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The Conger Movement in Iowa.

What prevents the Hon. E. H. CONGER from saying squarely that he would be pleased to receive the Republican nomination for Governor of Iowa? Is it nothing but a sense of his duty to the Administration and the Government as United States Minister to China?

His uncertain attitude is not pleasing to many of the Republicans of that State. Mr. CONGER is embarrassing the party there. He denies that he is a candidate, but intimates that he would run if nominated.

Moreover, is the programme which Mr. CONGER now seems to contemplate, namely, a return to his post at Pekin in July, and resignation as Minister in August or September in case he is nominated for Governor, quite fair to the Administration?

The Wall Street Injunction.

One of the great features of Wall Street is the high standing of honor and integrity which has always been maintained by the New York Stock Exchange, and the principle of the inviolability or sacredness of contracts which has always been upheld by brokers. It is, therefore, somewhat surprising to see it now proposed to restrain by order of the Supreme Court, hereafter, any attempt to corner the market, an act which heretofore has always been considered to be a perfectly legitimate, even though it be a disastrous mode of stock warfare.

It appears that a broker on Thursday last had sold, for a client, 200 shares of Northern Pacific, which he found it impossible to deliver. He consulted a lawyer, Mr. H. R. LIMBURGER, who obtained from Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE, in Part II. of the Supreme Court, a temporary injunction, enjoining and restraining the parties to whom the Northern Pacific stock had been sold from enforcing the agreement to deliver the stock, and also enjoining the Stock Exchange from enforcing its rule which required that the agreement to deliver should be fulfilled.

The theory upon which the plaintiff broker asked for the injunction order was that the defendants, including, it is said, J. P. MORGAN & Co. and KUHN, LOEB & Co., had combined to procure a corner in the stock and had acquired possession of all the available stock of the Northern Pacific Railroad, and with knowledge that they possessed all such available stock had, nevertheless, instructed brokers to purchase more stock from every one who would sell, they knowing that the sellers could not deliver the shares of stock. Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE granted the temporary injunction with an order, returnable to-day, to show cause why the injunction should not be made permanent; but, undoubtedly, the order to show cause could have been at once modified, and an argument on the law involved could have been heard on the same day by Mr. Justice FREEDMAN sitting in Part I. of the Supreme Court. In point of fact, however, the injunction order was used merely as a club, and when it was announced on Thursday night that Northern Pacific short sales would be accepted at $150 a share the action was abandoned.

An interview with the attorney who secured the injunction order was printed in one of Saturday's papers, and this lawyer is represented as saying:

"The principle underlying this action is as old as the law of contracts itself. It has been held in the common law that an agreement by which the promisor binds himself to perform something which the promisee knows it is impossible to perform, is no agreement whatever. It is held also that if there is a valid agreement, and that after it is made the promisee makes its performance impossible, the agreement is rendered null and void."

He quotes from a decision of the Court of Appeals, where the Court said:

"If, however, the impossibility arises, even indirectly, from the acts of the promisee, as, for instance, where one of the contracting parties so conducts himself as to subject the other to an action by some third person, if he duly performs the contract, it is a sufficient excuse for non-performance. This is upon the principle that he who prevents a thing from being done may not avail himself of the non-performance, which he has, himself, occasioned, for the law says to him, in effect: 'This is your own act, and, therefore, you are not damnified.'"

The attorney failed to state the general rule which is laid down in the same opinion, which is this:

"Impossibility of performance is, in general, no answer to an action for damages for non-performance of a contract, provided the contingency was such as the promisor should have foreseen and provided against when he made the promise."

If a man makes a contract with his eyes open to do a thing which is possible in itself, the performance is not excused by the occurrence of an inevitable accident or other contingency, although it was not foreseen by the party nor was within his control. There is, it is true, such a defence known to the law as an impossibility of performance, and instances of such a defence are found in cases where the subject matter of the contract has ceased to exist, as where a contract is made to sell and deliver articles of personal property, and the delivery becomes impossible because the property was destroyed by an accident; or where a contract is provided that the defendant was to give to the plaintiff the use of a music hall upon a certain day, and before the day came the hall was destroyed by fire. In this class of cases there is an implied condition that the parties shall be excused in case the performance of the contract becomes impossible from the perishing of the thing, and the continued existence of the property is always understood; and so, where a person guarantees the payment of dividends by a corporation, and the law interferes and dissolves the corporation and makes subsequent performance impossible, the guarantor is excused.

Another case is cited by the same attorney, that of the United States against PECK, where the plaintiff made a contract with the Government to furnish hay to the military station at Tongue River in the Yellowstone Valley, intending to cut it at the Big Meadows, which was the only hay that could have been procured within hundreds of miles. The Government officers interfered, by allowing other parties to cut the hay at Big Meadows, and by this conduct PECK was unable to furnish the hay. And in this case Judge BRADLEY said:

"The conduct of one party to a contract which prevents the other from performing his part is an excuse for non-performance on the part of the party of the second part."

But it is clear that there is no similarity to these exceptions to the general rule in this short sale matter. The certificates of stock had not been burned up or ceased to exist, and every one knows that all the stock of the Northern Pacific Railroad had not been acquired by the great operators, and that there were hundreds of shares remaining in the hands of parties outside of the contending factions.

The general rule was well stated by Mr. Justice SWAYNE in the Supreme Court of the United States when he said:

"The principle deducible from the authorities is that if what is agreed to be done is possible and lawful, it must be done. Difficulty or probability of accomplishing the undertaking will not avail the defendant. It must be shown that the thing cannot by any means be effected. Nothing short of this will excuse non-performance."

