The Sun.

THURSDAY, MARCH 30, 1899.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, per Month	$0 50
DAILY, per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

PARIS—Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Great and the Little.

The most momentous events in contemporary history are now occurring in the Philippines. They mark a new stage of vast importance in the development of America and of civilization, and as such are commanding foremost attention throughout the foreign world. Military men everywhere are impressed by the magnificent demonstration of our military power which our troops are making on the other side of the globe. It is something new in the history of the world. It is putting America in the proud place of a prime factor in extending and developing the world's civilization and commerce.

Well, what is the tone and attitude of the newspapers of New York, the centre of American commerce and civilization, toward this great American enterprise in the Philippines? Are they conscious of the admiration which our army there is winning from the foreign world? Usually they either ignore the subject in their editorial discussions or subordinate its far overshadowing importance to the catchpenny treatment of provincial and parochial matters of paltry insignificance relatively. The splendid demonstration of American military skill, endurance, devotion and resistless power makes no impression on them, for their thoughts are occupied rather with a humbug assault on "embalmed beef," and with senseless cries of "Beef! beef!" After a great and unexampled victory over a European State, organized on the modern military system, after a war in which we lost never a battle, a skirmish, a prisoner, a color, a gun, or a ship, and even our loss by disease, the greatest foe of armies, was unprecedentedly small proportionately, and while we are repeating this glorious record in the Philippines, they have no eyes and thoughts except for temporary and superficial matters of military concern. We are now subduing a rebellion against our power in the Philippines, and conducting there a campaign which will be memorable for its display of the highest military ability and the noblest military virtues in the American troops, a campaign of extraordinary difficulty, which has been carried forward with continuous success against obstacles which would have been insuperable by soldiers less dauntless; yet so splendid an exhibition of American valor and masterfulness goes on without stirring the hearts of these editors or distracting their attention from puerile trivialities. They seem to be incapable of rising to even a faint conception of the palpably tremendous importance of events in the current history of their country, though everywhere else in the world these are estimated at their true value. Their only keenness of vision is employed in trying to discover some defect in our army ration, the most abundant in the world—a purely technical matter requiring specifically expert decision, and at most never of any grave importance. One of these newspapers, for instance, has gloated over an insulting jibe which it said was current in Berlin as to the food of our troops. If an American soldier was condemned to subsist on the ration of the German soldier he would revolt at the fare with indignation, and the miserable pittance of the German's pay would excite his contemptuous amazement.

Undoubtedly, these papers have some excuse for their neglect of the great for the little. It has been furnished to them by the conduct of the officer ranking as commanding General of the American Army. Recently he has been going about the country posing for admiration not as a successful leader in the war, but as the leader of an attempt to divert public thought from the splendid achievements of American soldiers to this matter of an item in the army ration. The other day his shameful example was commended to college boys by their President as higher in its courage than that of the soldier! Meantime this commander has uttered not one word of recognition for the magnificent performances of our army in the Philippines, though they are now provoking the praise of the whole military world.

So astonishing has been this journalistic exhibition of indifference and of inability to comprehend the significance of the triumph of American arms that even the London *Times* is moved to wonder at it and to rebuke it. That foremost foreign paper deems the splendid demonstration of our military prowess in the Philippines worthy of discussion and celebration in its leading article. How is it in New York? "Algerism," "beef! beef!" and relatively petty parochial concerns absorb the intellectual energies of these remarkable journals.

Our soldiers in the Philippines are made of different stuff, thank GOD! They are sustaining the power, the dignity, the glory of their country at the cost of their blood and their lives in a campaign which taxes to the utmost the courageous endurance of troops. They are making history which will always command the study and admiration of mankind. They are leading their country to a new and a higher elevation as one of the pioneers of civilization.

Finger Marks as Evidence in Law Courts.

A bill has just been passed by the Imperial Legislative Council of India making finger-mark impressions admissible as evidence in courts of law. The reason for this measure is that the system of taking thumb marks for the identification of prisoners was introduced in several of the Indian prisons some time ago, but in a test case brought before the Calcutta High Court it was decided that under the existing Indian Evidence act these impressions were not admissible as evidence. There was also the difficulty of classifying and indexing the finger impressions, but this has since been overcome by a system elaborated by the Inspector-General of Police in Bengal, and the bill now before the Indian Office in England will probably become law.

In a country like India, where the people are so illiterate, the mere affixing of a mark certified to by witnesses to a document has little legal value, the facilities afforded to forgery being so great. But the imprint of the lines of the thumb or of one of the fingers is a personal mark not easily falsified or mistaken. This method has been in use in the past in various countries, but it is the first time that it has been introduced into modern law, and its working will be watched with no little interest.

