# The Sun.

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### Oregon.

Oregon is the second important State to express itself on the Presidential campaign of 1900, and it declares for the Republican policy of honest money and expansion. BRYAN opened the Oregon campaign in person, so he cannot separate the result from his own individual prospects.

Since McKINLEY's inauguration in 1897 anti-Republican imagination has seen a waning McKINLEY and a waxing BRYAN, although continuously throughout this period the facts have been substantially to the contrary. The venomous and bottomless crusade against "embalmed beef" in 1898 and the half-crazy slanders of Secretary ALGER didn't prevent the Republicans from carrying the House of Representatives, although the precedents of inter-Presidential elections favored their defeat. Disappointment at the wearisome, costly and bloody continuation of the Philippine war in 1899 didn't prevent the Republicans from winnning the greater part of such elections as were then held. This spring the loud and bitter Democratic anti-imperialist howl over the Porto Rican tariff didn't materially diminish the Republican majority in Rhode Island.

In Oregon it is the same. It is the same over the entire Pacific Coast, and it is the same throughout the entire country.

The United States, having embarked upon the greatest venture of their career, the removal of the Spanish power from the American continent, and the expansion of American influence into the Pacific, will not vote their stupendous success a failure, at the bidding of malcontents or in response to the complaints of a political opposition to the party in control of the Government. Only Republicans, lazy Republicans, can beat the Republican party in the election of next fall.

### Bloemfontein and Pretoria.

The Free State capital and the Transvaal capital are in British hands. Except for a little warfare to come, which this fact must make desultory and aimless, the South African tragedy is over.

JOUBERT is dead. CRONJE is a captive. KRUGER is a fugitive. BULLER and KITCHENER have lost their laurels. And ROBERTS is the most conspicuous military commander in Europe.

We can only say again that it is an ominous event when in the present age one civilized State conquers, annexes to itself and abolishes the independence of another, even when the victim is no bigger or stronger than a Boer Republic.

### The Mayor and Ice.

The proceedings by which it is sought to remove the Mayor of this city from his office are based upon Section 1533 of the city Charter, which is this:

"No member of the Municipal Assembly, head of department, chief of bureau, deputy thereof or clerk therein, or other officer of the corporation, shall be or become, directly or indirectly interested in or in the performance of any contract, work or business, or the sale of any article, the expense, price or consideration of which is payable from the city treasury, or by any assessment levied by an act or ordinance of the Municipal Assembly; nor in the purchase or lease of any real estate or other property belonging to or taken by the corporation, or which shall be sold for taxes or assessments, or by virtue of legal process at the suit of the said corporation.

"If any person in this section mentioned shall, during the time for which he was elected or appointed, knowingly acquire an interest in any contract or work with the city, or any department or officer thereof, unless the same shall be devolved upon him by law, he shall, on conviction thereof, forfeit his office and be punished for a misdemeanor.

"All such contracts in which any such person is or becomes interested shall, at the option of the Comptroller be forfeited and void."

This legal provision is not peculiar to the Charter of our city. Similar restrictions, in substance, are common and have been, from time immemorial, to all municipal laws or Charters in civilized countries. Nothing is better settled than that a public officer cannot be interested in public work of which he has the governance. The simple question in the present case is: Does the fact that Mayor VAN WYCK is a stockholder in the American Ice Company, not being an officer or director of the company nor exercising a controlling interest in it, bring him within the purview either of the specific wording of this clause in the Charter or of the well-established legal principle in which it originated?

It is declared that a precedent for the application to the Governor for the removal of Mayor VAN WYCK is the proceeding in 1886, under which Gen. SHALER, the President of the Health Board, was removed from his office by the Mayor upon the charge of being interested in the sale of land to the city. The section of the Charter under which the action was taken was practically the same in wording as that in the Charter of to-day. The Board of Health, with which Gen. SHALER was connected, was not at all concerned in the transaction, but the courts, nevertheless, held Gen. SHALER's removal to be legal. Another precedent is afforded, it is said, by the decision of Judge DENIO of the Court of Appeals, one of the most famous Judges in our State, in 1861, in the case of ROOSEVELT against DRAPER. The Common Council of New York passed a resolution authorizing the sale of certain land to one JOSEPH B. VARNUM and directed that the Commission of the Sinking Fund fix a price at which the land should be sold. This commission, it was declared, fixed a price that was much too low, and against the wishes of the city Comptroller, who wanted the property sold at public auction. The allegation was made that Mr. DRAPER, who was one of the governors of the city almshouse, and in no way directly interested in the proposed sale, yet influenced the Sinking Fund Commissioners to fix a price and sell the property as they did. An action was brought to set aside the deed of the land which had been executed, and Judge DENIO held that inasmuch as Mr. DRAPER had made himself interested in the contract and was a city official, the conveyance must be voided.

It is obvious that the general legal theory upon which a public official is debarred from interest in public work came into being long before the day of stock companies, and that even the wording of our present Charter, copied as it is from older statutes, was framed without idea of the consolidation of business and local enterprises into great corporations, with the resultant minute distribution of ownership in them that has since taken place. Taken in its broad and literal sense, this section of the Charter would forbid any officer of the city corporation, that is, practically anybody who draws a salary from the city, from owning a single share of stock in any concern which had business dealings with the city. No man who had these relations with the city in the smallest degree could, even in the smallest degree, be the owner of the smallest amount of stock in any concern that did business, even of the smallest, with this city of three and a half millions of people without not only voiding his own office and committing a misdemeanor, but invalidating the entire contract under which the business with the city was transacted. Not only would direct or indirect interest in ice companies be prohibited, but in gas companies and concerns dealing in supplies or materials of any sort. And it might even be held that corporations doing business with the city through the medium of a contractor, as for instance the various steel companies now working for the city under the Rapid Transit act, come within the prohibition of the Charter. Is such a view of the matter rational? Will the courts hold that this is the law?

