OUR TROPICAL TRADE.

GEN. J. H. WILSON ON OUR RELATIONS WITH LATIN AMERICA.

He Suggests a Future Zollverein Formed by the United States and the Other American Republics—Cuba, Porto Rico and the Philippines—Our Interest in the Tropics Increasing as It Diminishes With Europe—A Plan Proposed That Would Develop Cuba and Make Her Ask to Join the Union.

BOSTON, Nov. 9.—Gen. James H. Wilson of Wilmington, Del., delivered an address here to-night, under the auspices of the New England Free Trade League, on "Our Trade Relations With the Tropics." After describing himself as a "Republican and a protectionist, as these words are generally used, but an American before a Republican, and a free trader inside, a protectionist outside of our sphere of interest or influence," Gen. Wilson said:

"I am sure that we are all—free traders and protectionists alike—heartily in favor of interstate free trade. I know of no one who is not. There seems to be no reasonable ground for disputing the proposition that it is by odds the greatest factor in our national prosperity; and this brings me to the question if it has been so beneficial within the limits of our own restricted field, can we not find some just and proper principle upon which to extend it as a matter of national polity? We have free trade between the States because our Constitution of Government, framed by our fathers, wisely prohibits us from putting a tax or duty on exports from the States or from the United States—and this supreme law of the land, when considered in its essence, is a great and permanent treaty between the States themselves. Does it not point unerringly when looked at in this way to a method of limited treaties by which we can establish the same kind of trade with the neighboring countries?

"The Hon. Richard Olney has demonstrated in a most notable communication from the Department of State to the late Thomas F. Bayard, Ambassador to Great Britain, in connection with the Venezuela boundary question, that the Monroe Doctrine is the public law of the Western Hemisphere. If there was any doubt on that question, it has been removed by the Spanish war and the consequences flowing from it. We have given practical effect to it in other cases. I refer of course to those of Mexico and Cuba, and without pausing to dilate upon them, I merely wish now to point out that our vindication of that doctrine has been limited, with a single exception, to the North American continent and the islands adjacent to it. While it is active with respect to them, it may be said to be latent with respect to the countries of South America. Let us hope that an occasion for its more emphatic assertion in behalf of those countries may be long delayed.

"In this connection it may not be inappropriate for me to call your attention to the fact that our friends of Latin America generally look upon us with more or less suspicion. While Mexico, Venezuela and Cuba have received substantial evidence of our good will and friendship, they have also had some reason to suspect our entire disinterestedness. While they recognize the 'Doctrina de Monroe' as a doctrine of benevolence, they have some fear that it may ultimately become a doctrine of 'benevolent assimilation.' Deny and disguise it as we will, it is an open secret that while the Latin American republics regard it as a doctrine of protection against outsiders, they fear that it may yet become a doctrine of conquest for insiders. The evidence that this fear is genuine is not far to seek, and while it is not germane to my present purpose to consider whether it is well or ill-founded, I cannot refrain from pointing out that it exists and that it is the part of good statesmanship to remove it, if it can be done.

"That an effective, honorable and profitable way can be found to this end for them and us alike I do not doubt. At all events, those who have the subject in mind may well consider the suggestion which I venture to make that the time has come when we should seek for a basis of commercial relationship with our neighbors, broader and more philosophical than that of mere reciprocity, which as at present understood is at best a matter of barter in commodities.

"Inasmuch as under the Monroe Doctrine, which one of our most distinguished statesmen has declared to be as much if not more commercial than it is political, we have assumed the burthen of protecting the neighboring States from foreign aggression, the question naturally arises why should we not try to get some commercial advantage from them which while it may make them richer and stronger, would in a measure compensate us for our trouble and expense? They are clearly under the American hegemony, and if the Monroe Doctrine is to be maintained, they are clearly within the American system of public law. In other words, as indicated in the notable letter before referred to, 'The United States are sovereign in the Western Hemisphere.' That is, as I read it, our national will must prevail in all cases where we choose to assert it, if we are strong enough to enforce it, and we are pledged to enforce it in all cases where European Governments seriously encroach upon the territorial integrity or the sovereignty of any American State.

"Under this aspect of our relations with them, why should the United States not say frankly to all the States of North America, at least, we will agree to absolute and reciprocal free trade in natural and manufactured products, between our country and all its dependencies wherever situated, on the one hand, and all the immediately neighboring countries on the other, under a uniform tariff to be agreed upon by the parties to the arrangement, and to be carried into effect as against all other countries? I do not say that the time has come when such an arrangement as this can be carried into effect. It would doubtless be rejected at first by one or more of the countries interested, and would certainly meet with the opposition of the protected interests everywhere. Much discussion would necessarily follow before the public mind could be brought to understand and accept it, but I do not doubt that the time will come when this measure, or some modification of it, will be adopted by every North American State and dependency.

