The Sun.

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The Present Status of a Remarkable Case.

The newspapers friendly to Rear Admiral Schley, who are at present directing a tornado of denunciation against The Sun on the strength of Lieutenant-Commander Hodgson's letter to Schley denying that what we will call the "Schley-Hodgson colloquy" ever took place, will be answered for the moment in common if we approach the subject from the side considered by the Richmond *Dispatch*.

The Hodgson letter says that "the colloquy printed in The New York Sun never occurred." The letter printed in The Sun from Lieutenant-Commander Heilner, the navigating officer of the Texas, expressed the writer's mistrust that the case was truly as Hodgson's letter taken by itself indicated it to be, inasmuch as Hodgson "repeated to me [Heilner] the conversation alluded to in substance." Thereupon the Richmond *Dispatch* remarks that "whether it is Heilner or Hodgson who is perverting the truth, we do not know." "It looks very much," continues our contemporary, "as if Hodgson had been slandering Schley and was caught up and made to sign a disclaimer."

We will tell here in greater detail the facts of the case as they concern The Sun.

First, The Sun was informed that Hodgson had described the occurrence referred to after the battle of Santiago. After Schley's extraordinary statement to the Senate as a defence against the censure of the Navy Department that he had executed the Brooklyn's loop in order to prevent blanketing the fire of the American ships, The Sun published this colloquy to prove that in so saying Schley had testified falsely. For the sake of simplicity it was put into the words in which it had been conveyed to us:

"Schley—Put your helm hard a-port.
"Hodgson—You mean starboard?
"Schley—No, I don't. We are near enough to them [the Spaniards] already.
"Hodgson—But we'll cut down the Texas.
"Schley—Let the Texas look out for herself."

The substance of this, the bottom and essential truth, the thing in it actually affirmed, was that Hodgson, whose duty it was to warn his commander of any approaching danger, warned Schley of the danger of collision with the Texas in case he turned to starboard, and that Schley justified his manœuvre by affirming that the Spaniards were too near for him to turn to port. Rather than do that he preferred to risk sinking the Texas in collision.

This was published on Feb. 22 of this year. On March 15 we addressed an article to Schley himself, asking him, among several other questions, "Did this conversation which has been reported to us, *or anything like it*, occur on the Brooklyn's bridge?" There was no response.

On May 24 we discussed the "Story of the Captains" published by the *Century*, pointing out the fact that Capt. Cook, the nominal commander of the Brooklyn during the battle, made no mention of the Brooklyn's loop as having been executed from the motive offered by Schley and proving substantially that Schley's motive could have had no valid foundation. Immediately before that, to make the road all clear and solid, a representative of The Sun asked Lieutenant-Commander Hodgson whether the Sun's report of the Schley-Hodgson conversation was substantially correct, and Hodgson said that it was, and that if our publication of it was challenged he might be quoted as its authority. The reporter did not at the time have a copy of The Sun's report of the conversation, supposing it to be well known, and Hodgson, doubtless having only the essentials of the conversation in his mind, answered, as we have said he answered, so that The Sun felt justified in saying what it did. The reporter was particular as to the use of the word "damn" which appeared in the text printed on May 24, as amended after the interview with Hodgson. The use of the word "damn" was positively affirmed.

The attack upon The Sun having become furious and vituperative, Hodgson was quoted as authority on June 1. His letter to Schley, which the Washington *Post* printed on June 13, was dated June 11. This was the letter:

"U. S. S. Brooklyn,
Navy Yard, New York, June 11, '99.

"Dear Admiral Schley: The colloquy published in The New York Sun alleged to have taken place between you and me on the day of the battle off Santiago, July 3, 1898, never occurred. Very respectfully,
A. C. Hodgson,
"Lieutenant-Commander, U. S. N."

Taken alone this meant an utter repudiation of The Sun's original statement; it meant that that was a pure fabrication and hence a malicious and dastardly assault upon Schley.

The next day The Sun printed Lieutenant-Commander Heilner's letter testifying that Hodgson had repeated the substance of The Sun's report to him.

We will for the moment go beyond this and inform our contemporaries for their enlightenment that Hodgson has said to the editor of The Sun, in the presence of the Commandant of the New York Navy Yard, that *the substance* of The Sun's report was true.

Unquestionably somewhere in the controversy there is a lie. Some one is guilty of falsification, of an effort to deceive the public and to make it believe a fiction.

The Richmond *Dispatch* says that the issue is "between Hodgson and Heilner." Lieutenant-Commander Heilner's character must not be confronted with even a suspicion of his honor or accuracy. The issue lies necessarily between Hodgson, the Washington *Post* and Schley.

We will repeat now what we said in effect on Wednesday, that if, in writing to Admiral Schley, Hodgson meant to deny, without qualification, any more than the precise verbal accuracy of The Sun's report, which of course was not taken down verbatim as the conversation occurred, and if he gave to Schley the solitary document printed, without further explanation of the attendant circumstances, then he is the liar. If the case is otherwise, however, and Hodgson, while sending the letter printed, at the same time explained exactly what he meant by it, and that the conversation was true in substance, then we leave the question of who is the liar, the misleader of public opinion and the slanderer of The Sun to the two remaining parties to the controversy, Rear Admiral Schley and the Washington *Post*.

The Campaign in Ohio.

In Ohio elections for Governor are biennial, in odd-numbered years, and on June 2, at Columbus, the Republicans put in nomination for that office George K. Nash of that town. The Democrats, depending more on fancied factional Republican divisions than on any strength of their own, decided at the meeting of their State Committee on Friday to hold their nominating convention this year at Zanesville and selected Sept. 5 as the date.