It is clear, again, that the various precedents to which reference has been made are not similar to the case of Mayor VAN WYCK. In both these cases, and in all other cases of like nature that we recall, the action of the defendants was of a far more direct and positive character than can at present, at least, be predicated of Mayor VAN WYCK. Gen. SHALER had a specific interest in the land he sold to the city and spent a great deal of time in the effort to dispose of it; while Mr. DRAPER used his "pull" with the Sinking Fund Commissioners for the sale of the city property at less than it was worth. It has not been shown that the contracts made by the city with the American Ice Company, either in regard to supplying ice or in the lease of dock privileges, were anything more than business transactions in which the company endeavored to get the best terms possible.

If the Dock Commissioners or the heads of the other departments concerned in the actual execution of these contracts were shareholders in the ice company they undoubtedly come within the scope of the act and can be proceeded against. But does the mere fact that Mayor VAN WYCK was a stockholder in the company bring him, also, within the scope of the law? We think it is very doubtful if it does.

### The Lesson of a Recent Divorce.

The Potter divorce, which was granted at Newport on Monday, on the ground of desertion for more than five years, is not recognized as a valid Scriptural divorce by the canons of the Episcopal Church. In Protestantism generally, however, as also by the Greek Church, that reason for the dissolution of a marriage is held to be sufficient. It is also a legal ground for divorce in all the States of the Union except New York and South Carolina, in the first of which adultery is the sole cause and in the second there is no divorce law at all.

American law follows the rule of Protestantism from its very beginning in making marriage dissoluble for various causes. Before the Reformation all Christian States enforced the canon law, still adhered to by the Roman Catholic Church, under which marriage as a sacrament is indissoluble for any cause; but in denying its sacramental character Protestantism at once opened a way to divorce which has since been logically pursued until every cause that can be construed as breaking up the contract has come to be allowed practically somewhere within its domain. As early as 1541 the Geneva Ecclesiastical Ordinances declared that "if any one maketh a business of abandoning his wife to stroll through the country and continueth unamended, it be provided that the wife be no longer bound to such a man, who will keep neither faith with her nor company." That recognition of a cause which defeated the purposes and violated practically the obligations of marriage was carried further, and consistently, in a Zurich ordinance of 1525, which left it to the discretion of the Judge to add other grounds, as, for instance, cruelty, insanity, and eruptive disease, like leprosy. In recent times the Prussian civil law allows divorce for such causes and also for incompatibility of temper and by mutual consent when the marriage is childless, thus going much further than even the most extreme of the laws of any American State.

In England, with its established Church, the theory of the law was practically that of the Roman Catholic Church until the passage of the Divorce Act in 1858, though MILTON in his tractate on the subject addressed to Parliament had endeavored to secure what is now called "free divorce." Divorces by act of Parliament, however, had been introduced previously to the establishment of the present Divorce Court in 1858 and the legal dissolution of marriage on the ground of adultery in the wife, but with the physiological, though immoral, discrimination in favor of the husband that the wife cannot get the divorce unless the man's adultery has been coupled with cruelty, bestial offences or desertion for two years. Assault on religious and moral grounds is made against our American divorce laws, but nowhere, not even in the Western States where they are most liberal, is there any such degradation of womanhood and consequently of the marriage relation as is involved in the English toleration of infidelity in the husband.

This leads us to remark that many divorces in this country which are granted nominally for other causes might really have been secured on the sole ground allowed by New York. The party suing, out of regard for children of the union, refrains from giving publicity to the disgrace of the mother—and the sentiment is honorable. The worst effect of divorce is upon the children of the marriage, unless the continuance of the relation involves moral injury to them, which it may do as seriously when there is only cruelty or habitual intemperance as when the prime offence itself has been committed. It is argued, therefore, that actually the "sacredness" of marriage is guarded, and not violated, by laws which make the contract dissoluble for any cause tending to degrade the relation and to demoralize the family. At any rate, so soon as the sacramental character of marriage is denied and the contract is made dissoluble for any cause, it is discretionary with legislation thus to extend the causes; and practically they are sure to be multiplied.

As we have seen in this case at Newport and as has been demonstrated in many instances in the circle of society from which the husband, who obtained divorce there, comes, the canon of the Episcopal Church is not sufficient to prevent its members from availing themselves of any State law by which they can escape from marriages irksome or intolerable to them. Since they suffer from no social disapproval because of such defiance of their Church it is evident that the society in which they move sympathizes with that disobedience. If, then, they can defy the present Episcopal canon with immunity, what reason is there to suppose that they would fare worse if the canon were changed, as now proposed, so as to forbid divorce altogether? This Newport divorce has been obtained in a spirit of disobedience to that Church as flat as it would have been if the canon had been already thus changed. The contempt of the authority of the Church could have been no more complete if the divorce had been obtained under the most liberal of American divorce laws; yet it brings no reproach to the husband in a circle of society where the Episcopal Church is the most favored.

