The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Issue for All.

With but one week remaining before election day the first duty of voters is as well defined and pressing as it was in the beginning. In a season of political disturbance and disarrangement almost without parallel nothing has changed the most vital issue.

The Hon. JOSEPH WEEKS BABCOCK, chairman of the Republican Congress Campaign Committee, says that the Republican majority in the next House of Representatives will be twenty-five, at the lowest. Mr. BABCOCK'S confidence as to this reaches certainty, in his own mind. He thinks it will rise above thirty.

To endeavor to improve on this calculation will be the correct course for all Republicans and such Democrats as cannot bottle up their consciousness that a transfer of control of the House from the party now holding it to their opponents would be against the interests of the United States.

For members of Congress and for all members of State Legislatures expecting to elect a Federal Senator wise votes will be cast for the names on the Republican ticket.

The Political Crisis in Germany.

The Agrarians, assisted by the Centrists, have proved strong enough in the Reichstag to saddle the grain schedule of the tariff bill pending in that body with high minimum rates, which, as Chancellor VON BÜLOW has repeatedly said, would not be accepted by him, inasmuch as they would render the negotiation of commercial treaties impracticable. What will the German Government do in the face of the defiance it has met with?

It is obvious that, if the Parliamentary system, under which a Minister is accountable to the popular branch of the national Legislature, existed in Germany, Chancellor VON BÜLOW would have to resign. Now there is no doubt that the Liberals who controlled the constituent Reichstag which, after Sadowa, framed the Constitution of the North German Confederation, since adopted as the Constitution of the German Empire, inserted a provision that the acts of the President—as the King of Prussia was termed before he was named German Emperor—should be countersigned by the Chancellor, who thereby assumed responsibility for them. The Chancellor was thus made a Federal officer responsible to the nation. The principle of Ministerial accountability seemed in this way to be established, but it has remained unfruitful; for the Chancellor was not made responsible criminally, and BISMARCK refused to hold himself politically responsible to any one but the sovereign. He persistently asserted that the saying, "The King reigns but does not govern," had no application to the House of Hohenzollern. VON BÜLOW, then, is not obliged to resign, although a majority of the Reichstag has shown itself determined to oppose him with regard to a measure described by him as of vital importance to the Empire.

Under the circumstances, there are two courses open to the Chancellor. He can cause the Reichstag to be dissolved and appeal to the voters, an appeal which usually has been crowned with success. There is some reason to doubt, however, whether such a move would be expedient in the present instance, owing to the strength exhibited by the Agrarians and the Centrists in the last general election. The other alternative, to which, apparently, VON BÜLOW, after consultation with the Emperor, has decided to recur—at least temporarily—is for the Government to refrain from any participation in the discussion of the tariff bill now pending, and to let the majority amuse themselves by framing any measure they like, the rejection of it being reserved for the Bundesrath, or Federal Council, which the Government, in this instance, will be able to control. The obvious objection to this course is that the time of the Reichstag will be wasted; but in its favor may be urged the possibility that the whole or a part of the Centrists may be won over by the Government through concessions in religious matters. Such a solution of a deadlock has been found practicable before.

We have said that Chancellor VON BÜLOW might discipline the Reichstag by dissolving it. It is true that, for a dissolution, the consent of the Bundesrath is needed, just as in France the consent of the Senate is needed for a dissolution of the Chamber of Deputies. It is also true that Prussia directly controls only 20 of the 58 votes in the Bundesrath, and that, theoretically, this body might, therefore, decline to sanction a dissolution. On at least four important occasions the smaller constituent States have combined and beaten Prussia in the Federal Council. In the present case, however, there would be no likelihood of successful opposition, inasmuch as representatives of the Governments of several constituent States next in importance to Prussia have addressed the Reichstag in support of the Chancellor's tariff views. If, therefore, VON BÜLOW'S negotiations with the Centrists shall fail to detach enough of them from the Agrarians to throw out the recent inadmissible amendments to the grain schedule of the tariff bill, it is to be presumed that he will fall back upon the drastic expedient of dissolution, which, as we have said, has generally resulted in securing popular submission to the wishes of the Government. This occurred in 1878, for example, when the Reichstag had refused to pass a bill for the repression of agitation by the Socialists; a second time, in 1887, when it refused to pass a bill fixing the size of the army for seven years; and, again, in 1893, when it refused to sanction important changes proposed in the military system. As, in each of these cases, a new Reichstag accepted the proposal which its predecessor had rejected, a serious conflict of authority with the Chancellor was averted.

Should an appeal to the voters now be made, and should the outcome be the return of a majority firmly opposed to VON BÜLOW'S conception of a tariff, Germany would find itself face to face with a grave problem hitherto evaded, the problem, namely, of the ultimate authority of the different organs of the State. Shall the will of the people or the will of an irresponsible Minister prevail in the last resort?

