The Sun.

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

A Farmers' Trust.

The farmers of Kent county, Del., have formed a Trust called the Farmers' Produce Association, and they have invited the farmers of the other Delaware counties to join it. Its naked and unashamed object is to put up prices. It is resolved, for instance, not to sell tomatoes for less than $7 a ton, an advance of two dollars or so over recent prices. A calm and enlightened selfishness marks this Trust and entitles it to the execrations of Anti-Trust Conferences.

Now, of course, laws State and national ought to be hurled at these misguided ruralists, and, if necessary, they should be dispersed by an oration by Col. BRYAN himself; but their case, however deplorable, is interesting. It shows how general is the desire to combine for business purposes and how harmless falls the talk against it. Instead of seeing that they are downtrodden serfs, who ought to arise in their wrath and howl against Trusts, the Kent county farmers have made a Trust of their own.

Similar attempts at agricultural combinations have been made in various parts of the country. We have never heard of one that was successful. The field is too big. But in recognition of the intention some of the older laws against Trusts exempted farmers from their operations, an exemption cruelly trampled upon by the courts.

Upper and Lower Life in New York.

An apparently concerted attempt is now made to stir up another spasm of moral agitation in New York like that whipped up by PARKHURST a few years ago. New York is again represented by him and imitative parsons as given over to the flesh and the devil and filled with loathsome corruption. People to whose personal observation no sign of this dreadful state of things is brought in their daily walk and conversation are distressed by tales told them of awful hidden wickedness, and they are relied on to spread the wave of hysterical excitement.

Of course there is much of this evil below the surface of New York life. It exists in the smallest village in some measure, and in New York, with a crowded population equal to the aggregate population of several thousand villages, the sum of it must be large. Happily, however, the activity of urban life sweeps away with its current much of the moral filth which would be accumulated if existence was as stagnant in New York as it is in such villages. Moreover, police protection and vigilance, almost wholly absent from rural communities, act as restraining influences in a great town, though it naturally tends every form of enterprising vice and rascality the world over.

Practically, in New York the whole of that part of the population which is engaged in such industry is known particularly to the police. PARKHURST went about the town for months together to find out abodes and methods of vice as to which any policeman on duty in any district visited by him could have given him all the information he obtained by prolonged personal examination and experience. The private detectives employed by him to pilot him to disreputable resorts had no knowledge as to them which was not confessedly shared by the police. Such information is possessed by the police of every great capital; that they have it in New York, in London, in Paris, in Berlin and all the important cities of the world is no secret. They have no need to go to any nocturnal clerical spy to obtain it, and there is not, and never has been, any pretence that they are under any such necessity. It is safe to assume that every regular practitioner of crime and every professional purveyor to vicious tastes and appetites in New York is known to the police, and also all the habitual patrons of the criminal and immoral. Every gambling place, every poolroom, every "skin game," every disreputable resort is recorded in the books or the personal knowledge of the police.

Why, then, are they suffered to exist? Why are they not all rooted out of the life of all great towns in civilization? Actually, as we see, they exist as features of every capital, as they always have existed side by side with the progress of civilization. They are the expression of tendencies in human nature which are practically irrepressible. If they are repressed in one form they crop out forthwith in another and perhaps more noxious form. They are as inevitable a feature of urban life as is the vastly preponderating moral restraint which makes possible the preservation of civilization; as inevitable as are schools and churches and the homes of order and purity. No law and no enforcement of law could prevent gambling, for instance, unless at the cost of the extermination of the human species. Parsons preach against the desire for sudden riches as a sin; yet everybody who is not rich is in a hurry to get rich. Without that universal human propensity there would be no progress. Specifically it keeps busy the great gambling centre of Wall Street.

So also there are natural impulses in human nature which no civilization, no religion has yet been able to conquer by artificial restraints. The natural man still remains with imperious tastes and appetites, unsubdued by thousands of years of the taming process of civilization; and every Government which has set out to force them under its unsparing control has wasted its authority. The Church itself cannot enforce conventional morality on its own members; no more than a physician can compel his patients to obey the laws of health. Nobody obeys those laws, even though length of life is the reward.

Men in the aggregate, however, are better than men individually. The faults and defects of New York as a community are less than those of the average inhabitant of it. Such corruption as there is in the city Government is small comparatively to the aggregate of misdoings in private business representing transactions of equal magnitude. Great complaint is made of our American municipal corporations; but really their standard of honesty is higher rather than lower than that of private corporations. Run over the history of our railroad and other great corporations, call to mind your experience of business morality, and the further you go, the broader your sweep, the more convinced you will be of the superiority of public morality.

