The Sun.

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The Contradictory Exhibits.

The chairman of the House Committee on Appropriations, Mr. JOSEPH G. CANNON of Illinois, and the leading Democratic member of that committee, Mr. LEONIDAS F. LIVINGSTON of Georgia, have each submitted a partisan exhibit of the performance of the Fifty-sixth Congress in the matter of appropriations.

The Republican and the Democrat survey the figures from widely different points of view, and, we are bound to say, from points of view about equally distant from that of absolute candor.

The Republican mathematician's comparison measures the total of $1,440,062,545 appropriated at both sessions of the Fifty-sixth Congress with the total for the two sessions of the Fifty-fifth; and he shows a reduction of $128,150,091.

The Democrat makes his comparison with the figures of the Fifty-fourth Congress, in order to go back of the period of extraordinary expenditure during the Spanish war; and on this basis he figures an increase of $395,482,272.

Neither comparison is fair, and, consequently, neither is very significant.

Mr. CANNON himself, two years ago, figured the war appropriations of the Fifty-fifth Congress at nearly $500,000,000. A legitimate comparison now would involve a statement of the similar item for the Fifty-sixth and a separation of the same from the other expenses. Then the country could see whether the Fifty-sixth Congress has been more or less extravagant than its predecessor in the appropriations for the ordinary purposes of government. This statement and separation Mr. CANNON avoids making.

Mr. LIVINGSTON'S method assumes that because the Spanish war is over the proper comparison is with the Fifty-fourth Congress, a Congress of a time of peace. He avoids explaining that the necessary results of that war still greatly affect the budget; and to that extent his showing is valueless except for campaign purposes.

It is only by a study and comparison of details unaffected by military necessities and by the consequences of war that an honest exhibit can be made. Even with the River and Harbor bill unexpectedly killed, such a comparison would not redound to the credit of the Fifty-sixth Congress, and no juggling with words and numerals can alter that plain fact.

Congress and the Two Services.

The late session of Congress was of more importance to the army and the navy than a session usually is. The regular appropriation bills for the two services were before the two houses, and were adopted after considerable discussion. But besides these annual bills there was much other legislation before Congress that should make this last session of the Fifty-sixth Congress rather notable in the history of the nation's military progress.

Concerning the first important bill, that to reorganize the army, we have spoken already. In brief, this bill provides for five new regiments of cavalry and five of infantry; reorganizes the artillery as a corps, with a slight increase each year for five years; triples the size of the engineer battalion; adds to the number of men in the army by about 35,000, and provides for twenty-three general officers of the line instead of nine. Next in importance to the provision for the reorganization of the artillery, and perhaps even surpassing it in value to the service, is that providing for the detail of line officers to the staff, in lieu of the appointment of permanent staff officers. This provision includes practically the system of "seconding" certain officers detached from their regiments or corps. The system is not applied widely, but under the law of Feb. 2, 1901, officers detailed to the staff for four years at the end of their detail are replaced in their line positions, which are not left vacant as hitherto to the injury of the regiment or corps. They are thus "seconded" in their regiments while serving on the staff.

To the Military Academy bill the provision was attached requiring the expulsion of any cadet found guilty of hazing, such cadet not to be eligible for appointment in either service until two years after his class has been graduated. This provision was the result of the inquiry by Congress into the subject of hazing at the Academy, caused by the stories of the death of Mr. Booz, formerly a cadet.

The Fortifications bill was further army legislation, important for what it contained as well as for what it omitted. A provision consistent with the increased importance given to the artillery by the Army bill was the addition of an artillery officer to the Board of Ordnance and Fortifications, and an appropriation to be expended by that board in conducting tests of ordnance equipment. This latter provision will be approved by the army generally.

The Naval Appropriation bill is important as being the first of its kind in several years to make no provision for increasing the navy. Two battleships and two cruisers were planned in the bill as drawn originally, but as it passed, this provision was stricken out, and the Secretary of the Navy was directed merely to prepare plans for two battleships and two armored cruisers, and to submit them to Congress next December, together with his decision on the questions of sheathing, extent and character of armor, form of turrets, size of guns, use of torpedo tubes on large vessels, and the further development of electricity on such ships. Provision for adding three Holland submarine torpedo boats was stricken out. This action in regard to the proposed vessels appears more revolutionary than it actually is; for, as was said during the debates on the bill, there are no shipyards that can undertake the construction of new warships until those now building are launched. As to the Holland boats, six are now being built, and it was the sense of Congress that further vessels of this class were not needed until those now in process of construction should have proved their value. The provision for commissioning cadets as Ensigns after four instead of six years was dropped, so that the navy will not obtain the increase of officers for which it has asked so long.

The usual bill for the support of the Naval Academy at Annapolis was passed, providing for the continuance of work on the new buildings at the Academy.