The Americanists' Congress.

The thirteenth meeting of the International Congress of Americanists closed on Saturday at the American Museum of Natural History. Its most notable contribution to knowledge was its testimony to the ethnological unity of the Americas, North, South and Central. That similarity in thought, in workmanmanship, in art and in religion characterized the various races inhabiting the continents of the New World before its discovery by the white man was shown by every paper dealing with the subject.

It appears that we have commonly put too low an estimate on the Indian, using the term Indian as inclusive of all the aboriginal inhabitants of this hemisphere. The Indian, these learned men find, was a more intellectual being than has been generally supposed. He was religious, with high sentiments and keen emotions, and he was advanced politically far beyond the degree in savagery where he is usually placed, his political development being measurably influenced by his religion.

The star worship of the Pawnees, whose Skidi band ordered even their village sites so that they reflected the positions of the heavenly constellations, whose wards these red men believed themselves to be, was a revelation of this New York congress. Their Tirawa, who was of the stars, was the All-Embracing Spirit, the spirit of all life and of all power, who spoke to His children in the elemental functions of nature. Star cults among Indians further south and in Mexico, and in Peru, were reported, each of a character to suggest one the other.

Connections with the Old World were shown of a nature to indicate that northwestern America and northeastern Asia were once peopled by one race, whose dominion was interrupted by down-coming Esquimaux. There was an American civilization as definite as the European civilization. Really, there has been a series of civilizations, one overcoming the other and the higher form usually dominating. We were not the first invaders. We were not the first exterminators. America has seen races come, rule and be swept away in their turn. Where savagery triumphed, as in the case of one race of Mound Builders, when a mild and stationary people were overborne by a more vigorous and restless stock, as in Europe, it usually followed that the conquering race was influenced in time by the culture of the conquered. This has been found written in monuments and tombs. Sometimes there can be traced the evidence of a conquering race's recognition of the superior attainments of the people it has overthrown, and when the different investigators compare notes the history of an ancient invasion is completed. The southwestern United States and far parts of South America have been brought together as homes of people communicating with each other.

The ancient American fought for his religion, and he strove to force it upon those whose faith was not his. The Christian cross following the Spanish sword was not America's introduction to holy wars. There were battles between worshippers of the sun and worshippers of the moon, to establish the civilization of either warring people over the other. One of the most interesting exhibits of the congress was a series of illustrations of an ancient Peruvian vase, showing a battle for this very purpose. The warriors were differentiated quaintly by the aboriginal potter. The civilizing conquerors are clothed; their vanquished, antagonists are pictured as naked.

In art the pre-Columbian Americans were advanced beyond the stage of development to which they have been assigned. So say the Americanist students. We have been able to consider the art of the Egyptian from the point of view from which it was executed, partly because Egyptian monuments and papyri have offered enlightenment as to the daily life, habits and aspirations of the Nile people. But conquering Indians in America destroyed the temples where their vanquished foes kept their records. Not always did the Spanish conquerors who followed them preserve the ancient archives that survived earlier despoilers. Codices which found their way to European libraries have been deciphered, only to disclose astronomical data or material for the purposes of a calendar. Only now are the students, these scholars of the Americanist congress, beginning to get near a point where they think that they will be able to judge with some accuracy the standards of art attained by the early peoples of this continent.

The closest attention was given in the congress to copies of temple paintings from Chichenitza, patiently made by an English woman, a student among the Americanists, who, with the company of a native maid, works among the ancient obsidian mines and ruins of Mexico, studying what is complacently called the crude art of vanished races. The Americanists have found, they say, that only an artist is able fully to appreciate the quality of the drawing of these aboriginal Americans, such, for example, as the action in a poised spear, or the color values plainly indicated.

Indeed, some of the most learned and most distinguished members of the congress held the opinion at the close of the week's discussions that so much higher were the Indians' ideals than they have had credit for, that now the term savage is almost ironical as applied to the aboriginal American.

The City Budget.

The city budget for 1903, on which Mayor Low and the other members of the Board of Estimate and Apportionment are working now, will be the first real analysis of the expenses of the municipal government under the Low administration. The budget for 1902, although revised by the present administration, was worked out by Tammany's government, and represented the Tammany policies and purposes. Although the whole schedule of appropriations was rearranged by the Low administration, it was not then possible to make the budget exactly what the officials wanted it to be.

That there should be friction among the members of the board over the allotment of the city's money was to be expected. In the first place, each member of the board is an elective officer, under no obligation to any other member for his seat. This has never been the case in previous administrations, in which the Mayor has controlled the board through his appointees. Responsible to the voters of the communities which they represent, the borough Presidents desire to make a good showing; and they appear to be determined to do this.

