The Sun.

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Down Among the Angleworms.

According to the most trustworthy information concerning the whereabouts of Mr. GORMAN and his friends in Pennsylvania, New York and New Jersey, they are at present burrowing in the moist earth immediately underneath the Democratic platform of 1896.

They are afraid or unwilling to step off that platform in the ordinary way, above ground, and in the daylight.

They prefer to crawl down between the planks and dig.

Into the subterranean works and the company of Mr. GORMAN and the angleworms Col. GUFFEY successfully led the Democratic State organization of Pennsylvania at its Convention last week at Harrisburg. The nominations were for minor offices, and the enthusiasm for BRYAN and what BRYAN represents was considerable, but the Convention was adroitly steered into the tunnel all the same.

It remains only to be seen whether the Pennsylvania Democrats will be content to stay with GORMAN and GUFFEY in the underground passage or mine, when they discover where they really are.

There are plenty of eminent Democrats in Pennsylvania and elsewhere in the East who, when they accepted the decision of the majority at Chicago three years ago, accepted it in good faith and with the intention to stay. They are making themselves heard. Here, for example, is the Hon. CHAUNCEY F. BLACK warning his fellow partisans of the attempt to commit them to a foolish and fatal policy. In a spirited letter published in the Harrisburg *Patriot* on the morning of the Convention, Mr. BLACK declared that for the Pennsylvania Democrats to repudiate, either expressly or tacitly, the national platform adopted at Chicago was to separate themselves forever from the national organization and the great mass of the party in the country:

"Mr. BRYAN will be renominated. The honest, unpurchasable Democratic people of the Union will control the next National Convention as they did the last, despite machine bosses, corporations and trusts. The McKinley men of '96 will not control the Democratic party of the nation in 1900. What have Pennsylvania Democrats to gain by suffering themselves to be placed outside by false and treacherous leadership, as they were three years ago? * * * Nor can we gain anything at home by humbly forswearing our faith and again baring our neck to the collar of the McKinley Democrats, who betrayed, kicked, slandered and defeated us in 1896. The failure to make an unequivocal declaration of national faith at Altoona defeated the ticket last year, and may have the same effect this year. The difference between BRYAN'S vote and JENKS'S tells the tale."

That is plain talk. It is straightforward and respectable. The warning was unavailing, so far as the shaping of the resolutions at Harrisburg was concerned, but such talk will be heard more and more plainly from all around in the East, the further into the ground Mr. GORMAN and his associates burrow, and the more apparent the true significance of their subterranean activity becomes to the great mass of the Eastern Democracy.

Where the Troops Are.

The question of the proper distribution of the regular troops with a view to existing and prospective needs has long been made a serious study at the War Department. This distribution, too, as now actually accomplished, is skilful and effective.

In Cuba we find the Second, Seventh, Eighth and Tenth Cavalry complete; the Second Artillery, the First, Second, Fifth, Eighth, Tenth, and Fifteenth Infantry—eleven regiments, with the proportion of cavalry notably strong.

In Porto Rico are two companies, A and D, of the Signal Corps, the Fifth Cavalry, three heavy batteries, B, E and G, of the Fifth Artillery and the Eleventh Infantry.

In Hawaii are four batteries, A, I, K and N, of the Sixth Artillery.

In the Philippines we have, including forces on the way or ordered thither, Company A of the Engineer Battalion; the entire Fourth Cavalry, except Troops D and H; ten batteries of the Sixth Artillery, four of the Third and one light battery each of the First, Fourth and Fifth; finally, the Third, Fourth, Sixth, Ninth, Twelfth, Thirteenth, Fourteenth, Sixteenth, Seventeenth, Eighteenth, Nineteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first, Twenty-second and Twenty-third Infantry, with eight companies each of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth. The Philippines take the lion's share of our infantry, although there is an adequate leavening of artillery, and the nature of the country prevents much use of mounted forces. Up to the present time we also have had a large force of volunteers in the Philippines, and three regiments will be organized to serve there after the volunteers as a whole have been mustered out.

This summary leaves little for home service, but we are well off for artillery in the garrisons. Our home contingent includes three companies of engineers, one of signal men, the First, Third, Sixth and Ninth Cavalry; thirteen batteries each of the First and Fourth Artillery, ten each of the Third and Fifth, with the entire Seventh; finally, the Seventh Infantry and four companies each of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth. The stripping of the country of infantry is almost startling; still, for the Indian reservations the mounted force is more important, while the heavy artillery must be reckoned in the supply of foot soldiers.

The distribution of these home troops has been most carefully studied. The heavy batteries take care of the entire seacoast, on the Atlantic and the Pacific. There are five light batteries at the West, one in Rhode Island, one at Washington and one in Texas. Forty-one troops of cavalry, most of the two battalions of the Twenty-fourth and Twenty-fifth Infantry and at least two companies of the Seventh will be at the West. The Seventh has to cover a good deal of territory, and is to be scattered all the way from Georgia to Alaska.

