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WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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The Citadel.

The banquet to Mr. Justice HARLAN came in good time to emphasize the meaning of the Supreme Court of the United States as a coördinate department of the Government.

What could be finer, what could be truer, what could be more illuminating than Judge HARLAN'S peroration?

"If our institutions should be assailed and overthrown, no matter by whom or in what way, whether by arbitrary power, by corruption or by lawlessness, the last citadel to be taken by the assailants will be our incomparable judicial organization."

When was the principal function of our highest court ever described better than in Senator HOAR'S brief characterization of it as "the great tribunal which keeps the forces of State and nation alike within their appointed bounds?"

"Within their appointed bounds." These words ought to make an impression upon the mind of Mr. Justice HARLAN'S newest associate, Mr. Justice HOLMES of Massachusetts, who only last week announced that he held a radically different understanding of his business on the bench. He said:

"I have considered the present tendencies and desires of society and have tried to realize that its different portions want different things, and that my business was to express not my personal wish, but the resultant, as nearly as I could guess, of the pressure of the past and the conflicting wills of the present."

In the new atmosphere surrounding him, and with the example of his eminent associates constantly before him, it is to be hoped that Mr. Justice HOLMES will learn in due time that it is his business on the Supreme bench neither to pronounce judgment according to his personal wishes, nor to guess at the resultant between established law and conflicting sociological theories; but to help to keep the forces of State and nation alike within their appointed bounds.

In other words, the bugle call about which Judge HOLMES talked so eloquently and so strenuously at Boston summoned him for defence and not for assault. His Constitutional duty is to help hold the citadel, not to attack it or to attempt to reconstruct it in any manner.

Condition of Business in Our Courts.

On April 10, 1902, the Legislature of this State enacted a statute which provided that within thirty days after the act took effect the Governor should appoint a commission of seven persons "to examine into the condition of the business and the transaction thereof of the courts in the counties of New York and Kings, in the First and Second Judicial districts in the State of New York, and into the cause for any delay that may exist in the trial and disposition of cases and proceedings in the courts exercising jurisdiction within such limits." The Commissioners were further authorized to suggest such measures of legislation as might in their judgment tend to expedite the trial and disposition of legal business before the courts. The commission was directed to make a final report to the Governor for transmission to the Legislature on or before Dec. 31, 1902, and to submit with its report such bill or bills as might be deemed necessary to carry its recommendations into effect. The employment of counsel was provided for in the act and a sum not exceeding $10,000 was appropriated for the expenses of the commission.

In the exercise of the power conferred upon him by this statute, Governor ODELL recently appointed the following persons to be members of the commission: WHEELER H. PECKHAM, EDMUND WETMORE, LAWRENCE GODKIN, EDWARD LAUTERBACH, ROBERT E. DEYO, HORATIO C. KING and A. BARTON HEPBURN in place of WILLIAM F. KING, who declined appointment.

Since these appointments were announced it has been suggested that the failure to appoint the Commissioners within thirty days may defeat the appropriation for the expenses of the inquiry, and, furthermore, that the time within which the commission must make its report is too short for a complete and satisfactory consideration of the subject.

Neither of these objections is well founded. The provision for the appointment of the commission within thirty days after the enactment of the statute is what lawyers call merely a directory provision; that is to say, a failure to comply with it does not invalidate appointments made after the expiration of the prescribed period. There can be no serious doubt that the appointments by Governor ODELL are legal, or that the commission can obtain the appropriation of $10,000 or so much thereof as it may need for the prosecution of its labors. All the necessary data can be obtained and all witnesses who can throw any light on the matters under investigation can readily be examined between the present time and the end of the year.

As we understand it, the proposition for the appointment of the commission arose out of some complaint in mercantile circles as to undue delay in bringing cases to trial in the courts in this county. While we are inclined to think that investigation will show that such delay is not attributable to any fault on the part of the Judges, there can be no reasonable objection to the contemplated inquiry, which may well result in the formulation of a system for the better despatch of judicial business.

In view of the experience and qualifications of the lawyers upon this commission, it is evident that they can easily do the work assigned to them within the six weeks which remain for that purpose. Their own individual knowledge and information on the subject ought to enable them to make a comprehensive and valuable report without calling any witnesses or taking any evidence whatever. Indeed, they are the very men who might most appropriately be called upon as witnesses to make the most valuable suggestions on the subject if the inquiry were being conducted by a committee of the Legislature itself instead of by a commission appointed by the Governor under Legislative sanction. Obviously the correct thing for them to do is to go right to work, without asking for any extension of time, and place in the hands of the Governor whatever suggestions they have to make before the next meeting of the Legislature. Being appointed for the purpose of doing away with unnecessary delays in the administration of justice, they should not seek any delay themselves.

Science in Central Africa.