It is an interesting fact that the conventional substitute in Turkish official documents for the royal or imperial arms on those of other countries is the modified form of the representation of the human hand. The *toughra*, as it is called, or sign manual, derives its origin from an incident in Ottoman history. One of the earlier Sultans, being unable to write, and having no seal convenient on the occasion of the signing of a treaty, placed his hand on the ink pad and imprinted its mark on the treaty in token of ratification.

Gen. Miles's Part in the Philippine Campaign.

In view of contemporary events in the Philippines, it becomes interesting to contemplate Gen. MILES's plan of operations in that quarter. The views of the Major-General Commanding the Army as to the proper military policy in Luzon appear in the official papers called for by the Dodge Board, and furnished to that body by the Secretary of War.

Gen. MILES's first recommendation respecting the Philippines was contained in a letter written to the Secretary of War shortly after the receipt of the news of DEWEY's victory. It will now be read with amazement:

"HEADQUARTERS OF THE ARMY,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 3, 1898.

"*The Honorable, the Secretary of War.*

"SIR: I have the honor to recommend that Gen. THOMAS M. ANDERSON be sent to occupy the Philippine Islands, in command of the following troops: Two battalions Fourteenth Infantry, two troops Fourth Cavalry, one regiment of infantry, California volunteers; two batteries heavy artillery, California volunteers; one regiment of infantry, Washington volunteers; the troops to go with all the necessary appliances, supplies, and equipment. Very respectfully,

NELSON A. MILES,
"Major-General Commanding U. S. Army."

Two-thirds of one regiment of regular infantry, two companies of regular cavalry, three infantry regiments and two heavy batteries of volunteers, and no field artillery whatever, was the extent of the force required for the occupation of the Philippines, in the opinion of the Major-General Commanding the Army. That is the size of the army Gen. MILES would have sent out, if he had had his way.

In view of what has occurred and is occurring in the neighborhood of Manila, public opinion will probably sustain the judgment of the Administration in rejecting Gen. MILES's Philippine plan of campaign precisely as it rejected his various other plans for Santiago, Havana, and elsewhere.

On May 12 Gen. WESLEY MERRITT was assigned to the command of the Philippine expedition; and instead of the corporal's guard array which Gen. MILES thought sufficient, the Administration about that time determined to create for service in the Philippines "a corps to consist of two and possibly three divisions." Gen. MERRITT's estimate in detail, communicated to the War Department on May 13, called for a total of 14,400 men, supposing every organization full, and included more than 6,000 regulars; giving an effective force of at least 12,000 on landing and taking the field. This, it will be remembered, was a thousand less than the number of prisoners actually captured, later, in the battle of Manila.

Two days after submitting his estimate, upon further study of the conditions, Gen. MERRITT suggested that even his first figures might be inadequate, and urged the President to procure at once from Admiral DEWEY information on certain points which he clearly and intelligently specified. It is worth while to print now the concluding paragraph of Gen. MERRITT's letter of May 15, 1898, to President MCKINLEY:

"It seems more than probable that we will have the so-called insurgents to fight as well as the Spaniards, and upon the work to be accomplished will depend the ultimate strength and composition of the forces."

Gen. MERRITT's estimate was called to Gen. MILES's attention. He immediately recommended that only two regiments of regular infantry should be sent out, instead of four; and one of the two regiments which he proposed to send was only partially available, as Gen. MERRITT pointed out the next day, May 17, in the subjoined indorsement upon Gen. MILES's proposition:

"I consider the composition of the force outlined by the Major-General Commanding the Army as unsuited to the ends to be accomplished, and insufficient in efficiency for the expedition to the Philippines.

"Two regiments of regular infantry, two-thirds of a regiment of regular cavalry and two light batteries is a very small proportion of the forty-two regular regiments in the army when the work to be done consists of conquering a territory 7,000 miles from our base, defended by a regularly trained and acclimated army of from 10,000 to 25,000 men, and inhabited by 14,000,000 of people, the majority of whom will regard us with the intense hatred born of race and religion.

"Besides, if I am not greatly mistaken, the suggested command is only on paper, as the Fourteenth Infantry is only partially available. My letters of May 13 and 15 give the composition and minimum strength of the regular force I deem necessary."

This, again, went to Gen. MILES, who indited on May 18 a long comment, containing among other things these statements and recommendations:

"The reference to the Spanish troops [by MERRITT] is believed to be very much exaggerated. No reports have been received thus far that there is anything like the number indicated in the above indorsement."

"The troops mentioned in the within letter as available to send to that department number 15,425. The Tenth Pennsylvania Volunteers, ordered to-day, will be approximately 1,000 more. These troops, in my judgment, are all that would be advisable to send to the Philippines at this time. If it be deemed advisable to send additional regiments, they can be sent from New Orleans or Tampa, *but the force now ordered to be sent is, as already indicated, 10,000 more than will be required for the purpose.*"

That is to say, six thousand men were enough for the Philippines, in Gen. MILES's view. As to his assertion that MERRITT had greatly exaggerated the number of Spanish troops in the Philippines when placing it at from 10,000 to 25,000, the Administration received a few days later an answer to its request to DEWEY for information. The Admiral replied that there were between 35,000 and 40,000 Spanish troops of all kinds in the Philippines, and about sixty per cent. of the whole number were Spaniards.