"I do not venture to suggest its extension to the South American Republics for the present. [illegible]

[illegible]

ultimately to be given up to colored and inferior races, unfit for self-government. He traced the causes of the decline in the prosperity of the West Indies islands to economic and commercial mismanagement rather than bad government or social inefficiency; and in particular exhibited the effect of the discovery of beet sugar upon both the industrial and political futures of Cuba. Continuing, he said:

"The war between beet and cane sugar, notwithstanding great improvements in the art of sugar making, had done its work gradually, at times imperceptibly, but always most effectually. The whole island when our army occupied it in January 1899 was dotted with ruined and abandoned plantations. The bullock cane-crusher and the open pan had given way to the steam crusher, the vacuum pan and the bagasse furnace. Every New England man will understand that under the influence of competition, every step and process in the industry had been perfected till the modern plantation and sugar house had become models of efficient and economic management, but the struggle was in vain. What the destructive work of competition had spared, war and fire made haste to sweep out of existence. By bribery and favor a few of the richest plantations escaped, but their united output was reduced the first year after the second rebellion began to only 225,000 tons of sugar. Only the fittest had survived. Three million head of cattle or over nine-tenths of the entire motive power and fresh meat supply of the island had been swept away, the able-bodied men had mostly gone into the rebellion, wages had fallen to 30 cents a day in silver or merchandise, and under the murderous policy of reconcentration, the gaunt forms of famine and sickness were abroad in the land. It is safe to say that had the intervention of the United States been delayed another year, all the Cuban farming population would have been starved to death.

"But with peace and the restoration of civil government came hope, and a slow revival of agriculture and commerce. Capital and immigration are flowing again into the country. Cattle are being imported as rapidly as means can be found to pay for them, and the output of sugar and tobacco is steadily increasing. Three hundred thousand tons of sugar were produced in the season of 1899-1900, 600,000 in 1900-1901, and it is estimated that the crop of 1901-1902 will reach 800,000 tons. The tobacco industry is also making rapid strides, but the competition between beet and cane sugar, and between American and Cuban tobacco is as fierce as ever.

"The price of sugar is at the bottom, the latest returns show that the producer is realizing from a cent and three-quarters to a cent and seven-eighths from his output, while according to the most careful calculation it is costing him, under the most favorable conditions, an average of two cents per pound. Thanks to the investigations of a Parliamentary Commission, it is known that the conditions prevailing in the British West Indies are even worse, for the simple reason that the best of them cannot produce sugar nearly so cheaply as it is produced in Cuba. From my own observations I am persuaded that Jamaica can never grow sugar again at less than an average of three and one-half or four cents per pound. The soil of Barbados is exhausted, and what there is in the other British islands and colonies adapted to sugar growing has lost its original freshness, and, consequently, notwithstanding their appeals to free trade Britain, they are losing, if they have not already lost, their place forever in the sugar industry of the world.

"While this is the case, it is certain that with an even chance, free from high tariffs and the hurtful influence of bounties and premiums to its rivals, Cuba is the best country in the world for the production of sugar as well as of high-class tobacco. Its lands lie better and are more fertile, while there are more of them adapted to that industry than can be found in any other island or country yet to be brought under cultivation. The area of Cuba is about 43,000 square miles or 27,500,000 acres, the most of which is suitable for either sugar, tobacco, coffee, fruits or cattle raising. It is one of the most beautiful and fertile countries of the world, and I do not hesitate to give it as my opinion that with its varied resources developed and undeveloped it is worth more to us than any equal area in the United States, except New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio and Illinois, and than any other country in the world except Canada.

"It is indeed one of the most beautiful, healthful and inviting islands under the sun, and while it lies just within the tropics it can hardly be called tropical. Thrust out into the ocean for 700 miles, its climate is everywhere mitigated by the trade winds and the balmy air of the surrounding seas. It is commonly believed that it can supply the whole world with sugar, but this is undoubtedly an extravagant exaggeration. While the land is generally fertile it would be far from the truth to assert that it is all good for sugar. From the best evidence I can gather, its capacity in that direction, with the product fetching two cents net, is probably not to exceed 3,000,000 tons, and even with the free entry of sugar into the United States it would be many years before the limit could be reached.

"Its tobacco is, however, the best in the world for cigars and cigarettes, and while there are several extensive and widely separated regions adapted to its cultivation, there is but one Vuelta Abajo. Coffee flourishes in nearly every part of the island, especially in the hilly and mountainous sections, and should it sell at or above 20 cents a pound it would become a profitable crop. The pasture and grass lands are the best I have ever seen, and will easily support from three to five million head of cattle. All kinds of tropical fruits, especially the pineapple, orange, lemon, lime, banana, mango and alligator pear can be grown anywhere in abundance and of excellent quality. Fibre plants can be cultivated with profit in many sections. Iron and copper ore and valuable woods are found in the eastern provinces. Indeed, the island is a natural garden, every part of which under favorable conditions can be made to support a much larger population than it now has, and to contribute profitably from its superfluities to the comfort and happiness of people living in more northern countries, where the horticultural and agricultural products are different and less varied.

