The Sun.

MONDAY, MARCH 4, 1901.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

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

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

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

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

The Second Term of President McKinley.

When WILLIAM MCKINLEY entered upon his first term, four years ago to-day, the country was in the depths of industrial depression and business distress, and likewise suffering in prestige from the narrow policy which had generally marked Mr. CLEVELAND'S administration of foreign affairs.

That is a plain statement of the situation at home and abroad four years ago. If the business outlook had then become somewhat brighter than during the preceding years of gloom, it was solely because the November election had already determined the course of future events; the light in the sky was that of hope and confidence, not yet of achievement and realization. The nation's finances were in confusion. A surplus existed which had been created by loans, not by revenue. In the name of reform a humbug tariff had been enacted which was yielding a deficiency and paralyzing enterprise throughout the country. The socialistic and anarchistic forces which find their way to the surface in hard times had been encouraged and fed by a hundred utterances coming directly from the lips or the pen of the President of the United States himself. His sullen pessimism hung over this nation like a pall.

The foreign policy of the Cleveland Administration had been as dismal and depressing as its domestic politics. With the single exception of the Venezuela message, every declaration and every act affecting the international standing of this republic had been such as to make the name American count for less than before in the estimation of the world. The impulse, already manifest, toward national expansion was resisted and thwarted at every opportunity. In Samoa it was surrender and abandonment; in Hawaii, persistent effort and shameful intrigue for the restoration of monarchy; as to Cuba, procrastination and the evasion of imperative duty.

That melancholy chapter ended at noon on March 4, 1897. Before he entered the office, Mr. MCKINLEY had been somewhat theatrically styled by his campaign managers the Advance Agent of Prosperity. The phrase was yellowish, but it expressed the exact truth. Prosperity followed him and overspread the entire land. The four years have not only witnessed the revival of energy and enterprise in every branch of business, and in every part of the Union, but they have gathered the results here at home to an extent unprecedented in our experience; and at the same time they have seen this country pass the United kingdom and take for the first time its long-predestined place as the greatest exporting nation on earth.

During the same short period of prevailing optimism in the White House, and of well-reasoned effort there for the stimulation rather than the repression of the American potential, the flag and name of the United States Government have come to signify more to the world outside than ever before in our history. A foreign war has been fought and gloriously won. Cuba has been freed from Spanish dominion, the territory under our sovereignty enormously increased, the national sentiment of loyal pride and legitimate self-confidence immensely strengthened, and the foundation laid for a marvellous second century of American development.

Four years ago Mr. MCKINLEY, in his first inaugural, promised two things:

1. A revision of the Wilson tariff, yielding a revenue that should enable the country to pay its ordinary expenses without borrowing, and preserving the controlling principle of protection to American interests;

2. A firm and dignified foreign policy, which should be just, impartial and ever watchful of our national honor.

These were modest enough words, in strong contrast with some of the pretentious didactics that had emanated from his predecessor. What they meant we have seen and now know. To-day, bearing heavier burdens and responsibilities than have rested on any Chief Magistrate since ABRAHAM LINCOLN, President MCKINLEY will renew his oath to devote the best that is in him to the care of the nation's interests and the promotion of its welfare.

The Rights of Automobiles.

If the automobile industry is to be protected, particularly that branch of it involving steam vehicles, and people are to be able to enjoy the use of such carriages, vigorous efforts should be made to prevent the establishment of legal precedents similar to that which was recorded in this State last month. In the town of Ballston one MOORE, owner and driver of a steam automobile, was sued and ordered to pay damages in the sum of $200 because, the jury decided, he failed to comply with a statute, passed several years ago, relating to the use of steam vehicles or engines upon the public roads. It appears that the plaintiff, Cook, with his wife, was riding behind a spirited horse attached to a carriage, and that upon seeing the automobile the animal became frightened, threw the occupants of the carriage out, demolished the latter and injured himself. The defendant averred that he was proceeding cautiously on the proper side of the road and that he was by no means responsible for the mishap.

Briefly, the case hinged upon the question of the violation of the law which requires that vehicles operated by steam—meaning, unquestionably vehicles quite different from the automobiles of to-day—should be preceded at least one-eighth of a mile by some one who should notify other persons on the highway of the steam carriage's approach. Mr. MOORE sent no one ahead of his vehicle to give warning, and it fell to the jury to determine as to whether, under the circumstances, he was guilty of culpable negligence in the eyes of the law. It decided that he was guilty. The following extracts from Judge RUSSELL'S charge to the jury are interesting, not only in their bearing upon the case referred to, but as showing the attitude of the Court toward automobiles generally:

"The fact that defendant was not conforming to this statute does not give a right of action; it is only that the law may be referred to as indicating the duty which rested upon the defendant in propelling the carriage by the motive power of steam, that it is read to you. The day is past in the history of the State of New York when we are obliged to give up the use of the highways entirely to the use of carriages propelled by horses or oxen. Whatever we may think about the value of steam carriages or carriages propelled by electricity, or any motive power aside from animal power, the time has come when those carriages have a right to go on the public highways for reasons perhaps of utility as well as pleasure; and therefore you must consider the circumstances of this case with reference to the condition of affairs as they existed on the 2d of September, 1900, in the State of New York. There are many who prefer the use of the horse as a means of locomotion for pleasure if not for utility, but those persons have not the right to dictate that others shall not use other means of locomotion on the highway.