The bill "to increase the efficiency of the Revenue Cutter service" failed of passage, though provisions for the support of the service were in the Sundry Civil bill. The bill gave rank to the officers of the Revenue service "with, but after" certain grades in the navy; for instance, a Captain of the Revenue service was to rank with but after a Lieutenant-Commander in the navy, and so down the list, a Third Lieutenant of the Revenue Cutter service ranking in the same way with an Ensign in the navy. As historically the Revenue service is older than the navy, and was attached when organized to the Treasury Department because there was no Navy Department, there was reason for the passage of the bill, apart from any argument arising from the character of the two services. A reason advanced against the bill, that it was but the first step toward a system of civil pensions, we do not think well founded; and we regret the failure of the bill.

In various bills not in name connected with the services, appropriations were made that will interest both army and navy. An extra month's pay was given to officers and men of the Volunteer service discharged since Aug. 12, 1898; and provision made for bestowing medals on sailors who distinguished themselves in the Caribbean Sea, and medals and gratuities on enlisted men of the navy and marine corps for bravery in the Philippines and in China.

It appears, therefore, that the late session was important in many ways to the two services.

A Bishop to Students.

Bishop POTTER, addressing the students of Columbia University last Wednesday, told of a man, "residing near President Low's home," who offered policemen a bribe of $100 if they would catch burglars who had robbed his house, and was answered, "O, hell! Those men offered us $300," the men being agents of the "Burglars' Insurance Company."

Of course, the man had no right to offer a bribe. Policemen are prohibited specifically "under any pretence whatever," from taking any money unless they report the offer to the Police Board and receive special permission to receive it. But they are to get it only after having rendered "meritorious and extraordinary services in the discharge of duty."

Who is this man that offered the bribe and why did he not report the matter to the Police Board, as it was incumbent on him as a citizen to do? Bishop POTTER complained much of the neglect of their public duty by citizens, but this was a peculiarly flagrant example of it. If citizens proceed in that way they assist in corrupting the police and shut themselves off from finding fault with them.

"The republican form of government is to-day on trial," said Bishop POTTER; but the same may be said of the monarchical and of the paternal form of government, of which he seemed to take a favorable view. The trial of the republican form has been going on in this country for more than a century, with results so extraordinarily successful that, in truth, it cannot longer be called an experiment.

"It is the tragedy of modern life that this sentiment ["public sentiment"] has become atrophied." Where has this tragedy taken place? It certainly is not in this Republic where, as our elections prove, public sentiment is always active and earnest. It is not in this city where municipal elections stir the hot interest of the whole community. Possibly, however, public sentiment does not agree with the private sentiment of the Bishop. It is possible, too, that a Bishop is not the fittest man to lead public sentiment, and that he provokes resentment rather than approval when he passes by the purely religious remedy which it is his office to administer and takes up the political remedy for the evils of society.

Bishop POTTER exhorted the Columbia students to "vigilance" and to "personal service;" but there is something else needed, and it is practical wisdom, common sense.

Some Beggars.

In the Centre street police court last week a delicate distinction of interest to philologers and sociologists was made by the Hon. DANIEL J. DALY. He had been arrested at the Bridge entrance for begging. He was described by the arresting policeman as "a well-known panhandler." Mr. DALY denied the charge passionately. "I'm not a panhandler," he cried, "I'm a hobo. I'll admit that, and I want it understood that a hobo never panhandles anybody." Evidently the hobo looks down upon the panhandler and regards him as practising an inferior branch of the profession. The outside world is somewhat puzzled by these refinements. The panhandler and the hobo have a common aversion to labor and a common fondness for eleemosynary beer. Both regard the public as their keeper and bound to provide them with their simple luxuries. Both accost without shame and usually without courtesy the plebeian citizen who is indiscreet enough to work. Both, we suppose, live on the borderland between shiftlessness and misdemeanor. Both have, as a rule, the same queer shuffling, shambling walk. Both, in times of adversity, do not scorn to pick up "snipes" and cut them up and smoke them in pipes. Both belong to Mr. JOSIAH FLYNT'S class of "grafters."

How shall the wayfaring man who is solicited for "two cents for a night'slodging" know whether the solicitor is a hobo or a panhandler? It may be that the hobo is more of a traveller and the panhandler more of a Cockney, but by what outward signs or peculiarities of speech is the one to be known from the other? It is unfortunate that Mr. DALY did not throw more light upon the dark problem before he took his spring vacation on the Island. Is there war everywhere between the hoboes and the panhandlers, or is Mr. DALY simply a hobo of an unusually haughty and aristocratic spirit? It seems strange that similar habits, a continual thirst and continual freedom from labor have not developed substantially the same variety of knights of ease. And what does the panhandler think of the hobo? Does he hate him as a rival or regard him as a snob or turn up his nose at him as an inferior?

