Citizens' Union "snap nomination" without disgrace. How can he refuse it without treachery to the Citizens' Union if he proposes to be a candidate at all?

His closest political and personal friends have been spending money and effort in his behalf lavishly the whole summer long, and how can he leave them in the lurch? You say they are fools, but they have not been fools enough to go ahead without his expressed or tacit authority. They have never deceived the public or him as to their settled determination to make a "snap nomination," as you call it. What is the Citizens' Union for? Is it not to drive out national politics from municipal elections, and is not the Republican party as much its natural enemy as the Democratic? How can Mr. Low be with it if he takes a Republican nomination or negotiates for one? Mr. Low must accept the Citizens' Union's absolutely independent nomination or retire from the field wholly in order that another man may be nominated. CITIZENS' UNION.

NEW YORK, Aug. 28.

The Grand Army and Their British Flag.

The other day some G. A. Rs.,
Who camped in Buffalo,
Concluded for a little lark,
To Canada they'd go;
And so a party of them went
And didn't go it slow.

Toronto was the town they struck,
And when they went ashore
They formed themselves in line of march
And swung their flag galore;
Which made the people 'round that way
Particularly sore.

Because they have a law that says
No foreign flag shall fly
In Canada unless there is
A union jack near by;
And so they struck the G. A. Rs.
To know the reason why.

The G. A. Rs. apologized;
They didn't know, they said,
The customs of a country where
The flag it flew was red,
And hurried off to get it straight
So they could go ahead.

And go ahead they did with speed,
Upon those foreign shores,
With loud hurrahs, and lively songs
And other kinds of roars;
While over them Old Glory waved
As big as all outdoors.

But they were safe, for near at hand
A union jack they flew,
To keep within the law and make
The cops know what to do!
But the inch dimensions of that jack
Were only two by two! W. J. L.

GRAY SPEAKS TO BLUE.

The Patriotic and Eloquent Reply of a Confederate Veteran of Virginia to Gen. Bradley T. Johnson and All the Unreconstructed.

A Speech of John S. Wise at the Banquet of Columbia Post of Chicago at Buffalo on Aug. 24.

COMMANDER AND FELLOW SOLDIERS: I had almost said comrades, for, since the days when we were soldiers, our great commanders have passed away, their dying hands outstretched in benediction upon friend and foe alike; and thirty years of peace and happiness under one flag and one Constitution have brought such changes in our hearts that when we meet we do not question each other too closely about the side on which we fought, but find comradeship and fraternity in the fact that we were soldiers in our youth, and fought bravely for the cause in which we were enlisted.

I have come a long way to respond to your invitation. I came because I felt that it was a generous token of your magnanimity, and because I wished to testify by my presence that the vanquished are as honest in their acceptance of defeat as they were in the long conflict which they waged against you. I was born under the American flag. Not in the ordinary metaphorical sense, but literally. It floated over the house where I was born, and was the protection and guarantee of safety to that household thousands of miles beyond the territory of the nation. It was designed by an immortal son of my mother State under whom my great-grandfather fought for it at Brandywine and Monmouth. In my childhood I was taught to revere it as next in sacredness to the holy things of religion. The day of my birth our home in Rio Janeiro was visited by two West Pointers on their way to Mexico, guided thither by the Stars and Stripes floating from the American Legation. Many years afterward a grizzled leader of the Union armies, William Tecumseh Sherman, told me he was one of those young boys, and that his companion was the afterward famous Gen. Halleck. I was rocked in the cradle of old ocean, beneath that flag, upon our return to the United States in an American man-of-war. In 1861, at Norfolk, I saw that flag hauled down from the Federal buildings, and supplanted, first by the standard of Virginia, and, later, by the Confederate flag.

Of my feelings then I need not speak. On the one hand I might be charged with insincerity, on the other with disloyalty. Suffice it to say that I had been taught to render supreme allegiance to my mother State, and that when the time came I gave it, so help me God, without reserve and in all sincerity and loyalty. Older and greater Virginians doubted then where their allegiance was due. All were forced to decide, and, having decided, they did their duty to the best of their ability, as it was dictated by their consciences. Many of Virginia's sons were parted at that point. Robert E. Lee and George H. Thomas had stood side by side for many a year in honorable and brotherly service of their State and country. When the flag of Virginia was planted opposite to that of the Union, Lee, after long and anxious debate, ranked himself beneath the standard of his mother State, and Thomas with equal deliberation under the Stars and Stripes. The time has passed when any man can doubt that each of these men pursued the course which his conscience told him was that of honor and of loyalty. Lee sleeps at Lexington beside his Confederate comrade, Stonewall Jackson; Thomas rests with his Union brethren, Grant and Sherman. His flag is here, token of his immortal services to the Union.

