The Sun.

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The Greatest Question Before This Republic.

We print elsewhere on this page a letter by Senator MORGAN of Alabama, called out by the proposition, since adopted by the Constitutional Convention of that State, to establish a hereditary qualification for the suffrage.

This utterance of the Alabama Senator is not new. His letter was written a month ago, but it is of a significance so profound and of a statesmanlike perception so true that it cannot become out of date.

It makes manifest that by the device of the "grandfather clause," and kindred devices to take away the privilege of the franchise from negro citizens without excluding from it whites with the same disqualification of illiteracy, Southern States have violated the fundamental principle of democratic government, and thus introduced into our politics a question of more momentous importance than any other which has been projected in the history of the American Republic.

As Senator MORGAN says our American Revolution was primarily and essentially a struggle to abolish hereditary privilege in government, with all its appurtenances. This Southern movement is now made squarely for the purpose of reviving that privilege. "To make blood the medium of transmitting the electoral power from father to son, is to uproot, from its foundations, the whole system of democratic government and to reinstate the system and form of regal government;" or, to express it differently, to revive a prime feature of the feudalistic system the last vestiges of which this Republic was founded to destroy.

Talk of imperialistic tendencies in this country, simply because of our territorial extension as a consequence of the war with Spain, has come from narrow and superficial minds; but in this revival of hereditary privilege there is actually a precedent which violates so radically the essential theory of our democratic Republic that it must be resisted and rebuked and rendered abortive by popular sentiment and removed finally by judicial decision, or our Government as founded and preserved hitherto will be subverted and a destructive oligarchy of contradictory hereditary privilege substituted for the democracy of the past.

That in this movement is the only real danger now confronting our political institutions is made apparent in the Alabama Senator's discerning and statesmanlike discussion of hereditary distinctions of franchise. Consequently we give it great prominence to-day, in order that it may command the thoughtful consideration of every reader of THE SUN. It raises the greatest question at present before the American people.

Is the Chinese Problem Really Solved?

There seems to be no doubt that the foreign Ministers at Pekin have at last agreed, not only with regard to the aggregate of the indemnity to be exacted from China, but also as to the mode of payment. The total indemnity is to be 450,000,000 taels, and each creditor Power is to receive the amount of its claim in Chinese bonds bearing 4 per cent. interest from July 1 of the current year. A sinking fund is also to be provided, but, according to Sir ROBERT HART, some three years must elapse before the first payment on account thereof can be made. The fiscal resources earmarked for interest and amortization are, first, the salt tax; secondly, the native customs levied in non-treaty ports, and, thirdly, the maritime customs imposed in treaty ports on foreign goods, which last-named duties are to be raised for the present to an effective 5 per cent. *ad valorem*, payable in silver.

By "effective" is meant, first, that the valuations established forty years ago are to be revised so that they may correspond to the existing values of commodities; and, secondly, that the free list is to be abolished, except in the case of cereals. If the duty of 5 per cent. shall prove inadequate, the creditor Powers will be at liberty to increase it up to 10 per cent. It is understood that the aggregate of the claims presented by the foreign Powers falls considerably short of 450,000,000 taels, but we are not yet informed as to what disposition will be made of the surplus. If not distributed pro rata, it might be paid into the sinking fund.

So much for the indemnity question. The collection of damages, however, was not the sole, or even the main, purpose of the concerted military and naval demonstration which resulted in the occupation of Pekin and the whole Province of Chihli. That main purpose was declared at the outset to be a double one. It was proclaimed, first, that no settlement should be regarded as definite, or even admissible, which should not exclude permanently from power the persons primarily responsible for the Boxer outrage; and, secondly, that drastic fiscal reform was indispensable, if the new requirements imposed by the claims for indemnity were to be met without subjecting the Chinese people to additional taxation. Now, has either of these purposes been fulfilled? It is true that a few of the persons deeply implicated in the outrages perpetrated upon foreigners have been put to death or banished. Others, however, equally guilty, are unharmed, and some of these have been designated for posts in the Council of Regency, which is to supersede the former Grand Council, and in the new Board of Foreign Affairs, which is to replace the old Tsung-li-Yamen, and to be invested with much more dignity and authority.

What is much more significant of failure to lay the foundations of a new order is the fact that the Empress-Regent, who was the head and front of the anti-foreign party, is still invested with the attributes of supreme power, and there is no reason to believe that the Emperor exercises any more real influence than he did before the relief of the legations. Has the Empress experienced a change of heart? She is said to have excluded from the succession Prince TUAN's son, who had been declared heir-apparent. She has issued a number of decrees enjoining the protection of foreigners; and she has nominated to office in the new councils a number of representatives of the progressive and pro-foreign party. But it remains to be seen whether the good intentions thus indicated will be carried out after almost all the foreign troops have been withdrawn from China, and she herself is reinstalled in the imperial palace at Pekin.