Not only this change of responsibility, due to the Charter amendments, but the changes in the city itself make friction among the board members not only probable, but inevitable. More and more the undeveloped boroughs, and especially Bronx and Queens boroughs, are demanding a greater amount of money for highways, sewers, lighting and the improvement of their various departments. Increasing population and a greater voting strength will result each year in greater demands from their representatives. There is no reason to believe that these demands can be ignored permanently. In time they must be granted, though the budget increase and the tax rate rise.

With the completion of the Manhattan and Bronx Rapid Transit subway, The Bronx's population will grow. When the Pennsylvania Railroad's tunnel to old Long Island City is in operation, Queens borough's population will increase. The more people there are, the greater the expense of maintaining the municipal government will be.

Brooklyn has not reached the limit of its population. Richmond may for a time remain where it is; but soon it will demand better transportation facilities to Manhattan, and these will be provided. Then Richmond will require annually larger appropriations. An annual increase in the city budget seems unavoidable for many years to come.

It is the peculiar interest of two officers of the municipality to keep the budget down to the lowest possible amount. The Mayor represents no borough. The Comptroller is elected for the purpose of saving money. They may be expected to oppose any increases save those which are popular throughout the whole city. The President of the Board of Aldermen, associated on the one hand intimately with the Mayor, and on the other with the borough Presidents and the Aldermen, may be expected to side first with the one, then with the others. He holds the balance of power. With his three votes, the Mayor and the Comptroller will have nine out of sixteen in the board. Without his votes, they will have but six against ten.

The borough Presidents are likely to develop a reciprocal alliance, on the theory of "You scratch my back and I'll scratch yours." In fact, President CASSIDY of Queens has already laid the foundation for such an alliance.

The prospect is, therefore, that there will be a fine fight for President FORNES'S allegiance. The Mayor and the Comptroller want him. The Borough presidents want him. He will be a popular man during the next few weeks.

Then, too, personal ambition enters the contest. Mayor Low, Comptroller GROUT and President CANTOR are willing to hold office again. President CASSIDY wants to stay on top in Queens. President HAFFEN seems content with his status in The Bronx.

Yesterday's SUN told of another heart sewed up after being cut by a dagger, in Alabama. The cardi-sartorial is very interesting, but will they ever learn to deal with those romantic mishaps after which the heart is commonly described as "broken"? We don't mean the humbug breaks that are repaired by the next fair face, manly form, or favorable circumstances.

Attorney-General KNOX'S report that the title to the Panama Canal which the French company has offered to us is perfectly good wipes out another plank in the last Democratic National Convention. We refer to the plank demanding a Nicaragua canal, mainly on the argument that no good title to the Panama Canal was obtainable. One by one the roses fade.

The Irish Party in Parliament.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In view of the recent action of the Irish Parliamentary leaders—Catholics and Protestants—in presenting their congratulations to Pope Leo XIII. on the occasion of his jubilee, we may consider the controversy caused by the Pope's censure of exceptional excesses in the "Plan of Campaign," with its implied "*tolerare potest*" in regard to the "plan" in general, as being now most happily closed.

As one of those who opposed, at that time, the action of the Parliamentary leaders and of the president and leaders of the Irish National League of America, I desire to congratulate the Irish leaders now, and to express my hearty support of the present movement under the direction of the United Irish League. On account of my action, the leaders in America thought it of sufficient importance to use their powerful influence to injure me personally; and the President of the league (R. I. P.) acknowledged that he was urged to do so by an ecclesiastic prominent in Irish affairs; and they ostracised me from Irish affairs. Since then I have received recompense a thousandfold in being allowed to receive Holy Communion every day of my life for the past ten months and in getting the grace to forgive all who have injured me without exception, and from my heart. I say this advisedly, because I cannot work for Ireland's cause except on the understanding that I am a Catholic loyal to the Pope as well as to Ireland. I have written to Mr. John E. Redmond, M. P., asking his good offices toward personal reconciliation, and I ask your permission to solicit public reconciliation, and that I may be allowed to work for Ireland's cause once more on honorable terms. MICHAEL CORCORAN.

BROOKLYN, Oct. 22.

EFFECT OF OUR PROSPERITY.

British Trade Journal Says It Has Raised Prices of Farm Products in Europe.

WASHINGTON, Oct. 26.—The prosperity of the United States is counted as a reason for the prosperity of Great Britain and her colonies by the *British Trade Journal*, a copy of which has just reached the Treasury Bureau of Statistics. "So great has been the prosperity of the United States," it says, "during the past two years that the demand among the people of the republic for many classes of agricultural produce and of cattle has exceeded the supply. Hence there has been a falling off in the exports of these commodities to Europe, and the result is witnessed in the higher prices now prevailing there. Yet another reason for the rise in prices was a shortage of the corn crop of 1901."