The British South Africa Company is about to expend $35,000 to give the British Association a free trip to Central Africa, that scientific body having accepted the invitation to hold its meeting in 1905 at Victoria Falls on the Zambesi River. The South Africa company will have a hotel ready for the occasion.

A few days over forty-eight years ago LIVINGSTONE discovered these falls. With his sublime faith in the future of Africa he believed that the region thereabouts was marked for special development. He saw there the elements of material progress, such as water power, coal, abundant vegetable products, cattle and intelligent though barbarous natives. Let us see if his dream is coming true.

"I hope GOD will in mercy permit me to establish the Gospel somewhere in this region," he wrote from the Upper Zambesi. This very year LEWANIKA, the King of that country, when in London to attend the coronation of EDWARD VII., asked for more teachers and artisans so that all of his people may learn to read and more of them may be able to build frame houses and work iron.

Not far from Victoria Falls, LIVINGSTONE found the only indication of coal yet revealed in tropical Africa. The British are now preparing to mine the coal. The railroad from Cape Town and Buluwayo is, day by day, drawing nearer to Victoria Falls where the South Africa company is preparing to turn the vast water power into electricity. LIVINGSTONE was not the half-cracked enthusiast that many persons believed him to be.

England's men of science will see at Victoria Falls one of the wonders of the world. The broad Zambesi suddenly seems to vanish into the bowels of the earth. A wide crack in the hard basaltic rock was opened, ages ago, from bank to bank. Nowhere else is a great river suddenly seen wholly to disappear in a narrow, rocky chasm. At the bottom of this deep rift in the rock the engulfed waters emerge through a narrow gullet on the left, which is thirty-six times narrower than the river above the falls. Any geologist would jump at the opportunity to study this remarkable freak of nature.

The hotel will be built for the permanent convenience of all visitors to this wonderful region. Africa is no longer the Dark Continent.

Chicago Matrons and Maids.

The National Housewives' Association of Chicago reports progress, but still seethes with debate. The president of the association has appointed committees to prepare the diplomas which are to reward house servants who have worked faithfully and efficiently for one year in one household. But households are many and servants comparatively few; and the value of the sheepskin remains to be proved. The National Housewives are willing to do much for their maids. Dr. MARY SEYMOUR, first vice-president, proposes that the association build a "servants' home" to be used as a club by unemployed maids and a hospital for sick maids. As the association has solemnly banned the word "servant" and substituted "maid" for it, the expression "servants' home" is inadmissible and would sound harsh in the ears of graduate or undergraduate maids. As Miss JANE ADDAMS says, hospitals are plentiful in Chicago. She might have added that woman's clubs past number are there already. If the diploma plan succeeds, the maids will have their university club, so to speak; and it is likely enough that in time they will found university settlements for the improvement of the housewives or "matrons," as the technical language of the association hath it.

For it seems that matrons must go to school as well as maids. Mrs. HOWARD S. KRETSCHMAR of the Woman's Club admits this:

"It's no use trying to reconstruct household matters on the old basis. We live in a new age, and we must keep up with it. Thorough technical training for both mistress and maid offers the only way out of the present trying conditions. Even if a woman never intends to marry, she should know how to make a good home. No employer can expect good service without knowing of just what this service consists. Men never work in this way. The mistresses need training just as much as the maids. With such training for both, it will no longer be necessary to consider house workers as a class apart, to talk of homes and hospitals especially for them, nor to gather statistics concerning their marriages."

In a letter to the *Chicago Tribune* Mrs. A. G. HARROW of Des Moines asserted that "the servant girl, be she a good one, pretty or plain, is almost sure to marry. Her chances in the matrimonial market are always good because her occupation teaches her to be a homemaker." This view seems reasonable and is corroborated by Mrs. AUGUSTE LEVI, president of the association, who believes that "house servants marry more frequently"—that is, more house servants marry—"than factory or store employees," but she holds that this is because the maids are "less particular." But Miss ADDAMS, who is somewhat of a statistician, denies the existence of any exact figures bearing on the matter. Speaking from her own observation, she finds that factory workers and saleswomen "marry better" and have more chances to marry than maids. She detects in the ordinary young man an "instinct that induces him to choose a girl of almost any other occupation before a houseworker, however good, attractive or desirable." This again seems reasonable, which is more than "the ordinary young man" often is. We can only stand afar off and reverently wonder which of the two opposing theories is right. Perhaps the maids marry the extraordinary young men.

Mrs. KRETSCHMAR, a college woman, sees little or no good in the association's diploma. She regards the average housekeeper as incompetent to award diplomas or "even to pass upon the quality of housework of the most ordinary kind." Let us hope that this is too austere a judgment. As a college woman, Mrs. KRETSCHMAR looks to the college for help:

"Only when the great colleges of the country have publicly recognized the value and importance of homemaking as a profession will the domestic problem approach a satisfactory solution. With this training for the prospective mistresses of America should be established technical training schools for the prospective maids—schools arranged upon plans and bases similar to the training schools for nurses, now so numerous and effective."