"Porto Rico is hilly and mountainous, with but little level land adapted to sugar growing. Its maximum output is about 150,000 tons, but nearly every part of it produces excellent coffee, almost as rich as the best Java and Mocha in caffeine and of delicious flavor. The cattle ranges are excellent and all the tropical fruits can be produced in perfection, but the population is dense and the land almost entirely occupied. There is but little room for immigrants and any great improvement in the wellbeing of the people must come from a free interchange of products with the States. Fortunately, the Portoriqueños now enjoy this privilege as citizens of the great Republic and may therefore confidently expect a gradual increase of prosperity and happiness.

"And now a word as to our other tropical possessions. From all I can gather from books and from the many intelligent officers who went from my staff in Cuba to serve in the Philippines, Admiral Dewey was far away from the truth when he pronounced those islands to be more valuable than Cuba, their climate to be better and their people to be more highly civilized than the Cubans. [illegible]

of the joint resolution they cannot be annexed to the United States. That door is shut for the present at least. If we cannot find another, we should have done well to leave them under the oppressive dominion of Spain.

"After all I have said you will not be surprised to learn that I have from my first official report to the present day urged it, as the highest and most intellectual duty of statesmanship, to give absolute and unrestricted free trade in natural and manufactured products to the Cubans also, in exchange for the same privilege to be granted by them to us, under the protection of a common tariff, as against all other countries. This is a novel as well as a radical measure. It was first proposed by me in my official reports to the War Department, but so far it has received no public consideration. I contend, however, that if adopted it cannot fail to develop the resources of Cuba rapidly and completely. Under its stimulating influence wages would rise, profits would increase, wealth would accumulate and prosperity and progress would be apparent on every hand. The country would fill up with Americans, the Spanish peasantry would pour in as laborers, and such a boom as the world has rarely ever seen would prevail throughout the island for the next quarter of a century. As my friend, Juan Pedro Baro, who owns the beautiful sugar estate of La Conchita, in the Province of Matanzas—perhaps the very best one in the world—said to me two years ago, 'with free trade in sugar and tobacco Cuba would be a dream. She would indeed be a cup of gold.'

"In addition it may fairly be claimed that such a measure would at once turn the doubting heart of the Cuban people to love, where now it must be confessed they extend to us but a hesitating gratitude. I shall not pause to consider the cause of this, nor whether it is just or unjust. Under all the circumstances of the case it may be admitted that it is natural. But putting all sentimental considerations aside, I ask why should we not make the arrangement which I suggest with them, and indeed any other which concerns our common interests and welfare by treaty now, or as soon as their new government has taken charge of their affairs?

"Of course our domestic sugar and tobacco growers, and perhaps other protected interests will oppose it, but every laboring man, manufacturer and consumer of tropical products would profit by cheaper sugar, cigars and fruits, and a wider market for our breadstuffs and manufactured products, and with all due deference I submit that under the doctrine of the greatest good to the greatest number, the measure should prevail. It is true that it would enrich the Cubans. Both laborers and planters would have more money to spend, and under the protection of the common tariff after providing for the merest necessities of life, as they do now, would doubtless buy most of their luxuries in Europe, as we do, but they would surely spend most of their surplus for goods, wares and merchandise produced in the United States. We should share in every way in their prosperity and they in ours, while the strength and glory of the great American commonwealth would be correspondingly increased.

"We have assumed the obligation of respecting Cuban autonomy and of protecting her against foreign aggression. Why we should not also contribute to her prosperity and promote our own by the substantial monopoly of her business, which would result from the proposition under consideration, I cannot imagine. As the arrangement would necessarily be made under a special treaty, it could be limited to a term of years, or made terminable upon proper notice, and if for any reason foreseen or unforeseen it should prove to be disadvantageous, it could be modified or ended as might at the time appear to be best. During its existence, it is apparent to the most thoughtless that all their experiments in government, would be made at the sole risk of the Cubans, while all economic and sociological questions affecting both their welfare and ours would be considered by them and us at leisure. In my judgment it would not be ten years before the Cuban Republic would become afraid of the termination of this temporary arrangement and would be knocking at the door for permanent admission into the Union. I shall not pause to give my reasons, but I cannot forbear declaring my belief that she would in the meanwhile have proved herself to be in every way worthy of this great destiny.