"At present," the article adds, "there is no sign of any falling off in the United States (home) market. Industrial activity continues at a high pressure, and even the enormous production of pig iron (amounting now to about 18,000,000 tons per annum) of the United States is inadequate to meet the requirements of its general building, shipbuilding, hardware and other trades in which iron or steel is employed, and the consequence has been that during the last few weeks large shipments of pig iron and steel have been made to the North American republic from Great Britain and Germany."

Commenting upon the effect of the extreme prosperity in the United States upon conditions in Europe and in British colonies the article adds:

So long as this business activity lasts in North America there is little probability of a fall in the price of meat and other foodstuffs. The consumers of Europe are complaining of the increased prices resulting from these altered conditions. Nearly all classes of cereals and of meat and other provisions, which used to be received in increasing quantities from the United States, have been raised in value, and consumers are beginning to ask whether the British colonies and South American countries cannot come to their assistance. There is every encouragement, therefore, for the cattle and wheat growers of Australasia, Canada and of the La Plata Plate to extend their production and to obtain a share of the higher prices now prevailing in the markets of Europe. Europe, under present circumstances, is able to take all that those countries can send, whether in the shape of live cattle or frozen meat, as well as in cereals and cotton. The last-named commodity is the source of much anxiety to the Lancashire cotton manufacturer, who finds that he is almost entirely dependent upon the United States for this indispensable commodity. He is, therefore, anxious to buy from other countries and to encourage the growth and development of the cotton trade in South America. This is a condition of things which has not existed for more than a generation, and it opens up a vista of prosperity for our colonies and for South American countries which, until now, was supposed to belong only to the North American republic.

Women Who Support Their Families.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As it is the fashion to ask you hard questions, I would like to propound one which has been puzzling me for a long time, and the present disgruntlement of coal miners has recalled it to mind with renewed force.

How is it that it takes so much more money for a man to support a family, than for a woman to do it? Here we have men who receive double or treble what the average working woman earns, complaining that they cannot support their families; while on every hand we see working women supporting themselves, their children, and sometimes their husbands, on one-third as much. According to statistics published in THE SUN not long ago, there are now over 15,000 men in this one State who are supported entirely by the labor of women, mostly by wives, sometimes by daughters. When a woman is supported by her husband she still finds plenty of work to do, but when a man is supported by his wife he does absolutely nothing, as a rule, but smoke and drink.

I have employed occasionally, for some time, a woman who, years ago, was left a widow, with a hovel and six children. She had no profession or trade; she had no way of earning a cent, save by washing and scrubbing floors, which, comparing woman's strength with man's, is far harder, more laborious and more tiring work than the average workingman ever does. It is extremely doubtful that the hardest-worked man goes to bed at night so tired that his knees tremble under him and he is utterly unable to sleep, but many a woman knows the sensation. The woman mentioned worked early and late, in all weathers, sometimes walking three miles to her work and back; she never got more than $1.50 a day, and she did not always get that, for some employers did not pay her. But she reared that family of six children decently, they were comfortably housed, clothed, and sent to school. The two girls, as soon as they were old enough, went to service, supported themselves, and even helped their mother a little, while the boys loafed about home most of the time, living on her labor because they could not get big enough wages. How is it that a woman can do so much more with $1.50 a day than a man?

The Dangers of Park Row.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The fatal accident of yesterday in Park row opposite the Post Office to the 11 year old boy who was struck by a southbound trolley car calls attention to the reckless manner in which motormen habitually drive their cars in that neighborhood—one of the busiest in the city. A practice exists among them, not only of raising their fenders at the Bridge and thereby disregarding an important precaution against serious accidents to pedestrians, but of driving their cars from the Bridge to the loop, near the southern end of the Post Office, at a rate of speed boding danger alike to man and beast.

On the four track stretch indicated it often happens that cars appear on all of the tracks simultaneously within a space of only a few yards, but this fact, implying as it does great risk to persons attempting to cross from one side of the street to the other, does not deter the motormen from running at a perilous speed. The accident of yesterday is by no means the first of a more of less serious nature which has resulted from the cause complained of in that section of Park row, and hair breadth escapes are of every day occurrence.

Perhaps it is the desire to run on schedule time which impels motormen to take hazardous risks on this part of their trip. But neither this nor any other pretext can justify them in thus threatening the lives of other people. CLOSE SHAVE.

NEW YORK, Oct. 24.

Whose Signature Was It?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I submit my guess on the disputed signature as Buel H. Day.

NEW YORK POST OFFICE. F. E. SHEA.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I venture the guess that the signature in your issue of Oct. 21 is Amos Amy. R. F. M.

ARLINGTON, N. J., Oct. 25.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I deny that it is the signature of a human being at present in the flesh. If it be a signature at all, it is a Babylonian one. Comparing it with the Harpster, Barnet and Corelsh letters there is a similarity that hints at the poison package. But it also looks squashy like the handwriting on the wall of some years ago when there was a feast.