The theory of the sacramentalists and sacerdotalists who are now demanding that the Episcopal canon shall make marriage indissoluble is that thus a ban would be put on divorce which would make the practice disreputable in that society; but we have seen that experience with the existing canon does not justify such an expectation. People who follow their inclinations in going into matrimony are likely to follow them in getting out of it when the civil law offers the opportunity and their manner of life has not habituated them to self-restraint. Accustomed to have their own way in other matters, perhaps from childhood up, they may resent marriage restraints which have become troublesome to them or interfere with their inclination to make new marriage ventures. How, too, can the Episcopal Church succeed in establishing such a curb in this country, when in England, with its established Church, divorce is legal? The case is different with the Roman Catholic Church, which always in its history has held marriage to be an indissoluble sacrament, whatever the laws of the State or the customs of Protestantism. Such has not been the attitude of the great body of the Episcopal Church of this country. Probably divorces are as many, proportionately, among its members as among Protestants generally, and apparently they are more frequent, relatively to numbers, among Episcopalians of the circle of fashion in New York.

Moreover, divorce is allowed universally under our civil law, with the single exception of South Carolina, and by every other Church in Christendom except the Roman Catholic. In a large part of the instances, too, and more especially those in fashionable society, divorces are obtained for the special purpose of getting liberty to marry new mates, oftentimes mates who have already been selected. If the suggested change were made in the Episcopal canon the only practical consequence would be that such people would be compelled to go elsewhere than to an Episcopal clergyman to get remarried; but their entire willingness to do that has been demonstrated very frequently.

### Baseball.

Two kinds of ruffianism among National League players are worth comparing.

Last week, according to the *Philadelphia Press*, LAJOIE and FLICK, of the Philadelphia nine, got into a fight, not on the ball field, but in the clubhouse. LAJOIE was the aggressor, and FLICK, who is not blamed, broke two of the bones of LAJOIE's hand with a ball bat. This is one sort.

"McGRAW," says the *Evening Post*, describing the other kind, "continued his practice of 'fighting the umpire,'" in the game played by the St. Louis at Boston last Saturday, "and was put out of the game by EMSLIE in the third inning and later sent off the grounds."

How much worse is the St. Louis style than the Philadelphia style! In Philadelphia the contestants slugged each other in private, upon a personal issue for which no arbitrator was specifically provided. In Boston, however, the player deliberately violated the League rule against wrangling with the umpire, in the presence of thousands of spectators who had paid money to see baseball played. Of course, neither the Boston club nor the League as a body did anything to punish the offender or guard against such offences in the future.

Better a thousand fights in the clubhouse, begun on the sole authority of the participants, than one on the ball field with the League's approval.

### No Suppression for Richardson's or Barcus's Benefit.

For its own dignity and honor the House of Representatives should not adjourn without taking up and passing the Senate concurrent resolution for printing as a Government document sixteen thousand additional copies of the "Messages and Papers of the Presidents."

This action at this time is all that is needed for the effacement, so far as there can be effacement, of the scandal resulting from the gift of the duplicate plates to Mr. RICHARDSON at that gentleman's solicitation three years ago. The gift plates were voted in a mistaken spirit of generosity. How disgracefully the gift has been abused the whole country now knows.

The Hon. JAMES D. RICHARDSON has no proprietary rights in this Government document. He has not even a moral right to object to the breaking of his and BARCUS's monopoly. He obtained the duplicate plates on the distinct understanding that Congress was free to print further editions from the Government plates whenever it saw fit so to do. He declared at the time that he should always and under all circumstances welcome the appearance of a new Government edition. He made that declaration in the strongest language of which his flexible tongue was capable.

Nor need there be any sympathy for Mr. RICHARDSON's pocket under the circumstances. Although BARCUS got by far the better of the bargain concerning royalty, Mr. RICHARDSON's profits up to this time pay him three or four times over the full value of all the literary labor performed by himself in connection with the compilation. Besides the plates, costing $3,200, and besides the 650 remainder set of previous Government editions, costing about $4,000 to produce and worth about $15,000 as the market has been, RICHARDSON gets royalty from BARCUS on the 27,000 sets already printed for the "Committee on Distribution." At seventy-five cents a set this amounts to $20,250.

If the proposition at the time of the gift of the duplicate plates had been to vote Mr. RICHARDSON $30,000, or $20,000, or $10,000, or even $5,000 outright in full compensation for the editorial labor he voluntarily undertook, it would have been rejected at once as excessive pay. Yet he has already netted, by abusing the foolish generosity of Congress, profits greatly exceeding the entire salary he has earned as a Congressman during the same period.

But the Hon. JAMES D. RICHARDSON's monopoly and bank account are not the principal consideration. No scandal in recent years has attracted more attention or excited more indignation throughout the country. No exposure has been more complete and conclusive. BARCUS's impudent boast that Congress will not venture to "interfere" with the future operations of the "Committee on Distribution" has been generally noted. It has been expected that those who are mercenarily interested in the continuance of the fraudulent business would be alert in the last busy hours of the session to procure, if possible, the suppression of the resolution which the Senate passed last Saturday. That is what BARCUS and his precious associates of the "Committee" hope for. That is what the Hon. JAMES D. RICHARDSON probably desires, notwithstanding his profuse professions to the contrary.

And that suppression of the Senate concurrent resolution in the press and hurlyburly of the last hours is precisely what the Fifty-sixth House cannot afford to let happen. The Republican majority of the House cannot afford to be a party to it. The honest Democrats of the House cannot afford to promote it. The Hon. DAVID B. HENDERSON, Speaker of the House, cannot afford to let it occur.

