The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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A Very Significant Change.

An article in the last number of the *Fortnightly Review*, entitled "Negrophilism in South Africa," is of extraordinary interest because it describes a collision of sentiment concerning the negroes which exists in this country also.

The article starts out by saying that "the body of sentiment in England," which he calls "negrophilism," "counted for more one hundred years ago than it does to-day," "when it has largely spent its force." Like sentiment in this country also may be said to count for very much less than it did half a century ago. The debarring of the negroes from the ballot box, which is now so universal in the Southern States, provokes relatively little resentment in the North. The run of people here seem to be wholly indifferent to the matter.

The attitude of the Boers toward "negrophilism" has been and is, it seems, very similar to that of our own Southern people. "The Boer," Mr. M. J. FARRELLY, the writer in the *Fortnightly*, tells us, "challenges as untrue, as unscriptural, as a standing danger to life and property, and as a menace to the civilization, the negrophilist, black-man-and-brother, theory." The Boers' dread of English interference, he says, is due very largely to the impression and apprehension that it will bring to South Africa trouble and confusion by unduly lifting up the negroes, and thus reversing "one of the cardinal features of their native policy."

Meantime, of recent years, contact with the negroes in Africa has brought about in the religious missionary societies working there "a very marked alteration, if not of ideals, at least of prescribed courses." Not even the Société Evangélique of Paris, the pioneers of French missionary enterprise in Basutoland, now recommend marriage between black and white, and the London and Scottish missionary societies have come to show like reserve. The Jesuits and Trappists in Matabeleland and in Natal do not deny the validity of such a union, but they do not encourage it. At all the missionary centres, too, there is "an increasing perception that not literary training, but training to labor is what is required as the first European lesson to the black men." A movement started of recent years by the Kaffirs to form themselves into a separate Church in South Africa is viewed with disapproval by the missionaries as fraught with possible political danger. President STEYN and the Boers generally are troubled by the report of "the importation from the United States of a negro Bishop of an African Episcopal Church." "The people will endure no equality of black and white in Church or in State," declared the Transvaal Constitution of 1857, and they are of the same mind still.

Here is a significant remark by Mr. FARRELLY:

> One principle of the Boer laws with reference to the Kaffir should certainly not be interfered with, that of the infliction of the penalty of death for offences against white women. This is not a subject which it is necessary to dilate on, but all of South African experience are agreed that it is an absolute necessity of existence for Europeans. Carrying revolvers is not always sufficient; there must be, in addition, the spectacle to the savage Kaffirs, denizens of the towns, of the consequence of infringing the inviolable status of the European.

We do not need to make any comparison between all this and the situation in our Southern States as concerns the negro problem.

No Jewish Regiment.

Some of the young Jews of the East Side are said to have determined to form a military organization of Jews distinctively, primarily for the purpose of overawing the hoodlums who have been annoying them, but with the ultimate design of becoming a part of the National Guard.

In so far as the ambition of Jews leads them to become soldiers prepared to serve their country it is laudable. But why form a distinctively Jewish organization for that purpose? Shall our volunteer soldiers generally be separated into the different races whence they sprang?

We want rather an American soldiery, not Irish, German, Italian or Jewish regiments. When the Spanish war broke out, the suggestion of forming a Jewish regiment was made by some of our East Side citizens, but wiser counsels prevailed and the enthusiasts were induced to join the various regiments already organized by the State. If any Jews want to enter the militia there is a plenty of room for them in existing divisions of the National Guard.

The suggestion that Jews need to organize for defence against their neighbors of other races and religions is altogether mischievous. Such an organization would only provoke assault upon them. The Jews of New York are getting along too prosperously to have any good and sufficient reason for assuming here the attitude of an oppressed people; and anything that tended to emphasize further their separation from the rest of the people would be opposed by all wise men among them.

The Jews are a peaceful people and they will look to the civil law for protection in any case where their rights are assailed. They do not need to use the force of arms held by them. By all means, however, let the young Jews join our citizen soldiery, not as Jews, but as citizens. They will get in the military exercises of the National Guard the muscular training which Dr. FISHBERG, writing on the New York Ghetto, says so many of them need. But Jew regiments—never!

Decadence of the Religious Paper.

Some remarks recently made by us on the significance of the declining circulation and influence of the professionally religious papers are resented, very naturally, by several of these publications. The fact, however, is indisputable. Three religious papers once of foremost importance in their field have recently been sold for prices which are understood to have been small relatively to those which could have been obtained for their property twenty-five years ago.

A Methodist paper, the *Northwestern Christian Advocate*, refers to the "great influence on the life and thought of England," which is exercised by three English religious papers named by it. Our remarks, however, applied to this country only; but when it speaks also of knowing of "at least two religious papers in the United States which have a subscription list of over one hundred thousand each," it cannot refer, so far as our knowledge extends, to any strictly denominational papers of the class of which we were speaking.