Where in the unworking world does the "gazaboo" stand? Does he rank above or below the hobo and the panhandler? Of him all too little is heard. A character with a name so noble and euphonious should appear more frequently. A "gazaboo" should not ask for largess in vain. His great name should conquer the scruples of the frugal and of the disbelievers in unorganized charity.

And what name of dignity befits the well-dressed and urbane gentlemen of the street who do you the honor to ask for a slight tribute? They are an interesting class and should have a special title. There is our old young friend, for example, with the chipper clothes and the big white soft hat and the smooth, ingenuous countenance. Him you always see after a big college football or baseball game in this town. Probably he has many names, but when we have had the happiness to meet him, he has bowed with suavity and condescension, lifting his hat slightly, and uttered with round rapidity this sentence:

"I am R. P. SALTONSTALL of the University of Pennsylvania; come on to see the football game; lost all my money betting; if you would be good enough to lend me money enough to get home I will take your address and repay you at once."

Like most beggars, this young gentleman has a poor memory. When he approaches you the second or third time, it may be well to remind him that the SALTONSTALLS are Harvard men. There are a number of beggars personating undergraduates, but usually their speech bewrayeth them.

The gentlemen who want the address of the St. George's Society or St. David's Society and imagine that they are paying you a great compliment by telling you that "you're like an Old Country man yourself, sir," used to be very common, but we have not happened to see them lately. They were prosperous but they rather overdid the business. On the same night we have met them as Welshmen at Chambers street and as Englishmen at Forty-second; and probably they were Scotchmen by the time they reached Harlem. Fine, rosy, healthy fellows they were, yet they always insisted plaintively that they were hungry. After midnight they were far too fragrant with alcohol. Now this was a great mistake and a breach of the etiquette of high-class beggars, who never drink during business hours. How many an appeal founded upon this fact have we heard. "Drink? I never touch it, sir. Is there any taint of it on my breath, sir? Ah, if I can only get bread for my little ones, those may have the drink that want it." The temporary teetotal beggar is a subtle and dangerous person.

Slender and bright-eyed beggars, much better dressed than most of the persons who help support them, are now and long have been rather common. They thrive at least as well as the fakirs in rags. Politeness pays. The ordinary stupid beggar with his "say, boss," or "say, young feller," prejudices you against him at the start. If you refuse his request, he is likely to curse you and to follow you. The urbane beggar thanks you just as civilly if you are sharp with him as if you tip him. He is a pleasant humbug and people, knowing him to be a humbug, toss him a coin. It is delightful to hear him explain that he doesn't dare to pawn any of his clothes because he is looking for work and must have a respectable appearance. The finest artist that we have met in this line says: "It would break my wife's heart if she knew I had come to this, but what can I do?" He is a great beggar and a great man.

The finest "blind" beggar in New York used to sell pencils and receive fees in Wall street and along Trinity Churchyard fence. It was a treat to hear him tap the sidewalk with his cane. Uptown in his hours of ease he had a fine pair of eyes and a jovial and convivial temper. Hailed and jeered on one occasion in a Sixth avenue restaurant by some brokers who saw him striding blithely in without his green shades and his staff, he insisted upon "opening wine" for the crowd. A high-rolling beggar is no unusual thing, we are credibly informed.

A very irascible beggar with crutches used to stump about Broadway along the City Hall Park. He also had a station in East Fourteenth street, and he frequently "worked" the elevated trains. One midnight he dropped one of his crutches, whereupon with the most horrible imprecations he threw the other into the street and "danced the wardance of the playful yet truculent Modoc." He was remarkably agile without his crutches and was believed by the profession to have great wealth. We have not seen him lately. Probably he has retired from business.

After a time you get to know the beggars and harden your heart against them. But a stroke of genius will always win. A husky chap in a blue jumper uttered this petition in Mail street: "Say, boys, I'm just out of the 'Pen,' and I ain't had a drink for six months." Money rained on that man. He knew the strength of the cynical element in the human temperament. "This fellow's honest," people thought, and put their hands into their change pockets. But the rascal wasn't honest. He was a Madison avenue beggar on a new "lay."

Oklahoma's Claim to Statehood.

The population of Oklahoma, which was organized as a Territory in May, 1890, is 398,245 by the last census. This is a larger population than that of Delaware, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, North Dakota, Utah, Vermont or Wyoming. Oklahoma is made up of territory cut off from the Indian Territory. It had in 1890 a population of 61,834. The gain since then has been 240,000, a phenomenal increase, even for an American Territory, of nearly 400 per cent. Oklahoma is now the most populous of the American Territories, and has twice the population of New Mexico, organized in 1850; three times the population of Arizona, organized in 1863, and 100,000 more inhabitants than the District of Columbia.