Nobody who has lived in New York continuously for the last generation can look back at the past without observing a steady tendency to improvement in the town. It is a far more orderly and decent town than it used to be. It is far better governed. Morally, so far, at least, as the outward view shows, it is superior to any other great capital in the world. The quiet and peaceable citizen encounters none of those terribly vicious manifestations of which we hear so much now, unless like PARKHURST he goes out to hunt for them. Of course, he can find them in New York; he can find them in the most secluded rural community; he can find them in his own heart; but they are hidden here as they are hidden there, and only their aggregation in a great community makes the search for them the easier for anybody who has a propensity for it.

This periodical upturning of the moral filth of the town, of which we have now an example, is largely the consequence of a pruriency of imagination in those engaged in the enterprise, of which they themselves are not conscious. It is a provocative quest even for the purest souls, so prone is human nature to evil of the sort. Vice is so dangerously attractive to the carnal mind that even the very investigation and description of it, though with a view to its extirpation, may be dangerous, so unruly is the imagination.

The explorer of social sewers must be ever on his guard lest the devil be his guide. Actually this provocative vice is not the great and distinguishing feature of New York life which it appears to be to the minds of those investigators who approach too close to it to determine its relative importance. The pure atmosphere in which the vast mass of a population of between three and four millions are dwelling and moving is the really important characteristic of the town.

Let Us Compete Again With England on the Seas.

It is the glorious fortune of the Fifty-sixth Congress to be beset with great and interesting questions involving American policy in the future, and America's well-being for years to come.

The measure variously known as the Hanna-Payne bill, the Frye-Payne bill, the Frye-Grosvenor bill and the Ship Subsidy bill, is now before the Senate and the House. In the Senate it has been reported back from the Committee on Commerce by Mr. FRYE, with careful amendments of the text of the bill which Mr. FRYE introduced at the beginning of the session; and the report of that committee is urgent in favor of its enactment. The House bill is practically the same, though there are one or two changes of later date than those made by the Senate Committee. In this form the House bill has been agreed to by Mr. GROSVENOR'S Committee on Merchant Marine and Fisheries by a vote of 10 to 5, most of the dissenting opinion in the committee apparently being confined to matters of detail. Either the Senate bill or the House bill, when passed, will open the whole subject of the expediency of building up the American merchant marine by means of Government aid.

It is this general question of the promotion of our foreign commerce by direct appropriations for the United States Treasury that concerns the country. If the main principle commends itself, the mechanism can easily be made satisfactory by amendment, if it is not already satisfactory.

The proposition is to spend for twenty years a maximum of $9,000,000 yearly to enable American ships to compete successfully with British and other foreign ships for the carrying of American exports and imports, a service for which we now pay to foreigners at least $200,000,000 annually. The proposition is attacked, first, by the free traders, who object chronically to the encouragement of any American industry by Government aid; and, secondly, by those who think they detect in the measure a scheme for the benefit of particular persons at the expense of the taxpayers of the nation.

We can dismiss the first objection at once. It is academic and theoretical. No question of ethics is involved. The question is one of expediency only. It is as legitimate for the United States Government to foster its maritime interests by subsidies, as it has been for free trade England to do the same thing; or as it is for protectionist Germany which is at present carrying on the experiment with results that are as astonishing to her maritime rivals as they are gratifying to her own people.

Now, this $9,000,000 maximum which the bill proposes to take out of the Treasury is either a mighty good investment and a trifle in our annual budget if it brings about the restoration of the American flag to its old place in the world's maritime commerce, or else it is an indefensible and easily exposed steal and swindle if it serves merely to swell the profits of certain individuals at the expense of the Treasury. And it seems to us that the Congress and the American people ought to be able to distinguish readily between a good investment and a corrupt and selfish raid on the Treasury.

Does everybody understand what it is we have lost during the long and dismal period of Governmental inaction in behalf of our merchant marine? Statistics of percentage are sometimes pathetic, sometimes exasperating. The figures of the decline of American shipping are both pathetic and exasperating. Forty years ago, in the year before the beginning of the Civil War which enabled our chief rival, Great Britain, to supplant us on the seas, the proportion of American trade carried in American ships was 66 per cent., or two-thirds of the whole; and we were competing under favorable conditions with English ships for the foreign commerce of other nations. Thirty years ago, our share of the business of carrying our own commerce was 33.1 per cent.; it had dropped from two-thirds to one-third. The next ten years brought it down from one-third to less than one-quarter; namely from 33.1 per per cent. to 23 per cent. in 1879. In 1889 it had diminished to 14.3 per cent. In 1899 it had dwindled to 8.9 per cent. Of the stupendous total last year of $1,806,876,073 of our exports and imports, more than nine-tenths, or $1,646,232,067 was borne across the seas in foreign vessels. Less than one tenth, only $160,644,006, travelled under the American flag.

Such is the story of the nation's great loss which the Ship Subsidy bill proposes to regain by an annual appropriation nominally fixed at $9,000,000 at the outside, but really amounting to a maximum of $7,500,000, inasmuch as we should have to pay at least $1,500,000 for the carrying of mails which, under this bill, would go free on the American vessels receiving the benefits of its provisions. The estimated average reduction of $1,500,000 yearly on account of the mails during the twenty years' period is very moderate. Last year the Government was already paying $1,278,674 on that account.