After receiving this information MERRITT asked for eight batteries of the Third Artillery, and two squadrons of the Fourth Cavalry, which had been promised him; and Gen. MILES's last unavailing kick against sending an adequate force to the Philippines is here recorded in a memorandum made by Col. CARTER on May 30:

"Major-Gen. MILES stated to Col. CARTER, May 30, afternoon, that he *did not think it advisable to send any of the Third Artillery* on the Philippine expedition. That it could not be spared from the Pacific Coast. Two squadrons of the Fourth Cavalry to accompany expedition, but should not take their horses, because there is nothing for them to eat there, and would probably die on the way over. * * * *Did not think Fourth and Twentieth or any other regular infantry regiments should be moved to go with the expedition.* He has no suggestion to make as to what volunteer regiments should go in place of the Fourth and Twentieth, *if any were sent.*"

Meantime the President accepted MERRITT's estimate of the requirements of the situation and ordered a force of 20,000 to be assembled for the expedition to the Philippines—just about 15,000 men more than had been contemplated in Gen. MILES's original plan of campaign, recorded in his recommendation of May 3 to the department; and just about 14,000 more than he declared, on May 18, were sufficient for the job. "The President remarks," wrote the Adjutant-General to MERRITT on June 14, "as fast as transportation is provided, you should have the full 20,000, *or even more, if required.*"

It was at about this time that the General Commanding the Army turned his attention from the Philippines to Cuba, and busied himself in the elaboration of his plan for a mud-march of over three hundred miles, in the rainy season, from a sea base which the larger transports could not reach, and an interior base from which it would have been impossible to supply his army. And a few weeks later he was head over ears in the details of his plan for abandoning the land attack on Santiago without a battle, and withdrawing the besieging army to proceed on Porto Rico.

As regards equally Gen. MILES's plan of campaign against Havana, his recommendations concerning Santiago, and his ideas as to what ought to be done in the Philippines, the country is profoundly grateful, in the light of subsequent history, that there was somebody at Washington possessing foresight, strength of purpose and official authority sufficient to overrule the General Commanding the Army, and in all three instances to "turn him down."

The First of Its Kind.

We believe there is no precedent for the action of the New York State Senate in its vote yesterday upon the Ford bill relating to Amsterdam avenue. Legitimate favors have been done before to corporations in the way of granting franchises; never before has a branch of the Legislature deliberately aimed to strike down one corporation at the behest of a rival.

The local interest which sought relief from the four tracks of two companies in Amsterdam avenue proposed to unite them on one line. But then the more powerful of the two, the Metropolitan Company, declared that, instead of that plan, its rival should be swept out of the street entirely, and the Senate did its bidding! The last proposition made in behalf of the Third Avenue Company, namely, that the lines should be consolidated until the courts should decide which company had the superior right to be in the street, was coldly rejected. The Metropolitan Company had its way, regardless of the simplest elements of decency and justice.

A more offensive and scandalous transaction has not been put upon the Albany records, and the most startling feature of it was that Senators like HIGGINS, KRUM and ELLSWORTH, whose personal integrity is looked upon as above suspicion, voted for the nasty job, putting upon it to all outward appearance the stamp of the higher party authorities.

When what is commonly known as the Black Horse Cavalry is enlarged from individual members in the Legislature to a regular party organization therein, the development cannot be called pleasing or satisfactory.

A part of the New York Legislature never held the good repute of its party more palpably in its keeping than the Republican Assembly holds it to-day.

The Great Underground Proposition.

From such scrutiny of the projected underground railway as we have found possible, we should suppose that directly and indirectly it would involve the expenditure of perhaps two hundred millions of dollars.

It is a public work of such magnitude, that it appeals powerfully to the imagination, not only of all the people of New York, but of every intelligent citizen of the whole country. Nothing else is likely to surpass it in interest during its period of construction and when it is completed there will surely be no like achievement that we can turn to.

We confess that we were not prepared to see it seriously considered by capital for many years to come, but it has apparently been made possible by two new factors that govern the situation. One of these is the decline in the rate of interest on solid investments, and the other is the entirely new condition of surface railway transit built up by the Metropolitan Street Railway Company. That company proposes to operate the underground system interdependently with its surface lines, and therein lies the chief strength of the proposition. Indeed, we have no doubt that that very feature of it alone makes it a practicable undertaking, and the possibility of any other than the Metropolitan Street Railway people being able to do it is doubtful.

We have always pointed out that in great public ventures of this nature where vast capital was called upon to assume the gravest of responsibilities, it was essential that the prospective rewards should be of the most substantial character. We continue to hold to that view, and we perceive that the gentlemen of the new underground project share it somewhat fully.