And a statement of the classes of cases in which non-performance of the contract is excused, was made by Chief Justice ANDREWS in the Court of Appeals in the following language:

"When performance depends on the continued existence of a given person or thing, and such continued existence was assumed as the basis of the agreement, the death of the person or the destruction of the thing puts an end to the obligation. Executory contracts for personal services, for the sale of specific chattels, or for the use of a building, are held to fall within this principle. These cases are not exceptions to the rule that contracts voluntarily made are to be enforced, but the courts, in accordance with the manifest intention, construe the contract as subject to an implied condition that the person or thing shall be in existence when the time of performance arrives. So, if, after a contract is made, the law interferes and makes subsequent performance impossible, the party is held to be excused."

It would, therefore, seem to be clear that had this action been prosecuted and had the question come before the Supreme Court for decision, the fallacy of the plaintiff's position would have been exposed.

It is manifest that if this sort of excuse for the non-performance of a contract to deliver stock should be upheld, it would be a grievous injury to the business of Wall Street. If every time a broker got caught in a short sale and found it difficult or expensive to secure the stock which he had agreed to deliver, he could thereupon squeal or plead the baby act, and run to court and obtain injunctive relief, there would necessarily arise constant distrust and apprehension on the part of customers who believe, as a rule, in absolute good faith, and in the honest fulfilment of contracts.

The Haste to Get Rich.

Bishop LAWRENCE in his address to the Massachusetts Diocesan Convention of the Episcopal Church, last Wednesday, described "vicious gambling" as "but the symptom of a spirit pervading the community," the spirit of "unreadiness to work steadily for the legitimate reward of labor, unrest at the moderate and fair returns of capital, a making haste to get rich."

His remark was called forth evidently by the rage for stock speculation at this time, but haste to get rich is not peculiar to the present; it has been in men always.

Neither Wall Street booming nor Wall Street in a panic is a novel experience. Practically everybody who is not rich wants to get rich, and the sooner the better. Slow accumulation by steady labor may be forced on men by the dictates of prudence, but jumping to riches would suit them better; if they could take it without the risk of falling in the way they would all be sure to make the leap.

Without intending any disrespect to Bishops and other clergy, we dare venture the assertion that there is not one of them not already provided with an ample competence who would not hasten to improve a sure opportunity to get it. Would they not take returns on their capital even if those were not "moderate" and rejoice at their good fortune? If they could invest their money in an honorable and legitimate way as safely at 20 or 50 per cent. as at 2 or 3 per cent. would they be content with the "moderate" rate? That is only human nature; and it is the impulse which keeps trade in motion, generates enterprise and makes civilization. It is haste to get rich.

The vast majority of the rich men in this country began poor, and even those who started with relative wealth inherited their money almost invariably from fathers who began poor. Does any one of them go back to steady labor, using the term in the sense of manual labor? Do the Irish immigrants who were toiling with their hands in the days of the Know Nothing movement, for instance, ever return to manual labor after having accumulated fortunes which enable them to hire other people to work for them? Perhaps they are no happier than they were in the days when they themselves were the hired; they may not be so happy as then; but the possibility or the necessity of going back to that condition would bring pain to every man who had once escaped from it.

Sermonizing against the haste to get rich and to be emancipated from the servitude of labor is vain; it is a futile assault on the impulse which drives society ahead. Unless it is merely an admonition to prudence, as the more profitable in the long run, it is a waste of words. Slow and sure is a good motto, but not because it is the expression of a superior morality or an exalted sentiment of any kind. It is simply a doctrine of worldly and selfish and politic expediency. Morally it stands on no higher plane than the cold economic doctrine, buy in the cheapest market and sell in the dearest. It has to do with material gain only, and is simply a precept of prudence wholly apart from religious principle.

The truth of it has been sadly enforced on multitudes of men during the past week, but it expresses no sentiment which in its moral essence is loftier than was their imprudent rush after riches in the stock market. Really it conflicts with the teachings of the Gospels of Christianity no less than does haste to get rich, for it is merely saying that the experience of mankind proves that the slow way of accumulating money is safer than the hasty way and the small returns obtainable from the best securities, the world over, are a practical demonstration of its soundness as a motto of expediency in the whole history of mankind.

The appropriate office and opportunity of the pulpit, if it is to preach the Christian precepts, are to admonish men that prudent reserve is not distinguishable from imprudent haste in the effort to lay up earthly treasures except as a merely temporal policy, but that the only effort in which they can engage with profit to their souls is the effort to lay up treasures in heaven; and the greater the haste they make in that spiritual accumulation the wiser they will be. At least that is the old religion.

Publish the Regimental Histories.

We Americans are really rather proud of our army; but we show our pride very little. For active service we uniform our soldiers sensibly, though we might make improvements in their garb; but our dress uniform is excelled in ugliness only by the formless body coverings issued to convicts. Every other army has a becoming undress uniform for its men to wear when off duty or on leave; we send our men out to see their friends in the uniforms in which they may have been drilling or doing carpenter work.

No other country has a better military history than ours, and no other country pays less attention to its military history than ours. It was wholly proper for Senator SUMNER to have the names of Civil War battles taken from the colors of the regiments which had taken part in them. But with the names of the battles of the rebellion went those of all other battles as well, and with the names from the regimental colors—"honors," the English call them very appropriately—went the names of battles from the Army Register; not only those of the battles of the Civil War, but those of the War of 1812, of all the Indian wars, of the Mexican War. Why should these have gone, even if the others had to go? Now the only history of the regiments put forth officially is confined to a few lines, to the effect that such and such a regiment was "organized under the Act of Congress" of such a date.