The agitation for the admission of Oklahoma as a State was stimulated by the January convention at Guthrie. It is favored by the circumstance that in politics Oklahoma is Republican, by nearly 5,000, that it is progressive in its material development, and that it has a very large citizen voting population, amounting to nearly 75,000 in November last. At that same election Nevada had 10,000 votes, South Carolina 50,000, North Dakota 58,000, Mississippi 59,000, Florida 38,000, Delaware 41,000, Rhode Island 56,000, Wyoming 25,000, Vermont 56,000, Montana 63,000 and Louisiana 69,000. It is further urged in favor of the admission of Oklahoma as a State by the next Congress that unlike New Mexico it has no considerable alien or Indian population made up of those who speak Spanish and who have little in common with the people of the United States, their usages and form of government. The presence of these "greasers" in large numbers has been used as an argument against the admission of New Mexico.

Oklahoma is a very fertile section of country and its products are such as to make it certain that there will be a large immigration in the future. Last year the Territory had a wheat product of 16,000,000 bushels, raised 10,000,000 bushels of corn, and produced also cotton, flax, sorghum and fruits. Unlike some of the new States in the Northwest, Idaho conspicuously, the topographical features of Oklahoma are favorable to railroad building and to the extension of tributary lines of communication. In 1880 there were only 289 miles of railroads in the Indian Territory and Oklahoma together; now there are 1,300 miles of rail in the Indian Territory and 754 in Oklahoma, and railroad building is going on actively in both. For these various reasons the phenomenal increase in population in Oklahoma during the past ten years is looked upon as only a fair indication of its future increase. It is expected to exceed 500,000 before 1905.

The obstacles to the admission of Oklahoma as a State are its comparatively recent organization as a Territory, and the fact that similar recognition would, in all probability, be sought by the Indian Territory, which, by the last census, had a total population of 391,000, nearly as large as that of Oklahoma. But the conditions of residence, development and population in the Indian Territory are very different from those in Oklahoma. The last Territory admitted as a State into the Union was Utah.

Man and Boat.

The discussion of the question whether the New York Yacht Club will permit Mr. THOMAS W. LAWSON of Boston to compete for the honor of defending the America's Cup with his yacht Independence must run its course. It progressed yesterday through the publication of the following assertion by Mr. LAWSON, that if the Independence be required to sail under the flag of a member of the club holding the custody of the Cup, she will never cross the starting line; and that he will have granted to him the right to represent the club himself if his boat should win the trial races, or she shall not appear for competition:

"In regard to the statements printed that under certain conditions I would resort to the subterfuge of allowing some one else, who had no ownership in my boat, to be proclaimed her owner for the sake of being allowed to race, I can only say I regret there is any one connected with yachting so unmanly as to think this possible. No one has ever suggested such a thing to me. Rather than resort to the methods suggested to obtain a race, I would, without regret, sink the Independence on her launching day."

Many boats have sailed under the flag of this or that yachtsman without the latter being "proclaimed her owner." We have seen no proposition that a proclamation of ownership of the Independence would be required of Mr. LAWSON in reference to any member of the New York club in whose hands he might incline to place her for racing purposes.

But this statement, as coming from Mr. LAWSON, was printed in a Boston despatch to THE SUN of Dec. 9, 1900:

"As so much has been said in the public prints, to my mind injudiciously, about the eligibility of our boat to compete, her owner not being a member of the New York Yacht Club, I will say that this is a matter of minor importance. I have taken the responsibility of building the boat, and if, by any technicality it is found that she cannot sail the race because of her then owner's ineligibility, our yachtsmen may rest assured I will meet conditions as they exist, even though they necessitate my giving the boat to any member of any eligible club that the committee decides is a good enough fellow to have her, and personally withdraw from further participation."

Therein was described the attitude of the yachtsman whose first aim was not the employment of sport for the promotion of his personal glory, but the devotion of himself to the promotion of sport. To stick to it will be an easy and a graceful act.

In a Chicago damage suit a motion for a new trial was made on the ground that the Judge was asleep during a part of the trial. The trial Judge denied the motion, and made affidavit that he was asleep some four or five minutes during the trial and did not hear the testimony during that time, but that counsel made no objection and let him sleep in peace. This affidavit was made part of the certificate of evidence sent to the Appellate Court, which now sustains the Judge, holding that it was natural for a Judge to be exhausted by a trial lasting eight or nine days and that the counsel should have stopped the examination of the witnesses while the trial Judge was snoozing. This Judge was actually asleep, but there are plenty of Judges who are able to close their eyes at some stupid minute of a trial or of an argument and be apparently asleep and yet wide awake if anything calling for their vigilance arises. The habit is sometimes annoying to windy advocates, but it must be refreshing to a tired Judge, and the keenness with which he leaps back into the case when he seems least interested in it is sometimes especially disconcerting to the lawyer with the weak case, who would be much relieved if he could be sure that the bench was really taking a nap.