However, I deny that it is a signature at all. There is not the slightest reason to suppose that it is. I hold that it is a record of the pulse beats of David Bennett Hill when he was informed that Cole wanted to speak. I have seen similar tracks in the hardened remnants of ooze primeval in the fossilbeds. They were the trail of the unicell that afterward became man. If it isn't one of these two things, perhaps it is the mark of an inspired hen scratching in the fields of Parnassus for a poetical worm long and wriggly enough to make the fifth line to a sonnet.

If I haven't hit it with these guesses, I give it up. But it isn't a signature anyway. W. H. B.

P. S. Unless it is the scratches made by a gopher trying to dig down far enough to get home before Bryan could make a speech to him.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As to that signature—how is Bruce Lang? I also suspect Marny of lurking in the lower half of the signature trying to complicate things. ASPIRANT.

Oldest Dentist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When you have returned from the reception to Dr. William B. Hurd, the "pioneer" dentist of Williamsburg, you might take a little trip up to Honesdale, Pa., and have your molars looked into by Dr. Otis Avery, a lad who is still plugging away at his profession at the very immature age of 94 or 95 years. I believe that it is conceded by the journals of dental surgery that Dr. Avery is the oldest practising dentist in the United States, if not in the world. The doctor says the secret of his long life has been his keeping everlastingly at work. FRANCIS A. DIMOCK.

BROOKLYN, Oct. 25.

A Serenading Family.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Thomas Catt may have his troubles in Kansas. But Levin Katz lives happily in Wilmington, Del., with his wife, Kitty Katz, and his little son, Thomas Katz. Why not let them serenade the Immortals? A. B. T.

BALTIMORE, Md., Oct. 24.

THE MENACE OF UNIONISM.

The Destruction of the Individualism of American Labor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The following extract from a letter has been received from one of the largest gold and silver mine operators in the West, a man whose reputation for fair and square dealings has never been impugned. His analysis of conditions to which the present tendency of miners' unions may ultimately lead is so forcible from a practical point of view that I quote it in support of the logical and rational stand which THE SUN has taken in this matter. The utter disregard of the rights of the individual and of the laws of the country, vastly important though they be, are not the only considerations to which the thoughtful American citizen should give his attention, and the laboring man himself should not fail to see that in the end he will be the victim of a condition which will result in the complete obliteration of his own individuality.

This is the extract from the letter to which I refer:

If the time comes that a man must belong to a union before he can receive the protection guaranteed every American citizen, the wheels of progress in this free country of ours will have become so enmashed as to bring to a dead standstill a very large percentage of the various commercial enterprises now in successful operation, and the business interests of this country will have become paralyzed. The more I see of the unreasonableness of most of the leaders of the miners' unions, the more convinced I become that to surrender to them would in the long run work greater injury by far than can result from a strict adherence to the principle that unincorporated and irresponsible unions or any associations or organizations whatsoever, as such, have no right to dictate terms and name conditions that individuals or corporations must conform to, irrespective of the rights and privileges guaranteed under the Constitution.

I have absolutely declined to allow the presidents of the various unions operating in and about here, where I am interested, to come between me and the men that are working for me, and I reserve the right to hire whom I please and to discharge men for cause, making no distinction between union and non union men. While their committees are at perfect liberty to call on me, I claim the privilege of dealing directly with the men themselves. Judging from the disposition shown by the union leaders in this section, it is very clear to me that if they are permitted to exercise the influence they are undertaking to wield, no end of trouble will follow, and the low grade mines of this section cannot be operated successfully.

I am thoroughly satisfied that in the end the effects of organization as now directed by some of the managers will work pronounced injury to all kinds of labor, for if it reaches the point that a man who employs labor is only to deal with a few principals (who hold in their control and under their influence not only the labor that you are desirous of employing, but as well the individuality of each and every man, to a large extent, that belongs to the union), the organizations will have succeeded in abolishing completely all co-operative and sympathetic bonds that naturally extend to, and should exist between, the employer and the employee under normal conditions. The employer would be compelled under the new conditions to realize that there is no particular encouragement offered or reason why he should take a friendly and serious interest in the welfare of the employee who refuses to be recognized as an individual, having rights that be within himself controls. The employer, under such conditions, would, of necessity, go to the heads of the different organizations having labor for sale, and arrange—if not directly, indirectly—for whatever he required, and, being obliged to so arrange, his interest in the employee would to a very large extent disappear, and the laborer be largely converted into a machine to be contracted out and arranged for by the heads of the different organizations to which he had been taught to resort to or look to for his rights and privileges and their preservation, and the employee's individuality and the sacred rights guaranteed to every true American citizen would be annihilated—a condition of things that it is indeed sad to contemplate.