It is difficult to see how a better distribution of the existing regular army could be made; but the Government, awaiting the result of its recent despatch of regulars to the Philippines, fully intends to put down the insurrection there and to furnish adequate protection at home. Current experience, however, should show Congress, when it meets next winter, the mistake of its predecessor in rejecting such a reorganization of the regular army as would make it elastic in size and composition, so as to be promptly available and adequate for all needs.

The Jews, the Presbyterians and the Bible.

The Rev. Dr. CHAMBERS has resigned as the pastor of the Calvary Presbyterian Church in 116th street, between Fifth and Lenox avenues, for the reason that after seventeen years of service he has become satisfied that it is impracticable to maintain a Presbyterian church in that neighborhood. It is probable also that the church will disband and its property be sold.

The cause of the trouble is both general and special. Presbyterianism has suffered severely in New York since the Briggs controversy and very much of the old vitality has gone out of Presbyterian churches which once were vigorous and powerful. The special reason is that the Calvary Church is situated in a neighborhood where Jews predominate. "One cannot build up a Presbyterian church in a Jewish community," explains Dr. CHAMBERS, and he quotes a Jewish rabbi as saying to him, "Your people are not here; mine are." The Jews, he says, "are in full possession of Madison avenue and the cross streets from 112th to 117th street." Already this Semitic control of the neighborhood has compelled the Pilgrim Congregational Church, at the corner of Madison avenue and 121st street, to sell out to the Jews.

Another district of the town where the Jews now preponderate greatly is on the east side below Houston street, and they are so numerous there that they mobbed the party of a Christian missionary who undertook to conduct street services in the neighborhood last Sunday. They were incensed especially because a converted Jew was among the evangelists, and the bitterness of their feeling was expressed in distinctly riotous conduct. This is turning the tables with a vengeance; and undoubtedly it will furnish further food for the Semitic discussion now going on in THE SUN. The conduct of these east side Jews indicates that they resent all efforts to Christianize them as an insult. Further uptown, in the region from which Dr. CHAMBERS retires, Jewish sentiment simply exerts quietly the pressure of its majority, so that Christian churches are compelled to abandon the neighborhood because of inability to get sufficient support for their worship.

It is a very remarkable special situation, but the general condition of Presbyterianism in New York is also indicated as extraordinary by Dr. CHAMBERS when he confirms the truth of a remark made to him by "an intelligent and observant woman" that "no man should accept an ordinary Presbyterian church in this city unless he is a man of independent fortune." The inference is that no "ordinary Presbyterian church" here is now strong enough to support a pastor, and he must be able to support himself.

This is an astonishing change since the days when the wealth of New York was gathered largely in the Presbyterian churches and their pulpits were the highest prizes offered to the ability, piety and eloquence of the Presbyterian ministry of the whole Union, even of the whole world. But that was before the Briggs and McGiffert controversies, and when all Presbyterians believed in the Bible and their theological seminaries were not employed in criticising the Scriptures as a fallible and oftentimes an incredible human production.

Will a Military Coup d'Etat Be Attempted in France?

That was an ominous speech which was made on Sunday in Paris by Gen. MERCIER, who, as having been Minister of War at the time, is chiefly responsible for the wrongful sentence of which DREYFUS was the victim. He could not predict, he said, whether a Government willing to overawe the new court-martial, which would try DREYFUS, would be formed, but he knew that no court-martial would accept a judgment dictated by any Government. To himself he referred as "a soldier who did his duty in 1894, and who was firmly resolved to do his duty in 1899." These declarations, uttered as they were during a grave ministerial crisis, can have had no other purposes but, first, to impugn the motives of the Cabinet which the friends of President LOUBET were trying to form, and, secondly, to threaten it with a military *coup d'état*, should it strive to perform its duty by securing an impartial tribunal for the second trial of DREYFUS, and thus give rightful effect to the judgment of the Court of Cassation.

There is no doubt about the gravity of the political crisis in which this man MERCIER, who, next to HENRY and ESTERHAZY, is most deeply implicated in the conspiracy against DREYFUS, has the insolence to impute to a Ministry still uncreated an intention of tampering with justice. Owing to the composition of the present Chamber of Deputies, chosen last year under circumstances which assured the return of a very large majority pledged to oppose revision, it is extremely difficult to construct a Cabinet that can rely upon firm legislative support of a determination to make the second trial of DREYFUS a fair one, and, should he be acquitted, to call to account those persons who are accused of breaking the law in their efforts to secure his previous condemnation. The knot of the difficulty lies in the selection of a Minister of War so widely known and so highly respected that the French community at large, and even the greater part of the army, will back him in the unflinching exercise of authority required for removing Gen. ZURLINDEN from the command of the garrison at Paris, and replacing him by an officer unconnected with the DREYFUS affair and willing to obey the civil power. He who shall play this part must be not only a just man and an honored one, but also a brave man, for the blustering words pronounced on Sunday by MERCIER disclose the lengths to which the General Staff may be driven by desperation.