The Silver Republican party of Idaho has been dissolved formally. The members will call themselves Democrats hereafter. The last act of this Idaho party retiring from business was the preparation of an address in which there were shrieks and groans at the Republican financial policy. Generally the Silver Republicans and the Populists are falling upon the neck of the Democracy. Yet the Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL sticks his poll under the blankets at Wolfert's Roost and tries to persuade himself that he can't see silver anywhere among the Democrats.

In the Missouri Senate Mr. MARTIN of Saline makes a speech, in which he calls the representatives of insurance companies on the floor of the Senate "buzzards." Then Mr. FARRIS of Crawford rises to remark that of all the demagogues that he has seen in sixteen years in the Legislature, "the Senator from Saline is the prince." "That is an insult and I resent it," cries MARTIN. "You may take it as you desire and I mean what I said," shouts FARRIS. The two Senators start for the centre of the hall. Fluttering among the ladies in the gallery, many of whom leave. Great excitement on the floor. FARRIS reaches the press table, jerks a chair from a correspondent, swings it in the air and yells: "Now let him come on. I am one of them kind. I'll fix his clock." Then the Sergeant-at-Arms seizes him and the fight is "off." The Crested Jay Hawk of the Mountain and the Bald-Headed Snipe of the Valley subside.

The admirers of Col. BRYAN are forced to see with sorrow his growing subjection to MAMMON. Asked to take the stump for the Hon. CARTER HARRISON of Chicago, the Colonel refused. "His business interests and editorial duties were so arduous he could not possibly assist." Thus does he put money above the man. Thus does he admit his slavery to business, his base commercialism. Let the Liberty Bell be tolled thirteen times. The Tribune of the People is in his parlor, counting out the money. For all he cares, ARAB may get the vineyard and the young man ABSALOM go over the hill to the poorhouse.

The Hon. POTATO PINGREE has met the Right Hon. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN and is full of rapture. "I always knew he was a 'brainy' man," says POTATO, who is remarkably "brainy" himself, "but I confess he surprised me." No doubt; but think of the wonder and perplexity that must have arisen in Mr. CHAMBERLAIN'S bosom. The Meeting of POTATO PINGREE and JOE CHAMBERLAIN—we should like to have that group in brass.

LOST EXPLORERS.

The Duke of the Abruzzi Sends a Search Party for Three Missing Men.

On Tuesday last the search expedition, equipped by the Duke of the Abruzzi, sailed from Sandefiord, Norway, to search for three men who accompanied him on his Franz Josef Land expedition and were lost on the ice of the polar sea. The Duke's exploring vessel, the Stella Polare, was so badly damaged by her encounters with polar ice that it was not thought best to send her on this trip. He therefore chartered the whaling vessel Capella commanded by Capt. Stoekken, father of the machinist, Alfred Stoekken, one of the missing men.

The three lost men are Lieut. Querini, the guide Felice Ollier and young Stoekken. They were in the party which started from the exploring ship on March 11 last over the ice of the polar sea to seek for new lands and to make the furthest northing possible. The weather was very bad. The cold was bitter and the mercury sometimes fell to 58 degrees below zero. The travelling was difficult, for the ice was very rough wherever it was not covered with heavy snow. In ten days Capt. Cagni and his men had made only forty-three and a half miles to the north of the ship. It was then evident that the party must be reduced in size if a long journey was made, for the provisions would not suffice for long absence with so many mouths to fill. So Querini, Ollier and Stoekken were instructed to return to the ship. Ten days later Capt. Cagni decided to reduce his party still further and Dr. Cavalli, the guide Savoye and the midshipman Cardenti were sent back to the Stella Polare. They reached it in twenty days and were surprised to learn that nothing had been heard at headquarters of the missing men.

Meanwhile Capt. Cagni, with two Alpine guides and one seaman, pushed his way to the north. He had food for two months which sixty dogs dragged on six sledges. When the supplies for man and beast began to give out the dogs died or had to be killed. The party struggled on, however, and at last reached Nansen's furthest north, 86 degrees 14 minutes. Then they went on till April 26, when they touched 86 degrees 33 minutes at about 56 degrees east longitude. The lives of the party would be imperilled if they went further, and so they determined to turn back. They reached camp on June 23 with two sledges and seven dogs.

Searching parties had been sent out from the ship for the lost men, but no trace was found. Two depots of supplies were left for them at places which it was thought they might reach if they were alive. After the return of the expedition to Italy there was an official inquiry as to the disappearance of the men. All the members of the expedition except the Duke of the Abruzzi thought they could not possibly have survived. Dr. Cavalli testified that when the men turned back the ice was weak in many places and covered with new snow. They could not lose their course, he said, for they knew perfectly the route to steer back to the ship. He believed they had fallen through the ice and were drowned.

The Duke of the Abruzzi said, however, he thought it possible that the men had reached one of the supply stations or at least had found a refuge on some island where they might be able to live, as Nansen did in the same region, upon the game they killed. It was a forlorn hope, but he proposed to act upon the chance that they were alive and send a ship to the rescue.