As to the second purpose, promulgated when the concerted demonstration was resolved upon, the purpose, namely, of enforcing a drastic scheme of fiscal reform, this, obviously, has been renounced. The whole system of apportioning and collecting the native taxes remains entirely unchanged. The land tax, the salt tax, the *likin*, or inland transit dues, and the native customs levied in non-treaty ports, are now, as they were formerly, under Chinese control exclusively. There has been absolutely no change in the fiscal regulations of the Middle Kingdom, except as regards the arrangement for a revaluation of foreign commodities imported at treaty ports.

The burden of this change manifestly falls upon the foreign purveyors, of which England is the chief. It is not believed that the burden can be transferred to the native consumer, for any material increase in the price of foreign goods will diminish the demand for them. It is, at the same time, evident that the native taxpayer will be worse off than ever, because, in one way or another, he will have to make good the loss of that part of the imperial revenue which was formerly derived from the salt tax, from the native customs and from so much of the maritime customs as was left over after providing for the interest and amortization of the old public debt of China.

It must, then, be acknowledged that the Chinese problem remains unsolved so far as two of the principal purposes announced by the foreign Powers are concerned. There is to be no fiscal reform, and the Chinese taxpayer will be subjected to additional exactions. Moreover, in the absence of adequate guarantees of her good faith, the ultimate attitude of the Empress-Regent is left for the future to determine.

The Correspondence of "The Sun."

It is always instructive to discover, from the great volume of spontaneous volunteer correspondence they draw out, the subjects, the questions, the events and the ideas which attract the special attention and arouse the most earnest interest of our readers.

Suddenly, without warning and without expectation, we receive scores and even hundreds of letters about some matter which we may have mentioned in THE SUN only casually, and the stream of correspondence keeps pouring in for weeks together. Again, the subject raised is of profound philosophic or religious concern, and it may seem to the careless reader far apart from the public interest; yet from almost every State in the Union, day after day, week after week, and perhaps even for months, there come to us letters discussing it, many of them remarkable for freshness of thought and strength and lucidity of expression.

Nothing is more encouraging to an editor than the consciousness thus afforded that he addresses an audience so clear in discernment, intellectually so active and so nice in appreciation. In these voluntary letters addressed to THE SUN we think there is a character which distinguishes them sharply from such newspaper correspondence generally. They are written to say something and are without the self-consciousness which is so likely to disfigure letters written to newspapers. As a whole, they are models of that sort of correspondence.

The great numbers of letters we have received on the Barker-Keller case, for instance, have come by every post and from every part of the Union. Nor is it surprising that this interest has been so great. A profound social question was involved. It must be remembered also that the conviction of BARKER was a new departure in the experience of American trials of husbands who proceeded as he did. Practically juries have granted to a husband immunity from punishment for assailing and even killing a man accused by him of outrage against his marital rights. But in this New Jersey trial no such plea of justification was allowed. BARKER was tried simply for the assault on the clergyman, and his guilt being unquestionable, he was convicted. No evidence in extenuation was admitted. He did the deed, and he is now undergoing punishment for it, without regard to any motive he may have had for committing the crime.

The trial, therefore, raised a novel question and it naturally provoked widespread discussion as an innovation in our experience. Moreover, the assault was on a clergyman against whom an accusation of infamous outrage was made by a woman of reputable antecedents, a woman who had been a member of his flock. Here, of course, was all the material of a social drama, or tragedy, to stir public interest. It was supposed that when the trial was once over and BARKER locked up in Trenton prison, interest in the case would die out speedily, but our correspondence has indicated that it is as keen as ever. And this interest and the discussion provoked by it will continue until the question is removed by a trial of the issue as between the woman and the clergyman.

The discussion of the relations of the secular clergy and the religious orders of the Roman Catholic Church, precipitated by the letter of a very able and distinguished clergyman of that Church, has been one of the most remarkable in its American history and as conducted in THE SUN is unique in the experience of an American secular newspaper. The discussion of the scenes enacted at the shrine of St. ANNE is not less extraordinary and is of as great interest to Protestants and infidels as to Roman Catholics. More especially is it pertinent at this time when methods of asserted cures by faith, by imagination and by Christian Science belief, are under so hot discussion. That the subject should be raised thus earnestly at this period of religious scepticism is a striking manifestation of the continued dominance of religious faith in so many minds. Moreover, as will have been observed, the discussion, though controversial, has not been marred by rancor.