In 1897, the last year in which a Governor of Ohio was elected, the Republican nomination of the present Governor was made on June 23, and that of his Democratic opponent on June 30, but now the Democrats defer their convention more than two months beyond the usual time. They are waiting in the hope that something, perchance, will turn up in their favor or at least suggest the advisability of adopting some definite policy.

Hitherto long canvasses in Ohio have been a political tradition, brought down from the time when Ohio was an "October State" and its elections were regarded of profound importance because of their supposed influence on national campaigns; but Ohio is an "October State" no longer, and the Republicans are now preparing for a long canvass as advisable in itself. The Democrats by their delay in joining issue with the Republicans after the accustomed way prove that they have no policy to declare.

Did any politician or man of any calling or interest possessing the normal habit of observation see the like?

The Competition for Coaling Stations.

The acquisition of the Philippines by the United States, the seizure of Kiao-Chou by Germany and Italy's demand for a harbor on the Chinese coast, a demand likely to be ultimately granted, have added three great maritime powers to the three, England, France and Russia, which already possess a foothold on the Asiatic shore of the Pacific, and which, therefore, need coaling stations on the various routes to the Far East. From this point of view it will be interesting to compare the advantages belonging to the several rivals for China's trade, and to inquire what opportunities of securing coaling stations still exist.

We may eliminate Russia from the inquiry because, as she has access to the Middle Kingdom by land, the maintenance of maritime communication therewith is not for her absolutely indispensable. This is not true of England and France, because, although these powers might enter China, the one from Burmah and the other from Tonquin, yet both for commercial and military reasons the maritime connection between the Asiatic dependencies just named and Europe must be uninterrupted. Both of these powers, consequently, require coaling stations on each of the three sea routes between Europe and eastern Asia, of which one passes through the Mediterranean, the Suez Canal and the Red Sea, the second around the Cape of Good Hope and the third around Cape Horn, or via the American isthmus, and thence across the Pacific. On the first two of these routes England is far better provided with coaling stations than any other power, for French vessels, proceeding eastward from the Tunisian ports, do not again encounter a French harbor until they have emerged from the Red Sea; while, on the route around the Cape of Good Hope, they have a long journey before them after leaving Madagascar and the island of Réunion. When a canal is cut across the American isthmus France will profit by her possessions in the West Indies, but here, also, England will be better off, owning, as she does, not only islands in the chain which bars the Caribbean on the East, but also Jamaica and British Honduras.

As regards, however, the route across the Pacific, after the completion of an interoceanic waterway no European power will be able to vie with the United States, inasmuch as, for us, the voyage is divided into three parts by coaling stations in Hawaii, at Guam and in the Philippines. In the central Pacific, Germany has certain joint rights in Samoa, and in the western half of that great ocean she already had insular possessions before her recent purchase of the Ladrones, the Carolines and the Pelew Islands. France owns more than one insular group in the South Sea, besides her conquests in farther India. It would be extremely difficult, however, for either France or Germany to maintain an aggressive naval war against our Pacific coast, inasmuch as the fighting vessels of those powers would have to be coaled from transports.

Let us suppose, nevertheless, that, after the outbreak of hostilities, we should be temporarily deprived of Hawaii and Guam, and should, consequently, desire to reach our strongholds in the Philippines by one of the alternative routes by way of the Suez Canal or around the Cape of Good Hope. We should then be confronted by the fact that, in the Atlantic, east of Porto Rico, in the Mediterranean and in the Indian Ocean, we do not possess a single coaling station. Had the war with Spain been prolonged, we should, doubtless, have secured the Canaries and the island of Fernando Po, which would have afforded us convenient harbors for coaling and repair on the route around the Cape of Good Hope; and either Ceuta or one of the Balearic Isles, which would have rendered corresponding services to American vessels bound for the Suez Canal. As it was, all of the coigns of vantage just named were left in the hands of Spain, and now, according to a telegram, she purposes to sell all of them except Ceuta, which gives her a foothold in Morocco, to some strong European power, in return for a moderate amount of money and an offensive and defensive alliance. Our opportunity, therefore, of obtaining coaling stations on the Mediterranean or Cape of Good Hope routes to the Far East seems to have been lost, so far as Spain is concerned. It may be still possible, however, to secure from Portugal coaling stations on the route around the Cape of Good Hope, so that the longest stretch to be traversed by an American warship would be that between Mozambique and Manila.

In the Mediterranean we seem to have no chance of gaining a coaling station, except through purchase from Morocco. There is, it seems, an excellent harbor on the Mediterranean coast of the Sultan's dominions, not far from the Algerian frontier; but whether this could be secured without exciting vehement opposition on the part of France is uncertain. Evidently, we should prove a less troublesome neighbor than would Germany, which, on her part, is determined to acquire ports for coaling and repair on one or both of the two short routes to Asia.

It is probably true that the prize for which the highly civilized nations will contend in the twentieth century will be the control of China's trade, capable as this doubtless is of immeasurable expansion. For such a contest those nations will be best qualified which already possess naval and military depots in close proximity to the scene of action. Our possession of the Philippines places us in the front rank of competitors. We should foresee, however, the possibility of losing temporarily the power of reaching Manila by way of the Pacific, and should take betimes the measures needed to enable us to avail ourselves of one of the alternative routes to the Far East.

San Fernando.

