The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

MONDAY, DECEMBER 29, 1902.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

THE SUN, New York City.

PARIS—Kiosque No. 12, near Grand Hotel, and Kiosque No. 10, Boulevard des Capucines.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

The Arm, Hammer and Hot Iron.

It may have seemed at one time to President ROOSEVELT that both the quickest and the surest way to resolve the dangerous situation in Venezuela was to acquiesce, however reluctantly, in the strongly expressed desire of the British and German Governments that he himself should undertake the task and assume the responsibility of arbitration.

Such would be the natural impulse of a man of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S habits of prompt action and high courage in the presence of difficulties.

In adopting the alternative and by his great influence sending the European claims to The Hague Tribunal, the President has rendered not only to the cause of peace in general, but also to the interests of this nation in particular, a service infinitely beyond anything in his power as arbitrator.

The valuation put upon the importance of the President's act by the Baron DE CONSTANT in his congratulatory letter from Paris is in no degree extravagant. Only three years ago the Powers were summoned to conference by the Czar of Russia to devise some method of minimizing the chances of unnecessary war over avoidable issues. Great Britain and Germany participated, as did the United States. The result was the establishment, by a convention duly and solemnly ratified on all sides, of an international court of arbitration specially intended for the peaceful settlement of just such disputes as that which has arisen between these allies and the South American State. The usefulness of the machinery thus provided has never yet been tested in any case concerning a great European Power. The future of The Hague Tribunal depended upon Mr. ROOSEVELT'S decision in this matter. If he had acceded to the urgent request of the allies—a most flattering request, since it was prompted by full confidence in his impartiality and ability—it is not too much to say that the tribunal's usefulness never would have been tested. The Hague Court of Arbitration and the promise it held out to a warring world would have become no more than an iridescent memory.

President ROOSEVELT has preserved for Europe and the world the court of peaceful resort which was by European initiative created in 1899.

At the same time, while putting the Venezuelan business upon the right road to peaceful settlement, he has preserved this Government's independence of the process of settlement. A precedent full of the possibilities of serious embarrassment to his own Administration and its successors has been avoided by the judicious decision which Mr. ROOSEVELT finally reached. The whole country knows that the Monroe Doctrine is safe under his vigilant and patriotic guardianship. It is not the less secure in his keeping because he is not to exercise simultaneously the functions of custodian of the Monroe Doctrine and judge or referee in a controversy perhaps involving a practical application of its principles.

The diplomacy at Washington during the past three weeks has been of a mighty discerning and effective sort. When the iron was hot the arm that held the hammer struck straight.

Church Attendance in London.

The religious census of London which the *Daily News* of that town is taking has proceeded at last accounts to the enumeration of the Sunday church attendance in three only of the twenty-eight boroughs into which London is divided. The census taken in two of these, Hampstead and Kensington, we have already given. It showed that of the total population of the two boroughs, less than one-quarter was in attendance on the churches at both the morning and evening services on the November Sunday when the enumeration was made.

On the first Sunday of December the aggregate attendance was counted in the borough of Battersea and it was only one in seven of the population, though on that day the weather was far more favorable than when the count was made in the others.

Battersea is a typical industrial borough, and the statistics are particularly suggestive on that account. The London *Guardian* had predicted after the census in Hampstead and Kensington that the results shown in the poorer districts would be more favorable, as concerns the attendance on Church of England services especially, but actually they were worse in industral Battersea.

Here is a summary of the census as so far reported:

Borough.	Population.	Anglican.	Other Churches.	Totals.
Kensington	176,628	26,134	17,229	43,363
Hampstead	81,942	11,056	9,391	20,447
Battersea	168,907	11,665	15,327	26,992
	427,477	48,855	41,947	90,802

It will be seen that in the three boroughs, taken together, the Anglican attendance somewhat exceeds that at all the other churches. In Battersea alone, however, the Anglican attendance is less by nearly a fourth. Of the Nonconformist attendance, the greatest was on the Methodist churches, 6,023, as compared with 11,665 on the Anglican. Next came Baptist, 2,849, and then followed, in order, the Congregational, 1,641, and Presbyterian, 474. At an apparently flourishing Reformed Episcopal church, St. Jude's, the attendance was 227, a number exceeded by that at only four of the twenty-five Anglican churches and missions in Battersea. It is notable, also, that at a Spiritualistic church 54 attendants were found. In the borough are only two Roman Catholic churches, at which the attendance was counted as 1,737.