But all the older regiments have histories antedating the Civil War, and all except the regiments organized just before the Spanish war, now merged in the Artillery Corps, and those just now forming, have histories since that war. Why should not those histories be published in the annual Army Register?

The companies of the Engineer battalion fought at Vera Cruz, Cerro Gordo, Chapultepec, Mexico City, and in Cuba and the Philippines; the First Cavalry had a long record of Indian fights before the Civil War was thought of; the first battle of the Second Infantry was fought in 1791, much more than a century ago, and the Fourth Infantry fought under WILLIAM HENRY HARRISON at Tippecanoe. The Sixth Cavalry, the Ninth and the Fourteenth Infantry have served in China; and almost every regiment in the army has served in Cuba and the Philippines. Only the Seventh has seen no tropical service; and it has been serving in Alaska, fighting not men but nature, and was at New Orleans eighty-six years ago. Why should not the names of these battles and services be printed, as in old times they were, in the Army Register?

We are using earnest efforts to recruit our army. It ought to help recruiting to have the regimental histories known; it certainly would not injure it. We are teaching our children to sing the national hymn, and to rise and uncover to the flag, and to do what children in other countries do without being taught. Ours learn the names of the Kings of England before they learn those of their own Presidents; and they learn nothing of the army. It may not spread knowledge of regimental history very widely to publish it in the Army Register, but it will help; and with an increased army should come an increased knowledge of and interest in that army.

He Forgot Two of the Ten Commandments.

An astonishing letter written by the Rev. GILBERT REID to the *North China Herald*, and published by that journal on March 27, puts an entirely new aspect on the question of looting by the missionaries. The Rev. Mr. REID confesses that he has looted, and describes the circumstances with a candor and minuteness of detail that leave nothing to the imagination. For example:

"A few days after the relief, while the American troops were encamped in mud and on the city wall, I carried a note from the American Minister, and conducted some American officers, especially deputed, to a certain palace as possible future headquarters for the American army. The palace was that of Prince Li, head of the Cabinet which had decided to support the Boxers and fight foreigners. Not to our surprise Prince Li and attendants had fled, but much to our surprise we found French soldiers and a French priest surrounded with vast wealth—iron safes containing nearly 300,000 taels of silver, trunks laden with magnificent furs, silk and satin and rooms adorned with the finest of China art. *For a moment I forgot the tenth commandment.* I had no house, no art, no books, no silver, no clothes except a suit made for me by missionary ladies while I had been lying in the hospital. The only trouble was, the French were there, and were not kind enough to leave. The French General came in and told us that on that morning that section of the city had been voted to the French. Seeing our downcast countenances he magnanimously said, 'I am very sorry, gentlemen, but each one may take a memento.' I selected two elegant furs and moved on."

After narrating several other cases in which he possessed himself of the property of other men, the Rev. GILBERT REID proceeds to say:

"Having lived in Pekin, I was able, better than foreign soldiers or war correspondents, to discriminate real friend and foe, those whose places should be looted and those not. For weeks I was busy in seeking protection for the friendly disposed, and in encouraging shops to reopen their doors with proper passports. *Now and then I branched out to loot from those who were our enemies, and I only regret I didn't have more time to loot from such despicable wretches,* instead of leaving so much to others, including not a few loot critics. If, however, those from whom I have looted want their things back, let them meet me face to face, and I will 'take the matter into consideration.'

"It has also grieved me that so many really good people think that my loot is good enough for them to want. The friends of looters are beyond my calculation. At this late date it should be known that looting under all circumstances is wrong, and therefore 'none need apply'—for loot, on sale or donated."

Barring the final touch of irony, with which the Rev. Mr. REID apparently intends to rebuke the hypocrites who condemn looting yet want to profit by his enterprise in that direction, this is a straightforward and circumstantial confession that at least one missionary besides the Rev. Dr. AMENT did loot at Pekin.

"I confess I looted," writes the Rev. GILBERT REID, "and in good company." And this particular missionary is so far honest in his confession that he does not, like some of his brethren, attempt to justify the looting upon the plea of absolute necessity and strictly altruistic motives.

An attempt is being made to help Italian immigrants newly arrived in this country to obtain a fair start on the road that will lead them to American citizenship. A number of gentlemen and ladies interested in charitable work in Italy and its people, among them a few of Italian birth, have formed an organization which has been incorporated under the laws of the State under the name of "The Society for the Protection of Italian Immigrants," with the object of doing for Italians what similar organizations are doing for Germans and Scandinavians.

The first aim of the society is to ward off the perils to which newcomers, ignorant of the language, are exposed in this city; "to meet them on their arrival, to aid them in their first steps, to give them the knowledge necessary for their security as residents of this country, and for our safety when they become members of our body politic." The measures taken for the present are to have a competent person always on hand at the Barge Office, in order to give help and advice, to prepare a list of boarding places to which immigrants may go with safety, and to establish an employment agency. Later, if money enough comes in, the society hopes to establish a lodging house of its own. It will also make an effort to do away with the bad features of the padrone system and the excessive commissions of the middlemen who stand between the immigrants and their employers, and will endeavor to encourage the settlement of the immigrants on farms and thus relieve in part the congestion in the city.