"The plaintiff says he saw the machine at a distance of forty or fifty feet; that it was dark, so that objects ahead were not very visible; that the horse gave evidence that he saw the machine, first of alarm and then turning aside into the ditch; that he, the driver, warned the defendant to stop and wait until they got by; and that was not done, although one of the two in the steam carriage got out and held the horse to quiet him."

The only similar case which has come up in this State occurred in 1898, when a horse took fright at an automobile, ran away and injured itself and the wagon to which it was attached. In the municipal court, where the case was first tried, the owner of the horse was awarded $42.95 damages. On appeal to the county court the verdict of the lower tribunal was reversed, Judge SUTHERLAND, who presided, holding that "to sustain this judgment is to condemn the defendant's carriage and all others operating in a similar way, and to declare them impracticable and unfit for use upon the streets." In part, the Judge said:

"The horse has no paramount or exclusive right to the road, and the mere fact that a horse takes fright at some vehicle run by new and improved methods and smashes things does not give the injured party a cause of action. As Judge Cooley says in Macomber vs. Nichols, 12 Mich. 212: 'When the highway is not restricted in its dedication to some particular mode of use, it is open to all suitable methods and it cannot be assumed that these will be the same from age to age, or that the new means of making the way useful must be excluded merely because their introduction may tend to the inconvenience or even to the injury of those who continue to use the road after the same manner as formerly.'

"Horses may take fright at conveyances that have become obsolete as well as those which are novel, but this is one of the dangers incident to the driving of horses, and the fact cannot be interposed as a barrier to retrogression or progress in the method of locomotion. Bicycles used to frighten horses, but no right of action accrued. (Holland vs. Hatch, 129 Ind. 46; Thompson vs. Dodge, 58 Minn. 555.) Electric street cars have caused many runaways. A machine that would go puffing and snorting through the streets, trailing clouds of steam and smoke, might be a nuisance, but this is not such a case. It cannot be said that the defendant's machine is such a departure in its construction or mode of operation from other steam motor carriages, which experience has likely shown to be entirely practicable for street use, as to make it a nuisance, although because of the present novelty of horseless carriages horses may take fright at its approach.

"There is a statute against the use of any vehicle propelled by steam in public streets (except on railroad tracks) unless a person is sent at least one-eighth of a mile in advance to warn travellers of its approach. (Highway law, Sec. 155; Penal Code, Sec. 640, Sub. 11.) This statute, though broad enough to cover the motor in question, was passed before automobiles were in use, and it was directed against traction engines, which are ponderous and noisy affairs and have been the cause of much litigation.

"The temporary inconvenience and dangers incident to the introduction of these modern and practical modes of travel upon the highway must be subordinate to the larger and permanent benefits to the general public resulting from the adoption of the improvements which science and inventive skill have perfected."

The unfairness of applying the old statute, intended to regulate the use of noisy and cumbersome steam engines, to the modern automobiles must be clear to all. If the decision of the Ballston jury is to stand, there is likely to be no end of lawsuits of a similar sort in the future.

The Fifty-sixth Congress.

When the figures of appropriations are put together for the total, and analyzed for the details, it will be found that the outgoing Congress has been one of the most lavish Congresses on record, apart from the extraordinary expenditures rendered necessary by the results of the war with Spain.

The Republican party will be attacked for this by the opposition; and justly, for the Republican party is responsible for the size of the appropriations.

Yet there is one thing to be said in regard to the stern virtue with which Democratic orators and Democratic newspapers are likely to denounce the total.

No honest effort has been made by the minority in either house of Congress during the session ending to-day to check extravagance or to inculcate economy. There has been a pretence of it in the House, but only a pretence. The Democrats in Congress have been more frantic, if anything, than the Republicans in the hungry assault upon the contents of the pork barrel.

More than this. The future historian will probably discover good evidence, if he tries to find it, that Democratic opposition and obstruction to the two most important and imperatively urgent measures of the session, the Spooner amendment concerning civil government in the Philippines and the declaration concerning Cuba, were practically bought off at the last with the River and Harbor bill, the supplementary Public Buildings bill and other costly enactments much desired by individual Democrats in the Senate and House for private, local or political reasons.

That is part of the price we pay.

The Duties of an Officer and a Gentleman.