Fully comprehending the qualities which are needed at this juncture, President LOUBET has requested M. CASIMIR-PÉRIER, ex-President of the republic, who represents the best traditions of the bourgeoisie, to discharge the delicate and dangerous functions of Minister of War. Could M. CASIMIR-PÉRIER be swayed by a generous, patriotic impulse to take that pivotal post, and could a man of flint-like grit like M. CONSTANS be secured for the portfolio of the Interior, President LOUBET would have a Cabinet that would know how to deal with traitors; that, if defeated in the Chamber of Deputies, could obtain the consent of the Senate to a dissolution of Parliament; and that might then appeal to the electors with a bright prospect of success. The fate, in a word, of DREYFUS, of President LOUBET himself, and, it may be, of the present form of government, hinges on the answer to the question whether it is now possible to form a Ministry not only powerful and stable in the Chamber, but strong enough to meet its enemies therein with a challenge to a contest at the ballot box, and sufficiently self-confident to treat meanwhile the military satraps like a sovereign.

The crisis, we repeat, is serious in an exceptional degree, because the Generals who have been concerned in the Dreyfus affair have to choose between disgrace and treason, and because a majority of the present Chamber of Deputies is still at heart against DREYFUS, notwithstanding the decision of the Court of Cassation. The Chamber might, therefore, protest with vehemence against a dissolution of Parliament, stigmatizing the act as an attempt to stifle the authentic voice of the republic, and thus give the conspirators precisely what they need, a specious pretext for a military *coup d'état*.

This man MERCIER is treading closely in the footsteps of President LOUIS BONAPARTE, when he tries to discredit in advance a Ministry as yet unformed by accusing it of a design to organize for the second trial of DREYFUS a court-martial instructed to acquit. Again like LOUIS BONAPARTE, he must be relying on the pledged assistance of accomplices holding high military commands; otherwise, he would not dare to proclaim that what he did in 1894 he will do in 1899. What he did in 1894, when occupying the office of Minister of War and, as such, controlling the Dreyfus court-martial, is known of all men through the report made to the Court of Cassation, and unanimously adopted by that tribunal. In his connection with that court-martial, it has been proved that he was guilty of glaring violations of law and of shocking breaches of honor, for which his sword ought to be broken and he, himself, drummed out of the army. It is doom, in a word, that confronts him, as it does BOISDEFFRE, GONSE and ZURLINDEN; nor is it by any means certain that CAVAIGNAC has not acted in collusion with them, for he was warned that the notorious Henry document was a forgery before he read it in the Chamber of Deputies. That these men stand upon the brink of ruin is as clear to themselves as it is to onlookers, and to take for granted that they will fall without an effort to defend themselves is to assume that they are panic-stricken, of which, as yet, there is no evidence.

Unless the friends of the General Staff were determined to dominate the second court-martial of DREYFUS, or, failing that, to attempt a *coup d'état*, Gen. MERCIER would never have ventured to utter the defiant words which he pronounced on Sunday.

Baseball's Degradation.

The great pity of the ruffianism which stopped the baseball game at the Polo Grounds last Friday was that it was not new. It was not an unaccountable outburst of temper and lawlessness, without precedent in the past and therefore not in reason to be expected again. It was a part of an old and continued story, a row that was but one of a long series of similar rows which have been going on for years, and which, by the present outlook, will continue indefinitely.

They will continue, because of the twelve managers of the clubs forming the League, one only, Mr. BRUSH of Cincinnati, has shown honesty of purpose in sustaining the rule that forbids the invariable cause of the trouble, wrangling with the umpire. All the others signed an agreement so to do, but apparently in this respect the word of all those gentlemen is practically no better than that of Mr. ANDREW J. FREEDMAN, the President of the New York Baseball Club, and the high priest of rowdyism.

According to its written regulations, and an agreement, signed personally by the heads of the different clubs, the League is opposed to the ruffianly anarchy which distinguishes professional baseball, to its disgrace, from all other known sports, and positively forbids players to argue with the umpire, the official whose special function it is to decide all questions of play. Practically, however, the League tolerates and abets rebellion against the umpire which makes the prize ring a place of dignity and decency in comparison with the ball field.

As there will never be any difficulty in hiring men who, under the guise of ball players, will be ready to turn the games into as much of a fight as the police will allow, the present system may be expected to prevail while the present managers of the League direct its affairs and a sufficiently large number of people can be found who will tolerate ruffianism of the sort the League furnishes.

Prosperity of the Suez Canal.