The important religious papers, during the period from the middle of the last century up to, perhaps, fifteen years ago, were among the more profitable newspaper properties in this country. The *New York Observer* was a striking example of this prosperity, but recently it was sold at a price which indicated that it had fallen far behind, of recent years. The *Evangelist*, also a Presbyterian paper, was long a valuable property, but latterly has declined likewise. Presbyterian families almost universally subscribed for one or the other of these papers or for some other paper representative of their denomination. Adherents of the Churches generally were all possible subscribers to the papers of their faith. Now it is questionable if even the ministers themselves are largely attentive readers of their denominational periodicals.

This radical change, as we have remarked before, cannot be attributed to any diminution in interest in questions of religion at the present time, for our own correspondence gives striking evidence that that interest is profound and widespread. The greatest volume of correspondence received at this office during the very period of the decadence of the professionally religious paper has dealt with religious questions, but we have remarked in it very frequently an absence of denominational partisanship, which may explain that decadence. This decline, it may be added, has been coincident with lessening faith in the Bible in pulpits, theological seminaries and pews.

The European Conference.

It seems probable that there will be at least one important and far-reaching result of the meetings and conferences that have recently taken place between the heads and leading statesmen of the great European Continental Powers. This is some sort of agreement, if not a positive and definite convention or treaty, with international force, to assure the neutrality of the Baltic in the event of war.

This subject has already been under the consideration of the Governments of the Scandinavian States, but chiefly from the point of view of their own territorial neutrality. The conclusion of the Anglo-Japanese alliance, however, followed by the agreement regarding Corea, gave a fresh impetus to the Baltic question, which will result in a definite and formal declaration whenever the contingency which it is designed to meet presents itself.

The value to Russia of such an act of European Continental policy can hardly be overestimated. The *Novoe Vremya* of St. Petersburg, not long ago, without specifying the cause of its satisfaction, in an article discussing the probability of a war in the Far East, left no doubt as to what it meant when it said that Russia could face the possibility of such a war with comparative equanimity, as its western flank was amply guarded by Europe and Germany. This is practically the case throughout the whole length of the frontier of Russia from the Arctic Ocean to Persia, for where it ceases in Europe, the Russian coast of the Black Sea and her southwestern Asiatic boundary are covered by Turkey, which is influenced in all its policy by Germany.

With the western flank so effectively secured, Russia is able to turn her whole attention to her southern Asiatic frontier and her Pacific coast. Taking her southern boundary in Asia first, and assuming that Russia had to meet an attack from Great Britain with or without a simultaneous assault from Japan on the Pacific, it is difficult to see what the British policy could accomplish beyond temporarily retarding the establishment of Russia in the natural outlets on the seacoast to her central Asian territory. Afghanistan may be regarded as tabooed to both the assumed combatants from the start, with the advantage of such a buffer mainly on the side of Russia. Then Russia has uninterrupted railway communication along the whole of her central Asian frontier from the Caspian to Andijan in the heart of the Pamir region overlooking northern India, with a branch line from Merv to within forty miles of Herat, and one under construction from Askabad to Meshed in northeastern Persia. These two lines, with that building from Erivan in the Trans-Caucasus to Tabriz in northwestern Persia, constitute so many parallel lines of the Russian advance through the hinterland of the Persian Gulf and the Indian Ocean to the sea. The branch of the Central Asian railway which now stops short of Herat at Chahil Doktar, close to the Persian boundary, is obviously intended to transport troops and war material into eastern Persia in case of need.

But besides the neutrality of the Baltic, it is known that questions affecting the Mediterranean and North Africa, including Egypt and Morocco, have been seriously and anxiously discussed. With regard to neither has anything definite been arrived at, though there is a general understanding as to the end in view. In April last it was mooted that the question of Egypt might be brought up at any moment, and the sudden termination of the South African war is in part attributed to the apprehension of this. Morocco also was—so it was stated at the same time—to have its status fixed, and the British Government was so impressed by the activity of Continental diplomacy that an effort was made to induce the Spanish Government to enter into an arrangement whereby the British Mediterranean fleet would obtain the island of Minorca for its western base, in return for the retrocession of Gibraltar and a Spanish neutrality in the event of war which would assure the neutrality of both sides of the straits. A positive veto was, it is said, imposed by the other Mediterranean Powers on any such concession, and the proposition was not entertained by Spain.

The question of a common guarantee by all the Continental Powers of the colonies and dependencies belonging to the several European States has likewise been touched on, and has been the cause of articles concerning the independent existence of Belgium and Holland which have appeared at intervals of late in the European press. Here again nothing conclusive has been decided on, but the desirability of such a guarantee is recognized to be in the interest of peace and commerce, and the security of the outlying possessions of the Continental States.