About the most ridiculous commentary on Admiral SAMPSON'S letter concerning the promotion of warrant officers, is the Schleyer criticism that it shows him to be a "coward." Any one in his senses can see that no man could have expressed an opinion so essentially distasteful to himself, except, as he saw things, his sense of duty to the Navy demanded it of him. And we feel free to say that with that before his eyes, SAMPSON would have done what he did even had he foreseen the storm of excited criticism that has raged about him.

We welcome the fury with which the partisans of Rear Admiral SCHLEY have denounced SAMPSON for emitting a theory that they considered hurtful to the Navy. It betokens such an interest in that noble service that when their fury has cooled a little they will be bound to see that if SAMPSON thereby has obliterated his rights to promotion, SCHLEY, for committing the fraud now standing proven against him on the naval records over the signature of Commander HODGSON, should have his uniform stripped off his back.

And they will be unable to stop there. While for the dishonesty that stains SCHLEY they can have no thought of any other sentiment than uncompromising condemnation, it will finally dawn upon their reason and their sense of fairness that officers of the Navy are no more to be advanced or degraded for holding certain opinions on the commissioning of warrant officers than for thinking this or that in regard to the copper sheathing of steel ships, or the superposed turret or the relative value of six and eight inch guns.

The Statistics of Law Making.

The prolific diligence of American Legislatures in lawmaking seems to be increasing in other States than New York. The eleventh annual summary and index which has appeared under authority of the University of this State gives a detailed synopsis of the legislation of each State in 1900. From this it appears that with Legislatures in regular session in only thirteen of the forty-five States, 5,772 laws or "resolutions," which in some States are of the same effect as statutes, were adopted.

Last year, the Massachusetts Legislature was in session for 106 days, that of Ohio 106, New York 94, Virginia 92 and Maryland 90 days. During those periods there were 776 new laws adopted in New York, 747 in Maryland, 583 in Ohio, and 479 in Massachusetts. Mississippi, in a session of 90 days, adopted 198 laws, and Georgia in 53 days, 222. Georgia is one of the six States, New York, New Jersey, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and South Carolina being the others, which have annual legislative sessions. All the States except Connecticut, Illinois, Iowa, Maine, Michigan, Mississippi, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont and Wisconsin, put a time limit in days on the sessions of their Legislatures.

There is no abatement in the activity of legislators this year. With a session in progress in nearly every State, and with Senatorial contests still under way in three States only, Delaware, Montana and Nebraska, the enactment of fully 10,000 new laws does not appear an excessive estimate for 1901.

An American Poet Laureate.

An ingenious gentleman who loves to listen to the whirring of the wings of song, sends us this letter about songbirds:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have often wondered why you, who have such a decent regard for the Muse, do not advocate the selection of a Poet Laureate for this one country. I have often wondered, too, who, from among the singers of to-day, would be THE SUN'S choice for the job. I know you are a good critic, and a conscientious but bashful one. Maybe you wouldn't care to express an opinion? In faith I wouldn't blame you for that, for in choosing from among talents that are so nearly equal you might give offence. Speaking for myself I have no hesitation in naming him who looks so much like VICTOR HUGO, Mr. MARKHAM, and yet, when I think of the poems written to Mr. STOCKTON by members of the Authors Club a few weeks since, I hardly know what to think. BART. CALLAN.

"NEW YORK, Feb. 28."

We don't advocate the selection of an American Poet Laureate because we don't believe in Government poets. Government seeds they may take who want, but at Government poetry the line must be drawn. There is plenty of unconscious official poetry at Washington already. The publications of the Department of Agriculture are rich in it. It even sifts through reports of the Dead Letter Office. It has been found in shabby black volumes of the Patent Office. The *Congressional Record* drips with it daily. These careless bursts of song are a pleasure, but what would a laureled maker do at Washington? Would he be expected to write Inauguration Odes and Stanzas for the Opening of the Session? Would it be his duty to compose Lines on the Expiring Congress and Cloak Room Sonnets? On the days set apart for eulogies of deceased members of Congress would he build dirges and epicedia? Would he receive an annual grant of a butt of Bourbon whiskey or New England rum or California wine?

"Of course not," Mr. CALLAN may say impatiently; "I don't expect him to do anything but wear his laurel with a distinguished air. The English Laureate doesn't have to write any official verses unless he chooses. So let it be with the American Laureate. Let him be selected for honor's sake."

Unfortunately the instance of Mr. ALFRED AUSTIN teaches us that the bard garlanded with the bays of office cannot be mute. An uncontrollable cacoethes masters him. He must sing or die. As Mr. SWINBURNE says:

"When the fiend to write on the Laureate seizes
He quests and quarries the unloving rhymes,
He putters and puzzles in pain till he eases
His soul by sending a song to the Times."

So would it be with an American Laureate. He could not be otiose. He would have to smite his bloomin' lyre a good deal oftener than most of us would care to hear it. The crows would croak at him. "How did he ever get there? What sort of Laureate is this? Why, the poor devil has lost his voice." And then your nightingale—or owl—must put forth some reassuring notes to satisfy himself and his friends that he is still in good health and voice.