Of the total number of attendants in Battersea, 26,992, only 6,866 were men, the remainder consisting of 10,614 women and 9,512 children; yet in the population of the borough males and females are nearly equal in number, or 81,479 to 87,158.

The total population of the three boroughs in which this census has been taken is not one-tenth part that of "registration London," but, probably the church attendance in them may be taken as typical of the whole, for Hampstead is a middle-class district, Kensington aristocratic and Battersea industrial. It was only about 21 per cent. of the inhabitants, or little more than one-fifth; of men, there were few proportionately; nearly four-fifths of the total being made up of women and children. In the Anglican churches of Battersea there were only 2,592 men to 9,073 women and children. In the Nonconformist churches men were more numerous proportionately, or 3,858 men to 9,732 women and children. In the two Roman Catholic churches there were 416 men to 1,321 women and children.

This is a far worse showing than was made in New York, both as to church attendance in the aggregate and of men specifically.

Regulation by Bulldozing.

Our independent contemporary of Indianapolis, the *News*, may well open its mind again to the important subject of trust regulation according to the Knox programme, to which President ROOSEVELT has given his approval. We subjoin the *News's* present view:

"THE SUN is horrified that the Attorney-General of the United States should suggest the advisability of denying combinations that operate in restraint of trade the right to engage in interstate commerce. We do not see anything very startling about it."

The destruction of any great business organization, for which the trust hunters hunger, cannot be a trifling matter. It is sure to cause trouble and damage outside of the immediate victim. The Sherman act wisely puts the great power to do anything so momentous into the keeping of the courts. It is now for the courts to determine whether an accused corporation is in restraint of trade, and is to be disrupted. But Mr. KNOX'S scheme aims at regulating all corporations by establishing the power of the Government to prevent the transportation of their goods from State to State.

Under the Sherman act every combination "in the form of trust or otherwise" in restraint of trade is declared "illegal" and can be scattered to the winds. The fact that that law is on the statute books emphasizes the objection to the proposed policy of bulldozing business by means of the power in Congress to regulate interstate commerce, a policy that would create a whirlpool of coercion into which the individual citizen would be inevitably swept.

The Farmers' Trust.

Snapping their fingers at the Anti-Trust law which is and at the hundreds of anti-trust laws now on the calendars of Congress or just hatching in the convolutions of the statesmen in Washington, the farmers of the United States have formed a trust of their own. The incorporators of this trust, which was organized in Indianapolis last week and named the American Society of Equity of North America, set forth in the papers of incorporation a long list of its objects. Only two of these objects need be mentioned here:

"1. To obtain profitable prices from products of the farm, garden and orchard.

"2. To secure legislation in the interest of agriculture, horticulture, stock-raising and gardening."

That is, the farmers combine to put up or maintain the prices of their products and to secure favorable legislation. Attributing such nefarious purposes to great industrial trusts, the professional spouters against the Octopus flame to the roofs of their mouths with wrath and language. But farmers are a different sort of cattle. It is not safe to attack the farmers. There are too many of them. If the farmers want to form a trust, shall they not be allowed to do it? Remember those kindly anti-trust acts in the West and South which forbade all combinations save those of farmers and laborers; statutes quickly smashed by the courts, but interesting as a memorial of the tenderness of the trust-scourgers for farmers and laborers. Some of the laborers have their trusts already. The farmers seem bound to have theirs.

Saving in the cost of transportation is one of the first aims of the society. "At present," says the president, "too much money goes to the handlers and transporters." The trust will strive to bring producer and consumer closer together, freeze out the middleman and reduce the cost of marketing. The trust will have its own elevators, cold-storage houses and warehouses. By an elaborate and minute system of crop-reporting, "all values will be fixed equitably." The method of fixing prices will be this:

"Knowing through the secretaries of the local branches the amount of any crop produced, and knowing the consumption from past experiences, an equitable minimum price will be fixed by the directors of the national body and the same reported directly to all members in all parts of the country. Once a price has been placed on a crop, that price will rule on that crop during the crop year, and the society will not make another price, although the individual owners may use their own judgment about holding for a higher price. There will also be a schedule of monthly advances over minimum price accruing to holders. The result of this simultaneous information to all members will be concerted action and the sustainment of the market."