Another subject has been brought up by a letter, printed recently in our news columns, from a "Non-Catholic" to the Pope, but as the letters upon it now coming to us, in defence and in criticism of the Roman Catholic Church, are marked on both sides by heated partisanship, we cannot burden our columns with them. They serve no good purpose, but rather the evil end of stirring up a strife which convinces nobody and only exasperates both sides. This is no time for such a controversy; it belongs to a period centuries behind us. It does not belong in THE SUN, which is neither a partisan advocate nor a partisan assailant of any form of faith, of any Church or of any system of philosophical thought. If correspondents cannot discuss points of religious difference between them in an amicable, a tolerant and a courteous spirit, they must not expect to see their letters printed in this newspaper.

Give Gamaliel a Chance.

The Hon. GAMALIEL BRADFORD of Massachusetts and the New England branch of the Anti-Imperialist League is still bearing up bravely under the weight of his tremendous name. He shrieked when Col. BRYAN fell. It was understood by many and hoped by some that he had renounced this country and would never forgive it. To tell the truth, the man has been hardly treated. We believe that the only use that the Democratic National Committee would make of him in 1900 was to allow him to speak to Bohemian audiences in German. Both his country and his party were cruel to him. He would have been justified in leaving, but he stayed.

For one thing, he waits until history approves his firm belief that the Maine was blown up from the inside. For another thing, he has proposed to the Democratic party of Massachusetts. He says, believes, and should be treasured for his belief, that if he is the Democratic candidate for Governor he will be elected by a majority of 50,000 and that no other man can be elected by the Democrats.

The proposal is delightful. It will be accepted by the Massachusetts Democrats, if one gleam of joyousness is left in them after so many recent thumpings. Mr. BRADFORD is magnificent of name, opulent of purse, if not of person, and old enough to know better. For years he has had nothing whatever to do except to talk and to write. He has the means and the will to reward handsomely such heroic spirits as are not afraid to read him and to hear him. He will talk in every town in the State, and the Democrats can earn many an honest dollar by going to the halls that he will hire. He may be a little hard to turn off, but by private arrangement with the janitor the Democrats can be sure that the lights will be put out not later than midnight. We don't know what Mr. BRADFORD will be willing to pay by the hour, but he is generous, and experience has taught him that unless he makes a mighty handsome offer nobody will come. Possibly he will have a large travelling company, an army of paid auditors, who will accompany him from town to town.

The Bay State Democrats never had a better chance to do good to themselves. They will also have the satisfaction of doing good to a man who aches to be heard. While Mr. BRADFORD's prediction as to his majority may be doubted by those who sit among the scorners, he has sufficient confidence in his powers and his popularity to believe that he won't run more than 50,000 behind the Hon. GEORGE FRED WILLIAMS'S recorded minimum.

Austria and the Near East.

Although much of the news from Vienna concerning affairs in Albania and Macedonia may be regarded as apocryphal, the Austrian Government appears to have taken alarm, and has ordered the re-enforcement of the principal garrisons in Bosnia, Banjaluka and Sarajevo. It is probable that this has been decided on as much because of uncertainty in the occupied provinces themselves as on account of the present Albanian agitation.

Much has been done to introduce civilization into these provinces under the able administration of the Austrian Minister of Finance, Herr BENJAMIN KALLAY, but the fact that the population is pure Slav and largely Mussulman prevents its assimilation by Vienna, still further impeded by the antipathy of the Bosnians and Herzegovinans to their more immediate neighbors, the Magyars of Hungary. In character they approach more closely to the Montenegrins than to their eastern neighbors, the Servians. But for the intervention of Austria in 1879 there is little doubt that Herzegovina at least would of itself have joined Montenegro. This, however, did not square with Austrian ambitions and the "drang nach osten" which BISMARCK had imparted to Austria, and the Balkan Slavs found themselves, notwithstanding their struggles and sacrifices for unity, still kept apart by inimical forces.

But recent events have given a new turn to Balkan politics. The openly avowed policy of Italy regarding Albania, and the revival of Russian activity in the affairs of the Balkan States backed by a formidable squadron in the Black Sea, cannot fail to stimulate the aspirations of all the nationalities awaiting liberation from Turkish misgovernment but unwilling to change Ottoman for Austrian rule.

Under the convention between Turkey and Austria three places in the sanjak of Novibazar, which is south of Herzegovina and separates Servia from Montenegro, are jointly occupied by Austrian and Turkish troops. The object of this arrangement is to keep the road open for an Austrian advance into Macedonia, and to prevent a junction of Servian and Montenegrin forces; but an Austrian garrison cannot be increased except with the consent of the Turkish Government. There is, therefore, no immediate probability of more Austrian troops passing the Turkish frontier, unless a simultaneous movement was made by Montenegro, Bulgaria and Servia into Macedonia and Upper Albania, with Italy giving the support of her fleet in the Adriatic.