The outcome of this noble purpose is the sailing of the rescue ship Capella. It is scarcely possible that the men will be found alive, but their friends will at least have the satisfaction of knowing that no effort has been spared to bring them home if they have survived the hardships of the Arctic waste that swallowed them up.

MRS. BENEDICT NOT IN NEED.

A Brother of the Late William N. Benedict Corrects a Misunderstanding.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In your paper of March 9 you published an article giving the names of some parties who have sent money to THE SUN for the purpose of helping Mrs. William N. Benedict. Will you kindly return all money which has been or may be received by your paper.

The death of Mr. Benedict has been greatly misrepresented by some of the New York papers. The facts of the case are these: About twelve years ago Mr. Benedict located in New York and for a period of two years or more he was with a prominent law firm on Nassau street. He afterward opened up an office for himself. He always made plenty of money and lived well. His wife is well provided for and needs no outside assistance whatever. Mr. Benedict's death was the result of a long continued illness which finally affected his brain and not of any business reverses as stated.

When you return this money to the people who sent it out of the largeness of their hearts, will you please tender to them our heartfelt thanks. Mr. Benedict was admitted to the bar in Syracuse, N. Y., about twenty years ago. He was 40 years of age and a son of the late D. C. Benedict, who was a prominent merchant in Troy, N. Y., many years ago. He is survived by a wife, who lives here in New York, and by a stepmother, Mrs. Emily C. Benedict, and three brothers, Alvah D., Fred H. and Bernard C. Benedict of Syracuse, N. Y. He also leaves another brother, T. Lee Benedict of Troy, N. Y. Sincerely yours, FRED H. BENEDICT.

NEW YORK, March 10.

Mrs. Chauncey, 100 Years Old: Always Smoked.

SENECA FALLS, N. Y., March 10.—Mrs. Joseph Chauncey, a French-Canadian inmate of the Seneca county almshouse, celebrated her 100th birthday to-day. She has been a resident of the county nearly all her life. She is in excellent health and in possession of her faculties. She has been an inveterate smoker since her early girlhood.

The Vedanta Philosophy Commended.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I can sympathize with the Hon. Mayor Hewitt and "Baffled," for I, myself, was baffled by "the inequality of nature" until I began the study of the Vedanta philosophy. For years I fought with God because of the inequalities in human lives. Some people fear to question, fearing to blaspheme, but I said, God you are an unjust God, to give everything to some, and nothing to others, when all are your children.

Now all of my doubts have disappeared, for Vedanta has taught me the why, whence and whither of life. As said one of its able exponents, when asked "What is the practical use of the Vedanta philosophy?" "The practical use of this philosophy consists in the knowledge of our true nature. It teaches us what we are, why we have come into this world, the purpose of life and how to fulfil that purpose, and how we can live as masters and not as slaves. Now we are living as slaves of our desires, slaves of our senses, attached to the transitory objects of this world. We are denying the real being of our soul and spirit which are our true nature."

Should Mr. Hewitt and "Baffled" investigate the Vedanta philosophy, they, too, would better understand the "Inequality of Nature." VEDANTIST.

NEW YORK, March 7.

Gentility and Tobacco.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: If every smoker was a gentleman there would be no objection to tobacco. There is no habit that will so thoroughly bring out the innate selfishness of a man as smoking.

We saw that in the attempt of the Brooklyn elevated to give a car to smokers. Because the smoking car wasn't just where the smoker thought it ought to be, he would attempt to smoke in both ends of the train regardless of the rights of non-smokers, who had a right to one car that wasn't drafty. They would smoke in little waiting rooms on cold mornings so that no woman could enter for warmth without running the risk of being made ill or all day.

Although I am a moderate smoker, I insist that no man has the right to use tobacco where it will annoy women and non users of the weed. There is no worse stench in the world than the odor of stale tobacco. The stench in our ferry waiting rooms is horrible. If I take my wife for an outing on the summer on an excursion steamer, our air is liable to be polluted by some well-dressed loafer filling our common atmosphere with tobacco smoke.

If smokers would only understand that tobacco gives no man superior rights to befoul any one's atmosphere, or irritate the throats or heads of others!

NEW YORK, March 9. E. S.

THE CITY HALL TERMINAL.

A More Cheerful View of American Human Nature in a Jam.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: A half of a century has passed since *Punch* advised the placing a director on the engine pilot as a remedy for railroad accidents. The experience of Mr. Alexander E. Orr, President of the Rapid Transit Commission, recalls *Punch's* suggestion. Mr. Orr's experience is not unique, except perhaps to Mr. Orr. There are a couple of hundred thousand of Mr. Orr's peers, who have a taste of that gentleman's medicine twice a day every working day of the year, whose voices, if sometimes heard, are seldom heeded. That serious accidents have not happened long ere this is due to the adaptability of our people to conditions, and their universal and infectious good nature.