But far be it from us to discourage candidates for the Laureateship or to disappoint Mr. CALLAN. Why doesn't he himself crown and appoint a Poet Laureate? He has the right. The Laureate is laureled either by the sovereign or by anybody of eminent merit or distinction. An American Laureate might be chosen by the sovereign American people. A direct vote would be necessary, and a national convention before that. The competition and the intrigues would be so great that the primaries and the State conventions would have to be watched carefully. Even then a dark Pegasus might win the stakes. It would be safer to have Mr. CALLAN name his man.

He would name Mr. EDWIN MARKHAM of Brooklyn, who would cordially concur in Mr. CALLAN'S choice. Mr. MARKHAM has hoed diligently for laurels, and he ought to have a full crop of them. Mr. CALLAN should crown him in Madison Square Garden or some other public place. The new Laureate could be depended upon to furnish all the odes and incidental songs necessary to the joy of the occasion:

"Bowed by the burden of his hair, he stands
And reads his works till all the world is bored."

In case of a Bryan Administration, Mr. MARKHAM would be just the man for official Poet Laureate. He has the cheerful temperament, the exact perception of facts, the complete freedom from theatrical rhetoric that are so marked in the philosophers of the Bryanite schools.

With the highest respect to Mr. CALLAN we don't mean to bring the hornets about our ears by trying to pick out a Poet Laureate. We believe in giving all the poets the right to wear laurel and the degree of P. L. Theirs should be a democratic commonwealth, and there should be no sovereign or privileged characters in it. If, however, Mr. CALLAN will insist upon a Poet Laureate and declines to appoint one himself, he should communicate with all the poets, a pleasure which will not cost him more than four or five thousand dollars for postage. If the poets want a Laureate they should be allowed to choose one. But we warn them not to vote for EDMUND CLARENCE STEDMAN or RICHARD HENRY STODDARD. Those good gray poets are too wise to long for more feathers.

"To the People of the United States.

"On this day when but for the corruption and intimidation of the Money Power I should have been inaugurated President of the United States, I address you to bid you be of good cheer. All is not lost. This vaunted prosperity cannot continue. This subjection to colossal combinations of capital cannot continue. This reign of Gold must end. The ears of American freemen will not long hear unmoved the clanking of the chains of despotism.

"The imperial chariot moves on its relentless way across the bleeding body of Freedom; but, my friends, we will yet block those ruthless wheels.

"At this time when appalling clouds of danger veil the once bright face of the American Republic, a solemn duty rests upon you, my countrymen. Subscribe to my paper and save the country. Terms one dollar, strictly in advance.

"Given in our Thought Boudoir in Lincoln, this Fourth day of March, 1901. Now is the time to subscribe.

"WILLIAM J. BRYAN."

In the United States last year 662 new editions of old fiction and 616 new novels were published.—*New Orleans Times-Democrat.*

Which shows that in spite of all their seeming activity, the living novelists are not doing their duty. There may be too much new fiction, but there is not enough. There are not novelists enough. Perhaps some philanthropist will found a College of Novelists, where the art of novel writing can be learned easily and quickly, say in ten or twenty lessons. The world cries for novels. Probably in ten or twelve years it will read nothing else. Yet the beggarly record shows only 616 new novels in a year. Why, old CALEB CUSHING could have read 616 novels in six months besides reading all the other new publications and attending to his law business.

The Hon. MARK LALLY of Nogales, Ariz., with his two trained bears, is expected to be in the inauguration parade to-day. Mr. LALLY and his bears have made the trip to Washington at the expense of the Hon. THOMAS TAGGART, Mayor of Indianapolis, a Democrat of excellent disposition but imperfect judgment, who was so indiscreet as to bet on BRYAN. Mr. TAGGART'S loss is the gain of Mr. LALLY and the bears, and especially of the latter, whose education will receive its finishing touches in the Capitol City.

The North Dakota Senate has passed a bill laying a special tax for the payment of a wolf bounty. If the Free People are too numerous in North Dakota, a bounty for their heads is scarcely the way to thin out the pack. It is usually found that the offer of a bounty for scalp or hide of any animals to which a Legislature objects results in the increase of such animals. Doubtless thrifty souls in North Dakota are preparing to have wolf farms if the Wolf Bounty bill becomes a law. So AKELA and his brethren may have good hunting yet in North Dakota. At any rate a few wolves ought to be preserved for the benefit of tenderfeet.

From that true old anti-imperialist, the Boston correspondent of the *Springfield Republican*:

"The Harvard gentleman who has the addresses of the graduates, as representative of the alumni association, refuses to put them at the service of the anti-imperialists for the distribution of documents."