They ask for a franchise in "perpetuity." That, we understand, is something not admissible in law. There must be a limit upon the duration of their franchise, and what that limit should be we do not undertake to say; but we believe that, in view of the enormous capital required to be invested, the space of years should be liberally determined, and that public opinion will justify such liberality.

They ask for the right to charge a ten-cent fare upon their express trains. That should certainly be conceded.

But when they seek the right to establish in their subterranean preserves a vast and comprehensive control of the distribution of electricity and other commercial forces, for all their known and immeasurable future uses in this great city, then it's worth while to pause.

The time is very swiftly approaching when one may ascend to the top of the tallest of buildings hereabouts and see no jet of steam issuing above all New York save only from some great central power station. All the machinery of this great hive of industry will be driven by electricity. There will be no steam engines left; all will have disappeared before the motor, just as man power and horse power disappeared before steam. Now, the possession of rights that would exercise a relation so dominant to the distribution of electricity, and other power, too, in this community must be of incomputable value. It is impossible to estimate, because there are no data, no parallel conditions from which to deduce its value. That is something which can be determined only when it is actually developed, and we think some compensation for it should be provided.

No arbitrary figure will answer. It might be unfair to the city or it might prove disastrous to the owners of the franchise. What would, it seems to us, meet the question fairly would be a contingent compensation to the city, the same to be determined upon a liberal apportionment of actual earnings when the same were shown to exist.

In that way, or in some like way, the interests of the taxpayers could be justly and adequately safeguarded and yet the proper encouragement be afforded to the vast capital which is to be pledged. We repeat that the enterprise must be made attractive and that it must proceed with every fair assurance of security or it will not be undertaken.

We hope it will not miscarry, but we venture to record the observation that if it does miscarry it will be mainly because of the clamor of that purely malignant and vicious element in this community which has howled like bedlam for Rapid Transit for the last ten years, and which, now that it is in measurable reach, will, true to its perversity, leave nothing undone to defeat it.

Eating Its Words Again.

The platform adopted by the Democratic State Convention at Syracuse Sept. 29, 1898, contained this resolution:

"We favor the passage by the next Legislature of the pending Constitutional amendment providing for biennial legislative sessions."

And now that next Legislature is in session, and every Democratic Senator but one opposes the Constitutional amendment providing for biennial legislative sessions. Senator GRADY makes the jocose explanation that certain "labor" organizations having declared their hostility to biennial sessions, the Democratic party, as a friend of "labor," is bound to eat its words.

It is obvious that annual sessions give Tammany Hall more frequent opportunities to exercise that philanthropic supervision of corporations which is its chief line of public policy at present, but the Democratic party has suffered so much by breaking its promises that a decent regard for its health ought to keep it from repeating the performance, even on a small scale. It is not prudent to repudiate shamelessly and openly one of the offers that it made for public support.

Whatever may be thought of the advisability of biennial sessions, there can be but one opinion as to the falsity of the Democratic Senators to their party platform.

Retirement of Coin.

The resignation of the Hon. COIN HARVEY from the august post of General Manager of the Ways and Means Committee of the Democratic National Committee is dispiriting to those who know how to value a great economist struggling with fate and slow collections. It is also a loss to education, as Prof. HARVEY is the father of the plan to instruct the people in the mysteries of Sixteen to One by means of lectures and literature, paid for by a fund raised by subscriptions of a dollar a month from Silverites anxious to do good. Col. BRYAN, the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS, the Hon. RICHARD FRANKLIN PETTIGREW are among the subscribers, but COIN will no longer be in the parlor counting out the money.

Perhaps there is no massive stack of money to count at present. The work of Democratic education has taken the form of eating dollar dinners, and all the Democratic dollars are going for food and drink. Thus do the masses languish unenlightened while at a hundred dinner tables the men who ought to be spreading the anti-plutocratic truth are gorging like plutocrats. Caterers grow rich. The missionary starves. COIN HARVEY resigns.

COIN'S successor, SAM COOK of Mexico, Mo., Chairman of the Missouri Democratic State Committee, is one of the loudest of the sons of silver, and he comes from the right place. Mexico, Mo., has more silver spouters to the square inch than any other town in the country. SAM means well, and is strong in the faith, but he can't expect to collect much until feeding time is over. We don't object to SAM, but the country will miss COIN. And wherever a Democratic martyr tackles one of COIN'S Jeffersonian five-centers, the fine odor of smouldering indescribables that arises will recall the venerated name of COIN HARVEY.

The legislative committee to investigate the affairs of this town was formally provided for yesterday by the Assembly, but it was really instituted by the municipal government here and its surroundings some time ago.