For Russia the most serious point in the general situation is on the Pacific; and the complications which have sprung up between France and Siam are an addition to the difficulties that will have to be surmounted before peace can be permanently established in eastern Asia. Meanwhile the war party in Japan is said to be gaining the upper hand, and to be talking of nothing less than imposing terms of peace on a defeated Russia at St. Petersburg.

The Sweat of the Brow.

There is a laudable magazine called *Success*, wherein divers forcible and successful persons seek to teach aspiring youth how to attain that title. Success seems to be understood in a material sense. Its satisfactions are financial. There is much to be said for this view, and haughty followers of "the ideal" are wrong to turn up their noses at the tangible and solid. Given the "price," the "mazuma," as the contemporary classics have it, and everything may follow. "The heavy burden, the bewildering care that weighs on us who live and earn our bread," is put aside as soon as the bank account is suitably fat. Study, travel, all the delights of various knowledge, experience and accomplishment may be attained by the competent striver who works not for others, but for himself, and devotes himself to the luxuries instead of the necessities. So material success may be the starting-point toward the highest mental development and satisfaction.

Regarding material success as indispensable, or at least desirable, how shall it be obtained? The formulæ of *Success* still ringing in our ears, we turn with eager hope and curiosity to the prescription of a notably successful man, a ruler of Bagdad who is again making himself powerful. What says the illustrious improver of English, the foremost exponent of Manhattanese, the brilliant, masterful, philanthropical DEVERY? Hear and perpend:

> "I'm a money maker an' I always have been. An now that I've got the money I'm a going to spend it my way, without consulting Mr SHEEHAN or any of them fellows. I ain't been like those fellows, half-way born with a silver spoon in my mouth. I've earned mine by the sweat of my brow. When them fellows get a dollar they go South to spend it. I spend mine right here."

This is perfectly clear. To make money, be born to make money. The way may look a little dark at first, but really it is light and bright. You must be born to make money. We are all born; therefore we can all make money. How? Here perspiration is inspiration. "By the sweat of the brow." That is how WILLIAM S. DEVERY made himself rich. He was born and he has perspired. When you get your money by means of birth and brow, spend it where charity begins.

We commend Big BILL'S "Success without a Master" to all who wish to be successful.

Puritans and Damns.

A learned, ingenious and facete oath student or horcologian sends us a letter which we reward his whimsicality by printing "in another part of this paper," according to the formula said to have been employed first by ABRAHAM in the *Ur Register and Chaldee Chronicle*. We have no pleasure in the dripping English expletive mentioned in that letter. The taste of Whitechapel is not to ours. Still, the savage word is of wide distribution and may be reckoned "of the Blood," as Mr. KIPLING would say. The "Chantey of the Strong" comes to mind:

> "Thus saith the Song of the Sanguinary Adjective,
> 'I am the Oath of the Monarchs of the Sea,
> All around the earth you hear me,
> And the heathen peoples fear me,
> And skedaddle from the Lion when he swears tremendously.'"

Our correspondent gives the Sanguinary Adjective a noble pedigree, and tries to make it a "sacred head grown desecrate." We doubt the etymology and commit the word to the Board of Health and North Brother Island. It remains thoroughly English; low English, let us say in justice, and it does not thrive on American soil. It is to the honor of the United States that it prefers the "damn," now to be classified almost with unprofane profanity, and become largely what the Latin grammarians call an *epitheton ornans*, mere padding and filling. What the Puritans have to do with the case the facete correspondent alone knows. At any rate, they didn't bring over the Sanguinary Adjective; and if they invented the form "damn," they were benefactors. But so far as we know, neither the Sanguinary Adjective nor the harmless, unnecessary "damn" goes back to the times before the Puritan emigration. The facete one might as well attribute the sanguinolent epithet to the enemies of MARY TUDOR or the phrase "a tinker's dam" to JOHN BUNYAN.

Personally, we detest the offensive curse and have no use for the worn-out, edgeless or otiose one. "Damn" is not properly a profane word. It is dull and rusty. In every play of the last ten years which we have had the misfortune to see, "damn" has occurred at least three times. "Smoke a cigar and say 'damn;'" 'tis the recipe for a noble modern drama. But when, where, how did "damn," now in its dotage, arise? Speak, erudite delvers in the mines of curse lore. After all, the question is one of spelling. SHAKESPEARE was an accomplished swearer and our Puritan-baiter wrongs him:

> "The devil damn thee black, thou cream faced loon!"
>
> "I'll see her damned first, to Pluto's damned lake."

No blank cartridges there. And see how good and old is that "I'll see her (him, you, them) damned first." "Damned bloodsuckers;" is it any improvement to say "damn" bloodsuckers? Some proofreader fell into the error of thinking he had a soul to save; and so, perhaps, the shorter and weaker word came in.