"If it should be urged that this is strictly a free trade measure or that it would amount to a bounty to the Cubans, equal to the duty remitted, I should reply that under the old doctrine of protection as I understand the theory and practice to have been, all articles of necessity which could not be produced in our own country or which could not be produced in sufficient quantity, should be admitted free or under a comparatively low duty. As sugar is clearly one of those commodities, I should strenuously contend that my proposition in reference to Cuban cane sugar is not only in accordance with the practice and precept of the Republican protectionists, but will increase the business and promote the best interests of the entire country. At all events most of us are I trust that sort of protectionists, and ought, I am prepared to contend, to give the measure our support on strictly selfish grounds, even if we cannot see our way to do so much for tropical productions originating in countries not within our political dominion and control.

"If any of you question the feasibility of this plan under the 'most favored nations clause' of our treaties, I must say at once that no European nation can justly claim 'like circumstances and conditions,' and therefore cannot fairly claim like privileges for its West Indian possessions. If they do, however, they should be denied. But in any event, the worst thing that can happen would be to extend the same arrangement to such of the other West India islands as are willing to work under the common tariff as against their suzerain powers, and I can see no reason why this should not be correspondingly profitable for us."

In concluding Gen. Wilson said of the general scheme of trade relations with the tropics:

"The most I claim is that it is broad enough to stimulate production in all the articles which can be found or profitably grown in those countries, and at the same time give to the people of the United States a large share of the profit in exchange for such necessary articles as cannot be found or produced in tropical countries. In other words, it would bring those countries into such economic and commercial relations with the several States, Territories and dependencies of the United States as the latter have with each other, while it would effectually keep them out of our political system till they had shown themselves worthy or desirable parties to be invited into it.

"I am well aware of the fact that Mr. McKinley's Buffalo speech, or as it has been called the 'Buffalo programme,' is a powerful appeal for reciprocity as the method which he thought best adapted to meet the present emergency [illegible]

in the rates of duty on them, and fall short of conceding absolute free trade, under the protection of a common tariff, as against other nations, we shall limit the profits of our tropical neighbors and of our trade with them.

"Since the Spanish war our relations with the tropics are now much closer than ever before, while, if anything, they are not so close with the European nations. Is it not therefore, the part of wisdom for us to draw them still closer along the lines of least resistance, rather than fritter away our strength along lines of increasing resistance?

"I cannot doubt that most of you will accept this as a general proposition, but such of you as are ultraprotectionists will probably ask if we cannot control the tropical trade in our hemisphere (including the Philippines) without conceding so much to the injury of our home interests. There are lots of people in the world who prefer to hold something back—to do things by halves and even quarters—and candor compels me to say that some less radical measure may possibly be found than that which I am advocating, but I am sure that the economic reconstruction will be slower, and the profits of all concerned will be smaller just to the extent that we fall short of absolute free trade with our tropical and subtropical neighbors.

"From whatever point of view the proposition under consideration may be looked at, I trust your judgment will be in favor of its early adoption, and that in the end it will benefit mankind at large as well as ourselves and our commercial allies. We must not forget that we are not the only country that is growing in wealth and power. The others are forging forward also, hence it behooves us to take all the advantages, and follow all the short cuts that are offered us. Obviously, while we should not neglect any opportunity abroad, we should first lay our commercial hands on the countries closest to us. In this connection it may be worthy of mention that the second paragraph of the invitation to the Pan-American Congress now in session at the City of Mexico calls distinctly for the consideration of measures looking to a customs union between the American republics, but it is too soon for any prediction as to its outcome, although it justifies the hope that the subject will receive the attention it deserves. Meanwhile, it will probably be conceded by our European rivals that North America as a whole is within our proper sphere of interest and influence. When we have made that secure by the best available means, we may well go farther afield, and if it works satisfactorily, do our best to extend the zollverein to the countries of South America."

MISREPRESENTING THE CONGO

An American Tells More Stories of Horrors in That Region.

An American named Edgar Canisius, who has retired from the service of the Congo Free State, is reported to be in London telling terrible stories about the killing of hundreds of natives if they refused to collect rubber. He says they are practically forced at the muzzle of rifles to gather rubber and sell it for two cents a pound, the product being sold later at Antwerp for 75 cents a pound.

There is reason to believe that the story of horrors which this man is now relating is much exaggerated. The natives of the upper Congo, where rubber is collected, have been treated badly enough in the past; but for two years, the Government has been doing everything in its power to protect the natives.

Over a year ago, Mr. Liebrechts, Secretary of the Interior in Congo Free State Government, said that the State had acted with energy in its endeavor to protect all the natives. Its military posts, however, had not been able to keep the entire rubber collecting region under perpetual guard. He declared that the white authors of the crimes which had just come to light would not fail to receive their deserts. They would be taken before the court at Boma, the capital, and if the charges were proved they would be severely punished.