For this relief much thanks. That Harvard gentleman has been kind to several thousands of Harvard gentlemen who don't want to have their mail clogged with Agnalddian refuse, rich in yawns.

There has been much talk among the Democrats of Czars and Emperors, and at length a real monarchist has appeared. Miss MARY COOK, who is now waging war against the gilded Gehennas of Williamsport, has announced her solemn purpose of leading an "army of saints" to Washington next summer and of there setting up a throne and King. According to a Hagerstown despatch to the *Philadelphia Record*, Miss COOK is "gathering influence and following daily." If Senator TURNER and Senator BACON and the rest of the faithful will only have a little patience, they may see a King and perhaps a Queen in Washington.

WANTS WILLIAMS STUDENTS TO REBEL.

J. B. Gale, an Alumnus of the College, Will Try to End Compulsory Chapel Attendance.

WILLIAMSTOWN, Mass., March 3.—John B. Gale of Williamstown, a graduate of Williams College in the class of '42, has begun war on compulsory attendance at church and chapel by students, and declares that he will carry the case into court if the corporation doesn't abolish such attendance. He distributed last night printed letters among all the fraternity houses and business places in town, and has also written to President Carter on the subject.

In his letter to the students, Mr. Gale said that compulsory attendance clearly violates their religious liberty guaranteed by the Constitution of this State, and also prevents their having Sundays at their command. He calls on the students to help him to obtain their rights.

Enclosed with the letter to the students was a copy of the letter to President Carter, in which Mr. Gale declares that religious liberty is a common heritage of citizenship under the United States Constitution, and also is the especially subversive of the College foundation of a free school. He say he will raise the constitutional question, and arouse a public agitation, but asks that the President and other college officials confer with him to discuss the matter.

President Carter replied by declining the conference, saying that the question was without his and the faculty's jurisdiction, and should be brought before the trustees, the next step of Mr. Gale will be watched with much interest. He is a well-known citizen of Williamstown and professes deep affection for his alma mater. The students are now required to be present at all but one-tenth of the chapel services held at 8.20 A. M. during term time, and to attend church at 10.30 A. M. and 5.30 P. M. on Sundays.

Street Obstructions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I note by the enclosed statement cut from your paper this morning that the ornamental porch in front of a building at Broadway and Forty second street, must be removed, and as the counsel for the owners of the property admitted that the portion is constructed contrary to law, it is quite proper that it should be removed. Mr. Keating, Commissioner of Highways, and Mr. Florrie Sullivan, superintendent of the Bureau of Incumbrances, are to be commended for their action in this matter.

Now, that the matter is disposed of, it seems to me that it would be well if Mr. Florrie Sullivan would turn his attention to many other obstructions which occupy and disfigure our streets. A certain wagon which dispenses cider has for many months occupied a very prominent place on Park Row, almost immediately opposite the SUN office. The wagon is a permanency, there as there is never any horse attached to it. During the summer months there are many other wagons without horses from which soda water, milk, &c., are sold, and which occupy space on crowded thoroughfares. There was one which took station on Mott street near Broadway, another on south side of the Post office at the junction of Broadway and Park Row, all of these were obstacles and interfered with traffic in the streets, and still prevail, and yet there they stayed and "Florrie" never believed them.

Then there is that flower stand that occupies valuable space in the middle of the street opposite the entrance to the Mills building. Why is that obstruction permitted to remain? "Florrie" cannot fail to see it when he goes down that way.

I am wondering whether it would not have been well for the owners of the Forty second street property to have communicated with the owners of the wagons mentioned, and the owner of the flower stand, and learned from them the method by which other than one or two have obtained the privilege of New York without interference by the Commissioner of Highways or the superintendent of the Bureau of Incumbrances.

For one, should like to know for I have in mind the organization of a company to sell shoes and hats from wagons permanently stationed in our principal thoroughfares, the saving in rent would be enough to pay dividends on a very considerable capital. X.

GROWING MARKET FOR AMERICAN PICTURES.

A gratifying feature of the current art season is the increased sales of American pictures. The following figures, representing the amount of sales at some of the leading exhibitions, speak with emphasis. The Pennsylvania Academy Exhibition heads the list with $13,000, the National Academy of Design following with $12,225. The sales at the New York Water Color Club amounted to $1,150, while the American Water Color Society, which does not close its exhibition until March 28, has already reached a total of $9,000. Thus the aggregate of these four exhibitions is $35,375.

This is certainly a healthy showing and takes no account of the sum realized at the Pittsburg exhibition. Moreover, in each case the exhibitions have been attended by greatly increased numbers of visitors. It is impossible to quote data of sales made by dealers, but those particularly identified with the handling of American pictures seem agreed that the market is steadily improving. Equally unobtainable is information regarding private transactions between painters and their clients but the indications in the case both of mural paintings and easel pictures point to a brisker and more reliable demand. It would seem that at last the American collector is becoming more awake to the claims upon his consideration made by the American painter. The fact is all the more notable and encouraging, because there has been no falling off in the quantity or quality of foreign importations, so that if the American picture is winning its way to recognition it is in an open field without favor.