Gradually the truth as to the relations of so-called Gold Democrats to the Bryan movement is trickling through the minds of those who have preferred to look at it with half-shut eyes or not to see it. Here is evidence from the Richmond *Times:*

So long as the Chicago platform is the platform of the party Mr. BRYAN is the logical and inevitable candidate. But the moment that that platform is changed, so as either to retire or to subordinate the currency plank, that moment will Mr. BRYAN be retired as the party's leader and candidate. This is so plain that we wonder how Mr. BELMONT ever expected that Mr. BRYAN would sit at a meal with gold Democrats.

Gold Democrats who are trying to make peace with BRYAN are not in the very best of business. For "harmony" between the Bryan and anti-Bryan wings of the Democracy, either the gold Democrats must betray the great principle which in 1896 they declared to be so vital that they could not vote for the party which violated it, or BRYAN must betray and abandon the Chicago platform, or both factions must make up the disgraceful combination instituted by Tammany Hall in 1898, founded on pusillanimous silence on all living issues.

Philippine Troops Send Thanks for Reading Matter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In response to an appeal for literature for the boys in the Philippines, the Yankee Christmas Club of Philadelphia has nobly responded, and I am in receipt at every mail of the best literature America affords. The comrades all enjoy this, and for them and myself I want to thank this club.

We are at the front, where little opportunity of getting recreation is afforded, and the papers and books become truly a godsend.

The old, reliable SUN is among the most welcome journals, and is eagerly read.

HOMER M. MESENGER, Co. E, 14th Inf.
PINEDAR, Philippine Islands, Feb. 16.

America.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Do "little Americans" know that their own country is the largest fruit of the colonial policies? That the Dominion of Canada, Mexico, Brazil, Argentina, Chili, Peru, all the Americas, together with Australia, India, Egypt, and a thousand smaller dependences, were all wrested from utter barbarism by these same ambitious adventures?

Can any but demented creatures at this day ask if it has *paid?* THOMAS L. STUBBERFIELD.
QUINCY, Mass., March 28.

ART NOTES.

Japanese and Chinese Art at the American Galleries—Robert Reid's Exhibition.

In Gallery "E," the topmost room at the American Art Association, where the Landscape Society's Exhibition is now going on, a notable collection of Japanese and Chinese art objects, curios, textiles, &c., has been placed on view. Modern and antique bronzes, pottery from China, Japan and Corea, sword guards, Chinese porcelains, decorated old Satsuma, old Daimio gold and silver pipes, pouches and cases, specimens of antique ironwork, lacquer and inros of the sixteenth, seventeenth, and eighteenth centuries, ivory carvings, Japanese silver and other metal work, swords and daggers, old Imari jars, paintings on silk and on paper, armor, jades, crystals and agates are some of the objects included in the collection. The entire lot, consisting of 699 numbers, will be sold at auction at the American Art Galleries, 6 East Twenty-third street, this afternoon, to-morrow and Saturday, at the hour of half past 2 each day.

The collection is too large to permit of mention of more than a few of the more interesting and rare objects in the different groups. An old Satsuma vase, No. 251, with peonies in red and gray boldly painted over blue enamel; a Satsuma Koro, No. 290, square in shape, and another, No. 291, both from the collection of the Shimadsu family, whose head was a Daimio of Japan; the three Chinese porcelain jars, Nos. 346, 347 and 348, the last a "Hawthorn" with extremely fine deep blue; and a porcelain "Coupe" with peachblow glaze, No. 349, of the period of Kang-he, are all worthy of notice. The inro, No. 388, black lacquer with outer case; the inro, No. 386, gold lacquer, and the ivory carvings, Nos. 464 and 466, are excellent specimens. "Writing Case," No. 551, black lacquer; "Manuscript Box," No. 552, old polished sugi wood, and "Gold Lacquer Box," No. 553, are representative of their kind and notable for their merit. An unusually fine suit of armor is catalogued No. 567 and formerly belonged to Viscount Akimoto, a Japanese nobleman. Dragons in high repoussé work decorate the front plate. The armor is of the kind known as "Hiyodoshi no Yoroi," worn only by military officers of high rank, and bears the signatures of its makers, with the date corresponding to our August, 1727.

Among the swords three of the finest specimens are "Short Sword," No. 580, by Masaharu, eighteenth century; "State Sword," No. 581, by Munetsugu, nineteenth century; "Tsurugi," No. 582, a long double-edged sword, by Sadamuné, twelfth century, and "Blade," No. 583, fitted in a black lacquer scabbard, a remarkable example of skilfully wrought steel. Of two fine old Imari jars, Nos. 585 and 586, the latter about thirty inches in height with stand and cover is the finer. It is decorated with flowers and figures. A tripod cluser, Ming bronze, No. 625, and a large vase, No. 627, old Ming, red and green patina, are conspicuous among the antique bronzes. A great cabinet desk, No. 641, a remarkable piece of wood carving, and a pair of sixfold screens, No. 684, by Kano Morikagé, are perhaps the most interesting things in the way of furniture. The collection was made by Kano Oshima and is of much better average excellence than those usually offered at auction sales.