This is perfectly clear and direct. The trust farmer will not sell below the fixed minimum price and is entitled to get all he can over it. Here are some equitable minimum prices for the present:

"The society will recommend for the present time the following prices for some staple crops: Wheat, $1 per bushel; corn, 50 cents per bushel; oats, 35 cents per bushel; all at Chicago; also cotton, 10 cents per pound at New York. The farm price will be these prices less transportation and handling. To illustrate: The present price of wheat at Chicago is 75 cents; therefore, it should be 25 cents per bushel higher, which means a corresponding advance of 25 cents on the farm."

The peculiar difficulties of an agricultural trust on account of the vast extent of the field and the number of producers and the uncertainty of crops do not escape the projectors of the new society; but they believe that their plan is practical and that accurate reports of the crops and a minimum price will appeal to the farmers and millions of them will come into the trust. "As to controlling production, this feature will take care of itself."

We have recorded many attempts to establish farmers' trusts, local or general. Evidently the farmers have begun to see the advantages of combination. Inevitably they will seek to apply to their business a principle and a method that are so fertile and powerful in other forms of business. While the half-cock statesmen are shooting blank cartridges at the trusts or weeping like crocodiles over the downtrodden and trust-ridden farmer, he is getting up a trust of his own. Like the sensible man he is. Fight trust with trust. That is the law of self-protection in the modern business world. But how it must surprise and sadden the half-cock statesmen eager for laws against trusts to see the farmers making trusts.

Sambo on Skees.

We have loved to follow Gen. SAMBO BOWLES, the greatest living New England poet, in his anthological excursions to Agawam. We have watched him reverently as he chased the butterfly or was chased by the hornet. We have watched him, in his raincoat and his sneakers, gliding gently through the spring rains and muds. We have watched him in his corduroys and shooting coat, his poetic feet bound in half-leather, his red tam-o'-shanter caressed by the fall winds and his basket full of autumn leaves not half so bright as his bucolics. We have heard him in the August nights, singing to the crickets and the katydids. But not till last Saturday have we had a satisfactory view of him as a winter scene. The Hon. WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON made him a Christmas present of a pair of skees, accompanying the gift with these lines:

"O'er brooks and ponds, o'er hills and knolls,
Soft speed your flying feet, O BOWLES,
Whose strong, sweet song makes glad our souls."

Friday the Agawam THEOCRITUS took the skees out for a trial trip. The poem which leaps and yells for joy in the *Springfield Republican* of Saturday records the emotion generated by the skee ride. At first the poet's ears are a little cold:

"Stern, indeed, has been the face of Nature;
Chill and cruel its steel hands
In the December we have nearly done with."

Before he warms up by his own caloric and the rush and friction of the skees, he dwells upon the temperature and the want of coal. Empty is the bin and SAMBO'S cold, so to speak. To be sure, "in the days of the grandfathers, there was no such thing as a warm house," but that reflection won't keep warm the city folk of to-day who were born in warm houses. Besides, although the bard on skees doesn't mention it, our ancestors were much heated by buttered rum and other mellow instillations, the very name of which is warming. But the Springfield people are shivering:

"What to them is the fact that the farmers
On the hills now gather by the kitchen
Stove and all the rest of the house is given
Over to frost?"

"Creature comforts grow more imperative;" "hardihood is a vanished virtue." Thundering over the hummuxes, the Hampden WILLIAM BARNES opens his reefer defiantly. He is a Spartan from Wayback. To save space we print this dithyramb as prose:

"'Face the north wind,' says Nature, 'face it, and be strong. I give you life, I give you hasting pulses, I give you clear air of the snows, and sharp tang of the frosts, and these are good for you, if you are stout enough to welcome and fare forth with them. You will be the better for the companionship of my cold, pure breath and my forthright purpose. I lap you in no choice lotus atmosphere; you cannot sleep in this clime: it is the abode and magic-house of sturdy life.'"