The Dictionary must register every relieving or ejaculatory word, every oath nakedly wicked and inflamed or softened and Bowdlerized; the broth of Tartarus and the oatmeal-and-water of the Deacon. For us only the strange or poetical oaths; "By cock and pye," "by Mahound and Termagaunt," "by the humped-up (or "jumping") John Rogers," "Great thunderin' turf!" For us "by the Nine Gods," the oath of LARS PORSENA or PORSENNA; "by the Eleven Thousand Virgins of Cologne," "by all the tin laygions of divils of Kiloolv," "Jehoshaphat, Judas, Josh!" Nor do we refuse imported mild old favorites like "Body of Bacchus" (of all the Olympians only "by Love" and "Great Jupiter" seem to be left in English); "name of a pipe," "Herr GOTT in Mannheim." The well-instructed curse lorist collects much and uses little.

The Hon. JOHN J. O'BRIEN, cabman, of East 147th street, merits the tribute of a passing word.

Mr. O'BRIEN was "tooling" his cab the other day. A man from Cornwall got in the way and was run and "driv" down. The man in the street was lugged off in an ambulance. The man on the box was lugged off to a police court. The arresting policeman, an Achaian named XENOPOCHIPS, testified that he found the horse-taming O'BRIEN holding the head of the man run over, also that the horse-tamer had telephoned for an ambulance. The Magistrate wondered, pitied and discharged. But are not New York cabmen generally humane? Some of them have horses that have to be kept going or they would drop. The London cabby who fought Mr. PICKWICK, Mr. TUPMAN and Mr. SNODGRASS set forth facetiously a theory of cab horses that had sound points.

Besides, leave out the horse and consider the driver. He either has a passenger or he hasn't. If he has, it is his sacred duty to transmit that passenger to his destination without delay. If he has no passenger, then it is his sacred duty to his family or himself to hunt one up at once. In either case he has no time to waste upon pedestrians who are not customers. Do mail wagons never run over anybody? Do the drivers of brewery wagons never "whip up their horses and escape?" Cabmen's hearts are as big as other men's.

The New York cabmen are a joy to look at, and it is a joy to hear them talk. They are full of wisdom. Nobody knows more of the mysteries of the town. Few vocabularies are more jovial or sulphurous, according to the occasion. The cabman loves his little joke. Once when we had received a little legacy we thought we could afford to go as far as Forty-second street in a hansom. The helmsman of that hansom charged only a dollar and a half more than the tariff fare. Our polite remonstrance stirred him to a generous offer. Coming down from his quarter deck he bowed ceremoniously: "Take the cab, sir, and the horse. I give them to you. They are yours." Then, with a wild cry he disappeared behind the swinging doors of a "pumpin' station."

There is genius in cabmen as will be seen when our "Sociological Tour in Manhattan" comes out.

According to our esteemed Philadelphia contemporary, the *North American*, the latest malady wherewith medical skill must contend is the "trolley jolt." The name of the disease is only partially suggestive of the manner in which it is caused. Trolley jolt does not, as one might suspect, result from the passage of trolley cars over switches and intersections of the track, but rather from the jar or shock occasioned by frequent and vigorous application of the brakes.

It appears that in a majority of the cases reported, motormen and conductors have been the victims of this new affliction. After working for some time on lines where travel was heavy and stops were unusually numerous, these employees have shown signs of physical collapse, and have gone to the hospital suffering from nervousness and disordered stomachs—regarded as unmistakable symptoms, under certain conditions, of trolley jolt. None of the cases, we believe, has proved fatal.

If trolley jolt, as a specific and recognized malady, has found its way to New York, there has been no authentic announcement of the invasion. Should this unhappy product of the Quaker City ever dare to visit Manhattan, it will, needless to say, be promptly and mercilessly dealt with.

To-day's new member of our Order for Merit is Mrs. REBECCA DILLAWAY, 95, of Jersey City, "one of the best euchre players in the Greenville section," and winner of many prizes. "What a lonely old age you are preparing for yourself," said the Frenchman in the ancient anecdote to the man ignorant of the Devil's picture books. Card playing is a superfluity in youth, which has so many more robust distractions. When the time comes "to lower the masts and wind up the cordage," ah, then's the hour for the easy chair and the full deck, the placid table and the regular rubber. Age has its privileges and nobody can be a tolerable hand at whist before 70. Even youths of sixty are in the bumble-puppy class. Whist in the winter! There is the old inlaid card table which your great-grandmother bequeathed—O, fountain of lies, you bought it in Fourth avenue! There the fire dogs stand guard over the blazing hickory. There are four of us, fresh-faced, rosy, worthy to be Marquis and Marquises of the days of the Grand Monarch. The kettle is on the hob. If the night is cold, JOHN will prepare a little glass of something hot, port wine negus, if you like. Is it snowing? All the better. Poke the fire, if you please. And now, Mrs. BATTLE, your revenge and the rigor of game.