There is no doubt of the urgent need of the society's work. Italians are coming to this country by the hundred thousand a year, and are proving a valuable addition to the population. They are hard workers, abstemious, and willing and intelligent. Hardly anything has been done so far to save them from the countless impositions to which they are subjected through their ignorance of the country and of the language, the worst impositions usually at the hands of their own countrymen. The society will have plenty of work on its hands if it undertakes to improve the padrone system, for it will be opposed by powerful influences in this country and in Italy, and fully as much by the customs and traditions of the persons it wishes to aid.

It will be interesting to watch the experiment of planting the immigrants in the country. For the greater part they are peasants, thoroughly skilled in every art that can induce the soil to yield crops. They have patience and perseverance enough to make a New Hampshire hill pasture or a Massachusetts farm bloom like a garden, and it is as farmers rather than as navvies that they will render most effective service to their adopted country. The society, however, will first tackle the simpler and more obvious charitable problem. Its President is Mr. ELIOT NORTON and its Treasurer Mr. WILLIAM B. HOWLAND, at 287 Fourth avenue.

A faded flag with a single star passed at Houston into President MCKINLEY'S possession from the hands of the venerable widow of ANSON JONES, the last President of the independent Texan Republic and the bitter opponent of annexation. At that moment the past made its apologies and acknowledgments to the present. No community that has had the luck to get into this nation ever regretted it afterward.

The spirit that has made this republic what it is appears in the remarks of the *Times-Union* upon the job that is now before Jacksonville:

"Henceforth, all dates prior to the fire will be forgotten—'befo' de fiah, sah,' will take the place of 'befo' de wah.'

"Florida has furnished many astonishing spectacles to the stranger of other climates, but none that will compare with that Jacksonville hopes to make ready for next November. Nothing at the Pan-American Exposition will prove so sensational or creditable to that American pluck and quiet endurance as that of a city destroyed and restored within six months; brought out of the ashes, set on its feet and prepared to receive its guests, discharge all its responsibilities as the metropolis of a great State and a progressive people. Jacksonville will forfeit none of its claims to popular appreciation if sturdy work and unblenching determination can keep it. Unfortunate we may be—forfeit the respect of our friends or our own we will not.

"Watch the men at work now. They dig to lay deep the solid foundations of a proud future. See the result next winter."

And Jacksonville will do it.

PROHIBITION AND DISPENSARY.

The Hon. Joseph H. Manley on Methods in Maine and South Carolina.

From an Interview in the Kennebec Journal.

South Carolina is to be congratulated for another thing. While we are talking in this State of our prohibitory law, can it be enforced? Is it enforced? Ought it to be enforced? South Carolina enforces its liquor law absolutely and strictly. I am not commending the law of South Carolina. I have nothing to say about that. They have what is termed the Dispensary law. The liquor is all sold by the State and the profits used for educational purposes, but it can only be sold in places designated by the State from 6 o'clock in the morning until 6 o'clock in the evening, and no liquor can be sold to be drunk upon the premises, and the result is that you cannot find in all of South Carolina, at its hotels or anywhere else, an open bar or saloon, and this law is enforced, proving conclusively that any law backed by public sentiment can be enforced, and raising the question whether it is not the duty of the citizens of any State to give to a law their public support. We should not forget that the prohibitory law in Maine is not only the enactment of the Legislature, but the direct act of the people by their vote adopting the Constitutional amendment.

A Case of Conscientious Attention to Business.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The story of the Seneca Falls man who was so busy delivering mineral water that he had no time to sell his twenty-eight shares of Northern Pacific at a profit of $28,000 or thereabouts, reminds me of an incident of the Halifax Bank robbery, the sensation of the day about the year 1855.

The bank robbers secured more booty than they could lug away and secreted two bags of gold in a stone pile. These were found by a negro woman on her way home from market, and she carried one bag away.

Being asked later why she did not take both, she said: "My Lord! Mr. Chaplin, how could I carry them two bags with fourteen pounds of tripe in my basket?"

NEW YORK, May 12. W. H. ANDERSON.

He Is Drunk—100 Times.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* He is drunk, intoxicated, inebriated, tipsy, full, loaded, jagged, fuddled, tight, topheavy, slewed, half-shot, half gone, overcome, overtaken, primed, afflicted, elevated, exhilarated, genial, happy, mellow, corned, beery, winy, groggy, boozy, soaked, chock-a-block, lushy, muggy, cockeyed, boryeyed, muddled, jiggered, foggy, hazy, dizzy, dazed, stunned, moory, dopy, ossified, petrified, paralyzed.

He has a (glorious or elegant) jag on, a load on, a skate on, a bun on, a brannigan on, a shine on, a still on, an edge on, a skin full; he has got a cup too much, he has looked on the wine when it was red, he has a bee in his bonnet, he has an applejack gait, he has been taking a little of Paddy's eye water or of red eye, he has been crooking his elbow, he has more sail than ballast, he has his main brace well spliced, he has the sun in his eye, he can't see a hole in the ladder, and he can't lie down without holding on.

He is half seas over, three sheets in the wind, on his beam ends, under the influence of the weather, over the bay, in the clouds, in his cups, in his pots, off his trolley, off his nut, on a drunk, on a spree, on a bender, on a racket, on a tear, on the ran-tan, or the ree raw, he is feeling his oats, he is full of mountain dew, full of dope, full of forty-rod booze, full of Jersey lightning, full of tangle-foot, full of bug-juice, he is as full as a tick, full as a goat, full as a bedbug, he is as drunk as a lord, drunk as a boiled owl, drunk as a fiddler's bitch, drunk as David's sow, he is weak (wabbly) on his pins, all mops and brooms, and about to cast up his accounts. D. S.