Lud, lud, but how the wages will go up when the trained maid makes her appearance. We can hear the cook, the housemaid, the ladies' maid and the laundress giving their college "yell." Housekeeping is going to become more grand, solemn and expensive, as time and education roll along.

Smallpox and Vaccination.

To that limited yet harmful group of beings with approximately normal cerebral development who still conscientiously oppose vaccination, contending that it does not immunize the human family from smallpox, we commend a perusal of the report of Major AMES, Surgeon in the United States Army, and late Director of Vaccination in the Island of Porto Rico. This report appeared in full in a late number of the *Pacific Medical Journal*, but the essential points are reproduced in an able editorial in the *New York Medical Record* for December 6, 1902.

When the United States authorities took possession of Porto Rico in October, 1898, smallpox was prevalent in endemic form, and by Dec. 1 it had become a widespread epidemic on that island. It became evident in February that all ordinary methods of controlling this terrible scourge would be futile. There were present at that time 3,000 new cases. Compulsory vaccination was begun, and this enforced system of treatment was carried on with such thoroughness and energy that by July 1, after having vaccinated 860,000 out of a total population of 960,000 inhabitants, the disease had practically disappeared. In the two and a half years immediately following this period the mortality from smallpox was but two in each year, as against an average of 621 for former years. Taking into consideration the fact that when compulsory vaccination was instituted the disease was spreading rapidly, that it existed in many widely separated communities in various parts of the island, that some of these were not easily accessible and that through ignorance or fear many cases were concealed in out-of-the-way huts and in the forests, there could be no more positive proof of the efficacy and safety of enforced obedience to the established laws relating to the public health.

"Trust" Interpreted.

We think we can answer the San Francisco *Chronicle's* question: "What is a trust?"

The *Chronicle* has seen it variously indicated as "some fellows who charge high prices for transportation" or who "sell labor at too dear a rate," or the "owners of steel works or breweries," or "all persons with a good deal of money," and our contemporary is mystified. The trust as a target for legislative regulation can now be described as a "corporation engaged in interstate business," which means, under the Roosevelt-Knox interpretation, practically all forms of industry, except, for example, the old-fashioned cobbler and the thread and needle store, each of which is rapidly disappearing.

The anti-trust crusade is for the subjection of all business beneath the hand of the Government at Washington, and, from the opposite point of view, for the enlargement of that hand till it is big enough to cover all business.

Shall There Be a Deal With Addicks?

As he left the White House last Saturday Mr. J. E. ADDICKS made a statement regarding the political situation in Delaware which amounted to a complete justification of the attitude maintained there by the Republicans, or, as they are perhaps more commonly known, the Regular Republicans. This was the point of it:

"There will be an election for two Senators in Delaware next January. Two Senators will be elected—two Republicans."

"'And Mr. ADDICKS will be one of them?' asked a reporter.

"'There won't be an election unless he is one of them,' replied Mr. ADDICKS."

There would be general wonder as to how this sense of power to dictate the Delaware Senatorships had lodged in Mr. ADDICKS'S mind were it not that he himself has recently explained it. The explanation was an expenditure of $250,000.

For purposes of Executive recognition what is the "Addicks Republican" party which the investment of that quarter of a million of dollars has produced?

Since Mr. ADDICKS obtained possession of a portion of the Delaware Legislature his platform has been "ADDICKS or nobody." Naturally the Republicans say, Any one but ADDICKS.

Should the Republican Administration at Washington make the deal with ADDICKS which the Delaware Republicans refuse to make? We think not.

A match between Lord Derby and Major Delmar, which is said to be in course of arrangement for next summer, would be as good a one as could be made. He is a bold owner, barring the owner of Cresceus, who thinks that he has a horse able to go faster than Lord Derby for three long miles. But the Delmar party is more businesslike than splurgy, and the sincerity of their belief in their animal's powers is beyond suspicion. Lord Derby came out of the Village Farms stable with a reputation of being faster than The Abbot—a two-minute horse, possibly. He has not lived up to his reputation, but he has proved himself a "racehorse" of the highest class. A match between these two would be likely to reveal in Lord Derby the suspected speed that has never yet been shown, or mark Major Delmar down somewhere near the record of Cresceus.

Twelve million bacteria inhabit the skins of half a pound of cherries, according to Dr. EHRLICH, a German scientist.—*Washington despatch.*

The worthy EHRLICH warns in vain. Just as many boys will "shin up" the cherry trees next summer as if there were not a blessed bacterium in the world. Some bacteria are pretty tough, but most boys are a good deal tougher.