The receipts of the Suez Canal in 1898 were $17,581,200. This was the largest business in its history, while the cost of maintaining the canal was about $50,000 less than usual. The surplus of receipts over expenditures was $9,757,800; and, as the directors have allotted to the reserve the sum of $434,200, the net surplus is $9,323,600. In fact, the annual report of this great undertaking makes very satisfactory reading for the shareholders.

Among the 3,503 vessels that passed through the canal there were sixty-nine petroleum ships, a circumstance which illustrates the changed views of the Canal Company, for not many years ago the company regarded the transportation of petroleum in bulk as a particularly dangerous business, and would not permit vessels carrying oil in this way to enter the canal. A considerable fleet carrying oil in bulk by way of Suez is now in the service, and three vessels of 9,000 tons each are soon to be added to it.

American vessels have sometimes been conspicuous for their absence in the canal statistics, but last year our flag appeared on four ships, and in 1897 on three. With our enlarged Eastern interests this country is now likely to swell the company's receipts considerably until an American canal is provided.

The future of the Suez Canal is by no means clouded by the fact that a large share of international business will be attracted to the American canal soon to be built. In point of distance between all north European ports and the markets of south Asia the Suez Canal will be the shorter route. It has never been expected that the American canal would derive much traffic from Europe's South Asian trade, and the increasing commerce between Europe, the Orient and East Africa gives promise of the future growth and financial stability of the Suez enterprise.

Upper Fifth and Seventh Avenues.

The only two avenues in the residential portion of upper New York which still bear a numerical designation are the Fifth and the Seventh avenues. Avenue A, north of 110th street, is known as Pleasant avenue, Fourth is Park avenue, Sixth Lenox, and Tenth Amsterdam. Recently the designation "Boulevard" has been dropped and "Broadway" substituted officially for it. Other avenues in this section of town not bearing numerical designations are Lexington, Madison, Manhattan, Riverside, Claremont, Morningside and St. Nicholas. It is now proposed to abandon the names Fifth and Seventh north of Central Park, and sundry conversational societies in Harlem, which meet chiefly in summer for the discussion of such questions, have been pondering over the propriety of a change, suggesting Central or Jerome avenue as most appropriate for what is now Seventh, and in place of Fifth, either Barry, Farragut or Dewey.

Changes of street names in New York entail some inconvenience, but if a uniform system is to be adopted it can be done with less inconvenience at one time instead of by piecemeal, as heretofore. The change of name of a restricted portion of Eighth avenue to Central Park West, of Ninth avenue north to Columbus, of Tenth avenue north to Amsterdam, and of Park, Pleasant and Lenox avenues from their former names has been approved by custom.

One obstacle to an immediate change in the names of avenues uptown which has been ignored by the Harlem advocates of street reform is section 49, subdivision 5, of the New York Charter, which makes it unlawful for the Municipal Assembly "to change the name of any street, avenue or public place, save between the 1st day of December of any year and the 1st day of May following."

Poets, like prophets, are often more honored abroad than at home, but according to a London newspaper, HENRY W. LONGFELLOW is little respected in one town in England, at least. A resident of the town desired to have cut on the tombstone of his son these lines:

"He is not dead—the child of our affection—
But gone unto that school
Where he no longer needs our poor protection,
And CHRIST Himself doth rule."

The Burial Board, however, forbade the making of the inscription, on the ground that "the verse read like doggerel." By way of compensation, another board vetoed this line of TENNYSON'S: "The finger of God touched them and they slept," as being irreverent!

RUSSIAN AFFAIRS.

Finland's New Army—Russian Opposition to Suppression of Other Nationalities—Armenians Are Being Russified.

The new military arrangements for Finland fix the number of men to be furnished for the imperial service at 70,000, and an annual contribution of $3,500,000 is to be made to the Imperial Treasury. In addition the Finnish Diet no longer exercises any control over the disposition of the funds, and will in future only meet once in every four years. The agitation which these measures of the Russian Government have caused in Finland is stated to be spreading into Russia itself, and Russian society is said to be very much divided on the expediency of the proceedings of Gen. Bobrikoff, the Governor-General of Finland. The *Novoe Vremjia* of St. Petersburg regrets the backwardness and unsteadiness of Russian opinion on the subject of the alien races within the empire, whose assimilation, by any and every method, it regards as necessary to the preservation of the empire. In reply to this the *Norosti*, another St. Petersburg paper, says that the very things for which the *Novoe Vremjia* blames enlightened Russians speak only in their favor. Educated Russians, it declares, are not jealous of the non-Russian races incorporated in the empire, but "that Russian enlightened society looks with consideration and sympathy on the successes of other peoples in culture and civilization, and with pain on those sides of Russian actuality which manifest the backwardness of our fatherland compared with other countries." It goes on to combat the insinuation of the *Novoe Vremjia* that the Finlanders were contemplating secession from the empire, and concludes a strong article by stating that "no progress in the midst of Russian society itself can be effected with the application of exceptional measures to any non-Russians within the empire, and Russian society understands this perfectly well."