The persistence of unionism along the lines of its demonstrated policy of coercion, intimidation and disregard of both law and ethics will be the greatest blow to growth and development that this country has ever suffered. The contest for supremacy of the United States to-day is in a great measure directly due to the individuality of the American laborer. Stamp out this individuality and treat both the competent and the incompetent laborer alike, placing all in the same class, and the practical result will be the destruction of those very qualities in the American laborer which make him superior to any other laboring man in the world.

NEW YORK, Oct. 24. R. H. S.

Don Davide Albertario.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I take the following paragraph from "Foreign Notes" in a recent issue of THE SUN:

> Don Davide Albertario, editor of the Milan *Osservatore Cattolico* is dead, at the age of 56 years. He was one of the chief plotters in the Milan riots a few years ago. He was a bitter polemical writer, and was tried, years ago, for offences against morality.

I know that THE SUN will not wittingly do injustice to the memory of a good man, and therefore ask it to repair injustice done—unwittingly, I am sure—in the paragraph quoted.

Don Davide Albertario, editor of the *Osservatore Cattolico* of Milan, was a priest who devoted the greater part of his life to Catholic journalism. Born in 1846, he was educated at Milan, and from 1864 to 1868 studied for the priesthood at Rome under Franzelin, Ballerini, and other theologians of international fame. He then took up the work of the press and for many years was the editor of one of the most capable writers on the side of the Church and one of the most uncompromising antagonists of what is known as "Liberalism." In this work he naturally aroused fierce animosities, being a man of aggressive temperament, and he was known as "the hammer of Liberalism."

His imprisonment for more than a year at Milan was the result of his political opinions and of nothing else. The institutions against which his character are without a shred of basis in fact. He was a good man and a good priest, personally known to and beloved by Leo XIII., and even such sectarian organs as the *Tribuna* were compelled on his death to acknowledge his sincerity, ability and high moral character.

THOMAS F. WOODLOCK.

NEW YORK, Oct. 22.

The Methodists and Prof. Atwater.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The entire discussion concerning Prof. Wilbur O. Atwater's utterances on the food value of alcohol seems to be based on a fundamental misconception on the part of our ministerial brethren. They are using the word "food" in the common, untechnical meaning, while the professor's discussions are based on the accepted scientific definition used by all physiologists. See Prof. Martin's "Human Body," or any reliable and scholarly textbook.

If we understand the question fairly, Prof. Atwater has never advised the use of alcohol unless as a medicine, as most Methodist physicians even do, nor has he uttered any statement at any time which should be conscientiously construed as favoring the use of intoxicants in any form as a beverage. This is one of his printed and characteristic sayings: "Alcohol is a good thing for older people in good health, and younger people, especially, to let alone." Hence, if any saloonkeeper has used Prof. Atwater's name in connection with favorite drinks, it is his own matter, not chargeable at all to the instructor. Carrie Nation's name has been used in a similar connection. Is that proof that she encourages drinking, or vice versa?

Having been a student in Wesleyan two years, and having been somewhat impartially interested in this discussion, it seems right for me to say that I believe Prof. Atwater's views on the food value of alcohol have absolutely no effect on the morals of his pupils. At least this is his own apparent influence. Hence, the statement that drinking is increasing here directly as a result of Dr. Atwater's teachings, seems to me to be utterly misconceived and, furthermore, as a fact, false. Should the gentleman who made it select 100 students at random from the college classes, and 100 young men engaged in non-student vocations, and question them personally, I believe firmly that the statistics would disprove his impression wholly, and would show more "teetotalers" among the students and a far less proportion inclined to take too much at any one time.

We would respectfully suggest the need to those engaged in this and similar discussions of careful study of all the evidence, and after that a more guarded and less erratic statement. I would like to hear personally or publicly from any one interested. ANOTHER WESLEYAN STUDENT.

MIDDLETOWN, Oct. 23.

Gov. Candler Repudiated.

From the Macon Telegraph.

The conservative Democracy of the United States is not fairly represented by such extravagant utterance as that attributed to Governor Candler.

The Voice of the Price of Coal.

From somewhere far above we hear
A voice of warning, sharp and clear,
That makes us stand from under while
We listen eagerly and smile.
From far above it comes, and we
Look upward in the hope to see
The figure of it, but our eyes
See only gray and smoky skies.
But still the warning voice is heard
As coming from some unseen bird
Which soars into the realms of light
And to mankind is out of sight.
Hark, hear it now: It fills the town!
"Look out below; I'm coming down."

IDYLLIC ISLAND LIFE.

No Drunkenness, Crime, Police, Jails or Courts in Cocos-Keeling.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

Away from the ordinary track of ships, and blessed with a splendid climate, are the Cocos-Keeling Islands, in the Straits Archipelago. Their history is as strange and romantic as their present life is curious and unique.