The enemy's attack on Gen. MacArthur's lines might possibly be accounted for as an effort to lighten Gen. Lawton's pressure upon the insurgent forces in Cavite province. Nothing is more natural than that, on hearing of the driving back of Pio del Pilar's troops at Paranaque and Las Pinas, Aguinaldo should try to divert our attention, or at least to dissuade us from reinforcing Lawton, by assaulting MacArthur's position at San Fernando.

But whatever the motive the result was the usual insurgent defeat. The raid of the enemy on our communications north of Calumpit, destroying the telegraph wires and a part of the railroad track at Apalit, was one of the best military strokes he has attempted, especially as it was combined with an assault on the San Fernando lines. Indeed, it is remarkable that he has so long left intact our line of supply. Still the damage done was temporary and unimportant, and was quickly repaired. At San Fernando Aguinaldo's attack was in force, but was repulsed with heavy loss.

The advantage of position we hold is clear. MacArthur's division has railroad and telegraphic communication back to Manila, and thus it would be an easy task, if necessary, to convey troops and supplies from Lawton to MacArthur or from MacArthur to Lawton, either for defensive or aggressive purposes. We have the interior lines. On the other hand, the two portions of Aguinaldo's army are practically cut off from each other. Either could march to the assistance of the other only by the long detour around Laguna de Bay, but that would be an enormous task in the rainy season. Spies may make their way from Manila to the southern or the northern army, but no large body can get through our lines.

Add the vast advantage of our fleet, not only for carrying supplies, but for patrolling and commanding the coast, driving the enemy from any foothold he may attempt within the range of its big guns, and it can be seen why his efforts either to attack us or to resist our attacks are costly and hopeless.

The Tribes of American Negroes.

Judge Emory Speer of Georgia says the Southern people have observed great differences in the negroes among them, due doubtless to differences in tribal descent. Some of them spring from the more degraded African tribes and others from gentle and manly races whose descendants in this country deserve the confidence and good will of their neighbors.

The truth of this generalization cannot be questioned. Many of the descendants of unwilling emigrants from Africa still show marked characteristics of the people whence they sprang. Explorers have told us of noteworthy differences among the various tribes. The linguistic differences are marked so clearly that we may accept the fifth degree of north latitude, roughly speaking, as the boundary line between the two great divisions of the negro family, the Soudan negroes living north and the Bantu negroes south of that line. There are also many minor differences among the negro groups in color, physiognomy, occupation and character. Some live by the chase, some by tillage, while others are herders. Some are far more advanced than others in the arts such as iron and pottery making, carving and hut-building. Some are naturally ferocious and warlike while others are peaceful.

There are undoubtedly in the United States thousands of descendants of the Foulahs who are widely scattered over the western Soudan, are not classed among the negro races, to most of which they are superior, and are noted for their intelligence and enterprise. Capt. Canot, who was a slaver from 1826 to 1846, testified that the Foulah tribes were a prolific source of slaves. He also told of carrying "choice cargoes of Mandingoes" to Havana, where these light-colored and very intelligent men and women were in great demand among the wealthy as house servants. Other traders have recorded the fact that the treatment given to their human cargoes depended upon the nature of the freight. Slavers loading on the Angola coast, for example, would not think of putting irons on the slaves, who were of a mild and gentle nature, and revolt among them was almost unknown. But slaves embarked north of the Gold Coast were guarded with great vigilance, for they were "treacherous devils," and instances were known where they overpowered and killed the crew and ran the ship ashore before it had got out of African waters.

Very few cargoes of slaves were shipped to this country or the West Indies from south of the latitude of Gaboon. The reason for this fact is interesting. The slave trade, like any other branch of commerce, followed the direct route to the nearest good markets. Enormous supplies of slaves were collected along the West African coast from Cape Verde to Gaboon, and the nearest good markets for this source of supply were found in the West Indies and along our Atlantic and Gulf coasts south of Chesapeake Bay. This is the chief reason why we see in North America comparatively few representatives of the great Bantu division of the negro race. The Congo and Angola coast and the Zambesi region of East Africa, the chief shipping points for slaves of Bantu origin, were far nearer to the ports of Brazil and the Guianas than to the West Indies or our southern ports, and so the south equatorial negroes were taken to the equatorial parts of America.

Still some slaves even from East Africa were brought to North America. Capt. Canot, for instance, doubled the Cape of Good Hope and got a cargo of 800 negroes at Quilimane, near the mouth of the Zambesi, and he saw in that port fourteen Brazilian and Portuguese slavers taking on cargoes for South America. A considerable number of the slaves first introduced into the colony of Massachusetts came from Madagascar. It is quite certain, however, that nine-tenths of the slaves brought to this country came from the triangular region whose sea frontage is between Cape Verde and Gaboon and whose apex in the interior is Lake Tchad. In other words, the Western Soudan, clear to the borders of the Central Soudan, was the original home of most North American negroes. On the other hand, South American negroes were derived in great numbers both from the Western Soudan and from Tropical Africa, south of the equator.

Comparatively few ancestors of our negroes lived where they might see the ocean. The shore peoples were the middlemen who bought the slaves from inland traders and found their profit in selling them to the whites, or made war upon inland tribes for the sole purpose of leading gangs of slaves back to the coast. The stamping ground of the slavers who sent black labor to North America and its islands was only a small part of Africa; but the best and the worst that the continent could furnish, from the Foulahs and Houssas, who are among the most advanced of native Africans, to the degraded cannibals of the Cross River, were dragged over the sea to act their part in shaping the destiny of the West for weal or woe.

The New Trotting Race.