Whist is too much work for some of us, too intellectual. Besides, there is no fun in dummies. You want a game for two, for DARBY and JOAN, for a neighbor or two, dropping in. Everybody to his taste, but we say cribbage or bezique, trim, quiet, well-ordered games of mild calculation. And in the absolutely lonely hour, there is that eternal consolation of the human race, solitaire. The young are "dabs" at it. It takes sixty or seventy years of fruitful experience to make a man a master architect at that game, which has done more for humanity than printing, steam, electricity, pie and all the other so-called great inventions.

This is the kind of a day on which poems on sleighbells and brief, practical articles on plain and fancy skating ought to drift and slide into this shop. And what does come? A request for valuable advice and directions about exercise:

> "TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Can you recommend some simple form of outdoor athletics or gymnastics, suitable for a girl of twenty?
>
> "QUOGUE, Aug. 9. RADCLIFFE, 1904."

Well, lying in a hammock or fanning gently while taking light exercise in a rocking chair on a piazza would about hit us and be appropriate to the climate; but perhaps a hammock or a "rocker" is too cabined, cribbed, confined. Go aboard a boat with some safe and expert oarsman or sailor, and sleep while he or the winds do the work. If any of these exercises is found to be too fatiguing, give it up at once. Go through the ice cream manual as often as you are asked. Have the reports of the lawn-tennis matches read to you by an indulgent mother. In this form, exercise loses all its dangers from excess, and becomes soothing and salutary.

If you had told your temperament and weight, we could have prescribed something more active. Exercise by proxy is a positive joy to us. If you weigh 180 and like to stir your stumps, the leading case of Miss MARY SWANGER of Prescott, Pa., is the case for you. She is 20 and weighs nine times her age. The other day she unloaded fifteen big wagonloads of wheat sheaves in five hours. The next day she tried her hand at cornshelling and "shovelled in about 1,500 bushels of corn on the cob in about six hours." Miss SWANGER "says exercise is the great thing that American women need." Well, if they need it they ought to have it. There are men who don't need it "this weather."

CLAIMS OF CHRISTIAN SCIENCE.

The Case of an Artist Who Thought He Had Been Cured of Astigmatism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Since Mr. W. D. McCrackan has so cleverly got around the story that "Mother" Eddy could not save her own kin from fatal sickness, I should like to have him try his hand at this.

Some time ago, under orders from Boston and in the course of his business as press agent, he called on me at my house and, after being cornered in a discussion as to the philosophy of Christian Science, took refuge in the proofs of its validity afforded by the many it had healed. I told him that one well-authenticated case where astigmatism of the eyes had been cured would go a long way toward convincing me that there was something in the doctrine. He knew of hundreds of instances. I begged to examine one.

The upshot of the matter was that I was introduced to a portrait painter of considerable repute and merit, who told me that some twelve years before "coming into Science" he had been bothered by astigmatism, which in his case exhibited somewhat remarkable phenomena. When he looked at a perpendicular line it seemed to have a semi-circular bow out in the middle, it bent around. He had been induced to "come into Science" by a friend who at the age of 70 had recovered perfect vision by holding Truth in thought. The painter had laid aside his glasses and now saw better without them than with them. The glasses he showed me were the same that he had worn for twelve years. Unlike other people he had not changed them. He was a little past 45 years then.

On the way to the oculist who examined the glasses and the present condition of the eyes to which perfect sight had been restored, it is interesting, if not exactly germane, to relate that both the artist and Mr. McCrackan agreed that fires were not necessary to keep a man warm in the Klondike. No one need feel violent surprise to learn that the painter did not have perfect vision or even equal vision one eye with another. Whereas his glasses were half a diopter concave, his vision now needed convex glasses of half a diopter for correction, but the axis of astigmatism was precisely the same in the glasses he had and those he should have. The oculist said that he really did not need glasses unless his physical condition should deteriorate when very grave mental trouble might result from the eye-strain.

The change from half a diopter concave to half a diopter convex might be accounted for by the natural changes in the refractive power of the lenses of the eye due to advancing age, to the inability of the muscles of the eye to pull the stiffening crystalline lens into a convexer shape or to a possible error on the part of the oculist who first examined the eyes, due to what is called "a spasm of accommodation." But nothing could be more certain than that the artist did not then and never had had normal vision. The oculist fitted glasses which did give him normal corrected vision and the man acknowledged that it was so.

Mr. McCrackan had nothing to say on this occasion. Though I asked him to furnish me with other cases where astigmatism had been removed by Christian Science, I have not heard from him. He is undoubtedly an able man and I am extremely desirous of knowing his explanation of the failure of Christian Science to do a good job of eye repairing. Mr. McCrackan knows well enough who I am by these initials. E. W.

NORTHPORT, L. I., Aug. 7.