Follow the skees if you can:

"Dashing down the precipices
Of trap with a glorious vigor
Of movement, splendors of silvery
Gleam and foamy spray and with a music
Of brilliant and sombre harmony."

The song of SAMBO and the crunch of the "crust" under the skees; "the gayety of the outer dash, blended with the deep tones of the plunge." "Out of the higher atmosphere; It descends, laden with blessing." We can't help applying to Gen. BOWLES'S poem his remarks about the snow.

But neither snow nor snow pudding can compare with this nature picture:

"After the rains were at an end and the brisk northwester
Was swinging down across the fields and through the valley
Inside of the mountain it was with wonder the rambler
Beheld, in one of the watercourses which the rain had cleared of the
Snow, the bright eye of the houstonia gleaming,
As sweet and fresh as if there were no winter.
How sure, how ready the lovely response of Nature
To the sun!
Seated at the foot of a gnarled wild apple tree,
Munching an unfrozen apple, one of scores preserved so
By the snows now washed away, there was a delight which
THOREAU would have shared, one which touched the heart of the
Solitary wanderer!"

Which touches all hearts, and stirs all livers, social or solitary. "Our heart is on the hummocks there with SAMBO and we must pause till it come back to us." Is there no cunning artist in Springfield who will paint Gen. SAMBO BOWLES sitting on his skees beneath that gnarled wild apple tree and munching an unfrozen apple, careless of his little tumtum?

SANTA CLAUS in Cleveland, Ohio, is receiving assistance during the holidays from a prominent automobile concern, which has volunteered the use of several of its speediest vehicles in the delivery, free of charge, of mail packages sent to that city. Each machine is fitted out specially for the service desired and is accompanied by a letter carrier, in addition to its driver. As soon as the mail is assorted in the post office it is transferred to these modern flyers, and in much quicker time than SANTA CLAUS could make with his reindeer it is placed in the hands of those for whom it is intended.

A test of the automobile in the delivery of mail matter made last week in a town in Minnesota showed that it could cover the route of the carrier in less than two hours and a half, about one-half the time required by the regular team; and this demonstration was possible notwithstanding that on some of the roads encountered the sand was from three to six inches deep and hills were numerous. This speaks well for the practical utility of the new vehicles.

The total number of volumes in the world at the present time is over three billion.—*Topeka Capital.*

And our fertile friend, Mr. ANDREW LANG, wrote most of 'em and introductions to all the rest.

EVANSVILLE, Ind., Dec. 25.—MATT and GEORGE SCHILE, while under the influence of liquor, tried to tear down a saloon building in Babytown, near this city, this evening.—*Indianapolis Sentinel.*

The last thing a man "under the influence of liquor" would seek to do would be to tear down a liquor fountain and impair his own base of supplies. What business has a saloon in Babytown? The most peaceful man and least carrienationlike of women would be stirred to violence by seeing a saloon in Babytown. Saloons in Babytown must "go."

THE DOCTRINE AT THE HAGUE.

A Veteran Diplomat's Views of the Latest Phase of the Situation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* For a complete disclosure of all that has gone on in the Venezuela matter the world at large must, no doubt, wait patiently. Be pleased, meanwhile, that the differences between all the allies and Venezuela are to be debated, before and decided by The Hague tribunal. Soon or late, either in Berlin or London or Rome or Caracas, if not in Washington, all things will be revealed.

It may be that when the President's annual message was sent to Congress his allusion to the Monroe Doctrine was based on concerted diplomatic notes, already prepared and then exchanged between Washington, Berlin and London, in a diplomatic way, which notes set forth what has since happened in Venezuela and prescribed what the allies could and would not there do.

There was never anything in the superficial plea that the President could, as arbitrator, decide more quickly than The Hague court, provided it could begin immediately as soon as all parties could be ready with their proofs. "Haste maketh waste," and is besides unjudicial.