In that case the Austrian guns would go off of themselves. The reported augmentation of the Austrian garrisons in Bosnia is probably, for the moment, only precautionary.

Americans in Cuba.

Those bilious souls in the Anti-Imperialist League and elsewhere who doubt the American capacity to govern outside of the limits of the old United States have had a shock lately in Porto Rico, which is regrettably prosperous under the rule of "despots" and "satraps." The American occupation of Cuba has produced results equally unwelcome from the anti-imperialist point of view. Gen. LEONARD WOOD sets forth one great triumph of American rule in Cuba in these few words:

"Yellow fever, that great bugbear of our people in the South, in another year will cease to be epidemic. We have not had a single case of yellow fever at Havana this summer, and none in eastern Cuba for the last two years."

Thus in a few months more has been done for the health of the Cubans than was done under all the years of Spanish possession of the islands. For the people of the United States, too, this reduction and prospective elimination of yellow fever is an incalculable gain.

Another thing that the Americans have done in Cuba is the creation of a public school system. There are 3,600 "flourishing schools," Gen. WOOD says. Education and sanitation, the body and the mind of the Cubans have been benefited. A ruined island, exhausted by long hardships and misgovernment, is being set upon its feet.

And what is the financial side of the American occupation of Cuba? "We have $1,500,000 in our reserve fund," says the Governor-General, "and can pay our debts and get out of Cuba within the next eight months."

It strikes us that the Americans have a very pretty genius for administration.

Brief Comment on the Weather.

For the benefit of those who take a proprietary boasting interest in weather extremes, and because we have torn July from our calendar and have reason thus far to consider August with satisfaction, we are ready to give last month its sizzling dues.

July was literally a record-breaker, but only in its mean temperature, which was 78 degrees. There have been more uncomfortable Julys, notably those of 1876, 1885 and 1887, but their mean temperature has never gone above 77 degrees. There were longer stretches of hot weather in those months, and in 1876 and again in 1898 the official thermometer touched 99 degrees, as it did last month for the third time in July.

The report of the Signal Service thermometer, however, merely indicates the conditions that prevail far above the heads of perspiring thousands in the street, and its top record of 99 degrees, on July 2, was a bitter disappointment to the men who felt that even the street thermometers, which indicated from 3 to 7 degrees more heat, did not do justice to their feelings. They sweltered by the street thermometers, and they wanted the exact degree of their discomfort put on record. Strong men who unconsciously added new profane words to the vocabulary of small freckled-faced boys on the golf links early in July read the official weather reports each morning with the feeling that the "sharp" in charge had cheated them outrageously. They knew that it was warmer than his figures, and it was. Work on the rapid transit tunnel was discontinued for a day or two, and the ice cream supply gave out on one afternoon. There were days when conservative men were tempted to say that the weather was the hottest ever; but it really was not.

Nor did it bring as much discomfort as a similar hot spell always brought a few years ago. New York dresses for the hot weather in rational fashion now. It discards frock coats, waistcoats and high hats in favor of cool shirts, a belt and a coat worn below a light Panama hat. It hesitates at the suggestion of an alcoholic drink when the thermometer climbs toward the 100 mark. If our climate is getting tropical, as is frequently asserted, we are at least learning wisdom in hot weather dressing and living.

Forsan et hæc olim meminisse juvabit—but it isn't necessary to exaggerate the discomforts for the sake of the tale. Besides, there were hotter places than New York during last month, places whose names may be spoken in polite society.

The plan to change the color of train signals, because of its radical departure from a long-standing custom of railroad companies, may strike some persons as ill advised. Trainmen, however, and people who are tolerably familiar with the art of railroading, will be likely to indorse the sentiment of the officials of the Pennsylvania Railroad, who favor the idea of abolishing altogether the white light for signalling, and of letting a green light take its place. This change, it is said, was made some time ago on the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad, where the results have been highly satisfactory.

As a beacon of safety, the white light has heretofore been a popular fixture on railroads and in many other places where signals are used: but of late years trainmen have formed a prejudice against it, which appears to be justifiable. Probably their strongest argument is that a white signal may be, or may not be, significant. That is to say, nine-tenths of all the lights in use outside the railroad service are white, and there is grave danger of mistaking such lights for those in the hands of railroad employés; and, inasmuch as a white signal is used to indicate a clear track, the possibility of confusion and disaster is all the more manifest. Several times, according to the statements of railroad men, have the mistaken location and meaning of a white light caused unnecessary delays and serious accidents.