A careful examination of the provisions of the measure, we think, will convince any reasonable citizen that instead of being drawn, as has been charged with some violence, for the sole benefit of existing shipowners and shipbuilders, it is, as the Senate Committee reports, "the broadest invitation to new men and new capital to engage in the development of our merchant marine." We record our own belief that its authors had originally in view no other end than the promotion of the common interests of American shipping. They have steadily improved it, as defects were pointed out; and they have gladly accepted every amendment that seemed likely to safeguard the Treasury or prevent an uneven or imperfect application of its benefits in case it became a law. The general scheme is the product of the expert knowledge of twelve or fifteen of the foremost authorities on American shipping and shipbuilding, in and out of Congress, representing a great diversity of personal interests and reflecting almost every conceivable aspect of the question in its practical operations. They have agreed upon this method of reviving America's foreign commerce. We believe that their plan is good; we are sure it is honest.

Japan, in her new enlightenment, is paying about $26,000,000 annually to promote her merchant marine. She is rapidly gathering the splendid results of that policy. The United States will have to compete not only with England and Germany, but with Japan for the seagoing trade of the Pacific. Can this nation afford to be less enlightened and progressive than Japan at the beginning of the Twentieth Century?

The Barge Canal.

However strong disapproval may be of the proposed expenditure of $62,000,000 for a barge canal across the Empire State, the project has unquestionably been conceived in public spirit and urged in the undoubted hope of accomplishing a great and lasting benefit to our State and city. All this was emphasized at the dinner given to Governor ROOSEVELT in this city on Saturday evening by members of our various mercantile exchanges and other associations interested in the trade and commerce of our city. The speeches made by the Governor and by Gen. GREENE, Chairman of the Canal Commission, showed the study they have given to the subject and the heartiness with which they hold to the conviction that the execution of their scheme would be incalculably advantageous.

It is clear, however, that public opinion needs further enlightenment on the matter, and such enlightenment it is likely to get in the coming year. A bill will undoubtedly pass the Legislature appropriating a sufficient sum of money for a detailed survey of the State by engineers acting altogether independently of the methods or conclusions adopted by the Canal Commission. There ought not to be, and we do not think there will be, objections raised in any quarter to the investigation of this canal question in all its lights and bearings. Let it be threshed out in the newspapers, in public meetings and in every variety of private and public discussion.

A Mead and Scrapple Tax.

The laggard collection of the Philadelphia guarantee has not been much accelerated by Mayor ASHBRIDGE'S letters "to prominent Philadelphia citizens asking for specific sums." On Monday morning, according to the most optimistic local accounts, there was still $35,000 due, exclusive of the sums "promised, spoken of, alluded to and made mention of"—all uncollected and in most cases uncollectible. At the rate of three hundred dollars a day (a large sum for Philadelphia) it is computed that the guarantee could be secured by July 4, fifteen days after the Republican National Convention is scheduled to meet on the banks of the Schuylkill. By some Philadelphians a postponement of the date of the convention is suggested; by others a "composition" of the claims with the National Committee on the basis of 75 cents in cash on each dollar of guarantee and 25 cents in ferry and street-car tickets.

To such a compromise there are two serious objections. A portion of the elusive "guarantee" fund of Philadelphia is to be used for purposes of illumination, by gas, electricity, naphtha and coal oil of the night sessions of the convention, and another portion for the purchase of benches, forms and chairs for use by the Republican delegates, alternates, their friends, the invited guests and the Philadelphia guarantors on and after June 19. Any scaling down of the guarantee which would subject the delegates to the indignity of evening sessions in darkness is intolerable, and the failure of the Philadelphia guarantors to furnish seats which are now lacking in the Exposition Hall of the Export Association would divest the convention of much of its impressive character.

No; no scaling of the guarantee is to be considered, and if the present methods for raising it are insufficient or the call on the public spirit of the Philadelphia guarantors is too great, other plans more effective and more practicable must be devised. Perhaps the most practicable of these is a parochial tax, local in origin, easy of collection and readily understood in all parts of Philadelphia and adjacent villages and hamlets—an excise tax of half a cent a quart on mead and a penny a pound on scrapple of domestic manufacture. Philadelphia mead is a decoction of soda water, sugar and honey copiously drunk by the most sportive Philadelphians, the measure of social gayety in the wards of the town being the number of quarts of mead sold in a stated period. Scrapple is an edible much as mead is a beverage. It is a compound of pork and buckwheat chopped together so as to be indistinguishable to the taste of any save the true Philadelphian. Tons of buckwheat are transmitted to Philadelphia daily and the shipment of pork, though less in amount, is large.