In 1825 a Scotch sailor named Ross landed and, seeing that the isles were very good, he took possession and settled there with his family. The natives were gentle and teachable, so that Ross had no difficulty in making himself their ruler. In 1851 he hoisted the Union Jack as a precaution against the visit of a wandering French man-of-war, and six years later the isles were formally annexed by the British Government. With rare tact and wisdom Ross devoted himself to governing the people over whom he had so quaintly established himself as king, and on his decease he bequeathed his mission of government and proprietorship of the Cocos-Keeling to his son. The present owner and ruler of the islands, J. G. Clunies Ross, is the third in succession. He was studying engineering at Glasgow when his father's death called him to the fore fifteen years ago. Abandoning his European ambitions, he settled in his kingdom, married a Cocos wife, and devoted his life to the welfare of the natives, who are his children rather than subjects. The work of the Rosses in thus ordering these East Indian islands forms a fascinating story, and the Cocos-Keeling group, though generally unknown, is perhaps the most picturesque in the British Empire. The little horse-shoe-shaped cluster of islands, three days' steaming south of Java, are blessed with a perfect climate, luxuriant soil, and man here is seen at his very best.

The inhabitants number about 600, of whom 400 are Cocos born and the remainder coolie laborers from Java. Under the rule of the Rosses, the only white residents, schools have been established, and all the islanders are well educated, the schoolmaster-in-chief being A. Ross, a master of arts of Glasgow University. Every male is also trained to work in brass, iron and wood, and is a skilled artisan. Every Cocos girl similarly serves a term of apprenticeship in Clunies Ross's house, learning sewing, cooking and the whole round of domestic art under the tuition of his wife. Formerly the Cocos parents used to arrange their children's marriages, but under the new order each man and woman is a free agent, and chooses a partner according to European usage. Marriages are celebrated according to the Mohammedan law, but polygamy is prohibited, and there have been only two divorces in the last fifty years. There is neither jail nor policeman, for crime does not exist in these islands. Opium and alcohol are forbidden, and the wily Chinese is also excluded. Vaccination is compulsory, and all sales are made by barter, for Mr. Ross will not allow money, holding it to be the root of all evil.

The industries of the island consist in gathering cocoanuts and preparing their oil and copra. Beche de mer and a bark for dying are also exported by a chartered vessel, which calls annually for the purpose. Provisions are fetched once a month from Batavia, but rice is the only food largely imported, for fruit abounds in the islands, poultry is plentiful and the sea teems with fish. The gentle and handsome native leads a life idyllic in graceful content and happiness under the parental eye of Ruler Ross III. He carefully guards his little Utopia against the introduction of European customs with their attendant ills. Christmas Island, close by, is similarly ruled by his brother, Andrew Ross. Coffee flourishes there, and so do rats and cats, almost to the extent of a plague. Hitherto these atoms of Britain have enjoyed serene isolation, but the new electric cable from Durban to Adelaide touches at the Cocos-Keeling and Christmas islands, so that they are now linked with the greater world, not, it is to be hoped, to the spoiling of their arcadian character.

Serious Attack on Kissing.

From the Chicago Tribune.

LINCOLN, Neb., Oct. 23.—The habit of indiscriminately kissing or any kissing at all is to be tabooed by the doctors who compose the Missouri Valley Homeopathic Medical Association, which has been holding its annual session here.

In the opinion of the majority of those present the habit is dangerous and to be condemned, no matter how great the provocation.

In a discussion this morning Dr. E. G. Linn of Mount Pleasant, Ia., rebuked all kissers, and declared that osculatory exercises of all sorts promoted disease and sometimes caused deaths.

The members who listened to the statement of Dr. Linn seemed to agree with him. Both the sly token of affection between sweethearts and kisses delivered by fond parents were roundly scored.

Dr. L. C. Voss of Columbus, Neb., brought the subject up in his paper on sanitary science and made it the feature of his address. The doctor insisted that the habit was as unhygienic as it was pleasant, and not only dwelt upon the enormity of the promiscuous public smack but tabooed the private home consumption variety. The speaker insisted that skin diseases, tuberculosis, and the majority of infectious diseases were more often sown broadcast through the kiss than through any other means, and, while the doctor spoke of no substitute for the fatal kiss, he intimated that the handshake was the hygienic salutation.

The anti-kissing speech received the hearty support of those present, and nods of assent followed the speakers' words.

The association did not see fit to officially condemn kissing, but individually the doctors discussed the matter and agreed to think it over, and at a later date, perhaps, put their school of medicine on record.

High Ball Investigation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* After the adjourning of the great philological convention which was attended by myself, a Flathead Indian, and a Nez Percé, beside the Bitter Root River, I set out to learn why a drink of whiskey is called a "ball."