It is believed that the general use of the green light as the white light's successor, to denote safety, will practically remove all likelihood of accident as the result of misunderstanding. The new color, in addition to its exclusiveness as a railroad signal, should also have this important advantage: In case, for example, a red globe or lens, signifying danger, becomes broken, the white light that will be visible, instead of denoting safety, will denote nothing whatever, and the engineer who sees it will proceed cautiously.

There are, of course, some minor reasons why the proposed change should not be made; but the weight of evidence appears strong in its favor.

Potatoes are becoming a luxury in Woonsocket.—*Providence Journal.*

Potatoes are already a luxury. States may be saved without them. But clams are a necessity. There is a sinister rumor that clams are dying out in Rhode Island, their mother city. Is the rumor true? For our part, we don't believe it is. It is a piece of false coinage uttered from time to time by the Rhode Islanders and Providence Plantationers. The rascals want to keep all the clams for themselves and are eager to discourage outsiders.

VISITORS AT THE AQUARIUM.

Seven Millions Since Its Opening—Many Just Now From Out of Town.

The visitors at the Aquarium from Dec. 10, 1896, the day of its opening, to July 31 of the present year inclusive, numbered 7,730,903; the visitors for the month of July just ended numbered 181,527.

On many days of last month half the visitors, and on some days three-fourths or more, were from out of town. These stranger-visitors are all interested in the fishes, and they spend more time at each tank than the city people do.

But the people out of town are precisely like their city brothers in one respect, namely, in their amusement over the ponderous antics of the big, water-throwing West Indian seal, whose ways they discover promptly, and having discovered them, they line up around the big seal's pool three tiers deep and look down upon it from the gallery and patiently wait; and when the lumbering seal solemnly raises his head and with great deliberateness of movement, but at the same time with great suddenness, throws out a drenching stream upon some unsuspecting or careless visitor, the strangers laugh in keen enjoyment with the rest.

The New Orleans Oyster Loaf or Peacemaker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In last Sunday's issue you published, in answer to a request as to how to prepare an oyster loaf, a recipe from a Philadelphia cook book which no Southerner who has ever partaken of an oyster loaf will submit to.

An oyster loaf, more often called a "peacemaker," from the fact that when paterfamilias was detained downtown at night until the wee sma' hours, instead of throwing his hat in the window on his return to see whether it was safe to enter the house, he brought an oyster loaf with him and marched boldly in, trusting to its soothing influence to placate any indignation that his tardy return might have caused. There was no need to throw the hat in to see what kind of a reception its owner would get if the owner brought along with him a package giving out odors superior to those of "Araby the blest," for few spouses, howsoever wrathful, could fail to be appeased by so toothsome a midnight supper.

The following is the correct mode of preparing an oyster loaf, as it is done in the home of that dish, New Orleans:

Take a large loaf of pan bread; slice the top crust off with a sharp knife; toast it and butter it. Scoop all of the crumbs out of the lower part of the loaf and toast and butter it thoroughly, and place the top and the bottom, which now make a nice toast box where they will keep hot. Have one dozen of the largest oysters procurable well drained, then dry them with a towel and sprinkle liberally with paprika, black pepper and salt. Have a deep sauce pan of boiling fat ready. Take the oysters one by one and dip them into very fine cracker meal, shaking off all superfluous dressing, and drop each one into the boiling fat, where in five minutes it will be curled brown and crisp. Then remove the oysters quickly, and drain off the drop of hot fat, and pack the oysters nicely in the hollow part of your toasted loaf, covering it with the top crust.

The restaurateur always places a neat little white paper parcel on the side, containing olives and pickles.

The oyster loaf is done up in thick wrappings, and clasped close to a manly form on the way, and after having made the mouth of every man met water reaches home in just the proper heat for immediate eating.

The marital questions come after, and come gently.

Do not forget to look into the refrigerator for a possible stray bottle of cool ale or beer to give tone to the feast.

A FREQUENT PARTAKER.

NEW YORK, Aug. 2.

Money Rewards for Heroes.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* An editorial comment in to-day's SUN entitled "Lord Roberts's Money Reward" seems to condemn, by implication, the British method of Parliamentary grants for successful soldiers and sailors. Candidly, is not their method better than ours?

With us a successful officer is usually advanced in rank, but he receives no money reward as such. Evidently the feeling that there should be a reward has certain prevalence, as instance the gifts by subscription to some of our Generals and Admirals.

Now, every civil profession has its possible rewards apart from honor and renown. In equal justice the soldier or sailor who achieves the highest success of his profession, that of a signal victory over the enemy in battle, is likewise deserving of substantial recognition.