Fogies and the prejudiced against what used to be called the higher education of "females" are invited to study the case of those two admirable young women in Radcliffe College who are "running" a bakery in Cambridge. It was their high purpose to make "perfect" bread, and they have succeeded, if their clients know perfection. The bakers of these really "boss loaves," these superlative and unparallelable baxters, work day and night, and still the demand is great and the loaves are too few. These two Radcliffe geniuses may become even unreasonably rich, if they choose. If they despise wealth, at least they ought to pity the world in general and eastern Massachusetts in particular. We hold that the twilight of the New England literary gods and a certain Harvard inability at oar and pigskin are due to improper nutriment, or, if we may say so, to ancestors fed upon soggy and sagging bread and biscuit. The Radcliffe baxters may be the harbingers of a great literary and athletic revival.

A terrible blow is to be struck in Chicago. "One million of children from all over the land are to write letters to the Tobacco Trust, "protesting against the manufacture of cigarettes." Why not extend this idea to a grander use? Why not have a million children, ABSALOMS in the bud, write to the trusts, protesting against trusts and asking them to shut up shop? This would be as effectual as any other attempt to suspend the laws of business and make gravitation stop gravitating.

A local statesman looking over a dust-covered copy of the Albany Red Book for 1866 the other day remarked that although republics were called ungrateful and politics a lottery with more blanks than prizes, men active in public life did not appear to fare badly. GEORGE W. PLUNKITT, recently elected for another term in the Albany State Senate, was a candidate for Assembly in 1866, when MICHAEL C. MURPHY, less than a year ago Commissioner of Police, had been elected Member of Assembly. He had as a colleague THOMAS J. CREAMER, one of New York city's present delegation to Congress. CHARLES A. FLAMMER, who was a candidate for Assembly in 1869, is one of the present Police Magistrates; JOHN R. VOORHIS, candidate for Assembly in 1868, is the present president of the Board of Elections; CORNELIUS VAN COTT, candidate for Assembly in 1869, is the present Postmaster of the city; THOMAS F. GRADY, recently elected State Senator, was a candidate for Assembly in 1876; RUFUS B. COWING, present City Judge, was a candidate for Assembly in 1875; JOSEPH P. FALLON, Municipal Court Judge, was a candidate for the same position in 1876, and CHARLES H. TRUAX, now one of the Supreme Court Judges, ran for the same position in the year following. Judges COWING, FALLON and TRUAX were successively candidates in the same districts for Members of Assembly and the record of such nominations to those active in public life at present is a long one.

The fact is that voters in New York constituencies are not fickle in their support of candidates who have once established any title to their favor, and in elective constituencies knowledge of a district, of its interests and chief political elements is a matter of greater importance than any novelty which attends the first appearance as a candidate of a political newcomer. The vicissitudes of politics are many, but the ability of successful local statesmen to cope with them is great.

Credit to whom it is due. The Hon. DAVID BENNETT HILL has done a valuable public service in overthrowing the Hon. D. CADY HERRICK as the Democratic boss in Albany county. The domination of Albany county Democratic politics by a Judge of the Supreme Court has been a scandal of many years' standing.

What is the matter with the foreign cyclists who entered the six days' race? Their countrymen have made an unsatisfactory showing in past years, but the foreigners' present record at the Garden is the worst yet. Out of the six distinctly European teams which started in the long race last Monday morning not one remains. On the other hand, of the ten American teams which started nine were still riding last night. The managers of the race declared a few days ago that they had secured for the present contest the best long-distance cyclists to be found on the other side of the ocean. If this is so, the American riders must be pronounced by all odds the best in the world.

The police were vigilant and virtuous Sunday and did their best to maintain order and suppress vice. They arrested a coal dealer who had dared to send one of his drivers to deliver a load of coal on Sunday. The policeman who saw that load of coal must have been stirred with horror amounting almost to apoplexy. Magistrate MAYO failed to appreciate the enormity of the coal dealer's offence and let him go. We should like to ask Magistrate MAYO what people want of coal in their homes on Sunday. The saloons are open.

Mayor LOW's letter to the Aldermen in favor of the Pennsylvania franchise shows that he is now working sincerely to nullify the bad effect of his earlier efforts to hold up the franchise, as the Tammany Aldermen are now doing. More power to the Mayor's good elbow!

Uncle Sam has been getting his sewing at West Point done pretty cheaply, it seems. He owns ten sewing machines used in the tailor shop there, has transferred thither four that he owns which belong elsewhere, and has borrowed four more from the tailors he employs there. Five of the borrowed machines are from twenty to thirty years old. Now he wants permission to buy ten new machines and as many "individual" electric motors by which to run them. This should be granted to him, for it is not dignified for the United States to have to borrow from its employees.

"Tis a wise cow that knows her owner.—TRIGGS.