At the beginning of this year of trotting there was introduced at Combination Park in Boston a noticeable novelty in the arrangement of the heats and in the distribution of the prizes. In the standard race of three heats cleverness in the jockey may bring victory to an inferior animal by holding him back while his rivals wear each other out in fighting to win, and then, when the latter are exhausted with splitting heats with each other, turning the waiter loose and winning. The others are better horses, but the winner has the craftier jockey; and all that the rules forbidding the laying up of heats can do is to prevent drivers from lagging so openly that they just drop within the distance flag. So some ingenious experts devised the scheme tried at Combination Park, in which the number of heats are set at three, and a separate purse, divided as usual into four prizes, is to be won in each heat. Each heat, therefore, is a race in itself.

The despatch in The Sun describing the first race of this sort said that the plan was "pronounced a success." Despite that and despite the faults of the old-fashioned way, it can be predicted safely that the old way will not be replaced by the new.

The heat-race system can never become popular, because it is not built upon the lines of human nature. That expects, instinctively and habitually, as the indispensable end of every race, a victor, and the craving for him the heat-race fails to take into account. If each of three heats is a race, there may be three victors, which is about the same as no victor at all. Supremacy is left unsettled, and the sport, instead of being crowned by the determination of the best horse, is a mere succession of dashes not much more significant than mere exhibition miles.

Men go to the trotting track to see a horse race, and unless one horse is to win and another to get beaten, there is no race. The old three-heat race will stay with us yet awhile.

Theft of the Holy Carpet.

Despatches from Cairo report that the "Holy Carpet," once the property of Mohammed, and long guarded with pious care in the Egyptian capital, has fallen into the hands of Bedouins who attacked a caravan of Egyptian pilgrims while on the desert march between Mecca and Medina. The carpet is usually carried to Medina every year on the great annual pilgrimage from Egypt and is then restored to its keepers. It is one of the most famous relics of the Prophet, and the sacrilegious act of the desert nomads will arouse much feeling, particularly in North Africa.

Mecca attracts the faithful from the entire Mohammedan world, but by far the larger part of the pilgrims who visit Medina are natives of Africa. The reason is because Medina is second in sanctity to Mecca, and a visit to the tomb of the Prophet at Medina, while highly meritorious, confers no honor nor blessing which is not equalled or surpassed by the holy fruits of the pilgrimage to Mecca; and few non-African devotees have the incentive to incur the sufferings and dangers of the 200-mile march across the sand waste between Mecca and Medina. Of the four orthodox sects of Islam the Malikites are very numerous in North Africa, and a large part of the pilgrims to Medina go there not only to venerate the tomb of the Prophet, but also the tomb of the Iman Malek-Ibn-Ansa, the founder of the Malikite sect.

The bones of thousands of these pilgrims whiten the route across the Arabian sand waste, where they have succumbed to heat and fatigue or to the attacks of Bedouin robbers. This journey has always been among the most trying experiences of the pilgrim bands. Some of the Meccans have made fortunes supplying camels and food for the desert journey to and from the northern city. Thirteen years ago a French steamship company spread the news far and wide that thenceforth the perils of the desert march might be avoided. The pilgrims were advised to return from Mecca to Jiddah on the coast, where steamers would await to carry them 200 miles north to Jambo, whence they might make an easy and comfortable journey to Medina. In recent years several thousand pilgrims have employed this easier and cheaper route, but the majority have clung to the old way. The Bedouins who have committed the latest act of sacrilege are nominally Mohammedans, but they neither pray nor give thanks to Allah. They may be trusted to place the highest commercial value upon any sacred relic falling into their hands.

Harbor Work That Is Urgent.

Official investigation will duly determine the nature of the obstruction which the Brooklyn recently struck, in the channel between Governors Island and the Battery; but meanwhile the *Scientific American* protests against any further neglect of the approaches to the Brooklyn Navy Yard.

It was only a few months ago that the Massachusetts grounded on Diamond Shoal, which extends into the channel from Governors Island, receiving injuries which cost, it is said, about $50,000 to repair. She was fully equipped for sea, with all stores on board, and down to her full draught; but there ought to have been water enough for her on the course she took. That accident happened in time of peace, but it might occur in war, when delay would be more serious.

"Surely it was not necessary for the Massachusetts," says the *Scientific American*, "to smash up $60,000 worth of her bottom to convince us that Diamond Shoal was a reality and not a fiction—a few fathoms of sounding line would have done that; and if there are sunken wrecks encumbering the channels of New York harbor, it is surely a doubtful policy to use the bottom of the Brooklyn as a magnet to determine their whereabouts." We are properly expending millions on two great channels forty feet deep in New York harbor, and one of them is along the Brooklyn water-front, near the scene of the disasters to the Massachusetts and the Brooklyn; but just now there seems to be a need of so dredging and clearing the approaches to the navy yard that at least twenty-eight feet of unobstructed water will be available for our warships as they go to and fro.

The maximum draught of the Massachusetts at the lowest point of the keel, when ready for sea with bunkers full, is 27 feet 1¾ inches; that of the Brooklyn, 26 feet 2 inches. These ships should be able to leave the navy yard courses without danger of touching on reefs or sunken wrecks.

Bishop Potter and the Ordination of Dr. Briggs.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The remarks of Bishop Huntington of Central New York, published in The Sun, give additional interest to the case of Dr. Briggs, especially as Bishop Huntington, like Dr. Briggs, came into the Episcopal Church from another religious body. Undoubtedly the responsibility of Dr. Briggs's ordination rests absolutely with Bishop Potter, and Bishop Huntington sustains this view.