A little later, Mr. de Cuvellier, the Secretary of Foreign Affairs wrote to the Belgian Minister of Foreign Affairs that there were then in the prison at Boma twenty white men who had been found guilty of acts of cruelty toward the natives. One of these men was condemned to life imprisonment, another to ten and another to two and a half years in prison. Lesser penalties were inflicted upon the remaining offenders.

Capt. Charles Lemaire wrote about two months ago that the most rigorous orders had been given to officials to inflict severe punishment for ill treatment of the natives. He added that these orders are being daily executed but admitted that some wrongs may still be inflicted upon the natives because the official staff can scarcely extend the full protection of the laws over the enormous territory in which the whites are now working.

The Rev. A. J. Bowen, a British clergyman, who for nine years has been a missionary on the upper Congo, sent a letter to England, which was published last month in which he said:

"I am glad to say that things have vastly improved on the Congo, as far as the treatment of the natives is concerned. The State has for some time been keeping a sharp lookout for officials and traders who dare to illtreat the natives, and to my knowledge quite a number of white men have been severely punished for abusing the Congo people. When I passed through Boma in March of this year a lady missionary informed me that she was in the habit of visiting the prisoners in the jail there, and I was rather surprised to hear that there were quite a number of white men who had been sentenced to terms of imprisonment, of from five to fifteen years."

Mr. Bowen added that during his long residence on the Congo he has seen great improvements carried out in the government of the country and that the natives have benefited much from the fact that the Government has greatly restricted the authority of the traders and is severely punishing crimes against the natives.

A great deal of other testimony which might be cited goes to show that any charges of wholesale outrage upon the natives of the Congo, made at the present day, are exaggerated. The constant tendency is to reduce the evil inflicted upon the blacks by the presence among them of a certain number of brutal and irresponsible white men.

ADVICE FOR SMOKERS

If You Must Smoke Do It With Leisurely Puffs

From the Chicago Tribune.

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LETTERS FROM THE PEOPLE.

The "Bosom" of Rome or Greece.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of "Another Anglican Catholic," of Troy, in protest against the well-developed movement of certain Episcopalians toward Rome, calls for a little historical research. It seems to be a question of "bosoms" with the gentleman from Troy. Why should he refer to the "bosom" of Greece? Does he know the history of the Greek Schism? He would be as well in the "bosom" of Henry VIII. or of Elizabeth.

Now, as to the Greek Schism. Our friend at Troy would not like to repose in the Grecian "bosom," I think, did he know all of the circumstances. He would surely prefer Rome were he better informed of the recorded facts. The canons of the Church relating to the Patriarch of Constantinople required that dignitary to be in accord with the Popes, and also agreeable to the Emperor of the Eastern Empire. Theodora, the Queen-Mother, reigning about A. D. 840, acting with the Pope, deposed John, the Iconoclast Patriarch, and Mathodius was appointed in his stead. After Mathodius came Ignatius, in 845. Bardas Cæsar, the uncle of the heir-apparent, Michael, was a man of importance and influence in the empire. He led a licentious life, and Ignatius publicly refused him Holy Communion because of a particular incestuous crime, well-known at the time to the public. Bardas set about the overthrow of Ignatius, and, associating with himself Photius, a smart and ambitious layman of high office, prevailed on the boy Michael to take the throne and send his mother and sister to a monastery. He banished Ignatius, who had been Patriarch for eleven years. Photius was made Patriarch, without the formality, even, of an election, while he was yet a layman. Ignatius had refused to resign at the invitation of Bardas. Besides, Photius had already been out of the communion of the Church as a schismatic.

No Bishop could be induced to ordain Photius until that schemer made a confession of faith and submission. Then he was run through the various stages of ordination in one week. But within a month he began to persecute those who had been deceived by his pretended submission. Photius had declared his recognition of Ignatius and called him his spiritual father. He and Bardas had Ignatius brought back to Constantinople, and they confined him in a dungeon until one day his keepers took his hand forcibly and made a "cross-mark" on a blank paper. This paper Photius afterward filled in with a formal resignation.

Photius and Bardas, in the name of the Emperor, then sent messengers to Pope Nicholas I., declaring that Ignatius had resigned because of old age; made a confession of faith, and declared his subordination to the Roman Pontiff. The Pope was cautious because he did not receive any direct communication from Ignatius. He sent legates to Constantinople, with instructions to report, but these legates were seduced by Bardas and party. They exceeded their authority, and went so far as to hold a council and declare Photius to be regular. Ignatius obtained a sort of respite soon after and prepared a petition to Pope Nicholas. The truth was told in this document. It was signed by ten metropolitans, fifteen Bishops, and by hundreds of monks and priests. It was taken to Rome by Theognostes.