This last refers more especially to the disabilities of the Jews, but also includes the Armenians, whose Russification has been determined on and has already begun. The case of the Armenians is a peculiar one and illustrates the uncertainties of personal rule. During the long and mild Governor-Generalship of the Grand Duke Michael, granduncle of the present Czar, the assimilation of the Armenians and Georgians of the Transcaucasus went on so imperceptibly that they were hardly aware of it themselves. Among the educated classes the Russian language had become the ordinary vehicle of communication, and another generation would probably have seen the process almost completed, when it was completely arrested by the conduct of the Grand Duke's successor, Prince Dondukoff-Korsakoff. Since then there has been an intermittent struggle on the part of the Armenians to preserve their nationality and language, with the prospect that both will be obliterated at no distant date.

Unlike the Finlanders, whose neighbors are kindred and sympathetic, the Russian Armenians have none to fall back upon. Turkey is barred to them so long as the present Sultan lives and his policy prevails; and Persia is, at best, a very uncertain refuge, now that Russian influence is becoming paramount in that country. What hope, then, for the non-Russian races in the empire may have of some moderation and change in the methods of their assimilation must apparently come from the influence of the educated and enlightened element in Russian society itself on its own Government, and there are signs that it will not be wanting.

THE X-RAYS.

What Is the Shadowy Form That They Leave on the Sensitive Screen?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Allow me to propose to our savants the following query: "What are the shadowy forms left on the sensitive screen after an object is penetrated by the X-rays?"

I am constrained to inquire into the nature and cause of this phenomenon for the following reasons:

If the X-rays penetrate certain matter we are logically expecting to see nothing on the screen beyond a shadowy outline only of the object, but this is not the case, since we see the whole form of the object plainly photographed; we therefore conclude that some other matter is in the way which the cathodic rays cannot penetrate. Especially is this the case with the human body. The flesh is and is not penetrated, for a perfect form, not a mere outline, is left imprinted on the screen. Is it possible that the X-rays meet in their way the bound ether which is supposed to permeate the molecules of matter in solid state? If so, then have we not here a photograph of the ethereal counterpart of the body of man? For it is but natural that the X rays in meeting matter which is of the same density and cohesion are barred in this particular point, and thus leave an impression. M. S.

New Aguilar Free Library.

The new building of the Aguilar Free Library, at 174 East 110th street, will be opened to the public for the first time on June 19. The building cost $50,000. It will contain about 12,000 volumes, and readers will have free access to the shelves. One of the features of the new building is a special room for the use of children, with a special attendant to help the children select books. A reading room and a reference room, with the best reference works, are also provided. The library will be open daily from 9 A. M. to 9 P. M., and the privilege of drawing books is open to all persons over 10 years of age.

THE SEMITIC QUESTION.

The Brotherhood of Man Taught by Christianity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the letter of Rabbi Mendes in THE SUN of June 14 he says: "Instead of our becoming Christians, we wait for you to become followers of Him you call Christ, who preached that not one jot or tittle of the law of Moses should pass away." He omits, however, the most important part of this quotation, namely, "till all be fulfilled."

In St. Matthew, v., 17-18, we find these words: "Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil. For verily I say unto you, Till heaven and earth pass, one jot or one tittle shall in no wise pass from the law, till all be fulfilled."

Why did Jesus Christ have to come to fulfil the law? Because the Jewish nation and the whole world had perverted the law. The Jews were perpetually violating and perverting the law. Their own Scriptures offer evidence enough of their frequent departures from rectitude, their worship of idols, and many other acts which brought down upon them the wrath of God and the denunciations of the prophets. Jesus came to set a new heart in mankind and restore the reign of the law of love, truth and righteousness. The law of force, of compulsion, must prevail in the world to prevent anarchy and ruin until the law of love, Christ's law, is established in the hearts of men. Centuries may roll away before that grand consummation, but it is on the way even now. As Jesus Christ Himself was the fulfilment of the law and the prophets, so every prophetic word which He uttered has come and is coming to pass.

The exhibitions of savage sport which Rabbi Mendes deplores are objectionable and disgusting in the eyes of tens of thousands of earnest Christians, who would gladly see an end of them, but nothing will put an end to savagery in any form except Christianity. The only hope for Jews as well as for Christians is the establishment of the law of Christian love in the hearts of men.

Your editorial entitled "The Explanation of Anti-Semitism" closes with these words: "The very declaration of Rabbi Mendes that they are a chosen and superior race, to which the salvation of the rest of mankind is committed, goes far to explain the spirit of Anti-Semitism." It does indeed, for no nation on the face of the earth has a right to arrogate to itself the salvation of mankind. Mankind, individually and collectively, Jew and Gentile, is dead in trespasses and sins, and can only be made alive spiritually by the grace of God, which is vouchsafed only to those "Who remember His commandments to do them."