The term ball is of military origin. Soldiers standing up to a bar as they might face an enemy regard the "barkeep's" amphora as a target, at which they are taking repeated shots. By easy transition a "shot" or "a round" becomes a "ball."

Again, the term comes through the diamond field a "high ball" being one of the means by which the player shows his greatest skill, and magnifies himself as a high ball drinker does. In a Western club, during the past season, I heard a member order a "Carrie Nation," a brew in which the demon rum preponderates, with much tartness added, which was formerly called a rum sour.

In Carlisle, Pa., I heard the term "shade" used for a dram of whiskey. "Will you take a shade?" was the language with which sinners enticed the good. Whether the term was hit upon from a sense that even drink is a shade of death, or whether they who used it felt or fancied it to be a shade from the fierce heats which beat on the highway of life, I know not. Tam O'Shanter, who sometimes used uncouthaugh for domestic purposes for a tonic just before going home, said that it made things shady and cool at his house, but not in the city. He was the first to remark, as he did to Mrs. O'Shanter, that there was a hot time in the auld town to-night. POSEY S. WILSON.

YOUNGSTOWN, Ohio, Oct. 12.

Col. Wilson has reached the same conclusion as THE SUN. Some years ago we declared that the logic of speech showed that the expression "high ball" originated in the army.

Play Writing.

Knicker—How are you getting along with your play?

Hocker—I've just written the third chapter of the novel.

She Returned His Affection.

Bellows—Does Miss Rich return your affections?

Fellows (tearfully)—The unopened envelope seems to indicate it.

To Our Royal Visitor.

Hail
Somdetch Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh,
Crown Prince of Siam,
You've got a streak of Uncle Sam
In you that we like
To see come over the pike.
Your style
Makes us smile
And we give you the glad hand
All over this broad land
Of Freedom;
And the Red, White and Blue
Waves a welcome to you
Because you know a good thing
When you see it.
Come in and sit down;
Lay off your crown,
And enjoy yourself.
You like us
And we like you,
And when there are two
Like that
They most generally know where they are at.
Here's to you,
Somdetch Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh,
And we want to say
On the strict q. t.
Ereht Unia on denwore daeh
Ni Eporue taht ew evah
Yna rehgih lanosrep drager rof
Nabt ew evah rof Sih Layor Saenhgih,
Somdetch Chowfa Maha Vajiravudh;
See? W. F. B.

STATE POLICE FOR THE SOUTH.

A State Constabulary Bill to be Introduced in the Georgia Legislature.

From the Southern Manufacturers' Record.

It is announced from Atlanta that Mr. R. B. Blackburn will father at the present session of the General Assembly of Georgia a bill providing for the selection of about 10,000 additional police officers in the State. The bill provides for the choice by the Grand Jury of each county in the State of seven men in each militia district to act as patrolmen. Each group of seven is to select a captain, and to his call the patrol is subject. Under such a system, and wherever the necessity arises, patrolmen may be provided upon a basis of one for every six square miles of the State's area and for every two hundred and twenty of its population, and the officers thus provided will be specially charged with the arrest of all suspicious characters and individuals who may be leading a profligate or an immoral life. The bill enlarges the Vagrancy law so as to bring within its purview all persons who have no fixed abode, and who may be found tramping through the country with no visible means of support.

The proposed measure seems to seek a revival of some of the features of the old patrol system of the South, and should it succeed it would not only prove a deterrent of crime and misdemeanors costly to the State in many ways, but would also be an effective means for the prompt administration of justice, and thereby effect a saving. It strikes at the root of many evils, social, economic, industrial, agricultural and financial, in reenforcing vagrancy laws. One of the curses of the South is vagrancy, increasing with the means for improper schooling of negroes, and vagrancy is the parent of divers offences against persons and property and a constant drain upon the strength of the community.

The author of the bill believes that the law as framed by him may be executed almost without direct expense for the State. That feature will undoubtedly make it popular. But the expense should be regarded of minor importance. Georgia could well afford to spend for a few years half a million dollars annually upon such a police system, and every other Southern State would do well to make a similar investment in proportion to its needs. Such an expenditure would have the immediate effect of enhancing farm values and of increasing the density of the country population of the South, and thus of ultimately increasing the ability of the State to make the expenditure, and at the same time of reducing to a minimum the necessity for it. It is an investment which will begin to pay interest immediately, and which will require no sinking fund for the extinction of obligations arising from it.

A Negro's Bullet-Proof Skull.

From the Norfolk Virginian-Pilot.

The proverbial hard head of a negro was given a complete, practical test in Addington's lane Monday noon, and the proverb was substantiated. A .32-calibre pistol ball was fired at a distance of twenty feet squarely into the middle of William Everhardt's forehead, and after breaking the skin flattened itself against the bone. Everhardt ran to police headquarters, a block away, and asked that