But should this recognition come from private individuals or from the State? The intention of the individuals who make the donations is of the best, and it would often be difficult for an officer to decline; but is there any reason why he should put himself under substantial obligation to a number of individuals?

Apparently not; if any debt is due, it is due from the nation, and thus it seems that the English method, though not always to be copied, is in this instance more rational than ours.

R. C. SMITH,
Lieutenant-Commander U. S. Navy.

NEWPORT, R. I., Aug. 1.

Armed Trainmen and "Hold-Ups."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir.* Why do not railway officials arm their trainmen with "guns" so they can have some chance of defence with highwaymen "hold-ups." Does not past experience suggest this precaution?

B.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.

The Rub.

From Brooklyn Life.

She—I'm sure, Mr. Goodby, there are many girls who can make you far happier than I could.

He (dolefully)—That's the trouble; they could—but they won't.

THE REVIVAL OF HEREDITARY PRIVILEGE.

Senator Morgan on the Consequences of the "Grandfather Clause."

DEAR CAPTAIN WHITE: The American Revolution was not so much a redress of grievances as it was a struggle to abolish heredity in government. That was the real line of division between democratic and regal government and the Church established by law. Heredity disappeared, with its associated rights of perpetuity in the ownership of lands, and many minor hereditaments of feudalism, such as titles and tenures and servitudes, when our new democratic scheme of government was instituted.

Political heredity, and all its appurtenances, such as prerogative and titular nobility and primogeniture, and all its protecting laws, such as corruption of blood, premunire and excommunication, perished and were placed under the heel of prohibition by our Constitution. Whoever would restore any of these, to that extent discredits the cause of the Revolution.

Without suffrage the new system had no possible means of expressing the sovereign will of the people in laws and their enforcement by Executive and Judicial authority.

These necessary agents of the government by and for the people can only be chosen by voters; and voters could only be created by law, not by inheritance. These voters are chosen representatives to perform the single function of electing the lawful officers of government.

The trust confided in them is personal, and can neither be sold nor delegated, transmitted by inheritance or by will to any other person. It is this quality of non-transmissibility that distinguishes it from the regal form of inheritable power and marks the line of the impassable gulf between regal government and democratic government. The voters as a class, or body, have certain physical conditions, such as age and sex, that are necessary qualifications and certain moral and political qualifications that are personal and independent of inheritable blood.

To make blood the medium of transmitting the electoral power from father to son is to uproot from its foundations the whole system of democratic government and to reinstate the system and the form of regal government.

The Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments have no more to do with this subject than any other part of the organic law.

The transmission of the electoral power by the blood of inheritance from father to son would destroy all distinction between regal government and democracy, and would throw the door wide open for a return to the system that the American Revolution abolished. The steps would be few and would be rapidly taken, to the complete restoration of monarchy, so soon as we give to any class of voters the power to qualify their sons as voters by inheritance. In this case, it is the first step that tells with fatal and irrevocable effect. The argument is irresistible, that offices should follow the blood if the power that creates them is the blood of inheritance; and this is all that is meant in the British system of titled nobility which alone legislates in the House of Lords and of regal blood and prerogative which upholds the Throne, and the power of appointment to office, which is an appanage of the Throne, and the pardoning power over which the people have no control. * * *

When such a titled class of voters is created by the organic law it will soon occur to them that no other class should be allowed to vote, and they will usurp all power. It is far from being a comfort to me that some negroes are included, and many white men are left out, by the ordinance reported by the majority of the committee on suffrage in this ordinance of inheritable blood. With great respect,

JOHN T. MORGAN.

WARM SPRINGS, Va., July 6.

A Father Seeks a Sea Captain to Take Charge of His Son.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have a son 16 years of age, who either cannot or will not apply himself to his studies. The boy has been a pupil at one of the leading boys' schools of the country during the past year. The head master suggests that I put him aboard a sailing ship in the East Indian or China trade—one making long voyages—where he will be under the absolute control of the captain. This I am desirous of doing, and with that object in view recently inserted an advertisement in the *New York Herald*, but received not one reply.

It is my desire to place my son for one year with an intelligent, humane, but firm American sea captain, with a berth in the captain's cabin, where he will be kept from idleness, and if possible, permitted, at suitable hours, to study under one of the ship's officers.

While not expecting nor desiring that my son be treated as a passenger, I am willing to pay a reasonable compensation, if satisfactory arrangements can be made. I ask that replies be sent to THE SUN office.

A SOUTHERNER.

BROOKLYN, Aug. 2.