Bishop Potter, in the only communication which he has published on the subject, casts the responsibility on the Standing Committee. But according to the canon of the Protestant Episcopal Church in America, the Standing Committee of the diocese is merely "a council of advice to the Bishop," and when Dr. Briggs sent his application to the Standing Committee, he must also have sent a letter from Bishop Potter recommending him for priest's orders.

Then, as Bishop Huntington remarks, in the whole Church Catholic the Bishop alone is held responsible for the ordination of any man. This is embodied in the Ember Collect, to be said for those to be admitted into holy orders, when we pray "Govern the minds of Thy servants, the Bishops and pastors of Thy flock, that they may lay hands suddenly on no man, but faithfully and wisely make choice of fit persons to serve in the sacred ministry of Thy Church."

The fact that Bishop Potter has appointed Dr. Briggs one of his assistants in his cathedral mission in Stanton street clearly indicates that he is in sympathy with Dr. Briggs's views. There can be no objection to this. But why does Bishop Potter cast the responsibility elsewhere?

He might easily have replied that while he alone was responsible for the ordination, it had been indorsed by the Standing Committee, who must have examined Dr. Briggs, and it consisted of three High Church men of reputation—Dr. Dix, the rector of Trinity parish; Dr. Applegate of Newburg, and Dr. Harris, the Secretary of the Diocesan Convention. The fourth clerical member, Dr. Shipman, is an avowed Broad Church man, and would probably be in sympathy with men of his own school of thought.

The discussion has not ended. At the meeting of the Diocesan Convention in September next the clergy of the diocese will be called upon to elect the Standing Committee of their diocese. The whole question may then be discussed by the clergy, and a censure, either expressed or implied, may be voted on Bishop Potter as well as on the Standing Committee.

Bishop Potter is a pretty strong man, and perfectly capable of fighting his own battles. But in justice to the feelings of his people he should make public his reasons as well as the reasons of the Standing Committee for admitting Dr. Briggs to the priesthood. The laity as well as the clergy have a right to demand this, and it would quiet the consciences of a great many people.

Personally, I should say it was a mistake to admit a man like Dr. Briggs to the order of presbyter in the Episcopal Church, with its well-defined standards of doctrine. Dr. Briggs is a man of the highest character, but he is a lecturer on Biblical theology in a Presbyterian college, and with him the goal of to-day is the starting place of to-morrow. If he were not an ordained priest of the Church he could say what he liked and write what he liked regarding the Holy Scriptures as literature. But in accepting Episcopal ordination he has placed shackles upon himself and he is now responsible to his Episcopal brethren for his views.

At the same time the Episcopal Church (and all branches of the Church Catholic) has no standard of inspiration. It has merely a catalogue of canonical books received in the Church of Christ from the year A. D. 230, when Athanasius delivered it as "containing our Scriptures and no others, in which alone the doctrine of religion is taught, and to which no man must add or take from them." I have always understood that Dr. Briggs relegated the Second Epistle of St. Peter to the uncanonical books, but he must have satisfied the Standing Committee if not the Bishop on this point or he ought not to have been ordained.

Dr. Briggs does not consider either the book of Jonah or the book of Job historical. This does not really affect the inspiration of those books, for, although Christ quoted them to illustrate certain teachings, it does not necessarily follow that He quoted them as historic. In fact, the spiritual teachings of the book of Job become tenfold deeper when it is regarded as a divine allegory. The most offensive features of Dr. Briggs's book are the expressions of dislike, if not hatred, to those who have opposed him, however honestly. As Dr. Clendenin remarks, "not since the days of Milton has there likely been such a free use of epithets." And can the Episcopal Church afford to involve its good name in every part of the land in order that Dr. Briggs may get even with his Presbyterian brethren?

In the diocese of New York there have been a number of clergy who have been ordained from other religious bodies. At least two of these have been deposed. And when prominent ministers have been ordained to the priesthood of our Episcopal Church it has not been found that they bring their people with them. On the contrary, they give the impression that our Church is a sort of cave of Adullam for the discontented.

It is not likely that Dr. Briggs will be tried for heresy. But a very healthy result of this controversy will be increased carefulness on the part of some Bishops not to lay hands suddenly on ministers of other denominations, and the public announcement of the fact that the Protestant Episcopal Church of America has pastors and teachers within her fold who are prepared to stand by those standards of faith and practice which have come to us through an apostolic ministry.

June 17. An Episcopal Clergyman.

Mr. Goldwin Smith and Metaphysics.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Mr. Goldwin Smith in to-day's Sun says, "Our senses, upon the evidence of which all physical science is founded, &c.," and again, "The occult powers behind the general fact which the phrase 'law of nature' suggests is the product of our theism imported into science." These two assertions are gratuitous. First, the evidence of all physical science is partially but not totally founded on our senses. Our intellect, the reasoning faculty which makes the syllogism and draws the conclusion, plays the most conspicuous part in physical as in all other science. The law of induction, which rules the whole of physical science, is based on the argument from effect to cause. The senses have little to do with it, except to supply the phenomena or modes of beings.

Secondly, theism is a logical deduction from the physical sciences and the laws which they reveal. Facts prove nothing. They are simply the matter on which the intellect acts. What is a fact in science? It is that which appears—the shape, color, form or condition—from which the intellect concludes to the substance of the being; and from a multiplicity of similar modes and facts and substances deduces the laws and the causes.

Mr. Smith, like others, forgets that the greatest realities are those which are invisible; that that which falls under the senses is only the mode, while the substance, force, cause and law are all invisible and intangible entities, yet not the less real for that.