### Straddle and Buncombe.

By means of a queer combination of opportunists, anti-Bryanites and semi-Bryanites, the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL, assisted or tolerated by Mr. CROKER, Mr. McLAUGHLIN and Mr. MURPHY, was able to keep the New York Democratic State Convention from saying anything about the Chicago platform. The money resolution is a cheerful bit of Jeffersonian bimetallism, and favors "both gold and silver as the standard money of the country, the money of the Constitution and our fathers—each to be maintained at a parity with the other in purchasing and debt-paying power."

After about July 5 or July 6 the New York Democrats will have to favor Sixteen to One. Presumably they will then eat their words with just as good appetite as they did in 1896. Before the National Convention they may be parity bimetallists. After the National Convention and when they hold their State Convention for the purpose of nominating a State ticket, they will be Sixteen-to-One "bimetallists," that is, silver monometallists.

The resolutions about Trusts and imperialism are simply inflamed poppycock. We don't see how the former could have been read in the convention without a salvo of guffaws, and the anti-imperialist and anti-Administration blather might have been written by ERVING WINSLOW or GAMALIEL BRADFORD. Against phantom issues the New York Democrats draw their daggers of lath and stab the air valorously. When they see the Chicago platform, a real foe of the prosperity of the State, they silently sneak away.

The convention was a famous victory for Mr. HILL. While the resolutions are mute about the Chicago platform, they bind the delegates to the Kansas City Convention to vote for Col. BRYAN, who is the Chicago platform on two legs, and they bind the Democratic party of New York to accept and support without reservation whatever platform that convention may adopt. Mr. HILL's "victory" will last for about one month. Meanwhile the genuine Bryanites will be hot against him and the other temporizers and burrowers.

At the conclusion of the postprandial exercises the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company reformed.—*Boston Globe.*

If this be true, a staggering blow has smitten the Distilling Trust.

We haven't read to-day's papers but we shall be surprised if Mr. ALFRED AUSTIN hasn't published another joy-dripping ode. His materials are all at hand. There is a stanza something like this:

"With magic brush, Historia,
Paint me the bright, white Gloria
Of the taking of Pretoria—
VICTORIA, O, VICTORIA!
VICTORIA, R. I!"

He can't miss it.

The duty of a Temporary Chairman is to be temporary. He is the radish and not the roast. Mr. NORTON, the Temporary Chairman of the New York Democratic Convention, came near being permanent. He droned on and on as if all time were his and only useful to hear him speak a piece. A Temporary Chairman should be a sprinter, not a long-distance walker.

English households are having a great deal of trouble just now owing to the scarcity of servant girls and particularly of those who are willing to do general housework. It is a difficulty from which New York has been suffering for some time, especially this winter, and which in some other American cities has reached an acute stage, servants being unattainable at any price. The story in the London *Daily Mail*, therefore, that an English employment agent has come to New York to secure a large number of domestics for service in England at English wages is hard to believe. The average rate of wages in England is from $90 to $100 a year, less than $2 a week, whereas a green girl just landed from the ship can get her $3 a week without difficulty in this country.

That a London employment agency has given out the story seems to be the fact. It informed the *Daily Mail* that there would be no difficulty about the difference in wages, that the cost of the passage to England would be taken out of the first year's wages, and that presents of brooches or aprons would be made to the girls. It would seem clear that some one will be taken in. If no misrepresentations are made to the girls it is likely to be the ingenuous Englishman who expects the American servant girl to give up her privileges and half her wages for a brooch or apron and a British "missus."

An ingenious Chicago admirer of the Hon. CARTER HARRISON is issuing pocketknives marked with that statesman's name. The Hon. JOHN PARDON ALTGELD's friends can be depended upon to furnish razors in quantities to suit in case of any Carter Harrison boom.

### Bets on Goebel.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A bets B that Goebel would be elected Governor of Kentucky in the November, 1899, election. The Board of Election Commissioners issued the certificate of election to Taylor and he was inaugurated, but a contest was made under the forms of law, and the Legislature decided Goebel was elected and thereupon he took the oath of office. The courts were appealed to and they have all refused to interfere with the verdict of the Legislature, and Beckham, Goebel's successor, is recognized as the legal Governor. Who wins?

H. W. V.

Bettors can't go behind the returns. The appointed tribunal for deciding the Kentucky election has declared for Goebel, and though the fraud in the latter's election is morally clear, bets go with the decision.

### Ball—Highball.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I think you must be mistaken in the supposition that the term "ball," meaning a drink, comes from baseball. I have always understood that it was first used by horsemen and came from the old-time habit of giving horses their medicine in a huge pill, or "ball," as it was commonly called. "Highball," I take it, came from the use of a high glass for the drink.

W. E. T.

### IN SOUTH AFRICA.

The uncertainty regarding the situation around Pretoria has been dispelled by Lord Roberts's despatches describing the fighting that took place on Monday at Six Mile Spruit south of Pretoria, and the subsequent negotiations leading to the surrender of the city. The overwhelming force of the British prevailed over the Boer resistance, but the coming on of night prevented the former from bringing the action to a conclusion and entering the city. The negotiations proposed by Gen. Botha during Monday night were obviously to gain time. Lord Roberts, however, returned his stereotyped answer offering nothing but unconditional surrender, and the British entered Pretoria unresisted at 2 P. M. yesterday. In his despatch Lord Roberts speaks of Gen. French being to the north of Pretoria on Monday, so that the Boers who fought at Six Mile Spruit and have not surrendered with the city will have gone away to the eastward to join the commandos previously reported at Bronkhorst Spruit, or have taken the road going north to Pietersburg. It is, however, more probable that they have gone toward Middelburg to await the commandos that must be moving north from the Natal frontier, if it has been decided to carry on the struggle in the mountain region in the north.