Family Discord Produced.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: The controversy between Mr. Frederick W. Peabody and Mr. W. D. McCrackan, as to the efficacy of Christian Science treatment in the case of Mrs. Mary Ann Baker I have read in your columns with the greatest interest. Mr. McCrackan's letter seems to me to have been framed to deceive, as it is an established fact that the sufferer did submit to Christian Science treatment without the slightest particle of benefit.

Unfortunately a number of the members of my family are of the faith and what was once a united family is now quite the reverse. A religion that is the cause of so much discord, and separates father and mother, mother and son, is to my mind a pretty poor sort of a religion to tie to. Outsiders cannot realize what this means but undoubtedly many of your readers are in a similar position.

T. HARRISON GOULD.

EAST ORANGE, Aug. 8.

Alleged Injustice to the Police by the Mayor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: I have read and re-read the Mayor's "talk" on the enforcement of the Liquor Tax law, and I am forced unwillingly to the conclusion that the Mayor is ready to be a party to an outrage against the uniformed members of the police force.

You will observe that he says that no arrests should be made in cases in which, in order to obtain the evidence to convict the offenders, the policeman would be obliged to wear "plain" or citizens' clothes. In other words, a policeman in citizens' clothes is to be allowed by the Mayor to go into a saloon and quench his thirst—to which policemen, as well as others, are addicted—while his brother in the city service, clad in the full regalia of his high office, afflicted with an equal thirst, must not relieve it, or if he does, must arrest the saloon keeper who aids him.

So, the uniformed policeman must suffer, and the plain clothes man can drink in peace and comfort!

Does the Mayor think that the clothes make the thirst?

ONE OF THE RANK AND FILE.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.

COME TO LOOK AT OUR CLUBS

So That He Can Americanize the Anglo-American of London.

Charles M. Hodgson, a member of the committee which organized the new Anglo-American Club in London, is in this country, having arrived in New York on the Germanic last week. Mr. Hodgson is here to look into the arrangements and management of New York clubs, with a view to formulating the affairs of the new London club according to American club ideas. Mr. Hodgson was for some years manager of the Carlton Club of London. He says of his visit to New York:

"It is our desire to give the Anglo-American Club more of an American atmosphere than a British one, as the club is designed chiefly for American use, a club where American visitors and American residents in London will feel quite at home. The clubhouse, it is expected, will be ready for occupancy by or before the end of next year. The cost of it, as I understand, is to be in the neighborhood of $2,500,000. The location will be in Piccadilly, near the Green Park."

Mr. Hodgson said that American cooks and cooking would prevail in the Anglo-American Club, and that he would give particular attention on his visit here to the kitchen arrangements at American clubs.

PURITANS AND DAMNS.

Thoughts on the British National Adjective and Other Words of Power.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Your collaborators in the Dictionary of Profanity have found so much to interest in the philosophy of the oath diaconal as to lose sight of the oath decanal, the oath episcopal, or wherever else you choose to class it in the ascending hierarchy of objurgation. Can you not discourse to us upon the oath principal, be it "damn" or other. A slight stress is laid upon the possibility of an alternative, for it seems that "damn" is not truly our oath principal, even though it has been termed by Sir Walter Besant "the universal adjective," and it certainly is so held by the peoples of the Continent, who think the English vocabulary to comprise little more than "rosbif," "schocking," "goddam." In England itself the oath principal has a most venerable antiquity and it is not "damn." If a navvy is brought before the Magistrate for some of the delights of his life and confesses to his delinquency in the form "I bloody well done it," he may count upon the rigors of the law in return for his profanity. Not an English newspaper would print the objurgation other than with the saving grace of the two-em dash, b——y. Between the desperate "bloody" of to-day and the pious "by our Lady" from which it has sprung, the pathway of literature is marked with the steps of progress. Your collaborators may amuse themselves and profit us by recording the diaconal forms to which this potent word has given rise. Of such these few come into mind: "Gory," "bleeding," "blooming."

Beside the historic lineage of "bloody" your mere "damn" is an upstart. Can you or your fellow-lexicographers affix the date at which it first became current among those for whom the plain superlative of the adjective is but a spiritless device of the grammarian, no proper exit for the mind charged with perilous stuff? From the Tabard inn in Southwark to the very shrine of St. Thomas, the Canterbury Pilgrims swore their way apace, yet never a "damn" was in the party. The host was a lovely swearer (did not the Persone with

> *Benedicite!*
> What ellers the man, so sinfully to swere?"

rebuke him for the ejaculation "Goddes bones"?) and had there been a "damn" in the England of stout old John o' Gaunt, the host would have been the man to crack it. There is, indeed, in Gammer Gurton's Needle a single "God damneth ye," but it is not cursing, rather is it prayer, such a prayer as might be prayed with all solemnity. Who swears a "damn" in Shakespeare? Yet we know the court of good Queen Bess was not too nice to stomach a good round "damn" had such there been in speech of men.