A tax on sales rather than on shipments, however, is what is proposed, and if diligently collected—more diligently, of course, than the guarantee fund has been—this item of convention revenue would, with the collections from the sales of mead, amount to a respectable figure. It is not impossible, besides, that some of the visiting delegates to the June convention, relieved of their misgivings as to the gas and the seats by the success of this excise tax would themselves contribute cash remittances to the Philadelphia Finance Committee, if assured that they would be exempted from mead as a beverage and scrapple as an article of diet during the sessions of the convention.

The Hon. EUGENE VICTOR DEBS took his nomination for President in the high Roman fashion, and gave with it a touching certificate to socialism.

"It throbs in my breast, it surges in my soul. It is my very life, and without it every star that blazes in the horizon would go out forever; without it the earth were simply a jungle and men wild beasts devouring each other. With it the earth becomes transformed—a veritable paradise and we are almost gods."

Why are these gifts wasted? Why has DEBS divorced himself from the Chicago platform?

Is the reign of beauty over?—*Providence Journal.*

Not much. HAM LEWIS still waves and so does GOOSE ISLAND NOONAN.

Kansas City is meeting nobly her duty as a convention city. She smiles proudly at the crowds that are coming and receives them gracefully to her "semi-hotels." Other towns may have more and larger hotels, but in the matter of "semi-hotels" Kansas City believes herself to be preeminent. The bills, however, will not be cut in half.

The Hon. WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON has broken into rhymed lamentations once more. He was trying to "express his feelings regarding the nation's shame" and this is how he began:

"O men and brothers in Luzon,
Through swamp and forest hunted down;
By brute invaders driven on
From burning town to town."

"Brute invaders" is rather a mild Garrisonian synonym for the United States Army. The poet needs a spring tonic. Still, *Resolved*, that War is a greater Evil than Football.

The facts heretofore given in THE SUN concerning the statistics of the world's supply of raw cotton and the predictions made by us as to the probable outcome of the conditions referred to upon the price of cotton and exports of the article from this country are emphasized in the statement made public by the Government yesterday of the country's exports during February. The value of the exports of raw cotton for February increased $13,312,931 as compared with February of last year, an increase greater than was ever known before. And while at the end of the first half of the fiscal year ending on Feb. 28, the exports of cotton were in value $40,000,000 below those of the same period in the previous year, they are now only $7,076,274 below those of the same period in 1899; showing how very rapidly the deficiency has been almost made up. As the exports of the article are now going on uninterruptedly; as the reserve stocks in England, where are the chief buyers, are still less by one-third than those of last year, and as the price at which cotton is sold is at a much higher range of values than prevailed in 1899, it is clear that the money received for the cotton crop of 1899-1900, so far from being below that of the previous year, will indeed be enormously above it.

We recommend for honorable mention the Hon. JOHN LAWSON BURNETT, the Democrat who represents the Seventh Alabama district in the Fifty-sixth Congress. Were there an American Academy, the first pleasure would be to crown him. He managed to insert "Woodman, Spare that Tree" into the debate on the Puerto Rico tariff. No other man in Congress could have done it. No one but a poet with a grateful memory of the school Speaker would have thought of it.

It is not at all the business of the *Boston Herald* to introduce any new form of religion into America.—*Boston Herald.*

We should say not. Without the formality of introductions at least seven new religions a week appear in Boston. A scoffing outsider once said that Boston had more religions and less religion than any other place in the country.

It is heartbreaking to have to say that the Hon. JOE BAILEY is degenerating. Washington is sophisticating that fine, simple nature. In vain have his pained constituents tried to reconcile themselves to the tall hat with which their JOSEPH crowns himself. They will not try to reconcile themselves to the purple cravat which now veils their JOSEPH'S ocean of shirt bosom. The Constitution cannot be successfully defended by a man who wears a purple cravat. It is time for JOE BAILEY to revise his harness or be forever out of the race.

Moon and Tides.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* We all know the moon is a satellite of the earth; that she revolves around the earth in the same direction as the earth revolves on its axis, and that the moon revolves on her axis in the same direction as the earth on hers.

The only deduction from these facts is that the moon was originally an integral part of the earth; that when they parted company the earth's motion was imparted to her daughter.

The above facts being apparent and presumably admitted, why is it the moon revolves around the earth in the plane of the ecliptic and not in the plane of the equinoctial? WINDJAMMER.

LARCHMONT YACHT CLUB, Jan. 8.

It should be noticed, in the first place, that the moon does not revolve about the earth in the plane of the ecliptic, as Windjammer assumes, but in a plane inclined some 5 degrees to the ecliptic. Why it revolves as it does and not in the plane of the earth's equator is a very complex problem which cannot be explained in simple words nor by simple geometry. The sun attracts the moon, just as the earth does, and therefore the plane in which the moon revolves is not determined solely by the earth, but by the sun also. Moreover, the earth is not a sphere, but a spheroid, a sphere plus an equatorial protuberance, as it were. The planets attract this spheroid differently at different times, according to their situation, and the equatorial protuberance is always pulling the moon toward the plane of the equator. Hence the plane of the moon's orbit depends, to some degree, on the situation of the planets. These illustrations may serve to show that the answer to Windjammer's question is by no means simple.