HOBOKEN, May 12.

Card From Mrs. Maybrick's Mother.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As I am so fortunate as to receive the Sunday edition of THE SUN, I wish to call your attention to an article in the paper of April 7 on Mrs. Maybrick and unfortunate methods, &c.

I wish to say that the statements of your anonymous correspondent, "An American," as regards my part in the agitation, are as inaccurate as the rest of his information.

I have for a long time been trying to prevent any agitation which could be regarded as disrespectful by the English authorities. If you recall the very beginning of the movement in Mrs. Maybrick's behalf, twelve years ago, you cannot fail to see that unsolicited by me and from a sense of pure justice, the very best of American citizens appealed in her favor; and if you are at all posted on the English movement you can but find the names of the very best men in legal and literary circles and added to these very many English of highest respectability whose lives are devoted to charity and the undoing of great wrongs.

As I know my daughter is innocent I think I can but be right in protesting at the tone of your anonymous correspondent.

CAROLINE DE ROQUES (née Holbrook).

ROUEN, France, April 30.

The Three Ways.

From the New Haven Palladium.

Some men are born great, some capture Aguinaldo, and some publicly announce that they never kissed or hugged a girl.

THE "QUARTERLY REVIEW" ON QUEEN VICTORIA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The article on Queen Victoria in the English *Quarterly Review* is evidently by no ordinary hand. It is extremely elaborate in style, wears an air of profound responsibility, and displays the most intimate familiarity with the subject. It professes to be critical and judicial. The writer thinks that "the time has come to begin to abandon the note of purely indiscriminate praise, and to put even this revered personage into the crucible of criticism." To use his own language, he proposes to see what the robes and pageantry concealed; whether it was worthy of the idolatry which it awakened; and "how much of the worship was paid to a woman and how much to a fetish."

The article nevertheless is almost undiluted eulogy. At most it creeps to the verge of criticism and intimates, in language tremulously cautious, that there might have been a weak place in the character had it not been for some countervailing excellence or some happily corrective influence of the position. "By nature she certainly was what could only be called obstinate."

Unconsciously, however, the writer is in effect critical; for his article is almost throughout a microscopic and rather over-studied delineation of little points and peculiarities of character such as might be found in the most ordinary of women; such, at least, as might be developed in the most ordinary of women if she were placed in the position of the Queen. Scarcely a word is said about business of State, and very slight and cursory are the allusions to the power of mind which are supposed to have enabled the Queen to guide the councils of her own country, to influence those of Europe and to impress her personality upon an eventful and prolific age. You have before you the author of the "Journal in the Highlands," always benevolent at heart and personally kind and amiable, sometimes a little "trying," and rather arbitrary; sympathetic, sensible, perhaps discerning, but never more than commonplace. Paramount importance is assigned to mere manner; to the ease and grace with which the Queen crossed a room. The "great moment" is that of her appearance at the Paris Opéra, where, it seems, her manner in presenting herself to the audience was superior to that of the Empress. Nobody can question the excellence of the Queen's manner in public, or the genuine stateliness which, in spite of her diminutive figure, she knew how to assume. But this is not political greatness.

The reviewer thinks that the Queen belied the theory of heredity and had nothing about her of the characteristics of George III. In youth she was comely; but she certainly had the prominent eyes and the receding forehead and chin. The reviewer, as we have seen, faintly admits that in her character there was a strain of the obstinacy which fatally distinguished George III. But her Ministers could tell us better than the reviewer what the degree of obstinacy was. It unquestionably was shown, unhappily, in the persistent refusal to visit Ireland.

Let the Queen receive a full measure of praise for the example which she set of domestic purity and affection, for her self-control in repressing her personal antipathies and frankly giving her confidence to all her Ministers, and for the dignity with which she bore herself and represented the nation on all occasions of State. It is absurd to credit her with moral impossibilities. It was morally impossible that one who was constitutionally divested of all responsibility, and bound to be guided by the advice of her responsible Ministers, should be the real ruler of the nation. It was morally impossible that one who had passed her days in the lap of luxury and flattery, indulged in every wish, worshipped by all around her, guarded by an invisible fence against the intrusion of unwelcome truth, however she might dignify the station to which she was called, could acquire the sort of character which commands our admiration and love in a woman who has passed unscathed and unsullied through the hard trials of life.

The Queen thoroughly enjoyed the theatre, but the reviewer does not pretend, as some have done, that she had much taste for art or literature. He says frankly that she did not care about art or attempt to become acquainted with the leading artists of her time. She read Walter Scott and Jane Austen. She read George Eliot at the Prince's instance. She "had no real feeling for poetry, although she professed a cult for Tennyson founded on an emotional interest in his 'In Memoriam.'" Modern authors received little attention. "She would sometimes begin a book at the earnest request of one of her ladies, who would immediately write off to the author: 'I am happy to tell you that the Queen is now deep in your "Prodigies of Passion."' But the correspondent omitted to mention that her Majesty tossed it away when she reached the fifth page."

Victoria, according to the reviewer, had a very high idea of her own regal position and of her absolute claim to the allegiance of her subjects. She might not have thought it prudent to sign a declaration of Divine Right, but at heart she believed in it. She said she was far more proud of her Stuart than of her Hanoverian ancestors, and she cultivated a superstitious admiration for Charles I., who was always the Royal Martyr in her eyes. This was neither unnatural nor unparalleled. But there would have been an interesting scene if Victoria had happened to meet the lineal representative of Charles I., in whom, if the Divine Right exists, it must be held, and in fact is held by a little Legitimist circle in England, to reside.