Homeward bound to Brooklyn at 6 o'clock in the evening, the writer has ample opportunity to witness and experience the Bridge discomfort at its worst. While not unduly aggressive I must confess to the common impulse of holding one's own in the jam and struggle for seats, but it is a great pleasure to be able to testify to the quiet, undemonstrative chivalry that is the common possession of our citizens. While beauty may receive scant courtesy in the matter of seats, the aged, sickly or women with babies need never stand. Even in the fiercest jam, it is not unusual to see a woman or a bevy of working girls walk serenely and safely through the car doors supremely unconscious of the "interference" of the manly fellows who, making a pocket of themselves have made it possible.

While submission to the inevitable with all cheerfulness is one of our civic characteristics, it will send a joyous thrill through the hearts of many thousands of suburbanites to hear that "One in Authority" has had to submit his sacred person to the general hustling.

There may now be a prospect of something doing. BAY RIDGE.

A Moving Sidewalk Suggested.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Referring to the criticisms made by Mr. Orr of the terminal facilities at the Brooklyn Bridge, there is only remedy that will meet existing needs and remove the disgraceful conditions at the terminals, complained of by Mr. Orr.

This remedy consists of placing on the Bridge a continuous line of moving platforms, an American invention, which was first tested in practice at the World's Columbian Exposition, and has recently been operated with great success at the Berlin and Paris Expositions.

In the February number of the *Strand Magazine*, eminent English engineers give their views as to what will be accomplished in the present century. Among them Sir Wolfe Barry, the well-known engineer of the Tower Bridge, regards the moving platforms as one of the most timely inventions, and predicts that they will be universally adopted at places where there is a congestion of passenger traffic, such as exists to-day at the ends of the Brooklyn Bridge.

In August, 1894, and long before the present terminal plans were adopted, the writer, together with Mr. Thomas C. Clarke, past President of the American Society of Civil Engineers, and Mr. John Bogert, C. E., prepared detailed plans, reports and estimates of a plant of moving sidewalk platforms for the Brooklyn Bridge. This plan was laid before Mr. Martin, superintendent of the Bridge. It provided for the transportation of not less than 45,000 seated passengers per hour, and had the indorsement of such eminent American engineers as George S. Morison, Lyman E. Cooley, E. L. Corthell, C. L. Strobel, David L. Barnes, William Forsyth, E. L. Sloan and others.

Notwithstanding this array of professional support, Mr. Martin declined the plan and carried on his own, which has resulted in so much inconvenience to the public.

NEW YORK, March 9. MAX E. SCHMIDT, Civil Engineer.

Noiseless Milk.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The following item is copied from the current issue of a Western medical journal. Its publication in your columns may be the means of stating one of the greatest nuisances of Greater New York:

"A dairyman went to the Hoosier capital for treatment, and while there, lying in bed, was greatly annoyed by being awakened each morning by the man delivering milk. As soon as he got well he had the milkmen shod with rubber heeled and rubber-soled shoes, and rubber tires put on all his wagons. He presented each customer with a rubber mat upon which to set the milk can by the door, had his horses shod with rubber shoes, and then began to exploit his noiseless milk. His business has quadrupled."

NEW YORK, March 9. E. S. C., M. D.

West Virginian "Snakes."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: "F. H. B." gives the nickname of West Virginians as Panhandlers, and it is evident that he has talked or communicated with some person from Wheeling. The people of the metropolis still insist that we are Panhandlers but we of the centre of the State, the part noted far and wide for the most wonderful natural resources of any State in the Union, are not ashamed to be known as "West Virginia snakes or snake hunters." The First West Virginia Regiment at Chattanooga was known altogether as "Snakes" and New Yorkers who ever run across a party of West Virginia boys at Atlantic City are sure to see a banner announcing the fact that the party is composed of "snakes."

FAIRMONT, W. Va., March 8. E. F. MEREDITH.

Passing of the Drum Major.

[NOTE—The Inauguration Committee of Arrangements at Washington in preparing for the procession ordered that drum majors of bands should not make a show of themselves as usual.]

Who is it always leads the band,
The pride and glory of a land
That finds delight in all things grand?
The Drum Major.

Who is it gleams in brilliant light,
A glittering, resplendent sight,
A dazzling meteor in flight?
The Drum Major.

Who is it swings his baton high,
A magic wand that sweeps the sky
And spellbinds every passerby?
The Drum Major.

Who twirls the stick in fine display,
High up, low down, and every way,
And marches on in bright array?
The Drum Major.

Who wears a shako like a crown,
That from its loftiness looks down
On every other thing in town?
The Drum Major.

Who sticks his brass trimmed bosom out
Into the circumambient air about
Two feet, unheeding cheer and shout?
The Drum Major.

Who thinks he holds supreme command?
Who thinks he's everybody and
The whole procession and the band?
The Drum Major.