Mr. Robert Reid has sometimes been suspected of wasting his time on trivial experiments; but as it is not always easy to discriminate between the experimental studies of one whose aims are serious and definite and one who has elected to fritter away his talents in the pursuit of trifles, so it is possible that Mr. Reid had from the first a more serious end in view than his critics were wont to suppose.

That, at all events, was the impression received on visiting the exhibition that he held at Durand-Ruel's a year ago, and the exhibition that he is now holding in his own studio at 142 East Thirty-third street tends to confirm it. Here he has seventy-two canvases, including, besides his latest and best works, a number of his earlier successes and a good many studies that are more or less experimental in their nature. The clear advances made in the later examples is evident enough, but it requires not much imagination to discover a certain unity of purpose underlying the earlier and later ones alike.

All of the pictures that were shown last year are again exhibited, but besides them there are many new ones—"The Canna" (1), "Dahlia" (2), "Tiger Lilies" (3), "Fleur de Lis" (20), "Summer Girl" (23), a series of panels for a frieze (45-49), and a number of other works that have never before been publicly exhibited. Those canvases which bear as titles the names of flowers are among the most charming that he has painted. His fine sense of color and of decorative requirements was never more apparent than in "Tiger Lilies," which is, perhaps, the most perfect thing of the kind that he has yet produced. Yet the full-length figure entitled "The Canna" is as attractive and imposing, and, indeed, there are two or three others so equal in absolute merit that choice must depend on individual taste. As lovely as any of them is the uncatalogued "Day Dreams," and in this, we believe, the artist has triumphed in a number of things which he has struggled with in several of the earlier experimental studies. In a word, these later works display a completeness seldom if ever to be found in the earlier ones.

In electing to show his work in his own studio rather than at one of the dealers' galleries, Mr. Reid was guided by wise considerations. It was the best place available at the time, and, indeed, under no circumstances could a better be found. The room is well illuminated by a splendid skylight, and it is so large that even with such a great number of pictures on view each one is seen to advantage.

The exhibition will be open daily until Monday inclusive from 1 to 6 o'clock P. M.

The exhibition of the Academy, the last one to be held in the old building on Twenty-third street, will be opened to the public on Monday.

The valuable collection of paintings by French masters belonging to Dr. E. M. Harris of Providence, R. I., and to Mr. Edward Holbrook of this city, and some early English, Dutch, and Flemish paintings from the Blakeslee galleries will be placed on exhibition at the American Art Galleries on April 7 and sold at Chickering Hall on April 13 and 14.

Cars That Won't Stop.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One day last week, as I came downtown on a Lexington avenue car occupying a position on the rear platform with the conductor, I noticed a lady signalling the car to stop. She was on the north side of Thirtieth street and was running over to the south side to take the car. There was plenty of time, and seeing that no attention was paid to her signal I called the attention of the conductor to it. He looked at her and went ahead. I asked him if the cars didn't stop for people. He smiled and said it was the business of the man on the front platform to stop the car. I write this to THE SUN to be informed as to what the rules of the road are in the matter of which end of the car is the stopping end, and whose duty it is to do the stopping. TRAVELLER.

Dr. Van Dyke on the Apostle Paul.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the *Outlook* for March 18 the Rev. Dr. Van Dyke presents a critical analysis of one whom he calls "the many-sided Apostle Paul."

"Paul," he says, "was a tremendous logician—in streaks." If it was a certain tentmaker—one Paul of Tarsus—whose writings are under the appreciative criticism of a modern professor of literature, there is no objection to the phrase. If, on the other hand, as Presbyterians used to believe, every word of the Old and New Testaments was inspired and dictated by God, is it quite proper or reverent to speak of the Almighty as being anything whatever, "in streaks?" Dr. Van Dyke mustn't talk in that way at Princeton.

AURORA, March 28. A. L.

The Astor Guns at Passy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I wish that you would state in your excellent paper that the guns that shelled Passy yesterday are the 3-inch Hotchkiss (twelve-pounder) guns which were turned over to Battery D of the Sixth Artillery by the Astor Mountain Battery. These are the little guns that destroyed "Blockhouse 14" on Aug. 13, and they are now in Lawton's division, in the command known as "Hawthorne's Independent Mountain Battery." ASTORIAN.

JAMAICA, N. Y., March 29.

RED CROSS WORK AT MANILA.

Much Needed Supplies to Be Sent to the Philippines on the Panama.

The increased activity of the army about Manila has led the Red Cross Society here to renew its efforts to relieve soldiers at the front, and arrangements have been made to send between twenty and thirty tons of supplies to the Philippines on the cable ship Panama, which is to sail from here shortly. A fully equipped Red Cross hospital has been established at Manila with supplies which were sent from here on the transports Sheridan, Sherman and Grant. About 175 cases of supplies were sent in all, and twelve nurses for the hospital went with them.