In the meantime Photius had advised the murder of Ignatius, but the latter escaped. The Pope, on being advised of the situation, denounced the outrage and sent letters to the Patriarchs of Antioch, Alexandria and Jerusalem, requiring them to have his denunciation read in all of the churches of the East. Photius refused to read the letter which was sent to him, and, instead thereof, produced another of later date, which he pretended to have received by the hands of Eustatius. This forgery Eustatius afterward acknowledged, and he was scourged by order of Bardas—for acknowledging it, probably.

In a letter which Nicholas at that time sent to the Emperor, this Pope said: "We have your letters to Pope Leo and ourselves where you give testimony of the virtue of Ignatius and the regularity of his ordination and election."

The action of the Pope fully exposed Photius, but that daring individual was not phased. He immediately prevailed on Bardas to get the Emperor to call a council of those who could be depended on, and incontinently excommunicated poor Pope Nicholas. Only twenty-one Bishops could be cajoled or forced into the council.

This was the beginning of the Greek Schism. All modern movements of the Greek Church of a schismatic nature can be easily traced to this earlier event.

But even this schism did not outlast the life of Ignatius. The Emperor had Bardas killed by Basil the Macedonian General of troops. Then he associated Basil with himself in the Government, and then Basil had him killed off. Photius was exiled and Ignatius was permitted to return, which event occurred Nov. 3, A. D. 867.

All of these facts can be verified by a perusal of the letters of Pope Nicholas on file in the records of the Vatican library, especially Letters 4, 10 and 13; also the records of the first year of Adrian II., who succeeded Nicholas in 867.

I think, under the circumstances, that "Another Anglican Catholic," the gentleman from Troy, if he is really in earnest, will, on a calm examination of real Catholic authorities, change his mind about the Greek Church and come right over under that "yoke of Rome," which correspondent "Edward T." so well describes in THE SUN of Oct. 22. If men throw away inherited and acquired prejudices and examine the question thoroughly on all sides, at all sources, they will not fail to see the right side. And as one of the ablest writers on matters of faith says, "If the will is to find and accept the truth, the heart will follow." The will has a strong, determining force in such matters.

PAWTUCKET, Oct. 24. H. J. C.

The Law of Right and Wrong

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. E. Sherman does not stoop to refute or to explain the fact that the majority of agnostics lead exemplary lives, nor does he quite appear as the former bold figure whose desire is *c'est mon plaisir.* Don Juan is a fascinating and broadly human character because a strong elementary nature, not mere reflection, commands his actions and utterings. But those who follow in his footsteps because they don't believe in a future life are scarcely of his flesh and blood.

The actions of a man are determined by his individual character, according to which the different motives act upon him differently from every other man. What a man does is the consequence of what he is and what he is follows from his inherited organization, his education, his habits and all the circumstances of his former life. There is no impression in a man's life that has not its effect upon his character, but the two most powerful agents are the inherited quality and the law of habit. In fact, many characters are nothing but deposits of accumulated habits in thinking, feeling and acting.

Beginning with the inherited quality does Mr. Sherman, a believer in evolution, doubt for a moment that he and his like will be extirpated before long by the process of natural selection? [illegible]

[illegible]

To What Absolute Self-indulgence Leads [illegible]

[illegible]

all, saint and sinner alike, come into the world. It required the sacrifice, consummated on Calvary, of the Saviour of mankind, to give a better impulse to the spirit of man which has brought about the cleaner, purer lives which the best and noblest of our race to-day aspire to.

Mr. Sherman confines his system to the strong and healthy. He imposes thereby an arbitrary limit to its workings. But it is common to all. There is none so weak and unwholesome as not to have some proclivities to indulge. The strong and passionate will tend toward the pleasures of the senses; the weaker and more intellectual toward ambitious scheming; those endowed with lower instincts toward petty larceny, picking pockets, and the like. Once you grant the right of the individual to gratify his natural desires, it becomes a matter of chance what those desires are, and no one holding these views can logically compound the sins he is inclined to by damning those he has no mind to.

Mr. Sherman draws the line at the law, within which he says, he proposes to keep. In other words, while claiming the right to do as he pleases, he recognizes the right of society to restrain his liberty when it becomes a menace to others. This is right and logical. A due consideration of the signification of that one word, "society," points, I think, to a radical defect in the ethics of self-indulgence considered as a system. It cannot become universal without leading to anarchy, savagery, and finally becoming self-destructive. The sensualist must have purity to corrupt and safe surroundings to permit him quietly to enjoy the gratification of his lusts, or he will become a mere soulless hog, and, moreover, will be obliged to fight for his indulgences with others with whose desires his own conflict. The one whose proclivities tend toward picking and stealing must have general honesty on the part of the majority, or he will become only one of a universe of robbers and ruffians, each openly preying upon the others.