Who seems to be, to all small boys,
The sum and substance of their joys,
The shining, central star of noise?
The Drum Major.

Who strides along on sturdy limb,
His well trained face unmoved and grim,
And everybody's eyes on him?
The Drum Major.

Who is the biggest man on earth,
The one who does not feel the dearth
Of education, wealth or birth?
The Drum Major.

And now who's had a dreadful check?
Who's got it in the neck
And everyone will be a wreck?
The Drum Major.

Go furl the flag on land and sea,
And play the dead March mournfully,
Because no longer shall we see
The Drum Major.

No longer now is music crowned
As king and emperor of sound,
Since these lemonists have downed
The Drum Major.

The light is quenched, the darkness falls,
The harp that once through Tara's halls
Among the has-beens sadly calls
The Drum Major.

Forever gone from mortal ken,
We shall not know his like again,
This lordliest of living men,
The Drum Major.

W. J. L.

FROM A SEAMAN

Who Maintains That the Majority of Enlisted Men Uphold Rear Admiral Sampson.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The average enlisted man who has served as seaman or petty officer in the navy knows well that a man promoted from their class is not fitted by association, manner or general deportment to command. If the question was to be decided by vote of the rank and file, not one warrant officer out of one hundred would be elected to a commission. The writer hereof knows whereof he speaks. Send a reporter quietly to the guard or other ships where Matelots "most do congregate," get their opinions, and my statements will be substantiated.

Admiral Sampson from the point of view of the majority of enlisted men in the navy was correct in his ideas of what an officer should be. God bless my soul! Do you suppose Jack wants a man over him who is not at least his equal?

Admiral C. R. P. Rogers, many years ago, when this, or a similar question was submitted to him for a report to the Department which would enable the Secretary to act intelligently, said, in substance, that the grade of warrant officers was kept "to enable the Department to reward meritorious petty officers as far as practicable, to furnish an incentive to good men forward, but it never was contemplated that such men should be commissioned." Now Admiral Rogers was no dude, no aristocrat, but he was an American naval officer in all that the title implies.

Who was a better sailorman, a finer man all through, than the late John W. Philip? I had the honor to sail with him, in the Richmond. We had few warranted men, but the Department allowed she was an A1 vessel as far as efficiency, discipline, &c., was concerned. There would be several blue moons in the sky before Lieutenant-Commander or Rear Admiral Philip (may he rest in peace) would recommend the commissioning of gunners, boatswains, &c., and John W. was no aristocrat.

As before remarked, the Admiral was justified in his indorsement. Mark me, there are many worthy, paralaiking warrant officers, and there are also many more fairly intelligent men "before the mast," and those men are all right "in the sphere of life in which God has placed them" and not elsewhere. Oh, yes, the writer is an American and as an American, with the desire to elevate America in all possible ways, objects to being represented by a man no better than himself.

Many very fine officers are now, and have been, appointed from civil life—none better. Annapolis doesn't count every time, but it counts pretty often, and many times turns out a bad article, more often it doesn't. Every man has a right to express his opinions in a respectful, decent manner. The writer avails himself of the right.

PATSY BOLIVER (one of them.)

Foreign Notes of Real Interest.

Glasgow has a smallpox scare, and 240,000 of its 600,000 inhabitants have been vaccinated already.

Spain's kingdom of Asturias, according to the *British Medical Journal*, boasts of 28 centenarians in a population of 600,000.

Lake Copais in Boeotia, famous in antiquity for its eels, has now been completely drained and turned into 45,000 acres of arable land.

Berlin is afflicted by a new toy imported from Paris. It is a pocket whistle that emits a whine, winding up with a shriek of "Mamma, mamma."

King William IV.'s coronation cost the nation about $200,000; the expenses of King Edward VII.'s coronation, it is expected, will be much heavier.

Bengal is suffering from the cocaine habit and efforts are being made to restrict the sale of the drug, which the Hindoos are using as a substitute for opium.

Trinity College, Dublin, is going to make Earl Roberts a doctor of letters, on the strength of his book, "Forty-one Years in India." The college gave "Bobs" the honorary degree of doctor of laws twenty years ago.

Giovanni Andrea Scartazzini, the well-known Dante scholar, died recently at the age of 65 years at Fahrwangen in Switzerland where he had been the village pastor for thirteen years. He was a Swiss Italian, a native of the Grisons.

Another piece of the great plan of the city of Rome in marble, the "Forma Urbis" of the time of Sulpicius Severus has been discovered in the Roman Forum, where it was used to stop a drain. It has engraved on it the plan of the greater part of the Baths of Agrippa together with the Pantheon.

Prof. Max von Pettenkofer, professor of hygiene at Munich, one of the great chemists of the nineteenth century, and the founder of the science of experimental hygiene, killed himself with a revolver recently. He was 83 years of age, and had given way to melancholia