Now that he is established at Johannesburg and Pretoria, Lord Roberts will, no doubt, see to opening the railway communications with Durban, shortening the distance for the transport of his supplies by one-half that from Cape Town, and greatly reducing the risk of interruption by hostile bands. The next movements, therefore, will be to the eastward to follow up the retreating Boers and if possible prevent their concentration, and if that has been effected, to push them to the north in order to clear the country south of the Pretoria-Delagoa railway of hostile forces, and prevent the return of any Transvaal commandos there may still be in the Free State back across the Vaal.

What the intentions of the Boer leaders may be regarding the continuance of the war does not seem to be yet decided upon, and the abandonment of Pretoria leaves the matter still in doubt. During the past two months large quantities of war material and supplies have been sent away north to the great stronghold in Magatoland eighty miles northeast of Pietersburg, over and above what has been collected at Lydenburg. This points to continued opposition to the British invasion, and were the British Government disposed to anything less than unconditional capitulation, might play its part in the discussion of terms. But as Lord Roberts clearly has instructions to enter into no parley with the Boers and to push the war to its conclusion, the Boer leaders must soon come to a definite decision as to the future. Persons acquainted with the country describe the Magatoland region as practically impregnable, capable of being held by a comparatively small army so long as its ammunition lasted, and of that it is claimed the Boers have enough to prolong their resistance for more than a year.

The despatch from Lord Roberts giving the details of the disaster to the Duke of Cambridge's Yeomanry corps, which Gen. Methuen failed to rescue, explains the statement of THE SUN correspondent at Pretoria about the arrival there of hundreds of British prisoners taken in a fight at Lindley. The absence of any news from Gen. Buller is probably connected with the movements of the British revealed by this despatch, the object of the Generals operating east from the railway in the north of the Free State being obviously to drive the Boers into a corner in the northeast where they would be surrounded on all sides.

### PROTECTION FOR AFRICAN PYGMIES.

Some Germans, it appears, have been hunting pygmies in the central African forest as the agents of menageries hunt wild animals. The pygmies were wanted for exhibition at the Paris Exposition. So the white men spread a feast in the woods to which they invited these strange little people, who accepted the proffered hospitality. The dwarfs soon found that they were the victims of misplaced confidence, for seventeen of them were seized and the march for Paris began. They were scarcely out of the woods, however, when the British of Uganda arrested the Germans and released the prisoners. There will be no anthropological exhibit at Paris as far as the African dwarfs are concerned. The trade in pygmies, for show purposes, has been nipped in the bud.

Many representatives of tribes living in polar or tropical latitudes have been taken in the past few years thousands of miles from their homes for the convenience of anthropologists who desired to study them. In nearly all cases the results have been disastrous to the poor victims of this avidity for scientific research, for they have been unable to endure the sudden and violent change. A number of African dwarfs have been taken to Europe, and all except two have died within a few months. They seemed unable to live even in the climate of Italy. A boy from one of the pygmy tribes, sent to Germany in 1893, did not live to undergo the measurements and examinations that were prepared for him. Two girls who were captives with him had a bad two months in Germany before they were sent back to Africa in time to escape the winter that would probably have been fatal. They trusted no one and were so afraid of being poisoned that they would partake of no food till they saw their attendant eating it. Learned men lectured about them as the trembling creatures sat on platforms shivering with fright at the attention they received.

Some years ago an African trader offered to send a dwarf to this country at his own expense for scientific examination. The offer was declined in view of the fact that every pygmy taken to temperate latitudes up to that time had died. At last accounts, the men who attempted to drag a lot of them to Europe for show purposes were to be placed on trial for their offence.

### Ocean Tides Under Land.

*From the Baltimore American.*

NEWPORT NEWS, Va., June 1.—A sensation was caused here, in Hampton and Old Point this morning by the announcement that there is a continual ebb and flow of the ocean's tide beneath the extreme end of the Virginia peninsula. Contractor Guild of Baltimore, who is putting down a new sewerage system for Hampton, has made the startling discovery, so he says, that the stem end of the peninsula is nothing more than a huge float, which may at any time break away from the larger body of the land. The story is based upon a scientific hypothesis. He says the water which he has encountered in laying the sewer in Hampton rises and falls with the tide in Hampton Creek, which empties into Hampton Roads below this city. At one place yesterday, while the tide was out, he was able to go down four feet in the street before striking water, while at the same place when the tide was in he could only go down two feet before the water commenced to flow in with alarming rapidity.

### Odd Causes of a Queer Wedding.

*From the Cincinnati Commercial-Tribune.*

BOWLING GREEN, Ohio, May 31.—One of the most romantic marriages that has occurred in this city for some time took place to-day, when Harrison Cheney, who is about 70 years of age, was married to Miss Agnes May, aged 18 years. The marriage was in the way of the fulfilment of a promise made many years ago.

Cheney, when a young man, lived in a Pennsylvania town and was a lover of one who married another. She took sick afterward, and upon her deathbed she asked Cheney to look after a little daughter. This he did, and she in time grew up and was married. She was taken sick with consumption, and, too, passed away, but not before she had pledged Cheney to look after her little girl, then 2 years old. His devotion to the little child culminated in the event of last night. Mr. Cheney recently came here from Union City, Pa., from which place the young lady came yesterday.