Better Car Service Wanted.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will not THE SUN do something to relieve an intolerable situation for residents in the neighborhood of lower Fifth avenue? It is convenient for many of us to take the Sixth avenue surface cars, coming downtown; three out of every four cars, however, stop at Fourth street. These cars are not, at best, very numerous, and the disparity of South Ferry cars is likely to entail every morning a tedious wait on our part. But this situation is aggravated by the fact that there are very often four or five Fourth street cars to every South Ferry car, and to make matters worse, sometimes we get into a South Ferry car only to find ourselves dumped out at Fourth street and ordered to take "the next car." Of course, all the cars are crowded, and we unfortunate downtown people are compelled to stand up for our money. I may say, however, regarding this last, that on account of the crowds, the conductors, three out of every five times, omit to approach some of us for our fares, so that we have a free ride for our suffering.

W. H. W.

16 WEST NINTH STREET, Aug. 2.

A Trotting Race of 1855.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial "Crescens" touching on cumulative speed records in THE SUN of July 28, calls this to mind.

C. E. S.

SCRANTON, Pa., July 30.

From the Philadelphia Dollar Newspaper, May, 1855.

Great Race to Come Off.—James D. McMann has agreed to produce a horse on the 1st day of June next on a wager of $5,000 that will trot twenty miles in one hour! To accomplish the task a three-minute gait must be averaged the entire distance. It is supposed that Flora Temple is the animal selected for the trial, which will take place on the Union Course, Long Island.

Object Lesson in Municipal Ownership.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The present condition of the Brooklyn Bridge is a delightful evidence of what occurs in municipal ownership of public utilities.

X.

NEW YORK, Aug. 3.

Cervera.

As flamed the lightning of the ships,
The fury of the fight,
Thy seaman star, in quick eclipse,
Sank rayless in the night.

Yet, so may manhood's spirit be
Above the gates of war;
A mighty nation welcomed thee
Its captive-conqueror.

JOHN JEROME ROONEY.

SCABBARD FISH FAR NORTH.

Two Specimens Brought Here by the Warm Weather.

There were received at the Aquarium last week, one from Gravesend Bay and the other from Raritan Bay, two specimens of the scabbard fish, a species so rarely seen in the waters about New York as to be almost unknown.

The Raritan Bay specimen was sent in for identification. Both were dead when received and both specimens have been turned over to the American Museum of Natural History.

The scabbard fish is a long, slender, somewhat eel-shaped fish, with pearly, or silvery sides. The two caught here were about 2½ feet long by 2½ inches wide. The fish has a long, pointed tail, and a sharp nose and large eyes, and it has long, sharp teeth, some of them incurving.

The scabbard fish attains a length of four to five feet, but ordinarily it does not exceed from twenty-eight to thirty inches; so that the two taken here were both grown specimens.

Occasionally a scabbard fish gets as far north as the Massachussetts coast, but not often. They may not be seen in New York waters for years at a time. They are drawn here then by an exceptionally warm summer; but rare as they are in these latitudes they are plentiful further south, on the coast below Virginia, in West Indian waters, in the Gulf of Mexico, and on the Pacific Coast, in the waters of Lower California. In these several regions this fish is variously known as silver eel, sabre fish, swordfish, silver fish, skipjack, cutlass fish and scabbard fish.

THE FINE SHADES OF LOOTING

A Presbyterian Missionary Who Repudiates the Rev. Gilbert Reid's Sentiments.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In THE SUN I notice an editorial on "The Right Way to Treat the Looting Scandals," which criticises severely the attitude assumed by the religious press, with a few exceptions, toward the charges that have been made against the missionaries in Pekin for their conduct since the siege of last summer. So far as the article of the Rev. Gilbert Reid, published in the July *Forum*, is concerned, I have no doubt that religious newspapers will express themselves generally in condemnation. I have already noted in the Methodist *Christian Advocate* a criticism of this sort. I think that the principal reason why the religious press has not taken up the subject of looting in the vigorous way in which THE SUN would wish to have it is because the religious press has discriminated more carefully than the editor of THE SUN appears to do between that which is really looting, the spoiling of an enemy after victory, and that which has been inappropriately termed "looting," the appropriation of things belonging to an enemy which are necessary to the life and health of those in a state of siege, or not yet recovered from the effects of siege.