Is it vain to hope that Jews and Christians may yet meet as brothers in the great consummation to which all earnest souls are looking forward? Where have I found greater integrity and loyalty of friendship than among the Jews. One, at least, among them I have known whose virtues, like those of "Ivanhoe's" Rebecca, would do credit to the truest of Christians.

WARREN, R. I., June 16. ANNIE RUSSELL DYER.

A Christian Attacks the Jews.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Twenty-five years of observation and practical experience in dealing with the various peoples in this community have convinced me that the vast majority of Hebrews are bound to get ahead, by fair means if possible, by unfair and unscrupulous methods if necessary. Jews do not blunt their faculties by alcoholic abuse; they are very zealous and saving and have great staying power, and their racial cohesion is a pronounced feature.

Many so-called Christians use alcohol to excess and blunt their faculties, and many more spend their money as fast as they earn it. They also antagonize and repel one another, and have a wonderful faculty of getting each other into trouble instead of out of it. There is more fundamental honesty among Christians than among Jews; the latter assume to be on the side of law and order, but in truth they are experts in evading the laws as regards both commerce and the professions.

Gentiles in this country will in all probability remain blind to semitic inroads and encroachment until common poverty and hunger will bind them together for mutual protection.

NEW YORK, June 18. AMERICAN.

A Jew Defends His Race.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Although your views concerning Zionism are practically the same as mine and a great many others of Jewish origin, your views on the Semitic question I strongly oppose.

If you do not suggest that intermarriage is the solution of the Semitic question, you certainly do mildly infer that as long as a Jew is recognizable by his physiognomy so long will prejudice exist.

But let us stop and consider where this prejudice against the Jews is most evident. In Russia, an uncivilized country and its people ignorant, Anti-Semitism is very strong. In England, a civilized country, its people educated, Anti-Semitism is very weak. We see, then, that the solution of the Semitic question does not lie with the Jews, but with the Gentiles. Just as soon as religion comes to be considered a strictly private matter and each man is judged individually and not a race by a single man, then Anti-Semitism will be a thing of the past.

One of your correspondents contends that the Jew is not all that the Rev. Dr. Mendes claims for him. Statistics will show that less than one-half of 1 per cent. of all criminals are Jews. Leaders in commerce and finance are of Jewish origin. The best pupils in our schools and colleges are Jews. So desirable a citizen certainly does not deserve the prejudice of the Gentiles against him.

NEW YORK, June 18. HERMAN MOSESON.

The Jews and Social Discrimination Against Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One phase of the Semitic question has been overlooked entirely, and it is the effect of the feeling of prejudice, so often mentioned in the discussion, upon the Jew himself, for, after all, he is the one most interested in the matter. The opposition to use no harsher expression to the Jews assumes a double aspect: First, that shown to the poorer classes, and, secondly, that shown to the wealthier. The poorer people care little for public opinion, as they do not come directly in contact with it. They are herded together in the modern Jewries of our great cities, where seldom, if ever, any Gentile is seen.

The wealthier and more refined Jews in their business and professional relations come in contact with Gentiles similar to themselves, and are treated, at the worst, with frigid respect and deference due to their position. Socially the feeling can express itself merely in an attempt to exclude them from the more fashionable clubs and households, but it is an exclusion not greatly felt by the Jews, who have friends of their race to fall back upon as wealthy and as refined as their Christian acquaintances. Indiscriminate intercourse is not an absolute necessity to a mind accustomed to Oriental exclusiveness. The petty discrimination is consequently without any effect on a race for which the stake, the dungeon and exile had no terror; contrasted with these, modern methods are simply pin-pricks.

NEW YORK, June 18. MAKKABAIOS.

The Reciprocal Antipathy of Jews and Gentiles.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have heard the Bible cited as the chief reason for the antipathy to the Jews, but personally my experience is against that theory, for during my youth (which is the only period of my life during which the teachings of the Bible have had any weight with me) I did not have this prejudice, but now it amounts to a marked aversion, having attained such proportions not only without my concurrence, but in spite of all I could do to prevent it. It seems inborn in the Gentile and bound to crop out. I know of no one free from it, and have every reason to believe it is heartily reciprocated by the Jew, though concealed for reasons of diplomacy or necessity. It is not hard to find reasons for disliking the Jew, but I doubt if all these combined would account for the universal sentiment against them, unless on the theory that it is the accumulated and cumulative hostility of ages.

NEW YORK, June 17. TRUTHSEEKER.