SOLOMON in South Omaha. The Hon. CHARLES EPSTEIN asserted that he was the owner of a certain Jersey cow. He arrested the cow. Mrs. EMMA HOUGHMAN had him arrested and brought replevin proceedings. Then she summoned the cow as a witness. The Judge directed that the cow be brought into court. Mrs. HOUGHMAN called the cow by name. "Immediately the Jersey walked over to her and kissed her by rubbing her muzzle against Mrs. HOUGHMAN'S face." Thrice the cow thus testified. The Judge couldn't help giving judgment for the plaintiff; and so the lady and the Jersey went out of court happy.

ANTI-TRUST LEGISLATION.

It May Be Confined to a Bill Appropriating $500,000 to Enforce the Sherman Act.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The first real step to be taken by Congress to carry out the recommendations of the President in his message regarding the trusts, and perhaps the only measure which will get before the House at this session, will be a bill appropriating $500,000 to enable the Attorney-General to enforce the provisions of the Sherman law. Such a bill was introduced the first day of this session by Representative Hepburn, and is one of the many anti-trust measures now before the Judiciary Committee.

Chairman Jenkins has called a meeting of his committee for Friday, the day before the anti-trust sub-committee resumes its consideration of the bills which have been referred to it. At that time favorable consideration of the Hepburn bill will be urged as preliminary to anything the committee may decide upon later in relation to anti-trust legislation. He contends that this will not interfere with the work of the sub-committee which has the anti-trust bills under consideration, but that the passage of the Hepburn bill would enable the Department of Justice to enforce the Sherman act and determine whether or not it is a sufficient remedy for the trusts.

This move will to a certain extent take the wind out of Mr. Littlefield's sails. Mr. Littlefield has heretofore taken the initiative in anti-trust legislation and has sought to identify his name with the measure reported. Mr. Jenkins, on the other hand, contends that there are no trusts, and that an attempt to enforce the provisions of the Sherman act against something which does not exist will demonstrate the strength of his position that anti-trust agitation is a waste of energy.

The Godless Girl.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I see in Saturday's SUN a communication from a "Free Thinker" asking for "a good, moral, godless girl" to be his wife, and I would like to ask if he can find such a girl? There may be that kind. I do not want to be uncharitable, but I have known a number of "godless girls," and not one I have ever known has impressed me with that stability of character, that loyalty to principle, that devotion to right because it is right, that finer feminine instinct, that spirit of sacrifice for the sake of what is good, that quality of womanly honor, that unalterable will to suffer rather than to shame, that power to resist temptation, that pure atmosphere of high thinking, that clear conscience through which duty shines undimmed, which I have observed among godly girls. And by godly girls I do not mean the prudes and the bigots. They of all women, I think, are the weakest when the real temptation comes.

Admitting that I am a heterodox to some extent in the matter of the Christian theology, I am compelled to confess that the Christian religion is to woman the greatest thing in the world, and the best. From her nature she needs a support stronger than she is. The godless woman contends that this is a confession of weakness, and she substitutes her own strength. She thinks she is repudiating God, when in fact she is repudiating nature. She does not realize it, but women have made God what He is. A man-made Deity would have been a woman. Possibly there may be "a good, moral, godless girl" for this "Free Thinker" to marry, but even if there be, she cannot be such a wife and mother as the girl who believes in the God of infinite goodness and wisdom and charity.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 6. HETERODOX.

An Unfortunate Gesture.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

"The worst licking I ever got in my life was for throwing my hand behind me," said a man from Kentucky, "and the wonder is that I got off with my life. I had been hanging around a little station in Todd county waiting for a train and, being a stranger in that region of the State, I had but little to say to the men who stood around the depot. But along about train time a medium-sized man approached me and made a remark which I did not quite catch. 'What's that?' I asked rather sharply, and at the same time I threw my hand behind me and reached down in my hip pocket. Before I fully realized it something was happening to me, and it was of a furious and fast nature. The Kentuckian had simply crawled all over me. He swept the depot platform with me almost in a jiffy.

"When he let go I was in bad condition to take the train. My clothes were covered with dust, my face was bruised and black, and I was otherwise in an ugly condition. Did I try to pull a pistol? No, indeed. I never had a pistol with me and had no idea of getting into any sort of trouble at the moment. I had simply reached into my hip pocket for a chew of tobacco, but the Kentuckian evidently thought I was reaching for a gun. He was taking no chances, and he gave me one of the best maulings I ever got. The moral of this tale is: Keep your hand from your hip pocket while in Kentucky."

Poor-Mannered, Short-Sighted Mayor.

From the Cleveland Plain Dealer.

TOLEDO, Ohio, Dec. 7.—Mayor S. M. Jones is opposed to the custom of lifting the hat to women acquaintances. The Mayor received last week from the wife of one of his erstwhile enthusiastic political supporters a most indignant letter in which she claimed that the Mayor had grossly insulted her.

The insult lay in the fact that she had bowed to the Mayor in a street car and he had merely nodded without raising his cap and went on with his conversation with a laboring man sitting beside him.