The New Jester to the House of Commons.

From the London Court Journal.

A new jester to the House of Commons has appointed himself—gradually. Sir Wilfrid Lawson and Mr. Labouchere are resigning their positions and Mr. Birrell is the natural successor to these. Of course, he does not intend to take his parliamentary career seriously; to be once accepted as a buffoon (we use the word with all respect to, and acknowledgment of, Mr. Birrell's erudition and his charm as an author) he will have no weight with his party nor prospect of place. Still the member for Fifeshire is welcome. He is less of the clown than his predecessors have been, and a bookish wit is—it is to be hoped—received with favor by an assemblage, every unit of which is presumably educated. Mr. Birrell is an industrious humorist, and, though some of the jesters of the past may be retreating to the rôle of pantaloon, he has some competitors yet with whom to cope.

The Boer Gun Puzzle.

From the London Spectator.

What do the Boers do with their guns? They never seem to surrender them even when defeated, and they cannot break them into little bits. Do they send them away before they surrender, or do they bury them in the sand of their rivers? The plan of burial is the one adopted by the hostile races in India, and it is not so fatal to the guns as might be imagined.

What Came of a Woman's Disobedience.

From the Presbyterian Standard.

Presbytery dissolved a church whose only member was Mrs. Frank Patter. She refused to give up the minutes and said Presbytery ought to send her a minister. The church was the one at Quincy, Mich., and now numbers 120 members in a growing city, all because the woman refused to obey the Presbytery and the Presbytery had sense enough to obey the woman.

IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The affair of Dreifontein last Saturday reduced to its true proportions turns out to have been only a strong rear-guard action on the part of the Boers, whose losses appear to have been much greater than those of the British. What is chiefly remarkable in the account of the fight is that the British cavalry unexpectedly found the kopjes at Dreifontein strongly occupied, the supposition having been that that part of the country was clear of the enemy. This leads a London paper to exclaim that no more damning indictment was ever preferred against any cavalry. But when the facts come to be known as to the Boer movements immediately prior to the British advance from Poplar Grove, it may turn out that the case is similar to that of Magersfontein, where a reconnoissance established certain facts with regard to the Boer position that proved entirely misleading through changes in the disposition of the Boer force in the interval between the reconnoissance and the attack planned as a result of its observations. The facts as stated cast no reflection on whoever made the reconnoissances in connection with this last affair, but they raise very considerable doubts of the value of distant reconnoissances in the case of an enemy whose troops are all mounted. It is also very uncertain whether in this war the regulation method of making reconnoissances is not more instructive to the Boers as to the intentions of the British than of positive advantage to the latter.

The withdrawal of the Boers from Aasvogel Kop before Gen. Kelly-Kenny's division was followed by the occupation of Petrusburg by Gen. Tucker's division without opposition, although strong resistance had been anticipated there in consequence of the reports of the reconnoitring parties; again showing the uncertain value of the reconnoissances. It seems probable that the Boers on whom the British cavalry unexpectedly came at Dreifontein were the same whom it was expected to find at Petrusburg, and who moved away toward the northwest to avoid being outflanked by the column from Poplar Grove. The country immediately to the westward of the Kaal River in the line of the British advance is called Salisbury Plain, but about half way to Bloemfontein there are a series of ridges and kopjes that may be utilized by the Boers if they still mean to contest the British advance. Should the British meet with no further opposition in their march to Bloemfontein, it will be because the commandos that were on the Orange River and to the south of it, have passed up north beyond the risk of being intercepted by the British, and now form part of the main Boer army gathering to dispute the British advance toward Pretoria.

Gen. Buller's movements so far, according to reports from Natal, consist in feeling for the Boers by small reconnoitring parties. One party sent across the Tugela to Pomeroy found the Boers strongly posted in the hills half way to Helpmakaar with three Maxims and two 12-pounders, before the fire of which the British retired with a few men wounded.

There appears to have been some brisk fighting in the Britstown district of Cape Colony last Tuesday immediately west of De Aar junction, in which the British lost 2 officers and 21 men killed, wounded and missing. Rumors of the relief of Mafeking continue to circulate, but nothing reliable has been received either from the Boer or British side.

The statements as to the alleged peace proposals by the Boer Presidents are contradicted by Dr. Leyds, the Transvaal Agent at Brussels, but it would seem that some have been made through the medium of Governments in friendly relations with England, as Mr. A. J. Balfour has promised to lay a statement before the British Parliament on the subject. In the meantime the British Under Secretary for War, Mr. Wyndham, leaves no doubt of the intention of his Government to prosecute the war with the utmost vigor.