It is only in the Restoration drama that we find men damning up hill and down dale. Now, does not this mean that your "damn" is a crop-eared knave coming in with the Puritan? No Brownist or Independent of the lot could reconcile it with his conscience to swear "By'r Lady." Yet Brownist and Independent had to swear. Marston Moor was never fought on "Beshrew me," and Charles was not made shorter by a head without some stout word. This would seem to account for the absence of "bloody" and the presence of "damn" here in America, where the Puritans after found it convenient to dwell.

It will not be found difficult to believe that the Puritan could rap out his "damn" and stickle most theologically at "By'r Lady."

To trace our "damn" should prove a worthy subject for those who have so sagely recorded the *varia lectiones* of the diaconal and subdiaconal order.

PROBO IMPROBUS.

NEW YORK, July 28.

A Suggestion as to Electrical Storms.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In the distribution or apportioning the forces of the universe, under the governing laws, each element or force was apportioned so as to produce harmonious action of the whole; and, being so established, any variance, by reduction or increase, must necessarily produce a disturbance, with the effect of destroying the necessary harmony. If this proposition is true—as I suppose it to be—does it not furnish a basis for a natural explanation of the unusual prevalence of what are termed "electric storms" that have, for many months, prevailed in all parts of this country, with great destruction of property and loss of life?

Of course, if an subtle element is in its nature indestructible, therefore the artificial creation of it must increase its volume and power. These premises being granted, is it not evident that the enormous creation of electricity by dynamos has so overcharged the atmosphere with it as to destroy the original equilibrium, with the result of creating the destructive manifestations of it witnessed almost daily in many parts of the country?

That element being indestructible, and its quantity or volume being constantly increased artificially, in our industries, and as it was originally portioned in harmony with all other elements of the universe, is it not reasonable—is it not scientific—to expect that such a change will be brought about in the climate of the earth as to make animal life impossible ere many decades have passed?

NEW YORK, Aug. 10. ALBERT GRANGER.

Statues of Washington for Berlin and London.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: In all probability, there will soon be raised by the German citizens of this city a fund for a statue of George Washington, to be sent to Berlin in reciprocation of the one which Emperor William will send over of Frederick the Great to be placed in the city of the national Capitol.

Now, I hope that some American Ambassador will in the near future have the great honor and pleasure of unveiling an equestrian statue of Washington in some public square of the great city of London in the same patriotic spirit that Ambassador Choate unveiled a life-size picture of the Father of His Country over there last week in Masonic Hall representing him as Master Mason of his lodge.

There is on the globe no country or nation so great that if it had a statue of Washington it would not be still greater. Providence made him such, and no man has ever been his equal. The same in a great measure can be said of the late Queen Victoria of England.

A DESCENDANT OF NEW ENGLAND PURITANS.

NEW YORK, Aug. 10.

The Self-Sacrifice and the Modesty of Women.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—Sir: Here is a ray THE SUN may send on the "eight pretty girls of the village of Greenville, Conn., who had volunteered to give up various square inches of their skin to furnish a new scalp for one of their fellow workers * * * but bashful and shamefaced backed out," when told "the cuticle would be removed from their limbs."

A year or two ago, in St. Joseph's Sisters' Hospital in St. Paul, Minn., there was such a call for some live skin, to be grafted on the cheek of a young woman, and, for some reason unknown to me, it had to come from a young woman's breast. There was an offer of $50 to any one who would furnish it, and eager to hand over so handsome a sum to her poor parents, a hired girl of the hospital agreed to undergo the operation. But when the moment came for it she backed out. Then a young nun offered herself, had the required skin taken from her breast, and the grafting was successfully performed. Sad to say, some women there, older sisters of those unmistakenly modest Greenville girls, instead of admiring her heroism, which she further embellished by requesting that the hired girl should get the $50 reward, were shocked at her lack of modesty!

MARTIN MAHONY.

MENDOTA, Minn., Aug. 8.

EXPRESS TRAIN OF THE FUTURE.

One to Be Tested in Germany That Is to Maintain a Speed of 74.5 Miles an Hour.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—United States Consul-General Mason, at Berlin, in a report to the State Department on the express train of the future, tells of an offer by the German Society of Mechanical Engineers of a series of prizes for the best design and specifications for a steam locomotive and group of cars which would collectively form an express train capable of carrying 100 passengers and their baggage with personal comfort and at a speed of seventy-five miles an hour. The purpose of this competition, as was then stated, is to provide a unit of the equipment and attainment of greatly accelerated speed in railway travel, which can be adopted to the present State railways of Prussia without the tearing up and relaying of tracks with heavier ties and rails that would be required for rapid electrical service. He says:

"An interesting forecast of the pending competition has been given by Mr. Arthur Kirchhoff, editor of a technical publication in Berlin devoted to engineering and machinery, in which a description is given of certain features of the new locomotives, which are to be tested over the Berlin-Zossen line next year. The specifications require that this express engine and train of the future shall be able to maintain for three consecutive hours a speed of 74.5 miles an hour, without stopping for water or fuel, and at a minimum expenditure of motor power. Mr. Kirchhoff's outline of how this is to be done will have a definite interest to American engineers.