In a word, the successful carrying out of the unfettered exercise of one's lower impulses implies a vicious minority in the midst of a nobler majority. The system cannot therefore be universal and hence is unscientific. Would Mr. Sherman or Mr. Jamblichus like to live in a world where all acted upon the same principles? Is it not part of the pleasure of the libertine to live among those who are shocked by his irregularities, so that he not only has what he considers a "good time," but also enjoys the reputation of being "a devil of a fellow?"

I do not believe that Mr. Sherman, and perhaps not Mr. Jamblichus, mean exactly what they say. Whether they do or not I would earnestly beg them to do this: Let each carefully preserve his letters, as published in THE SUN, and read them over at least once a year, say on the 1st day of each January, and let both of them ask themselves whether, upon the whole, the course they outline in these letters has been, if followed out, conducive to the end in view, namely, happiness. G.

YONKERS, N. Y., Oct. 26.

A Venerable Colored Man's Views.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent is, perhaps, the oldest living colored man who has persistently and uncompromisingly pressed the agitation of the negro question, involving the security of the colored man in his rights as an American citizen. He knows of no intelligent colored man or woman who has advocated the breaking down of social bars against the will of their rearers; who has advised any forcible invasion of any domiciliary right. He has reasoned that it was to his interest to respect these rights for his own sake, as well as for the sake of others.

This expression is made with the hope that it will be considered, that it may have the effect to check the blatantcy and the foolish rancor being exhibited against proper efforts to beget proper respect. Let it be widely known that no man, white or colored, shall enter your correspondents' home against their will. He would impress it upon your readers that his many years of agitation have been simply to have his rights as a man and an American citizen respected.

He deems it pertinent to make this reference at this time, as the subject has been made prominent by the President having invited a noted colored man to dine with him in the White House. Such an act would not create surprise among the crowned heads of Europe. I could refer to social recognitions here in the United States, made by educated, wealthy and refined Americans; no force entered into them. I know of academies, of boarding schools when I was a young man, and the fact is true of later days, in which the daughters of colored gentlemen were admitted to be educated, where the colored girls were never suspected of not being virtuous, where there was no restraint and no placing of them apart because of their race. They were as free in all respects as were the rest of the students. The present harping upon "teeming immorality" is a tune of later days, played for a purpose.

GEORGE T. DOWNING.

NEWPORT, R. I., Nov. 6.

SEA SERPENT AHOY!

Fallen In With Near Chuk Chao Island in Chinese Waters.

From the Shanghai Mercury.

The *Hong Kong Daily Press* has received the following "official" report on a sea serpent seen last week in local waters:

On Sunday, Aug. 18, 1901, at 11:20 A. M., as the Chinese customs cruising launch Lungtsing was steaming at half speed headed for Boddam cove, Tungho Island, in latitude north 22 degrees, 8 minutes, 30 seconds, and longitude east 113 degrees, 48 minutes, 40 seconds, at about ten cables' length from the Chuk Chao Island, I sighted a dark object on the surface of the water, one point to the starboard bow, and which looked to me like a rock. I at once gave the order "full speed astern," and vessel passed about thirty feet clear of object, which, to my surprise, was a large serpent, lying in a round coil, with its head raised two or three feet and slightly moving. Stopped engines and lowered starboard gig. I despatched Mr. Kuster, second officer in gig, with orders to kill the monster if possible. Mr. Kuster stood in bow of gig with a boathook ready to strike. The serpent had now lowered its head again, but on approach of the gig suddenly struck out, hitting blade of one of the oars, turning the sailor turtle back. It then raised its head to the level of the launch's davit about fifteen feet at a distance of not more than ten feet from the gig and thirty feet from the launch where I stood. The crew of gig were scared and prepared to jump overboard. Mr. Kuster, still standing in bow of gig, prepared to strike with the boathook, but before he could do so the monster suddenly dived and made off. Its action in swimming was like that of an ordinary water snake. The water being clear the reptile could be plainly seen a few feet down. It dived very quickly and made considerable disturbance of the water.

We judged the serpent to be from forty to fifty feet long and about a foot in diameter. It had a kind of crest on its head and two fins high up on the neck, just behind the jaws. The thickest part of its body appeared to be about fifteen feet from the head, tapering both ways. Its head was as big as a Rugby football, with large eyes and mouth opened wide when striking. It was of a very dark color on the back, striped and mottled, but lighter on the belly.

As soon as the serpent disappeared and we on the launch had recovered from our first surprise I ordered the ... Nordenfeldt to be loaded and launch moved slowly round for fifteen or twenty minutes in hopes that the reptile would reappear, but not doing so, vessel proceeded on her way to Boddam cove. [illegible]

Aug. 21, 1901.

[illegible]

Two Cat Stories

[illegible]

A GERMAN TRADE EXPERT HERE

MR. GOLDBERGER STUDYING OUR COMMERCIAL DEVELOPMENT.