Of all the Ministers, the reviewer tells us, the Queen preferred Disraeli.

"No one, it is certain, ever amused her so much as he did. After she had overcome the first instinctive apprehension of his eccentricity, she subsided into a rare confidence in his judgment. She grew to believe that on almost all subjects he knew best. With his insinuating graces, his iron hand under the velvet glove, his reckless disregard of court etiquette, Disraeli was almost the exact opposite of Lord Granville; but from him the Queen bore what she certainly would have resented from almost any one else. He was never in the least shy; he did not trouble to insinuate; he said what he meant in terms the most surprising, the most unconventional, and the Queen thought that she had never in her life seen so amusing a person. He gratified her by his bold assumptions of her knowledge, she excused his florid adulation on the ground that it was 'Oriental,' and she was pleased with the audacious way in which he broke through the ice that surrounded her. He would ask across the dinner table, 'Madam, did Lord Melbourne ever tell your Majesty that you were not to do this or that?' and the Queen would take it as the best of jokes. Those who were present at dinner when Disraeli suddenly proposed the Queen's health as Empress of India with a little speech as flowery as the oration of a Maharajah, used to describe the pretty smiling bow, half a curtsey, which the Queen made him as he sat down. She loved the East, with all its pageantry and all its trappings, and she accepted Disraeli as a picturesque image of it. It is still remembered how much more she used to smile in conversation with him than she did with any other of her Ministers."

Here again the Queen surely is not represented by the reviewer as a person of commanding mind, while her openness to flattery is not disguised. The passage rather suggests an argument against female rule, as the rule of those who know how to play on female appetite for amusement and love of praise.

The reviewer has almost in his own despite fulfilled his undertaking to show us how much of the worship was paid to the woman and how much to the fetish.

It is impossible to doubt that a good deal of the worship of Victoria, living and dead, has had a political purpose identical with that which was served by the deification of George III. Nor has the success been less in the second case than it was in the first. It has been such that a renewal of personal and irresponsible government begins to appear to the Tory mind as a happy possibility of the near future. FACT.

Not Until He Has Reformed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Have you room for Duffy Pluff of this city? Duffy was recently fined for disorderly conduct, but still he wants to get in. CHARLES B. WHITING.

HARTFORD, Conn., May 11.

RELIGIOUS BOOKS IN LIBRARIES.

Further Discussion of Archbishop Corrigan's Ideas as to the Branches.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a letter replying to a communication from me to THE SUN concerning Archbishop Corrigan's assertion that the city should support one or more branches of the New York Public Library subject to the control of the Roman Catholics, Mr. McMahon, director of the Cathedral Library Association, made two or three statements which deserve notice.

Mr. McMahon says he does not precisely see why any one who is not a Roman Catholic should object to the Roman Catholic method of restricting the circulation of certain books, since "that, surely, is the personal and private business of the Roman Catholics." It truly is their personal and private business, so long as the method is applied to libraries maintained by them, but so soon as books are thus excluded from libraries maintained by the city of New York it is no longer their "private and personal business," but a public matter. That the Pope should command how the money of the Roman Catholic Church is spent is certainly not objectionable to the members of any other religious sect, but for him to command that a portion of the public money should not be spent in a certain way is highly objectionable to many persons, for, as I have said, such restriction is the "personal and private business of the Roman Catholics" only so long as the city is not made a party to it by supporting an exclusively Roman Catholic library.

Mr. McMahon protests against the exclusion from the public libraries of Roman Catholic books. If such books are not admitted to them it is undeniably a great injustice to the Roman Catholics and should be redressed. But Archbishop Corrigan does not aim simply to secure the admission of Roman Catholic books to the public libraries. He contends that the city should support libraries from which the Roman Catholics may exclude whatever books they choose. These propositions are widely divergent. The former stands for tolerance; the latter for a most hateful form of ecclesiastical tyranny, the restriction of the freedom of opinion.

In justification of his demand that the New York city government should interfere in behalf of the Roman Catholic Church, Mr. McMahon asserts that the government already interferes "to propagate and perpetuate non-Catholic religious belief." His charge is partly true, for there are some educational and charitable institutions which receive aid from the State. But it would be exceedingly hard to prove that they aim "to propagate and perpetuate" any sectarian belief, Roman Catholic or Protestant. This assertion of Mr. McMahon, moreover, does not harmonize with the usual Roman Catholic accusation that the American educational system is dangerously irreligious. However, if the Roman Catholics should insist that such State aid be withdrawn it is very doubtful if a "howl will be raised" except by the direct beneficiaries. There are many non-Catholics who believe that any departure from the principle of entire separation of secular government from religious denominations is dangerous, whether the departure be in favor of the Roman Catholics or any other sect. If, as Mr. McMahon says, he believes that Government should not interfere either to encourage or discourage any form of religious belief, it would be more consistent for him to aid in eradicating the existing abuse than to aid in extending it by defending the proposal that the city support Roman Catholic libraries.

After quoting Archbishop Corrigan's declaration that the Roman Catholics number more than one-half the population of this borough, Mr. McMahon goes on to say that the Archbishop "as the official authority expresses their sentiments and hence the public opinion of a majority"! Few people will agree with Mr. McMahon here. In the political system of this country the only official organ for the expression of public opinion upon a matter of public policy is the polls or the representatives of the people chosen at the polls. Neither the Constitution and laws of this State nor the Constitution and laws of the United States recognizes the office of Archbishop. The Archbishop is an extra-legal functionary and has no official political powers beyond those which every citizen of the United States possesses. Archbishop Corrigan can no more give official expressions to the opinions of the Roman Catholics of this city upon a question of government policy than President Vreeland of the Metropolitan street railway can give official expression to the opinions of his employees upon such a matter.