The scholar who depends on the senses alone is like a bird trying to fly with one wing. He may be a Goldwin Smith or a Robert Ingersoll, but he will never be a Thomas Aquinas or a Dante. Three cheers for metaphysics. Yours faithfully,

J. Allardyce.

Lieut.-Col. Moran and the Irish Volunteers.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* In your article in to-day's issue you refer to the "deposition of Col. James Moran from command of the Irish Volunteers," which is incorrect.

As the organizer and commander of the Volunteers I was absolute in military control, and as a protest against the interference of Mr. John Devoy I disbanded the regiment. An attempt was made to reorganize it which has proved a failure.

New York, June 17. James Moran.

RED CROSS IN CUBA.

Work of the Organization During the Months of April and May.

The Central Cuban Relief Committee of the Red Cross has received from Miss Clara Barton the report of Dr. J. E. Hubbell, general field agent, on the work done during April and May. During that time six orphans' homes were established and one home and two hospitals were refitted and reëstablished. Dr. Hubbell began his work at Guines, where the civil hospital was thoroughly cleaned and renovated and an orphan asylum was established outside the city accommodating 100 children.

At Catalina many orphans were found living in palm-leaf huts in a frightful condition. They were gathered into a home and made comfortable with the assistance of native Cubans.

A home and school for widows and orphans was established at San Felipe, where formerly these people swarmed about the town as beggars.

At San Antonio de Las Vegas Dr. Hubbell, with the assistance of several prominent Cubans, founded an asylum for fifty homeless children. A fine house on the outskirts of Madruga was converted into an orphanage and the use of the sulphur baths near the town was given free to the institution. Some of the fifty orphans had been under Miss Barton's care in Havana before the war. San Nicolas had 100 homeless orphans when the Red Cross workers arrived there. An asylum was quickly started and thirty were accommodated at once.

Jaruco was the first place in which any relief work was done, outside of Havana, before the war. Things had lapsed into a bad condition in the interval, but the hospital, which had been used as a Spanish military hospital, was quickly disinfected and put in order. In coöperation with Dr. Gonzales, United States sanitary officer of Pinar del Rio, the civil hospital of Guanajay was cleaned and refitted, and forty beds were made ready. Dr. Hubbell closes his report by acknowledging the assistance rendered by the Cubans in all the towns visited and also that of the United States Army officials.

JEWS AND CHRISTIANS.

The Jews Not So Spotless as Rabbi Mendes Represented.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The tone of your editorial, "The Explanation of Anti-Semitism," in to-day's Sun, and your several references to Rabbi Mendes's letter in your issue of yesterday lead me to believe that you accept the reverend gentleman's effusion as representative of Jewish opinion. Dr. Mendes's rambling attack on Christians cannot serve Judaism and it will not be concurred in by the Jews. It is a fanatical outburst, ill-considered, unwise and untrue. His strictures on Christians who viewed the boxing match at Coney Island apply equally to the Jews, who were generously represented there. Dr. Mendes may not know that our race has a representative in the prize ring in the person of Choynski, whose father was a well-known writer for the Jewish press.

The rabbi's reference to the Mazet committee was unfortunate. Is he not aware that a witness representing a notorious resort is a Jew? The criticism of the shooting of pigeons by Christian ladies is far fetched. Have Jewish ladies a greater love for our feathered friends? If they had would they indulge in the habit, which knows no race, of decorating their heads with the plumage of birds killed for that purpose? We have our wifebeaters and our murderers; we have criminals of every class, so many, in fact, that the Society for the Aid of Jewish Prisoners delegates one chaplain to minister to their spiritual wants in each prison of the State.

The Jews have not monopolized all the virtues, Dr. Mendes to the contrary notwithstanding. Neither are we any worse than Christians. We are all equally good or bad and it is time that Jews of the Mendes stamp recognized that truth, as impartial Christians have long done.

This is from the son of a rabbi. B. W. H.

New York, June 15.

Tammany Extolled as a Means of Destroying Anti-Semitic Prejudice.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* As a panacea for anti-Semitism the broad and fraternal method by which Tammany Hall blends together the people of all creeds and countries is to be commended, and must in due time completely obliterate any distinctive peculiarities possessed by the Hebrews in this city, at least. Apart from a beneficent training in the art of self-government, no grander spectacle can be seen on the eve of election of fraternity and brotherly love than the Hebrew and perchance the Irishman on the stump together and in turn proclaiming to the multitude the glad tidings of each of their delivery from bondage.

From the platform, in loud and denunciatory tones of their persecutors, the Irish statesman may be heard reciting the wrongs of a patient people from the first of the Pharaohs down to the present Czar of the Russias, including a vivid depiction of Siberian horrors in condoling with his Jewish constituents, while the Hebrew's appeal to his Christian friends is scarcely less pathetic in stigmatizing England as the robber of all nations and the cruel exterminator of a brave and valiant people from the time of Queen Bess down to the present Balfour régime, coercion and English dungeons included. This political bond of fraternity between two hitherto persecuted races cannot fail in time to obliterate the chasm that divides the New York Jew from the New York Gentile.

New York, June 16. J. W. F.

Why Go to Palestine?

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Is not a New Jerusalem being established right here in New York? I had occasion to attend the Regents' examinations that closed yesterday at the Grand Central Palace, and at a moderate estimate fully two-thirds of the students, male and female, who took those examinations were undoubtedly of Jewish origin.

Commerce they control, and now the law, and perhaps medicine, are passing into their hands. What next? M. G. B.

New York, June 17.