Gen. Greely, the chief signal officer, gave permission to the society a few days ago to send more supplies on the Panama. It was therefore decided to ship all of the Red Cross supplies at present at the supply depot to Manila, as no further need is believed to exist for them in this part of the country. With these supplies will also be sent $3,000 worth of delicacies and medicines, the contribution of the Ice Plant Auxiliary, and the Auxiliary for the Maintenance of Trained Nurses. The supplies remaining in the supply depot, which are to go in the Panama, include 1,312 suits of pajamas, 135 pairs of blankets, 1,864 nightshirts, 140 négligé shirts, 2,620 sheets, 3,856 pillow cases, 250 pillows, 7,367 towels, 180 handkerchiefs, 1,632 cheesecloth squares and 135 equipped cots.

A cablegram from the nurses who arrived at Manila on the Grant was received here about a week ago in which they stated that their work would be seriously handicapped by lack of cow's milk. The society accordingly has cabled to Hong Kong for twelve cows to be sent to Manila at once. With the supplies going on the Panama will also be shipped a library of more than 1,200 volumes for the hospital.

With these shipments the work of the society here will practically cease and the offices at present in use will be closed. Since last December the society's efforts have been bent mainly to getting situations for returning soldiers, and with the co-operation of the Young Men's Christian Association places have been secured for about 3,000 soldiers.

WON'T OBEY CIVIL SUMMONSES.

Woman Says She's Tired of Being Called to Court to Pay for Lost Overcoats.

Lawyer Harrison B. Neil of 22 William street went into the Chesterfield Dairy in lower Broadway for luncheon a month ago and hung up his new overcoat on a rack on the wall. When he looked for his coat it had disappeared and there was an old one in its place. He demanded compensation for his loss from Henrietta Steman, the proprietress, and not getting any brought suit for $20 against her in the Yorkville Municipal Court.

The case was called for trial yesterday. Counsel for Miss Steman said that his client would not appear in court as no summons had been served on her.

"Here's the woman to whom the Marshal gave the summons, and she's Charlotte Sterne, the cashier," said the lawyer as he called a young woman from among the spectators.

Justice McKean said he would dismiss the case and the plaintiff could begin another action and make sure of serving the defendant.

"He can serve her as much as he pleases," remarked the woman's lawyer, "but my client will not come into court. She is not legally responsible for the loss of his overcoat. She has been in court half a dozen times and always wins her cases. She is tired of going through that routine and has now decided not to pay any more attention to summonses."

Lawyer Neil said he proposed to begin another suit all the same and would serve the papers himself.

MORRIS MARKSTEIN'S WILL.

He Leaves His Son Only $1,300 Because He Neglected to Say His Prayers.

POUGHKEEPSIE, March 29.—John Markstein, a peddler, has been made the subject of a peculiar sort of punishment. His father, Morris Markstein, a successful merchant, was annoyed during the latter years of his life because his son was so deeply immersed in business as to be insensible of his obligations to attend services at the synagogue. One day Morris Markstein informed his son that if he did not say his prayers, as did others of the faithful, he would do something to punish him for his carelessness. Last July Morris Markstein had his will made and in February he died. When his will was found, across the front was written, in bold, black letters, a sentence to the effect that it was not to be opened for a year to punish Johnny for neglecting to say his prayers. The wish of the elder Markstein was respected until recently, when the strain became too severe for the son to endure, and on the advice of a lawyer the will was offered for probate and opened by order of the Surrogate. It showed that about $1,300 was given to John. The estate is estimated at $20,000. John Markstein says that he will contest the will.

Vassar College and Fire.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A communication in your columns of this date from "A Visitor" concerning the alleged dangerous construction of Vassar College is so grossly incorrect in its statements and conclusions that I think it must have been inspired by ignorance or malevolence. If, as I suppose, your correspondent had in mind the main building of Vassar, let me say that it corresponds with the late Windsor Hotel in no essential particular. The Windsor was constructed with lath and plaster partitions. Its boilers, heating furnaces, kitchens and laundry were all within the main inclosure. Open grate fires were freely used, and its electric wiring was probably not of modern insulated construction, its staircases were inadequate, and numerous elevators furnished fire shafts. In fact, all the conditions of a "fire trap" were present.

I will quote a paragraph from "Vassar College and Its Founder," which gives an idea of the construction of Vassar:

All the partition walls are of brick and are carried up from the ground to the roof. The corridors may be instantly divided into five separate parts by iron doors connected with eight fireproof walls. The latter are in pairs, standing ten feet apart, and cut the building into five divisions. These pairs of walls are connected only at the corridors, where the floor is brick and stone, over which the iron doors may slide and be closed, so that should a conflagration occur in one part of the building the other parts would be perfectly secure from harm. These divisions of iron and masonry extend from the foundation to the roof.