Further, Mr. McMahon makes the declaration "that consciously or unconsciously every department of the State is under sectarian control." I wish he had explained this declaration. It is difficult to see how such can be the case in a country where universal manhood suffrage and general eligibility to office prevail. E. E. S.

NEW YORK, May 9.

Parkhurst's Pulpit Flippancy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You publish a letter in the SUN of May 9 signed "A Presbyterian," and headed "Parkhurst Flippancy," which quotes one of that notorious clergyman's irreverent phrases.

The undersigned frequently listened to his preaching before he came to New York. On the Sunday when he resigned his charge in Lenox by proxy, he preached some forty miles away. On that occasion his topic was the earlier life of Christ and he designated our Lord throughout his sermon and in rapid, flippant, short-cut enunciation as the "boy God." In his prayer he told the Almighty that "we have many sins, but that is not Thy fault, O God!" He said that "we need more than the Holy Spirit to help us interpret the Scriptures, even our own imaginations."

The undersigned decided then and there never to listen to that man again.

How is it possible for people with reverence for God to submit year after year to such utterances? A WORSHIPPER.

NEW YORK, May 10.

Barnard Girl at Marine Biological Laboratory.

Through the gift of an anonymous friend of Barnard College a scholarship has been founded by the college at the Marine Biological Laboratory at Wood's Holl, Mass. Miss Margaret E. Clark of the junior class has been appointed to hold the scholarship this summer. She will be the first Barnard student to pursue biological work at the station.

The New Southern Sentiment.

From the Abbeville (S. C.) Press and Banner.

Periodically this State seems to be swept by political waves.

In 1876 Hampton led a revolution. In 1878 Tillman started a movement which resulted in the overthrow of the Hampton rule in 1890. Now McLaurin is at the head of a revolution which promises to sweep the State. This, of course, is extremely distasteful to the old Hampton crowd, who may have thought that with the passing of Tillman, their time for return to the public crib was at hand. But revolutions do not go backward. Those who may be seeking to bring the Democratic party back to the Hampton moorings will be disappointed. The old political party is about to take another step in the line of progress, and it will be governed by new men and new issues.

Hampton is now out, and neither he nor his faction can ever hope to rule this State again, as it did after 1876.

It is perfectly certain that Tillman's star is on the wane. He, like Hampton, has had his day of usefulness, and each has had his term of power. In turn the word of each was law. Their careers, in some respects, were not dissimilar. Each in turn ruled the State and directed the thoughts of the people who delighted to honor them.

The treatment that has been accorded to McLaurin points him out as the coming man. His enemies, more than his friends, have done this. And his enemies have given us a sample of the methods which they propose to adopt. Theirs seem to be the same old orthodox Hamptonian plan of intolerance which brought such great success to Tillman.

The merchants, the manufacturers and the business men who support McLaurin are sneered at very much as the moneyed aristocracy regarded them before the war. "Shop people" were good enough in their way and they were sometimes tolerated but they were seldom embraced in society by the select set.

It may be that some of our newspapers hold themselves to be better and superior to the merchants, the manufacturers and the business men of the country. But we leave it to the people to say if there are not individuals in these classes that have done more to build up the State than the combined efforts of all the newspapers.

Mr. Watson's Dinner Disagrees.

From the Westminster Gazette.

Strange sauce, that dominates mysterious meat,
Strange meat, that struggles against sauce in vain;
I eat, and wondering why and what I eat,
Yearn for the porridge of my youth again.
WILLIAM WATSON.

TAMMANY WILL BE BEATEN—O'BRIEN

And Tammany Men Will Help Beat Her—New Democracy Headquarters.

The Hon. James O'Brien, who is at the head of the men who are interested in the City Democracy, announced last evening that the organization had completed its formation of district organizations in fifteen Assembly districts, and that there were four more districts in which the organizations would be completed this week. Since Monday of last week the Democracy has opened headquarters in the following districts: Second, 2 Chambers street; Thirteenth, 556 Ninth avenue; Eighteenth, 342 Sixty-ninth street; Twenty-sixth, 346 East Sixty-ninth street; Thirty-fourth (south side), 149 East 125th street.

The Fifteenth, Twentieth, Twenty-first and Twenty-second districts will open their headquarters this week, and several others will open next week.

"I have had a good deal of experience in the politics of this county," said Mr. O'Brien yesterday, "but in all the time that I have had anything to do with political matters I have never seen the rank and file of the Tammany organization so thoroughly disgusted with the situation as they are now. The voters are thoroughly put out with the way that they have been treated and they are ready to take revenge out of the men who have deceived and deluded them.

"The men on whom the Wigwam depends for its vote are loyalty itself and it takes a great deal of abuse to make them get out in the open and declare that they are in opposition to the leaders to whom they have looked for guidance for years. When they do decide to take this step they are in no mood to be lured back, for they have given the matter a great deal of thought and are ready to stand by their decision. I have never seen so many of the Tammany men whom I know eager to join in a movement against the Hall, and I am convinced that there will be a falling off in the Tammany vote this fall that will amaze the men who are now saying that it will be held up to its usual strength by the patronage and the spoils that the organization is prepared to barter for a continuance of power.