Preparation of a treaty of submission to arbitration, to be entered into by each and all the half-dozen allies, on the one side, and Venezuela, on the other side, will be a long work, probably, when once entered upon, and if the President is to supervise it in the interest of Venezuela the supervision might have been inconvenient if he was to be the arbitrator.

Curiosity will, in any event, be great to see that which the President has told the allies they could do in Venezuela, by way of violently enforcing their reclamations. Congress may have something to say thereon. It will be the first practical application of the Doctrine, next after Cleveland's in the Venezuela boundary business.

The Doctrine is, however, for the present superseded by the submission of the differences to arbitration. The Doctrine is not a test of the alleged wrongs done to the allies by either the people or the officials of Venezuela. We may, therefore, be undisturbed as to the Doctrine while The Hague tribunal is at work. It may come in sight again, if Venezuela refuses to obey any award against her, but it would have been the same had the President been the arbitrator.

One thing at a time! Reference to an international court and suspending war is one thing and a very good thing. The trial and decision will come next in order.

The court will not have physical power to enforce its mandate. If it had, the Doctrine would then rise up. Nobody can yet say that all the nations have accepted it as the law of nations, even although its acceptance would make for the peace of the world, and be best for every nation, instead of leaving the New World, as to its soil, open for Old World strivings, ambitions, rivalries and all the dangers of war.

Will it not, before long, please all the nations to see that? PLACUIT NE GENTIBUS?

NEW YORK, Dec. 28.

Was Mrs. Eddy Ever a Spiritualist?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems that nothing less than documentary evidence will satisfy those who appear to delight in misrepresenting Mrs. Eddy to the public. Over against the curious assertion that Mrs. Eddy was a medium, which L. W. Peebles, M. D., makes in a letter to the San Francisco *Philosophical Journal*, reprinted in your issue of Dec. 27, let me quote the words of Mr. Hiram S. Crafts, Mrs. Eddy's first student in Christian Science, as they were published last July in the *Journal* of Montgomery, Ala.:

I hereby certify that Mrs. Mary Baker G. Eddy, the discoverer and founder of Christian Science, was not a spiritualist when she taught me Christian Science in the year 1866. At that time I was a spiritualist, but her teachings changed my views on that subject, and I gave up spiritualism. Mrs. Eddy boarded at my house when I resided in Stoughton, Mass.

Mr. Alfred Farlow of Boston, in the same newspaper, likewise stated:

Mr. Crafts told me that Mrs. Eddy, to please others, sometimes attended the discussions of spiritualism given at the place where she boarded, but that she herself never believed in spiritualism, and always, in her kindly way, talked against it, explaining its phenomena in a manner differing from the belief of spiritualists. This was in the days when almost everybody was looking into this strange ism, and because of her very earnest desire to know the truth Mrs. Eddy examined almost every theory she could find. After investigating spiritualism she abandoned the subject. * * * I have learned that in about 1862 Mrs. Eddy delivered a lecture on spiritualism in the City Hall, Portland, Me., and it was said by hundreds present to be the most convincing argument they had ever listened to against spiritualism.

Those who can look back "some forty years" will remember that Whittier, Henry Ward Beecher and other original thinkers along spiritual lines were once called spiritualists, but that did not make them so. It suffices to read the chapter on "Christian Science and Spiritualism" in Mrs. Eddy's work, "Science and Health, with Key to the Scriptures," to understand that no one who wrote that chapter could ever have been deceived as to the purely sensuous nature of spiritualistic mediumship.

NEW YORK, Dec. 27. W. D. MCCRACKAN.

Iron Is King.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When the iron industries of a resourceful country are prosperous, business generally is active, and all lines of industry prosper. "Iron is King" is a trite saying, but a true one. Some figures just published by the Treasury Bureau of Statistics emphasize this clearly. Great Britain first, and Germany second, led the world for many decades in iron production, but since 1897, when we passed Great Britain, the lead has remained with us, as the following figures testify:

	United States Tons.	Great Britain Tons.
1897	9,652,680	8,796,465
1898	11,773,934	8,609,719
1899	13,620,703	9,421,435
1900	13,789,242	8,959,691
1901	15,878,354	7,928,647
1902	17,500,000	....