The Mayor said: "Now, of course, I had no thought of insulting that woman. I did not raise my cap to her. I never raise my cap to anybody or anything. I do not believe it is right. This lady would think I was crazy if I lifted my cap, for instance, to the women whom I see scrubbing the marble floors of the Boody House corridor. Yet if I lifted my cap to the one I should lift it to the other. I do not see the necessity for it, and I don't do it."

Name for the Episcopal Church.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I would suggest "Protestant Catholic" as a suitable name for the religious body known at present as "Protestant Episcopal."

The appellation "Protestant Catholic" would accord with the policy of the Episcopal Church to please all parties, no matter how opposite in belief. By inserting the word "Catholic" the Ritualists would be satisfied, and by retaining the word "Protestant" the Low Churchmen, the Broad Churchmen, and the Dissenters would be gratified.

The term "Protestant Catholic" would also suggest that religious unity so much talked of!

CORA I. TOWNSEND.

COLDWATER, Mich., Dec. 8.

Manhattan Elevated Seats Condemned.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Manhattan," in THE SUN of Saturday, called attention to the removal of the arms between the seats in the cars of the elevated road. Why this change should have been made is a mystery to every patron of the lines. It does not increase the capacity of the car, but gives the individual who habitually sits sideways every opportunity to deposit part of his anatomy upon his neighbor's territory.

Some twenty years ago the management of the elevated lines abandoned the continuous benches, the first partitions being an iron bracket with a wooden top about six inches long. These were found to be inadequate for the purpose intended and the comfort of the passengers and the wooden arms running the full width of the seats were substituted.

The present management, in reverting to the continuous bench idea, is simply adopting ideas that their fathers tried and found unsatisfactory nearly a generation ago.

One has little enough comfort on the cars of the line at present, and the passenger fortunate enough to secure a seat certainly should be protected from the encroachments of his too stout, too dirty or too boorish neighbor.

J. F. FERRIS.

NEW YORK, Dec. 8.

Willing She Should Go There.

Mrs. Benham—Mother says that Heaven is her home.

Benham—Tell her there's no place like home.

GROWTH OF DRUG HABIT.

An Explanation by Dr. Crothers, the Well-Known Expert on the Subject.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My note of Dec. 2, published in THE SUN, has brought out many inquiries on a subject which I supposed was quite well understood by leaders in scientific circles. One correspondent is very anxious to have me answer through the columns of THE SUN the following questions: From what facts do we conclude that opium and drug taking is increasing, and what are some of the general causes? I can only answer these questions with a few outline facts, the full discussion of which would fill many columns of THE SUN.

A committee of the American Pharmaceutical Association appointed to inquire into the matter of drug habits has recently reported that the increased demand for cocaine in the last five years has been over 400 per cent., while the sales of morphia and opium during this time have increased 500 per cent. The normal increase of the use of these drugs for legitimate purposes during this period would be less than 20 per cent.; hence this enormous difference indicates a new and unknown use. Inquiries from physicians in all sections of the country show that both of these drugs are used with increasing frequency and in some circles the use is quite prominent. Hospitals and sanitariums are called on to treat these cases, and in many instances they comprise a considerable percentage of all cases treated. Physicians in private practice discover these secret drug habits among their patients, and specific drugs for these states are more numerous and widely advertised in the journals and magazines of the day. One of the self-evident causes is the nerve strain and exhaustion following the peculiar civilization of our times. Keener and more highly sensitive nervous organizations appear in all departments of commerce, scientific and practical work. For the strains, drains and exhaustions which follow the rivalry and competition comes the demand for relief which calls for narcotics, either spirits or drugs. The exhausted man or woman who cannot sleep finds nepenthe in opium and its alkaloids, and ever after seeks this source for relief.

Spirits may supply this demand for a time, but they disturb the brain and nervous system and expose the users to risk of reputation, while opium and morphine give steadiness and serenity and cover up the real condition. Nervous exhaustion from bad living, overwork, underwork, excitement, bad nutrition, want of training, occupation, bad parentage, faulty growths in early life and so on, are the main causes for drug taking and narcotism in early and middle life. Many men and women are born with faulty and feeble resisting pain centres. They cannot endure sufferings, disappointments and losses; hence they turn to drugs and spirits for relief. The real fault is in the family, in the parents, in the training and surroundings. Many a young man and woman goes out from the home with a heavy entailment of disability and inability to meet the losses and crosses common to everyday life. They become spirit and drug takers, with and without much temptation, and are early wrecked. What we want is robustness and physical and moral training in the family and school; then the drug taking in after life may be averted.

T. D. CROTHERS, M. D.

HARTFORD, Dec. 8.

FOWLER CURRENCY BILL.

All the Ideas of the House Committee Are Embodied in That Measure.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The conference of the Republican members of the House Committee on Banking and Currency was held this afternoon to discuss proposed currency legislation at this session of Congress. Without reaching any definite conclusions the conference adjourned to meet again on Saturday afternoon.