"I think that an independent Democrat of good reputation will be nominated and that he will be elected through the efforts of all the elements that are opposed to Croker and his crew of municipal looters. There will be an airtight combination and it will win."

The Executive Committee of the Democracy has hired permanent headquarters at 138 East Forty-second street. It will meet on Thursday evening.

TROLLEY ON COLUMBUS AVENUE.

Its Installation on Saturday Night Accompanied by Cheers and Fireworks.

The cable system on Columbus avenue was abandoned on Saturday night and the change to the under-trolley was the source of much joy to merchants and residents on and near the avenue. The cable was cut in the power house at Fifty-second street and Seventh avenue at 9:30 o'clock by Chief Engineer M. B. Starrett, and car 180 gripped the end and proceeded slowly over the entire route, returning after midnight. To cut a cable is no small task and it is necessary to have a car gripped to the moving end in order that the cable may not sag and become tangled.

Before the cable was cut the powerful engines were stopped and when car 180 picked up the end and was ready to proceed the engines were again started but only at one-sixth of the ordinary speed. As the car proceeded uptown to 116th street and back the home end of the cable was being wound on large spools in the power house.

The people along the line gave 180 a great send off as it went by, word having been passed along the route that it was to be the last cable car. At some points fireworks were touched off, red and other lights burned on the sidewalks and Saturday night imbibers ran out of corner saloons with foaming glasses of beer to drink the health of the old car.

The doing away with the Lexington avenue cable a week ago and the Columbus line now leaves only the Broadway line running with that kind of power. Next Saturday night the performance will be repeated on Broadway and then the cable system will be a thing of the past in New York.

POLITICAL NOTES.

There were at last year's election fifteen election districts in Manhattan, sixteen in The Bronx, eleven in Brooklyn and one in Queens which had more than the required voting population, and they are to be subdivided.

Five thousand copies of the present Constitution of Missouri were printed in 1891 in compliance with the urgent demand at that time of the farmers' unions of the State. The Missouri Constitution, adopted in 1875, has remained unchanged since, except by minor amendments adopted in 1884 and 1890. One of its provisions is the following: All elections shall be free and open; no power, civil or military, shall at any time interfere to prevent the free exercise of the right of suffrage.

There is no cessation of diligence in the Commissioners of Accounts and the *Tammany Times* as an illustration of what it calls "the tremendous amount of detail work accomplished by the Commissioners," declares that in 1900 examinations were made in seventy-two departments, thirty bureaus, forty-six municipal courts, twenty-three Magistrates' courts, and 110 other divisions of the city government.

Illiterate white inhabitants in Southern and border States are most numerous among the mountains. Kentucky has 16 per cent., Tennessee 18, South Carolina 18, and Alabama 18 per cent. of illiterate whites. But the percentage of white illiteracy in Mississippi, with an almost overwhelming negro population, is only 11. In Arkansas it is 16.

The terms of the Register, Sheriff and County Clerk of Brooklyn expire this year.

The amended Charter increases the number of Aldermanic districts in this city from sixty to seventy-three. Eight of the new districts are in Manhattan, one in Brooklyn and two each in Queens and Richmond.

The Iowa Democratic State Committee has called the next State convention in Iowa to meet at Des Moines on Aug. 21 to nominate a Governor and other State officers.

Oil, discovered in large quantities, is making arrant monopolists of many Populists in Texas.

The Board of Public Improvements, to be abolished by the amended city Charter, cost last year $237,000, of which $41,000 was expended in the office of the President for salaries. About $152,000 was expended for surveys, of which $140,000 was for salaries and $5,000 for travelling expenses. Street numbering cost $28,700, of which $25,000 was for salaries and $1,200 for travelling. Surveying instruments cost $1,400 and copying records $4,500, of which $4,300 was for salaries and $34 for books. There was expended in sundries $2,280, of which $323 was for a phaeton and a harness and $687 for the board of a horse, horse shoeing and wagon repairs.

The oldest in date of appointment of the Justices of the Supreme Court of the United States is John M. Harlan of Kentucky, appointed in 1877. He had been two years before Republican candidate for Governor of Kentucky and had been defeated by the customary Democratic majority at that period; and in 1876 the Republicans of Kentucky had in Benjamin H. Bristow a candidate of their own for President of the United States. Mr. Bristow received a strong measure of support in the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati, Judge Harlan being the chairman of the Kentucky delegation from that State. He was a candidate for Attorney-General under the following Administration, but was appointed instead a Supreme Court Justice. He is the most conspicuous Kentucky Republican.

Two hundred and forty-one thousand dollars are to be expended, under the authorization of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment, for new fire houses in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens, the most expensive of which is to be the new engine house at Broadway and Flushing avenue, to cost $23,000. It has been said that Brooklyn and Queens, with sixty-two engine houses and fourteen hook and ladder trucks, are imperfectly supplied with fire apparatus, and the demand for the extension of fire facilities in these two boroughs, which are joined under the operations of the Charter in their fire service, has been heard for more than a year.

It is an established political custom in the city of Baltimore for candidates to elective office to conduct agitation in the columns of newspapers. A candidate for the office of Councilman published as part of his campaign literature a column article, including his address to the Committee on Notification. His peroration was as follows: "Let every one feel that it is his duty to see that his neighbors are with us and that they all come out and vote, and if we pull hard and pull all together victory will crown our efforts and we shall see Democracy and good government still rule our city."

The surest Blood Purifier is JAYNE'S ALTERATIVE.—Adv.