He Has Official Station in Germany, but Is in America in a Private Capacity—Impressed by New York—German-American Commercial Questions.

Ludwig Max Goldberger of Berlin, member of the Imperial German Consultative Board for Commercial Measures and a Royal Privy Councillor of Commerce, is in America studying American industrial and commercial matters. He wishes it distinctly understood, that he comes here solely in his individual capacity and in no sense as an official representative of his government.

He proposes to visit Boston, Philadelphia, Washington, Pittsburg, Chicago, St. Louis and California. He is devoting his time more particularly to a study of our coal, iron and steel and cotton fabric development. In speaking of his task here he said:

"It is my first visit to the United States and I only regret that I deferred coming here so long. There is in Germany an inadequate appreciation of what America has done and is doing, and I frankly say that what I have seen here during my short stay has really amazed me.

"My first impression of New York is really a very grand one. I am impressed not only by the size of the buildings, but by the magnitude of movement and traffic in the streets, both on the elevated and tram railroads—a traffic that seems to be very well organized.

"Then again I am greatly impressed by the magnitude of the commerce in all branches of trade and industry and its concentration here in New York. And one has a feeling in seeing it that it is on a solid basis and corresponds to the real needs of a great working population.

"To-day I visited a number of the great department stores and importing houses, and they are truly on a splendid scale. I was glad to see in them the merchandise of my own country and was glad to learn that German merchandise was imported because it is regarded as good and that it meets the taste of the country.

"All this fortifies me in the opinion that Germany and the United States must continue to strengthen their good relations. To that end it is absolutely necessary that the reciprocity agreements now existing between the two countries should be enlarged and become commercial treaties with the most favored nation clause.

"Our trade treaties now are like a bag that is full of holes. We want to sew up the holes.

"On the occasion of President McKinley's death I, as a representative of a large circle of Berlin merchants and manufacturers, conveyed to Ambassador White the expression of our sympathy. To this Mr. White replied that our sympathy would 'be widely appreciated by Americans as showing that, beneath all temporary differences, there exists a deep feeling of human sympathy between our two nations.'

"Mr. White in this communication evidently meant by the words, 'temporary differences,' commercial differences which now are not great.

"On Germany's side there are complaints concerning certain rigorous measures respecting the customs tariff and especially respecting the Board of Appraisers and its severe methods. America, on the other hand, has complained in the last few years about the limitations put upon the business of American life insurance societies in Germany. This point, however, is now settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

"Then again, there has been complaint here about our treatment of American fruit and meat products, which treatment, however, is largely based upon sanitary police restrictions.

"Regarding the question of fruit the schedule of the new customs tariff has given the Americans fresh cause of complaint in that it is therein proposed that apples, pears and quinces shall enter free when unpacked or in sacks, while when packed they are subject to a customs tariff of eight marks. Inasmuch as fruit from this country must be laden in casks because of the sea voyage, it has been thought that in this clause there was especial harshness shown to American fruit.

"Regarding this new customs tariff I may say that with us, too, in Germany there are wide differences of opinion. But I was glad to note that it was an American paper printed in Berlin which said that while certain paragraphs might be objectionable in particular points to American political economy, yet America had no cause to complain about the regulations, there being many analogies to the same in the history of the customs tariff of the United States.

"But after all when one surveys in their totality the trade issues between Germany and the United States they seem very small when compared with the magnitude of the surface of contact—very small when compared with an annual exchange of goods between the two countries which foots up to not much less than $300,000,000.

"President McKinley pointed out the necessity of the United States concluding tariff treaties and President Roosevelt has indorsed the late President's views in that respect. To the United States in its commercial political measures which are to regulate its relations toward foreign countries the words of our German poet are applicable:

Man with pockets buttoned tight
None will gladly lend you aid
Kindly deeds kind deeds requite
Gifts by gifts must be repaid

"That is not quite literal, but it is about the poet's idea, I believe.

"There is one thing I would like to add and that is that there are very few in Germany who advocate the European trade combination that has been proposed. The thing is impossible to begin with and broken from every point of view.

"I have been asked what I thought of the prospect of there being a permanent coal market for America in Germany. I think there is very little prospect of that.

"Owing to the temporary ... tariff some coal gets across the ... to us. But that is merely an episode ... permanent commercial fact.

"Germany has been having ... speaking, an attack of nerves. ... is sound and healthy. The ... been a little deranged ...

"The primary cause of ... over-production. Manufacturers ... more than they could sell.

"Then there came a crisis ... in part attributable to the ... banks of hypothecation. There ... a falling off in the value of ... curities because people had ... in them to a certain extent.

"Persons with money ... into Government securities ... dustrials. All this brought ... of nerves of which I have spoken.

"Things now, however, are ... We are in a fair way to recover ... healthy tone."

Entertained by a Joint Snake

[illegible]