The impression has been created within the past few days that the committee will not report any financial measure at this session if the general conference of all the House Republicans next Tuesday night fails to give its indorsement to the Fowler currency bill. Mr. Fowler and other prominent members of the committee have endeavored to correct this impression, but it remains a fact that the committee has nothing in the way of remedial financial legislation to present in case the Fowler bill is turned down at the conference, as all of the ideas of the committee on the subject are embodied in that measure.

The bill is certain to encounter strong opposition on the part of many prominent Republicans of the House. Two of its most conspicuous features have been selected for especial attack. They are the branch bank plan and the scheme for asset currency. The small banking institutions throughout the country are making a determined fight against the branch bank feature, contending that it would result in driving them out of business and the creation of a banking trust. The scheme for asset currency, which is intended for relief in cases of money stringency, is looked upon with a degree of suspicion.

WILL BE FREE ON CHRISTMAS.

President Commutes Sentence of Gideon W. Marsh, Philadelphia Bank Wrecker.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The President has commuted the sentence of Gideon W. Marsh, the Philadelphia bank wrecker, the commutation to take effect on Christmas eve. The petition for a pardon was signed by Assistant Attorney-General Beck, who in 1898 was the prosecuting attorney in the case against Marsh, and by leading bankers and other citizens of Philadelphia.

Marsh was formerly president of the Keystone National Bank of Philadelphia, which was wrecked in 1891. The arrest and conviction of Marsh took place some time afterward, and he was not sent to the penitentiary until 1898. At the trial he pleaded guilty to three indictments, under the impression that he was pleading guilty to a single indictment, and received a sentence under each. The aggregate sentence was eighteen years in prison.

TAFT FOR SUPREME BENCH.

Report Revived That He Will Be Named to Succeed Justice Shiras.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—Associate Justice Shiras of the United States Supreme Court, having informally announced that he will retire some time during the present court term, the report is revived that William H. Taft of Ohio, Governor of the Philippines, will be appointed to succeed him, that Commissioner Luke E. Wright of Tennessee will take Taft's place as Governor and that William Woodville Rockhill, former Assistant Secretary of State and Special Commissioner to China, at present Chief of the Bureau of American Republics, will be made a member of the commission.

NO NEW BATTLESHIPS.

Instead the House Committee Purposes to Double the Number of Midshipmen.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The House Committee on Naval Affairs has practically agreed to make no provision for the building of additional battleships in the Naval Appropriation bill now in course of preparation. The Secretary of the Navy in his estimate asked for an appropriation for two new battleships, but his request will be ignored. Instead the committee's purpose is to make provision for doubling the number of midshipmen at the Annapolis Academy in order to meet the demand for an increase in the personnel of the navy.

Legislature to Investigate a Cowhiding.

RICHMOND, Va., Dec. 10.—The legislative committee on Courts of Justice to-day set Jan. 14 as the date to begin the investigation of the conduct of Judge Clarence W. Campbell of the Amherst County Court in cowhiding the Rev. J. C. Crawford, an aged preacher and secretary of the Virginia Anti-Saloon League, who had just been cleared by a jury of a contempt charge.

TREATY WITH NEWFOUNDLAND.

New England Fishermen to Appear in Washington in Opposition to Ratification.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 10.—The fishermen of Gloucester will be in Washington next week to appear before the Committee on Foreign Relations in opposition to the ratification of the Hay-Bond reciprocity treaty with Newfoundland, believing, as they do, that it is a bargain in which Newfoundland gets everything and the fishermen of the United States nothing. Senator Lodge has presented to the Senate papers and statistics in regard to Gloucester and the New England fisheries which have been printed as a Senate document. It is a very interesting one. It gives the facts and figures about the fishing industry of New England, and works in commercial statistics, politics, poetry and pathos to an extent that has attracted wide attention to the document. Following the statistics is an extract from a chapter of history describing the fight between the Levant and the Constitution, in which a Gloucester man displayed heroism. Then the article gets down to business and has this to say about the treaty itself:

What does Gloucester get by such a treaty? Only this one small thing, the withdrawal of the tonnage tax which Newfoundland imposes, namely, $1 50 per net ton on American fishing vessels that seek Newfoundland ports at certain seasons of the year for the purpose of buying fresh bait of the Newfoundland shore fishermen at localities where we do not have the privilege of fishing on the Newfoundland coast within the three-mile limit. The buying of this bait is a blessing to these shore fishermen. The American fishing vessels that visit such shores are compared to the salt cod fish bankers that fish with trawl on the Grand Banks. They numbered this year thirty-two and probably paid about $4,000 tax to the Newfoundland Government for blessing some of her inhabitants by purchasing something that they were very glad to sell. Newfoundland gets everything—our market free for her fish and oil. The catch of Newfoundland codfish in some years amounts to 1,000,000 quintals. With labor there costing not half as much as it does in Gloucester or other New England ports it puts the New England fishers at a great disadvantage.