"During the experiments of last autumn, an attempt was made to determine as accurately as possible the waste of power entailed by the friction and resistance of air to railway trains at different rates of speed. It was found that while at a speed of fifty miles per hour this resistance on a still day was about 67.2 pounds per square metre of the surface of the front end of the car, the rate increased very rapidly with the augmentation of speed, so that at a speed of 93.7 miles the resistance rose to 157.5 pounds per square metre of impinging surface. Every projecting part, every window, door or other indentation which could form a pocket to catch the wind created by such high velocities increased the resistance to be overcome, so that in all future experiments the economy of rapid transit will require that the factor of air resistance shall be taken into careful account.

This, according to Mr. Kirchhoff, is to be done by enveloping the engines and train from pilot to rear platform in a shell of sheet steel, jointed so as to secure flexibility in passing curves, and so constructed as to inclose the locomotive and cars in a continuous tube, uniform throughout in size and presenting no projecting irregularity which shall catch the resisting air. The front of the engine will be pointed or wedge shaped the sheath will inclose as far as possible the running gear of the cars and even the wheels of both engine and cars will be closed discs of metal instead of, as now, spoked wheels with openings to catch the air.

"The new steam locomotive, we are assured, will rest on twelve wheels, viz., two pairs of drivers located at the middle of the machine, with a four-wheeled pivot truck in front and rear. Upon these three points of support the boiler and superstructure will be hung upon springs, carefully adjusted to take up as far as practicable the inevitable vibration and oscillation. Throughout the entire train, superfluous dead weight will be carefully avoided. Instead of carrying ten tons of water, the new tender will be built to take only half that amount, but will be rigged to take up water en route, as has been successfully done on some American lines.

"As now planned the new engine will have theoretically a coal consumption of 2,352 pounds per effective horse power per hour, as against 2,625 pounds, which is the standard of economic efficiency in the best locomotives of the present German type. It will be interesting to compare this forecast of theoretical efficiency with the actual results which may be attained when the new engine is tested."

CAUGHT 'EM BY TONS.

Many Sloops Necessary to Bring Ashore This Phenomenal Catch.

SAYVILLE, L. I., Aug. 11.—Forty tons of weakfish and half a ton of bluefish was the record-breaking catch made by John Wilson and Joseph Murdock in their nets in the cove about half a mile off shore from Oakdale landing last Saturday. After loading their eight sloops the fishermen signalled for other sloops in the bay to help carry the catch. Old fishermen say it was the biggest catch ever seen in those waters.

The Color Line at Chautauqua.

BUFFALO, N. Y., Aug. 11.—Amelia W. Sullivan, superintendent of the negro schools in Augusta, Ga., and herself a college graduate and negress, has written a letter to local newspapers protesting against the drawing of the color line at Chautauqua. She recently was invited to deliver an address at that place, but was able to get only the most meagre accommodations on account of her color, and then only after having been turned away from a score of places. She criticised the authorities for inviting her under the circumstances. The authorities defend themselves by asserting that they did not know that their guest was a negress.

Direct Passenger Route From Moscow to Port Arthur.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The Eastern Chinese Railroad is about to open direct passenger communication from Moscow to Port Arthur, says Consul Smith of Moscow in a letter to the State Department. The trains on the South Ussuri Railroad will meet steamers which run between the Russian ports on the Pacific and the ports of China and Japan. Moreover, the railroad proposes to organize regular steamship communication on the Ussuri and Sungari rivers, to the station of Iman on the Ussuri line.

Peace Conference in Colombia.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 11.—The State Department has received a despatch from Consul-General Gudger at Panama, Colombia, reporting that the Governor of Panama and Gen. Herrera, the Revolutionary leader, have been in correspondence with regard to the establishment of peace, and that to this end the Government has appointed three Commissioners, clothed with power, to meet a similar number to be appointed by Gen. Herrera. The Government Commissioners were to have left Panama on July 29 for Agua dulce.

Japanese Schoolboys Resist Temperance.

From the Japan Weekly Mail.

We had to report recently a strike on the part of the students of the Miye Middle School. On that occasion the fault seemed to be largely on the side of the faculty of the school and the Governor of the prefecture. News now comes of a strike at the Middle School of Oita, in which the students appear to be chiefly to blame. The account given in Tokio journals is that the older students, angered by some severe strictures passed by Mr. Uki, one of the teachers, against an increasing habit of imbibing *saké*, demanded his removal. Apparently the principal yielded so far as to suspend Mr. Uki, but, at the same time, he ejectated some of the students. This