The Equality of Men and Women Before the Moral Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There are many truths expressed in your editorial, "State and Church and Marriage and Divorce." Such writing cannot help but do good. It is in the true American spirit, "with malice toward none; with charity to all."

The Roman Catholic Church has as much right to demand that there shall be no divorce for any cause, as any other Church has to demand that there shall be divorce for but one cause, adultery. No Church, however, has any right whatsoever to demand the enforcement by the State of any religious doctrine. The State recognizes no Church; consequently, all Churches are alike to the State. This is guaranteed by the Constitution of the United States.

Marriage has existed ever since man was man, and will exist so long as man is man. The real marriage is not that performed by priest, minister or civil officer—this is mere ceremony. The real marriage is the uniting of the two hearts in the love of each other. The relation of the sexes in a monogamous marriage is the result of a high state of civilization; all other relations are barbarous, making man a beast, and, worse still, making woman the slave of a brute. In the true marriage there should be no boss, no obedience but that of duty. To preserve the sacredness of marriage society has a right to make such laws as it sees fit. I see no reason why the State should not pass a law making adultery a crime, but the law must be a State law, and adultery must be considered as a crime against society, and not as the Church considers it—a sin against God. The State legislates against the thief and the murderer, why not against the adulterer, the robber of the precious gem of love, the murderer of human affection and the destroyer of happy homes? When you give the State the power to dissolve marriage you must also permit the State to solemnize marriage. All people of all religions should be married by the State first, and if they choose to have the religious ceremony after, that is their own affair.

In this advanced age the State should recognize the monogamous marriage as the true relation of the sexes, and anything tending to discount such marriage as a crime against society and, therefore, punishable as any other crime. What we want more than anything else is the refinement of public opinion. Public opinion is the public conscience. See what odium is attached to even the suspicion of dishonesty; see the manner in which a fallen woman is treated by those of her own sex; and what is the result? You will find more impurity among men than you will stealing; and you will find impurity far less among women than among men. Crime should know no sex. What is crime in a woman is crime in a man, and *vice versa*. To-day while a man holds his head erect in pride, a woman for doing no more is compelled to hang her head in shame. Yet this is called justice. The time will come when this will not be so, and such editorials as yours will hasten the day. E. X. MCCARTHY.

NEW YORK, March 8.

Baby's Wireless Telephone Plan.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

The Rev. Case Davis, pastor of the Methodist Episcopal church at Warren, Ill., has a daughter nearly 3 years of age who is very particular about saying her prayers before retiring each night. One evening last week her mother was detained from hearing her prayers at the usual hour, and little Louise waited patiently some time. Finally patience ceased to be a virtue with her, and she climbed upon a chair and, taking down the receiver of the telephone, shouted into it:

"Hello, Central; dive me heaven. I want to say my prayers."

Willing to Lend a Hand.

From the Philadelphia Press.

"James," whispered the good woman, "there's a burglar in the parlor. He stumbled against the piano in the dark. I heard several of the keys struck."

"All right," said James. "I'll go down."

"Oh! James, you're not going to do anything rash?"

"Certainly not. I'm going to help him. You don't suppose he can get that piano out of the house without assistance, do you?"

A Question of Gender.

From Brooklyn Life.

Teacher—Willie, what's the masculine of "laundress"?

Willie—Washerman.

LINCOLN AND EXPANSION.

He Held That the Constitution Did Not Operate "Ex Proprio Vigore" in the Territories, and That the Right to Acquire Territory Was Beyond Question.

WASHINGTON, March 12.—In an editorial article of last Wednesday's SUN there is an extract from a speech of Senator Teller, in which he states that Abraham Lincoln was a believer in the doctrine that the Constitution does not operate of its own force in the Territories. Mr. Teller says:

"In 1860 I spent a good part of the summer in discussing political questions, and this was one of them. We as Republicans, supporters of Mr. Lincoln, claimed that the Constitution did not go into the Territories. *That was Mr. Lincoln's position.*"

The Senator is certainly right in this statement. In the campaign of 1860 the Dred Scott decision was one of the principal issues between the parties. The United States Supreme Court had decided in that case that the Constitution carried slavery into the Territories. This was denied by the Republican party, and the seventh article of the platform upon which Lincoln was elected declared:

That the new dogma, that the Constitution of its own force carries slavery into any or all of the Territories of the United States, is a dangerous political heresy, at variance with the explicit provisions of that instrument itself, with contemporaneous exposition, and with legislative and judicial precedent, is revolutionary in its tendencies and subversive of the peace and harmony of the country.

In his letter of acceptance of the nomination, addressed to George Ashman, chairman of the convention, May 23, 1860, Lincoln said:

The declaration of principles and sentiments which accompanies your letter meets my approval; and it shall be my care not to violate or disregard it. * * * I am now happy to coöperate for the practical success of the principles declared by the convention.