There are more than a score of printed pages of facts about the Gloucester fisheries and the interesting document concludes with an extract from Kipling's "Captains Courageous," in which the author describes the annual memorial meeting at Gloucester when the roll of the dead of the year is called.

The Senate to-day removed the ban of secrecy from the reciprocity treaty with Newfoundland, which was signed Nov. 8, by Secretary Hay on the part of the United States and Ambassador Herbert on behalf of Great Britain. Its alleged object is, "for the improvement of commercial relations between the United States and the Colony of Newfoundland." To that end it permits the purchase of bait by American fishermen and the privilege of touching and trading, buying and selling fish and oil and procuring supplies in Newfoundland on equal terms with Newfoundland fishermen. It also admits into the United States free of duty the products of Newfoundland fisheries, not including fresh codfish, together with the product of Newfoundland mines and slates from the quarry, untrimmed. On the other hand specified products of the United States are admitted free of duty into Newfoundland and on others the rate of duty is reduced.

TO COMPLAIN OF TURKEY.

A Delegation of American Missionaries to See the President To-day.

A deputation representing all religious bodies in America which are doing missionary and educational work in the Turkish Empire is to wait on President Roosevelt at Washington to-day to protest against the conditions with which they have to contend. Three members of the deputation are in active missionary work in Turkey. The others are officers of mission boards and prominent citizens identified with the work.

The deputation will tell the President that the United States citizens and organizations are not properly treated by the Sultan's Government, and will ask that this Government demand of Turkey that under the act according special privileges to foreigners Americans receive the same rights as French and Russian residents.

These latter, it is said, have secured in Turkey immunity from taxation for their churches and schools. They have the privilege of repairing their buildings, and opening schools and places of worship wherever and whenever they desire to do so. Under the favored nation clause, it is asserted by the missionary boards that Americans have similar rights, yet it has happened that all American schools and churches have been closed, while those under French or Russian management remain open.

An appeal has been made locally to the Sultan, and he is said to have replied that Americans have no legal rights in the Empire, while French and Russian residents have.

While it is not certain that complaint of the fact will be made to the President, it is an open secret that many American religious workers from America in Turkey are far from satisfied with the United States Minister in Constantinople. It is also asserted by them that Constantinople is a sort of dumping ground for people whom the authorities do not want elsewhere.

The Rev. Dr. George Post, a well-known medical authority, heads the deputation. He represents the Syrian Protestant College at Beyroot. With him will be the Rev. William K. Eddy of the Presbyterian mission at Sidon, W. W. Peet of the Congregational American Board, who is treasurer of the mission at Constantinople, Darwin R. James, representing the Presbyterian Board of Foreign Missions, and John S. Kennedy, who is a member of the governing board of Robert College, Constantinople.

ALONE FAR UP IN FOG.

A London Aeronaut's Quiet Journey of More Than a Hundred Miles.

From the Cincinnati Commercial Tribune.

LONDON, Nov. 20.—Mr. Frank Butler of the Aero Club has just performed a balloon voyage which was unique in its way. Without a companion or assistant, he travelled through a sea of fog 115 miles in extent, and throughout the journey did not gain one glimpse of the earth.

"I have made many ascents," said Mr. Butler, "and this was my fifteenth this year, but never before have I had such an unusual experience. Indeed, I doubt if any other aeronaut has.

"At 11:30 I ascended alone from the Crystal Palace in a Guadron nondirigible balloon. From that moment until 3 o'clock I saw neither earth nor sun. At a speed of thirty-two miles an hour I travelled to Corby, in Lincolnshire, through a dense fog which hid everything from sight.

"The depth of that ocean of fog was amazing. It was as thick at a height of four thousand feet as it was at four hundred. Fortunately, it was not too dark to read, and, there being nothing to do or see, I made myself as comfortable as circumstances allowed, and passed the time by reading a journal devoted to motoring.

"Was I anxious? Not in the least; for, thick though the fog was, I knew that I was much safer up there than I should have been in my motor car or carriage on terra-firma. You see, there were no omnibuses to collide with at a height of 4,000 feet.

"At 1 o'clock I had a pleasant, if lonely, lunch of sandwiches and sherry. By 3 o'clock the tameness and sameness of that dreary, damp expanse of fog began to operate on my nerves. I began to feel bored. I wanted to see something. Even a passing bird would have proved a real friend. If I had had some one to talk to I should have been quite happy. For three hours and a half I endured this monotony, and then the craving to look upon something except fog grew overpowering. I opened the valve, and the balloon began to gently glide downward. I saw the earth as suddenly as if a curtain had been drawn aside.

"I had to act promptly to check the