The Jews Becoming Assimilated.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* The Jews in this country are assimilating themselves as fast as possible after their wretched condition for so many centuries. Intermarriage with Christians is not so seldom an occurrence as some think, and it will become still more frequent when a friendlier feeling toward the Jew prevails among Christians.

New York, June 17. Philip Zunser.

The Assault on Theology.

To the Editor of The Sun—*Sir:* Please keep right on handling such matters as religion and theology. Your articles on the Briggs revolution are a liberal education in theology and should be studied by every one.

We found in The Sun what could not be found in religious newspapers during the heresy trial—a clear, simple exposition of the whole subject in a nut-shell; Dr. Briggs's real belief, what the standards of the Presbyterian Church are, why Dr. Briggs was suspended.

Mushy people had no convictions in the matter; superficial thinkers could not corner up the doctor, and ignorant people did not know the danger of his teachings. It remained for The Sun to classify him and label his teachings.

The late Howard Crosby could see the danger of these teachings, and said of some of Dr. Briggs's writings: "They read smoothly, but contain a fallacy." Mary Meredith.

Montclair, June 14.

An Intercessional.

From London Truth.

Suggested by the Poet Laureate's request to the "Times" to point out that his proper designation is not Sir Alfred Austin, but Mr. Alfred Austin.

"The Fount will play again next week,
The 'Birthday-Honours' list they'll print,
So, more in sorrow than in pique,
'Tis time I gave a gentle hint:
I'll mention I'm not knighted yet,
Lest they forget—lest they forget!

"Since first my merits they up-summ'd,
And granted me my heart's desire,
They cannot say I've not 'tum-tum'd'
Persistently my laureate lyre—
Ode, eclogue, madrigal, 'lay'-ette—
Still they forget—still they forget!

"In loyal accents I have lisped,
I've ranted in a Jingo vein,
In ecstasy I've even crisped
The British Lion's mighty mane;
My Muse to turgid tasks I've set—
Yet they forget—yet they forget!

"Beneath a bright Italian sun
I've broken out in various spots—
A Tate and Brady rolled in one,
A kind of courtly Dr. Watts;
Yet with no recompense I've met—
They still forget—they still forget!

"No wonder that my heart is sore
When at the feast I'm forced to see
'Sir Lewis' proudly walk before,
'Sir Edwin' take the pas from me;
I'm Laureate, 'tis true, and yet
They still forget—they still forget!

"But hope, oft crushed, flies up once more—
They may pooh-pooh my futile rhymes,
Yet how, I'd ask, can they ignore
My hint in yester morning's *Times*?
Methinks in Saturday's *Gazette*
They can't forget—they *can't* forget!"

* * * * * * *

L'ENVOI.

(Written after looking at the "Times" on Saturday last).

"What's this? It is extremely odd!
Names stare at me from every line—
'Salt,' 'Armstrong,' 'Stanley,' 'Rennell Rodd,'
But there is not a sign of mine;
'Preece,' 'Follitt,' 'Agnew,' 'Murton,' 'Rotton'—
They *do* forget—they *have* forgotten!"

THE FOREST OF VALLOMBROSA.

The Spot Made Famous by Milton, Where the Italian Forestry School Is.

From the Forester.

One of the most attractive places in Europe is Vallombrosa. Every traveller in Italy should visit it. No matter what his profession, he will find something of interest. All admire the beautiful views and the forests and enjoy the fresh, dust-free mountain air and pure spring water, far above the bells and yells and smells of Italian cities.

The word Vallombrosa itself means "shady valley." "Thick as autumnal leaves that strow the brooks in Vallombrosa, where the Etrurian shades high overarched embower," says Milton, who visited this lovely spot before he lost his sight.

Such a place in Italy, where the forests have been recklessly wasted, where almost every tree is lopped and pollarded, and where the mountains are bare, the streams dry at times, at others rushing, raging torrents, is certainly refreshing.

Vallombrosa was formerly one of the richest and most famous of the monasteries of Europe, and is now of special interest to foresters because the only forestry school in Italy is located there. It may be easily visited from Florence. At S. Ellero, a short distance up the Arno, on the main line to Rome, the traveller must change cars. High on the mountain top in the distance Vallombrosa is partly visible, as a mass of dark green foliage surrounded by bare mountain sides. The little train, consisting of one car and a small locomotive, ascends by means of a cog-wheel working in a toothed middle rail. The engine was built in Philadelphia and the car in Belgium, although the latter was finished in American pine.

The train passes through many well-kept olive groves and vineyards, the scenery being very beautiful. The fruit trees were in full bloom (April 5) and the olives were a rich, silvery color. Women dressed in bright-colored costumes were working in the soil, the men were lopping the trees, to which the vines are tied with willow withes. Others were ploughing the rich, brown earth with teams of large, pure white oxen.

Trees in Italy are planted for vine props. The clippings they yield serve for fuel and the leaves are used for fodder. The twigs take the place of twine. Italian agriculture is partly arboriculture. Almost every field yields grapes, nuts, figs, olives, wood, fodder and grain.

We passed through a coppice of chestnut and oak with large mother trees on the steep mountainside. The ground was carpeted with broom, gorse and many other wild flowers, among which we could hear the busy honey bees humming. The woods were filled with song birds, something unusual for Italy, where formerly birds of every kind were captured for the pot in a wholesale fashion, by means of ingenious nets. A few sheep were visible, rambling among the herbage. Here and there choppers were cutting the young chestnut trees for vine props, stripping off the bark, dipping the ends in tar and binding up the fagots.