### Reasonable Compensation.

*From the Washington Evening Star.*

"Do you candidly admit that you overcharged that man?"

"I do," answered the keeper of the general store in the small town. "He comes here and makes me agree with him in his views on the Boer war. Then he switches off into the Chinese situation, and I've got to follow his arguments so as to answer him. If he'd stick to free silver I wouldn't mind. I've had practice. But if he's bound to ring in new ones, he's got to pay for 'em."

### OUR OWN.

**Aid for the Families of American Regulars.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that the American Volunteers of both army and navy in the late war, and those dependent upon them, have received a benefit from the generous citizens of the city of New York and in other cities of the land, is it not time to remember the needs of those whom the officers and soldiers of the Regular army who have died in their country's cause have left behind them?

A society has been formed for this purpose called the National Army Relief Society. Its officers guarantee the high purposes of the society, and the honest and judicious administration of all funds received. Gen. F. V. Greene is the President. The Hon. Theodore Roosevelt and Mrs. Ellen Hardin Walworth are Vice-Presidents. The trustees of the fund are the Hon. D. S. Lamont, the Hon. Levi P. Morton and the Hon. C. N. Bliss. The Treasurer is William Redmond Cross, and Assistant Treasurer, Miss Grace Bigelow. Headquarters of the society, 19 West Forty-second street, New York. The depository of the fund, the Morton Trust Company, 38 Nassau street, New York.

This society aims to relieve distress in times of emergency, to secure employment and to provide educational facilities for its beneficiaries, as their needs may demand. All this is in accordance with the American spirit of independence, self-reliance and true manhood, as well as kindly generosity. The American people have a charity as broad as their land. They cast their bread upon many waters. It seldom returns in kind. Perhaps it does in blessings called down upon the country by those whom it has succored from distress of every description.

In this newly formed society, we have an opportunity to help our own flesh and blood in our own land. The husbands and fathers of those for whom this society asks gifts of their fellow countrymen and women, gifts of money, gifts of work, gifts of interest and sympathy, have died to uphold the honor of our flag, and in their deaths have shed an undying light upon the pages of American history, that those who read them now, or in the days to come, can see only glory there.

Does not our pride in our own heroes, does not our love for our own race, prompt us to generous deeds in behalf of the saddened women and children these brave men have left to our care? Like all soldiers, ours had a strong faith, second only to the faith in an all merciful God, which every true American carries in his heart. They believed in us, in the truehearted generosity of their countrymen. They made no requests, no appeals. They died at the call of duty, nobly, gloriously, trusting us. Shall we dare to be faithless?

X. Y. Z.

### Dime Novels and Modern Fiction.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Did it ever occur to you that we are going back in our literary tastes to about thirty or more years ago? Were you so fortunate as to read the good old-fashioned, salmon-colored dime novels published by Beadle—afterward Beadle & Adams—at 98 William street?

Perhaps you were too busy just about that time to bother about such things. Perhaps you did own a few of the glorious old fellows like "Seth Jones," "Bill Bidden, Trapper," "Chief, the Cave Child," "Malaeska," "The Scout's Prize," and a few others. Perhaps you doubled them in the middle to fit handily the hip pocket; and perhaps you read them and traded them with your comrades until they were mere tatters and shreds. If you didn't you missed a lot of fun. And those old gems in the way of fiction never harmed you a particle, did they? After reading one were you ever inclined to scalp a poor baby or do a job in the line of sheep stealing?

Those old affairs in the way of fact and fiction are now found only in old trunks away up in the garrets, where queer old garments, soldiers' knapsacks and old-style stove-pipe hats hold the fort. It is seldom one finds in any old book shop a stray copy of what the chaps of thirty and forty years ago thought was the proper caper in the line of "get-up-and-get" reading. We have doses of it put before us at the present time in a new dress. But we pay more for it, call it "the thing" and "must" read it if we wish to meet the great cult of high-grade lit. on the level. There is this difference: Never the slightest possible trace of an impure suggestion was ever printed in one of the old salmon-covered Beadle dime novels. There was never a line to disgust the most fastidious. Circus riders pad their horses, writers pad their novels to-day. There are a few artists here and there who can do the sawdust ring upon a bareback steed. There are fewer artists of the pen who can spin the magic circle without padding. Of course we do not want to go back to the old dime novel; but for clean fresh work in the way of smearing ink upon pages, they were great. We prefer to take history as a before-dinner pill, and romance afterward. To rave over the great creations in the grocery store of literature of to-day puts us back to the days of 98 William street.

H. S. K.

UTICA, June 2.

### Cheap Living.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At last in to-day's SUN lovely woman enters the discussion on the cost of living. What poetic fitness! No one would care to discuss the topic at all were it not for "the great, inexpressive she." With what naïveté the question of clothes is made her excuse if she had read A. R. B.'s communication in THE SUN of May 3 she would know that he does "no deal with the items of furniture, clothing, car fares, literature," &c. Therefore, while these present a most fascinating side of the discussion, I have not felt warranted in including them in my list. I may say, however, that my accounts show it has cost two and a half times as much to clothe my wife as to clothe myself, for the period mentioned, and nearly half as much for each child as for my wife.