Too young to enlist at once, my heart was nevertheless in thorough sympathy with the Confederate cause. Before the war closed I entered that service, and at the age of 17 was wounded fighting in the Confederate ranks.

I do not believe you would have me come here to apologize or express regret for my Confederate record. I could not honestly do so. Let me tell you frankly that I did my little humble best for Confederate success, and count that wound, received in honorable battle, as one of the most precious legacies I can transmit.

But having said this much, and thanking you for the spirit in which you receive it, I have yet more to say.

We fought that battle to a finish. Taken altogether, it was the most satisfying fight I ever had; and when it was finally ended the issues upon which it was joined were unmistakably settled. No excuse was left to any Confederate for future controversy upon the disputed points. He was not directed for instruction to any Federal edict. His own commander, Lee, was the first to tell him that the idea of disunion was at an end; that his duty was to accept the result, to take the oath, and to yield thenceforth supreme and true and cheerful allegiance to an "indissoluble union of indestructible States."

I can speak for no other Confederate but myself, but am sure I utter the feelings of a majority of the real Confederate soldiers when I say that after taking that oath the sovereign to whom our allegiance was due was no longer doubtful. From then until now, and for all time to come, the flag of our nation is the supreme emblem of American loyalty, to the Southern soldier who swore allegiance to it after Appomattox as much as to the soldier of the Union who fought for it in the civil war. From then until now we have lived under that flag in peace and union and prosperity and with increasing glory, until the heart which denies it love, loyalty, and veneration must indeed be placed in the class of hopeless malignants. The Confederate has no right to cherish one lingering feeling of resentment. And time is fast effacing the last traces of his bitterness.

On the other hand, the Union soldier must not misconstrue the purport of certain demonstrations of the Confederate soldier or the honor paid by him to the memory of his old comrades and commanders. Who knows better than yourselves that commemorating the brave days of your military youth and honoring the brave men who led you are among the sweetest privileges of your declining years. You meet; you gather round your campfires and sing your war songs; you honor your leaders and weep your tears of memory. Why? It is not to revive dead issues. It is not to gloat over your enemies. It is not to taunt a fallen foe. It is to gratify one of the deepest and most honorable feelings of men, the desire to cherish and preserve the memories of the brave days and brave companions of youth. You were the victors. You can well afford to be magnanimous. It detracts nothing from the glory of your victory to let the world see the men whom you defeated. Narrow and vindictive, indeed, must be the man who begrudges the Confederate soldier the poor privilege of such reunions.

What else was left to him? He emerged from that war penniless; without clothes upon his back, or food to sustain him. Everything for which he had fought was gone. He was forced to abandon every preconceived idea of his life and to begin anew under changed conditions, without money, with his labor system destroyed, with his land impoverished, and with the flower of his youth in the grave of the Confederacy. All that remained to him was the memory of his own valor and that of his comrades. He had been completely defeated, it is true; but even his most vindictive foe accorded him homage for the way he bore privation and fought courageously to the end.

How he has reconstructed himself in material welfare, how he has redeemed his pledge of loyalty to the restored Union, history will tell. Do not deny him the poor boon of meeting sometimes, as you meet, to drink from the intoxicating and sparkling cup filled to the brim with exhilarating memories of that past when you and he were soldiers and were young and brave. Ah, my friends, those were the happiest days of his life as well as of yours. The poet has said:

I hold it true whate'er befall,
I feel it when I sorrow most,
'Tis better to have loved and lost
Than never to have loved at all.

The heart of the average gallant youth, to whom war is the most glorious episode of life, unconsciously paraphrases the last lines of this verse. Looking back at the past, when you and I were soldiers, I can truly say: "'Tis better to have fought and lost than never to have fought at all."