The Delusions of Spiritualism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When such educated men as Mr. Kiddle, Mr. Marsh and Prof. Hyslop are deceived by mediums, what may one expect of less enlightened men and women? The majority of mankind do not investigate—they imitate, and when men of high reputation express explicit faith in spiritualistic teachings, the unthinking masses follow in their footsteps. Take, for instance, Christian Science. A woman by the name of Mrs. Eddy founds a new system of religion, and lives to see in her short lifetime thousands of men and women become her disciples—blind followers of her teachings. This system of religion is the cause of many of her believers refusing to procure physicians, even when they are at the point of death. Numbers of them have died who could have been well and alive to-day. For each one of these deaths this impostor should be held responsible.

This fair earth has been scourged with false religions, and you are now doing a good work for humanity by exposing the supposed, but nonsensical, revelations which both Mr. Kiddle and Mr. Marsh claimed they had received from celebrities from Adam to Shakespeare. THE SUN has taken the first steps toward exposing this false doctrine, and all men of sense should use their influence in the same direction. F. M. C.

NEW YORK, June 16.

A "BRANCHIFEROUS VERTEBRATE."

The Mysterious Fish Monster in One of the Spectacle Ponds of Porter, Me.

PORTER, Me., June 19.—In the town of Porter, in the southern part of Oxford county, about a mile from the village of Kezar Falls, are two bodies of water known locally as the "Spectacle ponds." They are of nearly the same size, and are joined by a stream a few rods long. These ponds have always been famous breeding places for pickerel, and fishermen come for miles around to lure these gamy fish from under the lily pads, and he was a poor fisherman indeed who did not have something to show as the result of an hour's fishing in either of these ponds. A few years ago the local fishermen, to protect themselves and to prevent the extermination of the pickerel by visitors from a distance, petitioned the Legislature, and a law was enacted whereby the ponds were closed to fishing from the first of September to the tenth day of the next June for a term of years.

The first day of the open season has been anticipated eagerly each year, for the first ones at the ponds were sure to make big catches. This year was no exception, and on Saturday, June 10, every available boat was put to use, and scores who were unable to get boats had to content themselves with fishing from the shores. Jack Fox and Grant and Herman Gilpatrick were fishing from a boat on the westerly side of the upper pond, when suddenly they noticed a commotion in the water several rods astern. Hundreds of minnows were jumping from the water, as though trying to escape some great peril, and as the boys continued to look a big fish came up and began to move around, evidently in pursuit of the minnows.

The occupants of the boat cautiously moved their craft in the direction of the big fish and stopped when within two or three rods of the monster, for monster it certainly was. After chasing the minnows for some time the fish started in the direction of the boat occupied by the boys, who, more frightened than they are willing to admit, sprang to their oars and pulled away for dear life. When they had sufficiently recovered from their flurry to look around, the big fish had disappeared. They pulled ashore and told everybody they met what they had seen. They said the fish, or whatever it was, looked some like a pickerel, but that it was as big around as a nail keg and as long as their boat. They were listened to incredulously, and their story was voted to be a pretty good fisherman's yarn.

The following Tuesday Oscar Cousins and William Lord were fishing together on the same pond, when Cousins, on making a cast, was not a little startled to see what he had taken to be a log floating in the outer edge of the lily pads, start in the direction of his bait.

A moment later there was a tug that nearly pulled Cousins out of the boat, and when he had recovered himself he found that he had struck something that was likely to give him the fight of his life. After a moment's preliminary skirmish the fish started for the centre of the pond and deep water, towing the boat and the fishermen. The situation was not long drawn out, for the line parted and the fish was not seen again.

Cousins and Lord are middle-aged men, regarded as perfectly trustworthy, and their testimony in connection with the story told by the three boys has been taken as conclusive evidence that there is a big fish of some kind in Upper Spectacle Pond. They said the fish was of a muddy gray color, and that it was at least eighteen inches in diameter and all of twelve feet long.

Prof. McDaniel of New Hampshire, who is regarded as authority on the subject of fish, says that from what circumstantial evidence he can gather he has decided that what the boys and men saw was without doubt "a branchiferous orteleostomous vertebrate, with dermal plates, or membrane bones, superadded to the primordial cranium and shoulder girdle, and with the branchiæ free outwardly." Whether it is a survivor of some nearly extinct species he is unable to say, but thinks it possible that such may be the case.

This frightened some of the more timid ones, but every day since Cousins and Lord had their experience the pond has been covered with fishermen, all eager to have the honor of capturing the monster that has caused so much excitement. The ordinary outfit for pickerel fishing has given place to heavier appliances, and one man, whose father is a retired whaler, made his appearance on Wednesday with a harpoon and lance and as much of a regular whaler's outfit as he could carry comfortably in a small boat. There is even talk of an attempt to drain the pond.

DEGENERACY IN A HOMICIDE CASE.

Frank Narka, Who from a Peaceable Citizen Turned Murderer in Sicilian Style.