As for Mr. Brasher's remarks in to-day's SUN, allow me to point out that on three distinct occasions he has asserted that he lives *well*. This is the only one of his "facts" I will not stick to. My table of expenses is not intended to represent what it costs to live *well*. The great majority of SUN readers, I think, would agree that the figures represent only a poor living in New York. Mr. Brasher in to-day's SUN shifts his ground to a mere question of "feasibility." But, if he still asserts that he lives *well*, one can only maintain the attitude of Lewis Carroll's knight:

"So having no reply to give
To what the old man said,
'Come, tell me *how* you live,' I cried,
And thumped him on the head."

NEW YORK, June 3. EX-RAISE.

### Things to Be Wanted or Not Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Two things for which there should be no demand:

First—Hymn books for the congregation that do not contain the musical notes as well as the words. Sight singing has been taught so many years in the school that there are few in any church audience who do not find the musical notations a real help in singing new tunes.

Second—Sunday school music, whose only merit is that it has a catchy march movement that appeals to the feet rather than to the head and heart.

Such tune writers as Barnby, Dykes, Sullivan, Stainer, &c., have left no excuse for the use of machine-made tunes such as now constitute the bulk of Sunday school and Christian Endeavor collections of music.

Two things for which there should be demand:

First—Simple book rests that would hold books in position pleasant to eyes and shoulders of readers, students, bookkeepers, &c.

Second—Suitable devices to hold wide open books in such nearly upright position.

HAVERHILL, Mass. JOSEPH DANA BARTLEY.

### Santa Lucia Doomed.

*From the Tablet.*

Who has not sung "Santa Lucia," or at least heard that hackneyed Neapolitan tune played, thumped or twanged on some variety of musical instrument, in some part of the globe? Santa Lucia is an old-world quarter of Naples, now doomed to destruction. The oldest church in it, which gives its name to the district, is said to have been built by one Lucia, a granddaughter of Constantine the Great. Every year, on the night before Dec. 13, her Feast Day, St. Lucy, whose relics repose in Venice, pays a visit to her church in Naples. She comes in a tall ship of gold and silver, and after praying in her church returns home, while a great storm wind arises from Mount Vesuvius and speeds her vessel swiftly on its homeward voyage.

There is yet another and more modern church in this quarter, the Madonna della Catena, built in 1576, and also possessing its legend. The sailors of Santa Lucia were reckoned among the sturdiest of that coast, and especially as divers, in the days before diving costumes were invented. Once a diver brought up from the depths of the sea a chest, which on being opened was found to contain an old oil painting of Our Lady, with a bronze chain wound around it. This picture became a great object of veneration, and the chain suggested the title of Della Catena.

The whole quarter between Gigante and Chiatamone is being rapidly pulled down, and a fine new road is to be made leading to the Via Carracciolo. The old, narrow dark taverns, the houses with their tiny doors, the damp little shops, the narrow streets, wherein the passer-by could touch both the side walls, will disappear, and with them the crowds of people who passed their existence in these corners and among whom alone it is still possible to hear the genuine Neapolitan dialect. The pickaxe is busy at work, and soon "Santa Lucia" will survive only in the song, that every country knows so well.

### We Point With Pride.

*From the Columbia State.*

THE SUN'S accounts of the eclipse were far superior in every way to those of any other paper, and the story as printed in THE SUN is one of the finest journalistic feats of the century.

### MAD DOG SCARES.

**Advice to Summer Dog Owners.**

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* With the approach of summer comes the usual "mad dog" scare. These scares in a great majority of cases are the result of ignorance and prejudice. For eight or nine years I made it a practice to personally investigate "mad dog" scares. I found that in ninety-nine cases out of every hundred that the scare was groundless, that the dog was not mad, and that all the fantastic and terrible incidents were filled in by the imaginative reporter.

I have been a close student of dog life from my boyhood. I have bred, trained and treated dogs of most breeds, and although I have visited the kennels, refuges and dog pounds of various countries and seen many thousands of stray "vagabond dogs," I have yet to see a genuine case of rabies. This, I may say, is a common experience with veterinary surgeons. Hundreds of them, after years of active practice, declare that although they may have been called upon to treat dogs for all kinds of ailments, they have not seen a case of true rabies. Take the testimony of Dr. Stockwell, a celebrated authority on dog diseases. He says, "True rabies presents multiple and varied phenomena without a single constant feature, hence its presence is with difficulty determined even by an expert. Indeed, so erratic is its symptoms and its manifestations that it is a greatly mooted point whether it exists a malady *sui generis* at all. Distemper, toothache, earache, epilepsy, and the whole class of nervous diseases to which dogs are subject are constantly mistaken for it." "Personally," he adds, "after more than thirty years' experience as a dog owner and student of canine and comparative medicine, I have yet to meet with a genuine case of rabies in the dog, and of some scores of so-called rabid dogs submitted to me for my inspection I have found them one and all to be suffering from other and comparatively innocent diseases."

This, as I said before, is not by any means an uncommon experience among veterinary surgeons.

In the spring of 1897 a "mad dog" scare was raised in London (England) by a certain class of people who had a great commercial interest in raising "mad dog" scares (muzzle manufacturers); they, as usual, received every assistance from a credulous public and a sensational press. The Board of Agriculture finally took the matter up and issued an order to the effect that all dogs appearing on the public highway should be tightly muzzled with a wire cage muzzle invented by the aforesaid manufacturers. During the first three months of the scare over sixteen thousand dogs were seized in the streets as "vagabond strays," and not a single case of rabies was discovered among them.