It may be added that within these fire walls iron stairways proceed from the fourth or top floor to the ground, and with the other stairways, two of which are constructed in special towers at angles of the building, adequate means of escape are furnished from all parts of the building. Again, the only fire allowed in the building is in the kitchen, which is located in an extreme corner of the chapel wing. The laundry was many years ago removed to a separate building, and the building, in common with all the other buildings at Vassar, is heated by steam, conveyed from a boiler plant several hundred feet away. The possibility of fire is thus minimized to the lowest point; nevertheless, every precaution is employed, such as special watchmen, thoroughly equipped fire service, chemical extinguishers on every floor, &c.

The elevator to which your correspondent alludes is in no sense a menace to the safety of the building, as it does not run through a special shaft, but through the open corridor, which is isolated from the two wings of the building by the fire walls alluded to.

In conclusion, let me assure "A Visitor" and all others who may be interested that the Trustees of Vassar consider that the safety and well being of the students take precedence of every other question.

EDWARD ELSWORTH,
POUGHKEEPSIE, March 28. Trustee.

Preferred Food to Drink.

From the Boston Journal.

The Man with the Freckles on his Nose glanced carelessly over the morning paper which the Man with the Barbed Wire Beard had thoughtfully subscribed for.

"Will you"——

The landlady spoke his name with infinite sweetness, for she fondly hoped he would pay his board after supper.

"——have some oyster stew?"

The Man with the Freckles on his Nose tilted back his chair in defiance of the laws of etiquette and gravitation.

"No, thank you"——

A far-away look came into his eyes.

"I'm not thirsty."

It is a matter of conjecture whether it was emotion or stage fright that caused the Man with the Yellow Whiskers to sneeze so violently that he upset the salt cellar.

This Lake Freezes Only in Warm Weather.

From the Morning Oregonian.

The phenomenon of ice freezing on the surface of Lake Chelan in warm weather, when it rarely or never freezes in winter, was reported last Saturday. The steamer Stehekin again encountered thin ice covering a large surface of the lake four or five miles above Lakeside on her down trip. The fact is sufficiently vouched for by credible witnesses.

Couldn't Help Saying It.

From the Indianapolis Journal.

"Dearest," asked the confiding girl, after her usual manner, "am I really your first and only love?"

"No, darling," said the young druggist, "but you are something just as good."

NICARAGUA ANNEXATION MOVE.

A Party Forming to Advocate Union with the United States.

NEW ORLEANS, March 29.—Passengers returned from Nicaragua report that a strong movement has developed favorable to its annexation to the United States as a means of ending the revolution and disturbances which keep the country in an unsettled condition and prevent the development of its revenues. The Liberals, the dominant party, are disposed to make annexation to the United States one of the issues in their platform. Gen. Estrada, Governor of the coast provinces and a man of influence throughout the republic, declared publicly to leading Americans that the annexation movement had already taken definite shape and would have the support of President Zelaya, who had referred to it in his message to the Congress of Nicaragua.

Gen. Estrada pointed out the trouble Nicaragua has in keeping peace within her territory. He spoke of the undeveloped mines and the vast coffee lands which have hardly been touched because the people do not care to make investments at present. Annexation would also mean an easy solution of the canal question.

The question of annexation was first brought before the people of Nicaragua by Guzman, one of the Ministers to Washington, and at the time the Hawaiian Islands were making application for annexation. Since the war with Spain and the annexation of Porto Rico and the Philippines the feeling in favor of annexation to the United States is growing stronger in Nicaragua. Next year the matter will take some definite form. Gen. Estrada added that he would be one of the first to join in a movement to establish a party in favor of annexation. The resolution presented to the American Senate authorizing the President to treat with Nicaragua for the purchase of three miles to the north of the canal route has done a great deal to gather these men in favor of annexation under one head.

NEWS FROM HUGH M'LAUGHLIN.

Pilgrims to Florida Get Back from a Visit to the Brooklyn Boss.

Former Congressman John M. Clancy and Judge John Courtney have returned from Florida after spending a couple of weeks with ex-Register Hugh McLaughlin at Thomas Nevins's resort on the Indian River. They say that the veteran Democratic manager has enjoyed his trip immensely and is in excellent health and also that he resolutely refused to be drawn into any political discussions. Mr. McLaughlin expects to get back to Brooklyn about April 9, in time to make a choice of one of the rival Thomas Jefferson dinners. James Shevlin, ex-Senator McCarthy and all his chief lieutenants have already purchased tickets for Mr. Croker's $10 spread, but it is well known that Mr. McLaughlin has a distaste for such gatherings, and his friends will be surprised if he should decide to grace this banquet with his presence.

Just as soon as Mr. McLaughlin and his family get back the arrangements for the marriage of his daughter, Miss Laura McLaughlin, to Dr. James A. Roache of 150 McDonough street will be completed, although the event is not likely to take place until after the summer.

In accordance with the wishes of Mr. McLa