It is worth while to examine into the reasons. They are partly due, no doubt, to the excellent showing made by American pictures at the Paris Exposition and to the number of honors awarded in the section, particularly to painters residing on this side of the water. Neither has it escaped attention that for the first time pictures painted in America have been bought by the French Government for the Luxembourg; that in addition to purchasing Winston Homer's "Summer Night" and Ben Foster's "Lulled by the Murmuring Stream" it tried to obtain examples also by George Inness and Henry W. Ranger. But the real reason lies deeper and is altogether more satisfactory.

It is evident that collectors are beginning in greater numbers to think for themselves, relying less upon the dictum of the dealer and consulting their own tastes and convictions. One has no quarrel with the dealer who imports the best examples of foreign art; on the contrary he is a benefit to the community, helping to establish a wider knowledge of art and to raise the standard of taste both among artists and the public. But for each one such dealer there are many who, to put it frankly, import rubbish; because it costs them little on the other side, so that the customs duties are light and they can unload their trash upon a credulous public at enormous profit. And who so credulous as the average man beginning to taste the dangerous delights of collecting pictures? The conversations, conducted in low tones, that from time to time force themselves upon one's ears in a dealer's gallery, reveal a lamb-like simplicity and mindlessness on the part of the client that is only equalled by the ignorance of the dealer or his wilful perversion of the truth. It is on all fours with the gullibility of the public in allowing itself to be the victims of certain so-called fashionable portrait painters, men whose work at its best is distinctly commonplace, but who visit these shores annually and during a few months' sojourn reap a golden harvest. For these foreign pictures cost proportionately a much greater sum than would purchase American work of a much higher order. Here is the rub, if the client would only realize it. He is not only making mistakes but paying for them through the nose. Very likely he will make mistakes if he begins to collect American pictures, relying upon his own judgment; but they will not be so costly and he will at least have the fun of backing his own judgment and doing his own thinking. In the same way a man makes blunders when he starts in to speculate in horseflesh; but regards these little setbacks merely as parts of the game, which a few years later he will tell as a good story against himself. There are few collectors of pictures, now connoisseurs, who cannot point to a few canvases which represent the formative period in their taste and which they treasure as pleasant reminders of their own artistic development.

For the gratifying conclusion of the whole matter is the evidence that Americans today are buying pictures not so much for an investment or because it is the correct thing, don't-you-know? as because they wish to make a lavish display of their wealth. But they are finding in the pursuit of collecting an agreeable hobby, a healthy contrast to the exacting strain of business. They are riding their hobby for the pleasure of it. Buying what they like they find their likings continually growing in discretion; their notions settling into convictions, their taste and appreciation becoming more subtle and reliable, until by degrees they add to the satisfaction of the collector the joy of the connoisseur. It is a goal of personal evolution worth some mistakes at the outset.

More School Expenses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The bill to be introduced in the Legislature to have some classes of boys in the public schools drilled like soldiers at the armories seems to attract but little attention. A provision of the bill is to employ retired officers and non-commissioned officers of the Regular army to do the drilling and to be partially paid by the Board of Education. There is not money enough to provide schools for all the children, and now comes this new scheme to draw more money for salaries, guns and uniforms and things. This bill looks very simple on its face, but it is merely an enticing wedge for more things. GEORGE E. BARTON.

416 UNION STREET, Brooklyn, N. Y.

Nassau Street.

Starts in money and ends in brains,
Does Nassau street
Like a river when it rains,
Is Nassau street.
From curb to curb is paces four,
The sidewalks add a couple more;
If you're in haste try Broadway, for
In Nassau street.

You'll fall. The human tide's so strong
In Nassau street
It takes hard work to push along
Through Nassau street.
It's full of fakirs selling things
From candy down to dogs and rings.
You'd need a pair of patent wings
For Nassau street.

The newsboys yell, the fakirs shout
In Nassau street.
The trucks and cabs add to the rout
In Nassau street.
And every stranger swears, no doubt,
That he'll avoid another bout—
That is, if ever he gets out
Of Nassau street.

A slight acquaintance with the sky
Has Nassau street,
The buildings are so close and high
In Nassau street.
The sun at noon time pays a call
That's fashionably short. That's all
It ever gets from wall to wall—
Dark Nassau street.

They've auctions, shops and restaurants
In Nassau street.
One satisfies for cash all wants
In Nassau street.
They've brokers, banks, and poolrooms, too,
Not visible to outward view,
Of course, as keen eyed cops stalk through
Good Nassau street.

And bucket shops. It's such a well,
Is Nassau street
But there, I cannot—few can—dwell
On Nassau street.
From Dan to Beersheba and back
Of incident a painful lack
Would show beside that crooked track,
Old Nassau street.