In season many peasants are occupied in picking the wild strawberries and raspberries and gathering mushrooms. A large income is yielded by the chestnuts, from the flour of which the bread of the peasants is made.

In the course of an hour the train reaches Saltino, the terminus. Below one, stretching for miles, is the well-tilled valley of the Arno; all about one the bare mountain tops of the Apennines, and plainly in the distance the famous city of Florence, with its extensive gardens and treasures of art.

About half a mile from the station of Saltino the beautiful silver fir forests of Vallombrosa begin. The trees are large, with tall, straight boles and dense, dark green canopy. The air is fragrant with the orange perfume exhaled by the leaves in the sunshine. One could easily imagine himself in the midst of the Black Forest at Herrenwies or St. Blasien.

The trees are in lines, betraying the fact that they had been planted. In truth the whole of the forests of Vallombrosa were planted by the patient and industrious Benedictine monks, who were arduous agriculturists and foresters during the Dark Ages. It is to them in fact that civilization owes much, and it was often with much injustice that their properties were confiscated and their treasures of art and science injured or destroyed. Some beautiful stems, fit for the masts of ships, were piled by the wayside. They seemed almost out of place in a land where twigs and fuel are often sold by weight and where a decent fire is the greatest of all luxuries.

Soon one reaches an open meadow, surrounded on all but one of its sides by the amphitheatre of green, forest-clad hills. It was here, in about the year 1015, that San Giovanni Gualberto founded the famous monastery of Vallombrosa, under peculiar circumstances too lengthy to describe.

Above the silver fir on the mountain side a fine forest of old beech is visible. The silver fir being more hardy, is usually above the beech. In order of hardiness there comes first the spruce, then the silver fir, then the red beech, and then the chestnut. The monks, no doubt, had some special purpose in placing the beech above the fir. They raised many pigs which fed upon the mast.

In front of the thick-walled monastery is the Albergo della Foresta, which is large and comfortable. Nearby there is an old sawmill and ponds built by the monks for the collection of ice. The water here is excellent, coming from a famous spring which was long supposed to have great curative properties. Several students dressed in uniform were working in the nurseries. They are called to their work by bugle blasts.

We presented our cards and were most cordially received by the director, Comm. F. Piccioli, and his accomplished daughter, both of whom speak German and French. Director Piccioli was sent by his Government to France to study the reforestation of mountains, and his report, entitled "Sui Rimboschimenti Eseguiti in Francia," appeared in 1887.

We were shown the museum, the library, the dormitory, the queer old kitchen and the refectory, with many portraits on the walls, including one of Gualberto, the founder of the monastery. The institution has eight professors and about thirty-five students. These students are of two classes—those who expect Government work and those who do not. The Italian Government possesses only about 50,000 hectares of forest, so that the number of foresters needed is not large and their pay is small. The students have four months' vacation in winter. From the prospectus, the regulations seem rather strict. The course covers four years and seems quite like the work of a German forest academy.

Italy could not have a better object lesson. She has had it many years and it seems to have little effect. Were all her mountains forested as at Vallombrosa she would be rich instead of poor. If she had them it is doubtful, though, whether they would be properly managed.

One leaves this beautiful region with regret and with the thought that much credit is due to the old monks who planted these forests and instituted an excellent system of agriculture, and that much blame is due the Italian Government for not following this excellent example by planting the denuded mountain tops—the birthplace of destructive torrents, and certainly the places above all others which should be owned and regulated by the State.

John Gifford, D. Œc.

Florence, April 16.

Political Notes.

The new Governor of South Carolina, M. B. McSweeney by name, began life in Charleston as a printer's boy. He has succeeded to the office of Governor by the recent death of Mr. Ellerbe. Mr. McSweeney, when chosen Lieutenant-Governor in 1898, polled 28,000 votes only, and the limited character of the suffrage in South Carolina is shown by that fact in comparison with the vote of Lemuel E. Quigg, defeated candidate for Congress in one of the districts of New York. He polled 25,000 votes. His Democratic opponent had 31,000, and the total vote of the district was twice as much as the total vote of the State of South Carolina for Governor at the election of the same year.

The State campaign of 1899 has opened early in the interior of New York. The Republicans of Clinton county held their nominating convention at Plattsburg on June 7 and put a candidate for Assembly in the field. Clinton is one of the close counties of the State, being carried by the Republicans on the Governorship at last year's election, but by the Democrats on member of Assembly.

It is a fact not generally known that, under a provision of the new charter, vacancies in the district, now municipal, courts are filled by the designation of the Mayor, and not of the Governor of the State. Prior to Jan. 1, 1898, it was otherwise, and the aspirations of many Democratic Justices were in consequence sidetracked from considerations of political expediency.

A sharp fight for the Senatorship has already been started in Virginia, where the term of Thomas S. Martin expires on March 4 next. The Legislature to choose his successor is to be voted for this year, and as Mr. Martin's friends have control of the Democratic organization machinery in Virginia, a strong effort of all his opponents is being made to commit nominees to be chosen at the primaries to other candidates. There are several already in the field, particularly William A. Jones, Congressman from the First Virginia district, who was reëlected last year, and Fitzhugh Lee. Congressman Jones entered the Virginia Military Institute in 1864 and served as a cadet in the defence of Richmond. Senator Martin, who was educated at the same institute and entered it in the same year, served also as a cadet in the battalion of the institute. His education was completed at the University of Virginia, in which also Mr. Jones was a student, he being graduated in the year 1870. The senior Senator from Virginia, John W. Daniel, has been re-elected for another term. He has been Senator since 1887.