It is, therefore, clear that Mr. Lincoln approved and adopted the theory that the Constitution does not of its own force operate in the Territories.

Not only did Mr. Lincoln believe in the right of Congress to make laws for the Territories unshackled by the Constitution, but he was a firm believer in the right of this country to acquire territory, and to colonize it after it was acquired. In fact, in his very first annual message to Congress, he proposed a plan for the colonization of the negroes in some region outside the United States, to be purchased for that purpose. Here is what he said:

Under and by virtue of the act of Congress entitled "An act to confiscate property used for insurrectionary purposes," approved Aug. 6, 1861, the legal claims of certain persons to the labor and service of certain other persons have become forfeited, and numbers of the latter thus liberated are already dependent on the United States, and must be provided for in some way.

Besides this, it is not impossible that some of the States will pass similar enactments for their own benefit respectively, and by operation of which persons of the same class will be thrown upon them for disposal. In such case I recommend that Congress provide for accepting such persons from such States, according to some mode of valuation in lieu, *pro tanto* of direct taxes, or upon some other plan to be agreed to with such States respectively; that such persons on such acceptance by the General Government, be at once declared free, and that in any such steps be taken to colonize both classes (or the one first mentioned, if the other should not be brought into existence) at some place or places in a climate congenial to them. It might be well to consider, too, whether the free colored people already in the United States, could not, so far as individuals may desire, be included in such colonization.

To carry out the plan of colonization may involve the acquiring of territory, and also the appropriation of money beyond that to be expended in territorial acquisition. Having practised the acquisition of territory for nearly sixty years, the question of Constitutional power to do so is no longer an open question with us.

The power was questioned at first by Mr. Jefferson, who, however, in the purchase of Louisiana, yielded his scruples on the plea of great expediency.

If it be said that the only object of acquiring territory is to furnish homes for white men, this measure effects that object, for the emigration of colored men leaves additional room for white men remaining or coming here. Mr. Jefferson, however, placed the importance of procuring Louisiana more on political and commercial grounds than on providing room for population.

Mr. Lincoln's plan for acquiring territory upon which to plant a negro colony was not carried out by Congress, but if it had been successful it might have solved a problem with which we have been wrestling ever since the Civil War.

Be that as it may, we see that Abraham Lincoln was in favor of acquiring territory for the purpose of colonizing it with a portion of our own population which he considered undesirable as citizens of our country, and that he considered the Constitutional power to acquire territory for such a purpose "no longer an open question with us."

In the light of this proposal, can any one believe that if Abraham Lincoln was living to-day he would be found among those who insist that the Constitution *ex proprio vigore* extends to the territories that have come to us as the result of the Spanish war? Is it not clear that if he was President to-day he would do the very thing that Mr. McKinley is doing?

The theory under which President McKinley is proceeding recognizes that the United States as a sovereign power has the right to legislate as it may deem best for the interests of its own citizens and for the welfare of the people who are not its citizens, but who have been transferred to its allegiance by the right of conquest and session. It holds that the Constitution of the United States does not extend to conquered or ceded territories as an incident of conquest or cession; but that Congress, as representing the sovereignty of the country for legislative purposes, may govern these territories in its discretion, giving them such rights as they are fit to use and withholding such as they cannot intelligently exercise. That this theory would have been approved by Mr. Lincoln is evident from the message which I have quoted. He was a wise as well as a good man, and his proposition to colonize the negroes shows very clearly that he did not believe in thrusting the pearl of American citizenship into the hands of men before they were capable of appreciating its value.

J. S. TUCKER.

Paul Kruger and the Jews.

From the London Daily News.

The following stories of Mr. Kruger appear in Mr. Hobson's book about the Transvaal war.

"A few years ago he was induced to take part in the opening ceremony at a Jewish synagogue. On entering and taking his place, he removed his hat, and paid no heed whatever to the suggestion of his secretary, who explained the Jewish custom of covering the head. When the time came for the President's address, he ejaculated a few brief sentences, and amazed his congregation by concluding thus: 'I declare this synagogue open in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ.' On another occasion, shortly after he had presented on behalf of the State a piece of land in order for the building of a Dutch Reform Church, he was approached by an influential Jew, who tendered a similar request on behalf of a Jewish congregation. The President promised to consider the request, and soon afterward announced that he had granted it. Shortly after, however, he was waited on by his Jewish friend, who complained that the piece of land they had received was only half the size of that given for the Dutch Reform Church. 'Well,' he cried Kruger, 'what fault have you to find? They believe the whole Bible, and you only believe half the Bible, and yet you're half an erf.'"

Grubstaker Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I want some gentleman or company to put up for myself and two of my partners a grub stake and expenses to go, for two years, to Nostak River, Alaska, and we will give half what we find. This is a positive proof of the deposits of placer and leads of gold on one of the tributaries of Nostak River. As to our honesty and character we can furnish No. 1 references; we are strictly sober.