All through the Southern land are gray-haired men with whom life has gone hard. The burden of defeat, the changed conditions resulting from the war, the pinch of poverty, the hard struggle, under adverse circumstances, to meet the stern requirements of life, have changed them in these thirty years, until such as have not given up and passed away are bent and gray and timeworn, with the sad eye and soft voice of unsuccess. They have few comforts left to them. Few excitements of the present stir the sluggish courses of their blood. Few passing events arouse their interest or attention. When the weary, hum-drum day's work is done they go to their homes and through the usual domestic routine, passing year after year of uneventful waiting for the end. But, boys! In the life of every one of these there was one glorious episode, one "crowded hour of glorious life," filled with perilous issues of such thrilling import that its memory still brightens the eye and quickens the pulses of those old fellows, and will, as long as life shall last, no matter how hard the game has gone against them. That time was when in gallant youth they followed Lee and Jackson. It was just as you followed Grant and Sherman, Sheridan and Thomas. Do you want them to forget those days? No. Would you have them blot out the memory of their military youth when your proudest recollection is that of your own? No. I know you are too brave and generous for that. They could not forget if they would; they would not if they could. It is the best and bravest part of both your lives, and their leaders are enshrined in their hearts, just as yours in yours, next the image of their God. Ask either of you to disenshrine your idols. Like the lover to his bride you would turn—the old Confederate soldier to Lee, the Union soldier to Grant, and with the look you wore at Gettysburg or in the Wilderness or in the trenches at Petersburg you would exclaim:

Forget thee! Bid the forest bird forget its sweetest tune.
Forget thee! Bid the sea forget to swell beneath the moon,
The thirsting flowers forget to drink the eve's refreshing dew,
Thyself forget thine own fair land, its mountains wild and blue,
Forget each old, familiar face, each well-remembered spot;
When these things are forgot by thee, then thou shall be forgot.

Ah, my friends, blessed be God, we are fellow citizens of a common country, under one flag, fraternal and happy. By every tie of kinship, community of interest, tradition and aspiration for the future, we are to be under one flag and one people henceforth. But let us not be utopian in our dream of that unity. Let us be philosophers in our views of the feelings of mankind, and not expect men to be angels. Let us be generous toward each other touching the celebration of, and the honor which we pay to, our ideals of the past. The Confederate has pledged himself, for all the future, that he and his descendants will stand shoulder to shoulder with you and your descendants in defence of one flag and a common union. He gave the pledge in good faith. He will not be false to you. But he did not promise to be false to the memory or oblivious of his old leaders, his dead comrades, or the glory of his youth. Grant him the joy of gallant memories. Grant him the pious privilege of doing honor to the memory of comrades and commanders without the imputation of disloyalty to present obligation. Our common future will be greatest if we practice mutual forbearance and show mutual consideration concerning past differences. The initiative in these belongs properly to you. Such action will bring forth fruit a hundredfold of genuine fraternity and oblivion. When it is practiced in the spirit which Grant counselled, you and I may yet live to see that

Those opposed eyes
Which, like the meteors of a troubled heaven,
Both of Nature and one substance bred,
Did lately meet in the intestine shock, and
Furious close of civil butchery,
Shall now in mutual, well-beseeming ranks
March all one way.

Probably Dead.

From the Chicago Times-Herald.

I do not know whether Adolph Fischer is alive or dead. Probably he is dead, as when I saw him last he had apicial tuberculosis of the right lung, a partially hypertrophied liver, an enlarged spleen, and a serious involvement of the left valve of the heart. These ailments had come to him because of a steady diet of hops and beer, and he treated them with a beer. Fischer was a theoretical miner. A theoretical miner is like a theoretical prohibitionist—he believes in it for every one except himself. The comparison, however, is hardly fair. Fischer would have swung a pick readily enough, but always something interfered. He was sick, or broke, or his grandmother had died, or he was employed on one of his temporary jobs, or some event occurred that prevented him reaching his El Dorado. For he believed that he knew of an El Dorado that would make a fool of the Klondike country. Maybe he had never seen that land of gold, poor devil, but he lived in dreams of it. It seems pitiful that his life should have been denied its fruition, because all that he wanted to make him a billionaire was four trusty companions, some pack mules, and $20. He could not compass them all at once. Sometimes he had the $20 and lacked the mules and companions. Sometimes he had the mules and companions and lacked the $20. Then he "mysteriously disappeared."

His Circus Days Gone By.

From the Nebraska State Journal.