If this distinction is carefully made, I think there will be no question as to the position taken on the subject by the religious press of this country. But the purpose of this letter is not so much to represent the religious press as it is to represent the general missionary sentiment on the subject. I have no doubt that *Zion's Herald* is right in saying that "the Christian Church emphatically disavows Mr. Reid's ethics of looting so far as they refer to the genuine looting of which I have spoken. Almost two weeks ago, as soon as I saw the Rev. Gilbert Reid's article in the *Forum*, I threw personal considerations of friendship with the Rev. Gilbert Reid to the winds, and wrote what I considered a very clear statement of the missionary position in this matter, which I sent to the *Forum*. As this has not yet appeared I wish to place myself as a member of the Pekin Presbyterian Mission, one who was present during the siege, and, I think, I may say, a fairly representative missionary, on record as utterly disapproving the position assumed by the Rev. Gilbert Reid in the article in question.

I am sure that I represent the missionary body, including Dr. Ament, when I say that looting for loot's sake or purposes of revenge, or as a "recreation," is utterly and absolutely abhorred by the missionary. Even that necessary appropriation of food and clothing, in which we were compelled to engage during the siege, and just at its close, was extremely disagreeable to us. Every one of us rejoiced when there was no longer any need for such proceedings, and we could pay a fair market price for everything which we needed, and our own mission has declared itself ready to pay the owners for what we were compelled to use. *Zion's Herald* is again correct when it says that "Mr. Reid in the main represents no one but himself: he is not the authorized missionary of any denomination and has not been for several years," and as I am very positive that he will find no other missionary throughout the length and breadth of China to join with him in his flippant joking over a serious moral issue, I assert that the fact has much to do with the case. I most emphatically take issue with you in your statement that "the Rev. Mr. Reid's avowal and defence differed from those of Dr. Ament only in the brutal frankness and reckless jocosity of his treatment of the subject."

It would seem as if THE SUN'S own interview with Dr. Ament, when he was in New York city some weeks ago, should have rendered such a statement impossible. The two cases differ as widely as possible—Dr. Ament doing a work of necessity, justified by military and civil authorities, while Mr. Reid, according to his own statement, looted on his own account, and "regrets that the guilty suffered so little at his hands." Having written elsewhere at length on the subject, and hoping that my paper, prepared with much care, may be published, I do not need at the present time to go further into this discussion. But in the interests of truth and fairness, I beg that the vital distinction between looting and the merely so-called "looting," which was done by the missionaries in general, may be borne in mind. THE SUN has been so honorable about presenting the missionaries' side on many occasions that I feel the greater regret at the editorial in to-day's issue.

COURTENAY H. FENN.

NEW YORK, Aug. 1.

Packages on the Street Cars.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir.* By what right do all kinds of small dealers use the street cars as delivery wagons? I am moved to ask the question by reason of an experience I had recently on an eastbound Fifty-ninth street car. The car was crowded, as those cars nearly always are, and on the platform I observed one man with a valise too big for him to carry; a messenger boy with a dress-suit case carrying it to or for somebody; a man with two arm baskets filled with empty milk jars; another man with a box of empty bottles; a workingman with a bagful of tools, one item being a long-handled shovel, and lastly a boy with a basket filled with some kind of straw-packed stuff on his arm and in one hand a paper box nearly as tall as he was. In the car half filling the aisle was a man near the door with a big paper box on the floor before him and further along another with a somewhat similar box. Just what the women carried in their laps in the way of delivery wagon loads I did not observe, being too busy taking care of myself on the platform among the freight. I suppose it is all right, in fact I know it is, that a traveller going to or from a railroad station or dock may carry his hand baggage on the car, and a workman might carry his tools, but it is neither fair to the car companies nor to the passengers for persons not riding to send their freight by street car. Certainly small dealers should be prohibited from using the cars as delivery wagons. Street cars have all they can do to carry passengers without making it any worse for carrier and passengers by using them as freight cars, and conductors should be instructed to keep off the package delivery people. Either that or a freight caboose should be attached to each passenger car.

MADISON SQUARE.

Butchers Not Immune From Tuberculosis.

From the Butchers' Advocate.

About once a year a story goes the rounds of the daily press to the effect that butchers are immune from consumption. These stories have been permitted to go uncontradicted for so long that they have gotten to be generally believed.

Now, the truth is that the percentage of butchers who die of consumption is quite as large as the percentage of those engaged in any other ordinary line of business. My reason for giving space to this is that some butchers might be led to believe that they really are immune from consumption and therefore become careless of their health.

A Month's Void in Emaus, Pa.

From the Slatington Star.

The *Emaus Times*, which completed its second volume with its issue of Friday last, announces its suspension for at least four weeks, giving as reason that, owing to the slowness of its patrons to liquidate outstanding accounts, they were compelled to do so. The *Times* is a good paper and we think its suspension will create a void in Emaus which will be sorely felt by its people if allowed to die. Step up to the captain's desk and pay. The printer does not live on air and promises alone.