I would like to hear from some one soon, but later than April 1. F. DOUGLAS.

JAMESTOWN, Boulder county, Col.

Early of Dayton.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A young man resident of this town is blessed to the extent of being called "Early Love." B. F. B.

DAYTON, Ohio, March 9.

THE BRYANITE TAGALS.

No More Rebellion, But for a Dream of Independence Under Our Next President.

The following letter from Lieut. Martin L. Crimmins of the Sixth Infantry, on duty in the Philippines was received yesterday by his father in this city. It ought particularly to interest the "Anti-Imperialists" who are responsible for the continuance of the trouble in the country's possessions in the East:

JANO, Feb. 20, 1900.

MY DEAR FATHER: Yesterday I brought over fifty men from Guimaras Island by order of Gen. Hughes, and expect to go on a little expedition with some other troops and my men in a short time. I have been in command in Guimaras Island for over a month, and am leaving sixty-one of my men to garrison the towns of Nagaba, Nabalas and Cabano during my absence. I brought in two Lieutenant-Colonels of the insurgent army and surrendered them to the General. Everything on the island is quiet and the people are returning to their occupations. The island is 35 miles long by 15 wide, and consists of a high table land with rolling fields of cogon grass and steep rocky banks of limestone going down to the water's edge. Along the banks are limekilns, and huge fishnets of split bamboo and rattan are placed in the shallow water near shore. In the interior the principal industry is cattle raising; along the shore in open places cocoanuts are grown for the copra and cocoanut oil, which is sold in the market for making soap. In a few places they grow a mill sugar cane, and in others, where the ground is low, palay is grown. On some of the hillsides "camotes" or sweet potatoes are raised, and also small tomatoes and spinach, squash and radishes. The wood, called "malaro," of a rich reddish color and another like the locust, is found in the valleys.

The island is divided into three townships: Nagaba, consisting of a pueblo and thirty-one barrios or villages; Buenavista, with twelve barrios. Each pueblo has a large stone church and a priest. At Nabalas they have no priest at the present time. The priests are supported by fees. The fee for a marriage is $4.50; for a funeral $4.75, and a baptism 12½ cents or as much more as the people are willing to pay. In the churches in the island there are as many as two to eight funerals a day. There is a great deal of smallpox, but the present outbreak is of a mild variety, most of the deaths being of calentura or a malarial fever or beriberi, and a few die of tuberculosis.

Consumption was brought to the island by the Spanish and is generally found among the mestizos. Leprosy and other diseases of that sort are the result of the intermixture with the Chinese, and in Iloilo they now have typhoid fever. In the country there are many burnt villages as a result of the coming of the infantry. The volunteers are now kept in town, as the General found it impossible to keep them from burning down houses during the marches through the country. Some who got drunk on "tuba" and wandered away from the rest were killed by the natives.

I have had a very pleasant stay in Guimaras, everything being left to my own judgment, and my command in the island being nearly independent. I have had a doctor for my company and was given good quarters for the troops. The Presidente at Nabalas bought a horse for my use because I had admired it, and in every way my stay has been pleasant. The General has kindly consented to allow me to leave part of my men on the island, much to the satisfaction of some of the inhabitants. Families have moved into the towns we garrison, some even coming from Panay, as the bandits of Panay have been overrunning the island since we have driven the insurgents from the towns. They killed, robbed and burned houses in six towns on Panay within a few weeks. The townspeople are glad to have us, as we keep the insurgent officers, whom they don't want, away from them. One Presidente told me an insurgent Colonel forced him to endorse a worthless check for $3,000 shortly before our arrival, while another rode through the island taking a horse or a girl, whenever one struck his eye. The people both at Panay and Guimaras tell me they are heartily sick of the outrages committed by the Tagals, officers and soldiers; nevertheless, there are many Bryanites among them who want to hold out a year longer, "because their independence will then be recognized, and their fidelity to the cause in its darkest hour rewarded." Others are afraid to come over to us, for they say their property would be confiscated by the insurgents when the latter come into power if they should do so.

I wish you would impress on your friends that there would be no rebellion at the present time if the insurgents did not expect their independence to be recognized by the next President. I have been dining at their houses for the last month or more and a man will speak of things in his home which he will not mention anywhere else; so I know many of the opinions which the higher officials and others do not hear of. The General himself, when I mentioned to him that the insurrection was still alive, said: "I wish some officer would write to New York papers and explain to the American people the harm done by the papers which oppose the Administration."

MARTIN L. CRIMMINS,
First Lieutenant Sixth Infantry, U. S. A.

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Mr. Alexandre Duval, the proprietor of the Boulions Duval in Paris, has been made a Chevalier of the Legion of Honor.

Oxford University has published an incomplete list of 237 Oxford