M. W. POOL.

THE RICHARDSON SCANDAL.

Democrats and Republicans Unanimously Join in the Senate to End the Fraud.

From the Congressional Record of March 1.

Mr. Gallinger.—Mr. President, I submit an amendment that I trust will go in the bill [the Sundry Civil Appropriation bill]. For the purpose of possibly avoiding some debate, I will say that it has passed the Senate and has been reported favorably by another standing committee.

The President pro tempore.—The amendment will be read.

The Secretary.—After line 18, page 149, insert:

That there be printed 6,000 copies of the document known as Messages and Papers of the Presidents, of which 2,000 copies shall be for the use of the Senate and 4,000 copies for the use of the House of Representatives, the remainder, if any, to be held by the Superintendent of Documents subject to the future action of Congress; and that an edition of 10,000 copies shall be printed, to be held by the Superintendent of Documents, and by him sold at the actual cost of publication.

Mr. Allison.—I suggest to the Senator from New Hampshire that he omit the latter part of that amendment.

Mr. Gallinger.—I think that that is the most important part of it. Here are gentlemen going over the country imposing upon the people of this country by selling a public document for $35 that can be published for about nine or ten dollars, and they have brought themselves into such disrepute that a Judge, Justice Childs of the Supreme Court of the State of New York, said the other day:

The plain purpose of the person who originated this scheme of obtaining subscribers for these books was to defraud the public. Such a scheme, permeated with fraud from start to finish, should not be permitted by sanction of any court to succeed.

If it ought not to be permitted by a court, it ought not to be permitted by the Congress of the United States, under whose sanction and by whose authority this publication was first issued.

Mr. President, I do not want to take the time of the Senate. I have a mass of documents here which show that a gigantic fraud is being perpetrated upon the people of this country. If any Senator will take the trouble to read an article in THE NEW YORK SUN of this very day it seems to me that he will see the importance of the Government publishing an edition of this book which it will sell to the people of the country at cost price, and not to permit this fraud to continue any longer which is being perpetrated upon the people and upon the Congress.

Mr. Chandler.—How recent are the transactions stated in THE SUN. I will ask the Senator?

Mr. Gallinger.—Very recent.

Mr. Chandler.—How recent?

Mr. Gallinger.—Within a very few days, Mr. President.

Mr. Allison.—Will the Senator yield to me for a moment?

Mr. Gallinger.—Certainly.

Mr. Allison.—The reason why I made the suggestion is that an edition of 10,000 copies will not go very far to ameliorate the conditions now stated by him.

Mr. Gallinger.—It will be a starter.

Mr. Allison.—As the Senator says, it will be a starter to a very large edition hereafter.

Mr. Gallinger.—I think so.

Mr. Allison.—I withdraw any suggestion of amendment and will allow it to be passed.

The amendment was agreed to.

Mr. Cockrell subsequently said.—I want to make a request. In the amendment of the Senator from New Hampshire [Mr. Gallinger] passed a few moments ago for the publication of the Messages and Papers of the Presidents, the allotment is 2,000 to Senators and 4,000 to Members of the House. That is not sufficient. I ask unanimous consent that 3,000 may be inserted for the Senate and 6,000 for the House.

Mr. Gallinger.—I hope that may be done, Mr. President.

The President pro tempore.—Is there objection to the request of the Senator from Missouri? The Chair hears none.

Mr. Gallinger.—I will venture to express the hope, furthermore, that the conferees on the part of the Senate will see that this amendment remains in the bill, if they can do so.

The conferees on the part of the Senate on the Sundry Civil bill are Senator Allison, Senator Hale and Senator Cockrell.

The conferees on the part of the House on the Sundry Civil bill are Mr. Cannon of Illinois, Mr. Moody of Massachusetts, Republicans, and Mr. McRae, of Arkansas, Democrat.

ALBERTA.

Development of a Division of Canada.

South-central Canada has a great river, the Saskatchewan, fed by scores of streams that descend the eastern slopes of the Rocky Mountains. It is navigable for 1,200 miles by light draft steamers. Every year, after the wheat harvest, many rafts are seen floating down the Saskatchewan laden with Alberta wheat. It is a cheap form of transport for a commodity that requires cheap freight rates. Perhaps the only rivers in the world on which wheat rafts are a conspicuous feature are the Saskatchewan and the Danube.

Ten years ago there were no wheat rafts on this river. There were few farmers in the big, dry province of Alberta to raise grain. No railroad crossed it except the Canadian Pacific. The hamlets were few and far between, but cattle ranches were beginning to spread over the prairies. Farmers who took butter, poultry and eggs to Edmonton on the north fork of the Saskatchewan were often compelled to take them home again for lack of buyers. The pioneers wondered if prosperous days would ever come.