A Lincoln attorney who is a church member was figuring on taking his son to the circus to see the animals this year, as has been his custom in the past ever since the youngster has been large enough to appreciate the menagerie attractions. The son is 15 years old, and he recently announced to his father that he was big enough to go alone. The father was taken considerably aback, for he had not counted on being deprived of the excuse for going this year that he had always used before.

"Why do you want to go alone?" the father asked.

"I don't know," replied the boy in a reluctant manner.

"Yes, you do," said his father. "You wouldn't tell me that you want to go alone without a reason."

"Well, papa," he said, "I want to stay out in the animal tent longer than you do."

The man's wife was in earshot, and he has not yet heard the last of the incident.

Rudder for Kansas's State House.

From the Topeka Capital.

Albert Tult, an employee at the bridge, while working on the island yesterday dug up an oaken rudder which evidently had been used on a flatboat. Carved on one side of the rudder, near the blade end, were the figures "1794." Besides the holes through the handle of the rudder through which the bolts that held the swivel is passed, there is another hole in which the swivel may be placed, used probably to regulate the rudder according to the depth of the water. This hole looked as though it might have been partially bored out with an auger and finished with a hot iron. The oak was in a good state of preservation. It is thought by some that the rudder was lost by one of the early exploring parties which entered Kansas by way of the Kaw River. Tult took the rudder to the State House, and Judge Adams now has it on exhibition in the rooms of the State Historical Society.

Whonellis Buck Invited to Come Up to the Lick Log.

From the Louisville Dispatch.

Whatever Charley Meacham says goes, and so this paragraph is submitted without any inconsequential remarks about peculiar appellations:

"The Democrats of Trigg county are very much afraid that Whonellis Buck will fail to show up at Cadiz next Monday and get under Ollie James's piledriver. If he will only come up to the lick log the Democrats will see that each of the twenty-eight Palmerites in Trigg county is provided with a rocking chair inside the bar, where they can get the full benefit of the skinning their imported champion will get."

Sir Walter Besant's Advice About Fiction.

From the Queen.

Remember that you can only hope to succeed by producing a faithful picture; your setting must be true; your costume must be correct; your atmosphere; your play of light and shade must be painted from nature. You must, therefore, make up your mind to observe as the first condition of fiction.

Next, you must remember that no one can succeed in fiction who has not the power of "grip." You must be able to hold your audience. It is impossible to teach how that can be done. But the first outward and visible sign of it is generally, not always, dramatic situation and dramatic dialogue.

Thirdly—Let your subject be strong, admitting of dramatic situation.

Fourthly—Let your characters be clear and distinct. Do not aim at the portraiture of subtle and many-sided characters. They may come later, or they may not. Let your characters be clearly intelligible, and always true to themselves in their action and in their dialogue.

Fifthly—Take care not to weaken your page by long descriptions. Aim at describing all that is necessary in a few touches and the rest in dialogue.

Sixthly—Plan out your narrative for a certain length in a certain number of chapters. If the plot is simple, with few incidents, let your chapters be few and your story short.

Seventhly—Learn to pay attention to style. Read the works of the greatest writers and observe how their style contributes to the interest of the page. But remember that style is not everything; that it should be subservient to the story; and that a great deal of what is called style is nothing but fashion.

There are a great many other rules which I could offer, but these may suffice for a beginning. I do not add to these rules a warning to avoid vulgarity; but, indeed, one has to consider that danger. A great many of the manuscripts sent to me are deplorably vulgar. Even the most vulgar people do not, as a rule, desire vulgar writing, though, no doubt, some do.

Missed Engine, Christened Her Husband.

From the Melbourne Argus.

In West Australia the other day a mine manager's wife was christening an engine and had to throw a champagne bottle at it. It was somewhat larger than the proverbial haystack, and she was only a couple of yards from it, yet she cleverly managed to miss it and hit her hubby—a portly person—below the belt, knocking him into a cistern ten feet deep and badly hurting him.

Buggy Riding in Massachusetts.

From the Hingham Journal.

Miss Alice Whiting of South Hanover will have to procure a new set of teeth. While riding home from an excursion to Oldham Pond, a few days since, the horse kicked, striking her full in the mouth, knocking out thirteen of her natural set without touching her lips.

The Rev. Boos Pugh.

From the Kansas City Times.

The Rev. Boos Pugh of Wellington, Chaplain of the Grand Army, celebrated his fiftieth anniversary at Wellington yesterday.