NEW ORLEANS, June 17.—The jury in the parish of St. John the Baptist has just condemned Frank Narka, or Nosca, alias Mercurio Natario, to be hanged for the murder of the entire Giordano family, five in number. The case is so clearly one of degeneracy, or hereditary homicide, that a criminologist would find it very interesting. Narka is a Sicilian, but looks like an Italian. He is yellow in color and has high cheek bones. He has a large mouth, thin purple lips, and very prominent teeth. He is most unprepossessing in appearance. His family record is bad, for his two brothers are both serving life terms in an Italian penitentiary for murder.

In spite of this murderous family record Narka, up to his homicidal outbreak in 1895, was one of the most orderly, quiet, industrious and well behaved of the many thousand Sicilians working on the sugar plantations of Louisiana. He was married and had three children. He worked hard and saved considerable money, which he lent to his brother Sicilians. He was not quarrelsome, as they were, and seemed a man of peace. When, however, "he saw red," and the homicidal spirit seized him, he became a demon, and destroyed an entire family, to the baby at the breast. The family which incurred Narka's enmity was that of Rosario Giordano, also a Sicilian, and a neighbor. Giordano refused to lend Narka a brier hook, a curved knife with a handle to it like a spade, and used by the Italians in cutting grass. Over this refusal Narka brooded, and conceived the most violent hatred of his fellow countryman, of which the latter was completely ignorant.

Finally on July 19, 1895, Narka determined on revenge. Armed with a double-barrel shotgun, filled with the slugs and nails which the Sicilians use in cases of this kind, he marched up to the side window of the cottage where the Giordano family were at supper. There were five in the family—Rosario, his wife Rosalia, a daughter Manuella, aged 13; another named Rosalina, aged 6, and the baby Peppino, less than 2 years old. As the family were talking suddenly there was a gun shot, followed by a second shot, both through the window, and the little room was filled with smoke. Narka looked in the broken window, saw that he had brought down the entire family and walked off, disappeared from the plantation "Terre Haute," and was not seen there again until four years afterward, when he was captured at a ranch in Texas on the Mexican frontier. He had altered well. Mrs. Giordano was killed outright, and so was the baby she held in her arms. Rosario was wounded mortally and lay writhing on the floor, where he died soon afterward. Manuella was shot through the abdomen and little Rosalia had several buckshot through the head.

The crime created a sensation, following as it did a number of other murders by Italians, and aroused such a prejudice as to result in the lynching of several Italians in the adjoining parish of St. Charles, for which the Italian Minister called the United States to account. But Narka had disappeared. Of his career for the next four years all that is known is that his wife died afterward. He seemed to be completely overcome by the evil spirit after the Giordano murder. He beat his wife and tried to murder her; he wronged his daughter until she finally was guilty of what is very rare among the Sicilians, she betrayed him to the police, and what was still more extraordinary, the Sicilians appeared in the court and testified in the case. This was something altogether unknown here before, as they believe that private vengeance should punish murder. Indeed, a relic of the old Sicilian customs was the presence in the court of a brother of the murdered man and a brother of the murdered woman, ready for personal vengeance if the law failed. But there was no danger of this. Narka had no defence. He offered to confess to the murder of two or three of his victims if the District Attorney would make it life imprisonment instead of death; but this compromise was refused, especially as it was desired to show the large Italian population of the sugar district that the law can and will punish murder, and that the vendetta is unnecessary in this country.

But the trial failed to disclose how or why Frank Narka, who up to July 19, 1895, had been a quiet, inoffensive, industrious and kind-hearted man, suddenly developed into one of the most brutal of murderers. There was no suspicion of insanity, and Narka was abstemious and drank nothing. It would look from his family record as if heredity had led him naturally to crime.

New Park in Queens.

Mayor Van Wyck signed yesterday the ordinance authorizing a public park at Van Alst and Jackson avenues and Ninth street, in the borough of Queens. The park is now a vacant lot opposite a school building and the fences around it are used by theatrical bill posters for advertising purposes. President Bowley brought the matter to the attention of the Board of Public Improvement a year ago, and this month final action approving the laying out of a park was taken by the Municipal Assembly.

THE ASSEMBLYMAN.

No Longer a Personage of Much Importance Politically in This City.

In a majority of the Assembly districts of New York city a Democratic nomination for member of Assembly is equivalent to an election to that office, and in all the Assembly districts of New York, in the opinion of well-informed persons, there is one way only in which the regular Democratic nominee can be defeated and that is by the election of his Republican opponent. In other words, under the operations of the present ballot law such a thing as a successful independent candidature for member of the Albany Assembly is really out of the question, and the most strenuous effort of aspirants is, therefore, to secure nomination by the dominant political party, Democratic or Republican, as the case may be.

Under these circumstances the political importance of an Assemblyman has become very much diminished in New York. The threat of a popular candidate of either party to appeal to the voters of his district and secure from them, independent of the party organization, an election, is no longer practicable. Neither is the method, once very much in vogue among candidates having many friends, to announce a determination to run for the office