It should be borne in mind that dogs, like men, are subject to certain diseases. They have their diseases of puppyhood and old age; they have their stomachic and nervous troubles just as we have, and require intelligent treatment and kind attention to pull them through these attacks. If dog owners would only take a more intelligent interest in their pets we should hear less of "mad dog" scares. Dogs to be kept healthy should be fed twice a day regularly. I consider the scraps from the table the best food for dogs of all sizes. The dog gets a change which is beneficial. Never try to make an old dog eat dog biscuits; if he can eat them he will do so without much urging.

I have had dogs that would have starved rather than eat them. He should have a meal of meat twice a week, and cooked liver once; this will keep his bowels in good condition. Always see that your dog is well supplied with plenty of good clean water; dogs will not drink from a dirty bowl, nor will they drink foul water unless they are forced to it from extreme thirst.

Always look to the teeth of your puppy; this is a matter of the greatest importance, as they have their teething fits and similar such troubles like other infants; feel their gums occasionally, and if you find a loose tooth draw it; the roots are perfectly straight and it can be drawn by the fingers.

A puppy should always be treated for worms at the age of two months; he is almost sure to have them.

Treat your dog intelligently and humanely, and you will have a friend and companion who will stand by you and with you under all circumstances.

ARTHUR WESTCOTT.

289 FOURTH AVENUE, New York, June 5.

### BASEBALL ROWDYISM.

**The College Boys.**

*From the Yale Alumni Weekly.*

The *Princeton Alumni Weekly* takes the Princeton nine to task for what is described, by people who sit around score boards, as playing ball with the mouth. Not being particularly informed about the particular circumstances of the game with Cornell, at which the chief sounds were made, we may say, without discourtesy to an ally, that the criticism of the *Princeton Alumni Weekly* pleases us. It pleases us, because all fighting against such things in university athletics pleases us.

It also reminds that the habit of talking is growing on the Yale nine. This uninterrupted mutual encouragement loses something of its force by its continuousness. It is also wearying and detracts from the pleasure of the game. It passes also easily into attempts to trouble the other side, which is anything but good baseball, the nature of the game being athletic. It is not adapted to debate.

And this further reminds us of certain spectators who cumber the bleachers. The incident of the Lehigh game, referred to elsewhere, should never be repeated on a Yale athletic field. Capt. Camp would be perfectly justified in joining with the captain of the opposing team in a request to the umpire to suspend the game until such people as the offenders at the Lehigh game were either obliged to leave the ground, or publicly agreed to be decent. Men who try to rattle the players of the opposing team are a disgrace to their college. Time was when these tactics were freely resorted to in most all intercollegiate contests. We may be thankful that that time has gone by. Alumni sometimes come back to reunions and fall into the old habit of trying to help play the game with the noise they can make. Those, however, who have kept in touch with the improving spirit of athletic sport, know that the only applause which is welcome is the applause of good plays and the applause of encouragement. We think the latter can be cut down considerably and should never be allowed to interfere with the work of the opposing players.

### Fast Sailing Over the Pacific.

*From the Portland Oregonian.*

The British bark Galgate, Capt. Griffiths, a big four-master, made a record-breaking run on her voyage from Shanghai to the mouth of the Columbia, covering the distance from buoy to buoy in twenty-seven days. The nearest approach to this record is said to have been made by one of Renton, Holmes & Co.'s four-masted schooners, which made the run from Shanghai to the Sound in twenty-eight days. Vessels from Shanghai are less frequent visitors here than those from Yokohama and other Japan ports, and the wonderful run of the Galgate can be better understood when it is stated that the voyage from Shanghai to the Columbia is generally conceded by shipmasters to be fully a week or ten days longer than the run from Yokohama. The record passage from the latter port to the Columbia River is a fraction less than twenty-two days, the Selkirk making the record run about three years ago.

The Galgate's biggest day's performance was 295 miles, but in a ten-day run she reeled off over 2,600 miles, an average of over eleven miles an hour, and a speed which would bother most of the tramp steamers to maintain.

### Heenan, Sayers and the House of Commons.

*From London Truth.*

The prevailing emotion spread on Monday to the House of Commons, but in a milder form. The most intense excitement that I ever saw in the House was the day when the prizefight was taking place between Sayers and Heenan. It was—if I remember rightly—a Wednesday. Almost every legislator was in the cloak room awaiting the news and eagerly discussing this illegal combat. And when the news arrived that Sayers had fought on with one arm disabled the enthusiasm could not have been greater had some Battle of Waterloo been won. Sayers subsequently was brought to the House of Commons by some member, and he was the hero of the hour. The greatest orator that ever lived would not have been listened to while this worthy man was in the lobby.

### A Literal Boer.

*From London Truth.*

One of the British officers, now temporarily stationed at Pretoria, wrote home a short time ago to his sister. "It is awfully slow," he said. "I have read every book in the prison library, and there is not a thing left to do." The Boer censor who read the letter put a big blue mark against the passage and a foot note below: "Now you shall see what lies your prisoners tell in their letters. The prison library contains ten thousand seven hundred and forty-one volumes."

### Mauser Cure for Drink.

*From the London Daily Chronicle.*

Jeremiah O'Leary of the East Surrey Regiment was shot during the battle of Colenso, a Mauser bullet penetrating the brain. After lying for five hours in the trenches, O'Leary was found by the ambulance corps and removed to the base hospital at Pietermaritzburg, where Sir William MacCormac, by a marvellous surgical operation, during which a portion of the brain was removed, succeeded in saving his life. His memory is slightly impaired, and he has lost his taste for beer.