A railroad to-day connects Calgary on the Canadian Pacific with Edmonton far north. All along the little streams that go to swell the Saskatchewan, ground has been broken and grain sown. When water is needed it is carried from the streams to the fields in irrigation ditches. The railroad to Edmonton is lined with farms, and cattle ranches stretch away particularly in the south of the province.

The croakers used to say Alberta could never amount to anything, for it was too far from markets. But markets have sprung up at the very doors of the province. The great gold and silver region of British Columbia, just across the mountains, has attracted many thousands of miners, new railroads have brought them within easy reach of Alberta, and they take their cattle and grain from those prairies, which are their nearest sources of supply.

In the Edmonton district last year about 2,500,000 bushels of wheat, oats and barley were raised. Alberta sent 50,000 head of beef cattle into the mining districts of British Columbia and even to the Yukon, besides shipping a large quantity east. Butter and cheese factories are multiplying, the hamlets are becoming thriving centres of trade and markets are found for all agricultural products. With its growing prosperity Alberta is still on the threshold of its development.

The wilderness of ten years ago in this remote corner of Canada is to-day the scene of thriving industry and is dotted with thousands of homes. The full flower of civilization is blooming in the waste places of yesterday. It is the history of our own prairie lands repeating itself on the other side of the border.

Oh, Women, Change Your Signatures!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The writer would be very much relieved if he could be enlighted or informed as to the reason of some of the puzzling peculiarities now existing and generally in vogue among a goodly portion of the feminine sex in their correspondence with a business house. A lady writes and sends a communication signing her name, for instance, "C. R. Goodnuff." Now, this naturally leaves the correspondent of a business house in a quandary as to the direct identity of the writer, and as how best to direct his reply, not knowing whether it is Miss or Mrs. If it is vexatious for the recipient of such a letter, not desirous of offending a patron by wrongly addressing a letter to a "Miss" when it should have been addressed to a "Mrs," or vice versa, which there appears no means of evading such a confusing problem. With all due respect, it is hoped this will reach the eye of any such lady disposed to affixing her signature as above indicated, and taking a friendly hint by placing a proper prefix to her name, it is trying enough to decipher some of the utterly illegible writings, to say nothing of the endeavors to ascertain a writer's identity, through lack of a little wisdom.

NEW YORK, Feb. 27. STENOGRAPHER.

Mrs., or Miss, Goodnuff doesn't do as she ought to do, and her kind of fault spreads trouble. If she and her sisters knew how much trouble, they would reform. The proper way for her to sign a communication to a party unacquainted with her would have been "Ursula Rebecca Goodnuff." This would have denoted her sex. Then at the lower left-hand corner, in brackets, should have been, if she is married, "Mrs. John Henry Goodnuff."

THE PROPOSED STATE ELECTRICAL LABORATORY.

Letter From the President of Union College.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: An editorial article entitled "A Good Bill to Kill," which appeared in your issue of Thursday, Feb. 21, prompts me to send you a word of explanation which may make the bill seem less "preposterous."

Your clear statement of the provisions of the bill leaves nothing to be desired in that particular. It proposes to build and equip a State electrical laboratory at Union College and to provide for its maintenance and for the work of experimentation and instruction. The college is to deed to the State the land needed for the laboratory and to offer to students resident in the State one hundred free scholarships in electrical engineering. The passage of such a bill would be justified by certain considerations which I wish to call to your attention.

Electrical science, still new and but partially developed, is already of commanding importance to the State, since it enters more largely than any other science into industrial, commercial and domestic life, and it is certain to become still more closely identified with public interests by its application to new uses. Every thought of the future puts an emphasis upon this science that is given to no other. We have but to realize that all the water power of the State is being rapidly utilized for the development of electrical energy to see at once how vital is the relation between electrical science and public interests. This alone is enough to justify the State in fostering directly a study of this science on the same principle that has led to the establishment by State endowment at Cornell University of a State school of forestry, a State veterinary college and a State biological laboratory.

A second consideration is the increased legislation that will be demanded as electrical science progresses. Property must be protected and life safeguarded. For the enactment of right and necessary laws the State should have an independent and authoritative source of information free from the various commercial interests.

A third and most important consideration is the need of an official standardizing laboratory for electrical measuring instruments. No such laboratory exists to-day and the demand for it increases every year.

If it is admitted, for the above reasons, that the State should be justified in establishing an electrical laboratory, the question of location is still open. Why should Union College be chosen? Because the works of the General Electric Company, the largest in existence, make Schenectady the most natural place in the State, if not in the country, for an experimental station and for investigation and instruction in electrical science. Union College has the oldest engineering school connected with any college in America. It has already a fully organized department of electrical engineering. It is by its charter absolutely unsectarian and, therefore free from the Constitutional provision against State aid to sectarian institutions.

ANDREW V. V. RAYMOND.

UNION COLLEGE, March 1.

The Sentiment of a Boston Expansionist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Apropos of Prof. Arthur M. Wheeler's fear that the undue