The 1902 production of 17,500,000 tons is more than double the production of 1896 (the last Democratic year), three times that of 1886, four times that of 1881, six times that of 1879, eight times that of 1875, ten times that of 1872, and twenty times that of 1865.

In addition to this satisfactory state of affairs, the home demand engendered by Republican policies was and is so phenomenally heavy, that our imports of iron during 1902 are nearly ten times greater than in 1901, and greater than in any year of the decade. The figures are:

1896	86,125
1901	59,325
1902	575,000

The steel production of 1902 is estimated at 15,000,000 tons, being 50 per cent. higher than in 1900, three times as much as that of 1896, ten times that of 1884, and twenty times that of 1878.

1896	5,281,127 tons
1901	13,473,595 tons
1902	15,000,000 tons

Iron is still king. WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., Dec. 25.

RHODESIAN SCHOLARSHIPS.

Goldwin Smith on the Relative Value of American and European Schooling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Happening to be connected both with Oxford and with an American university, I continue to be interrogated about the probable working of the Cecil Rhodes foundation. I have already said, and most people will probably agree with me, that as a general rule a young man had better be brought up in the country in which he is to live, and even if the foreign instruction is somewhat superior, he will probably lose more than he will gain by expatriation. The fact, however, as I believe, is that as good instruction is now to be had in America as anywhere in Europe. Of course, for a poor student $1,500 a year is a great thing. Much depends on the student's age at the time of expatriation. There cannot be the slightest objection to resort for a post-graduate course to foreign centres of special knowledge. On this subject it appears that the trustees are making judicious regulations.

Oxford, as my correspondence shows, is thoroughly friendly to the scheme and willing to make all necessary arrangements. That there is a difference between the ideas and habits of the American and those of the English student, those who have had to deal with both of them must be aware. The ways and accommodations of Oxford may still appear to an American somewhat mediæval, as was shown by the letter of an American mother published the other day.

The main object of Mr. Rhodes's foundation, however, may be taken to be not so much educational as political; not so much anything in the way of pan-academical union as the Anglicization or conversion into Englishmen of the most promising youths from other countries, especially from the United States. "E'en in our ashes live their wonted fires." Even in his mausoleum Cecil Rhodes is "painting continents red." GOLDWIN SMITH.

TORONTO, Dec. 26.

THE MILITARY AUTOMOBILE.

A Second Competition Instituted by the British War Office.

Military experts in Great Britain who, in common with their contemporaries in other parts of the world, believe that the possibilities of automobiles as auxiliaries in the army are only beginning to be understood, are determined to secure without delay motor vehicles for this purpose which shall possess a higher degree of efficiency than any yet seen. Last fall the British War Office offered a prize of $8,000 for the production of a type of automobile which should meet certain specific requirements, and the interest which the offer created among manufacturers was great. The result of the contest which followed was not, however, entirely satisfactory, and the War Office has opened another competition of this sort wherein manufacturers must have their machines ready for inspection and trial in October, 1903.

The terms of the new competition, while resembling in many respects those of the other one, will be seen to be more inclusive and exacting. The weight of the machines to be built must not exceed thirteen tons when carrying fuel and water and all the stores necessary for an ordinary trip, and they must run independently of "any extraneous machinery for the supply of their motive power." This means, of course, that they must furnish their own power, which may be steam, or gasolene, or electricity, or any other agent of propulsion which assures the result sought. Each machine must be able to draw a load of twenty-five tons over ordinary country roads for a distance of at least forty miles at the rate of from three to five miles an hour. It is required explicitly that competing vehicles shall not depend, either for fuel or water, upon any other vehicle or source of supply while covering the distance named.

On good, level roads the machines must be able to haul a load of twelve and one-half tons for not less than one mile at a speed of eight miles an hour. They shall be constructed in such a way as to render them serviceable on roads that are soft or rough "without excessive wear and tear or injury;" and, in order that the bodies of the machines may not come in contact with the ground or with objects in the road, the lower part of these bodies must clear the ground by not less than eighteen inches on level surfaces. The machines shall be able to run through water two feet deep; shall be built so that they may be driven from either end and in either direction; shall have strong brakes on the driving wheels, and shall be mounted on springs attached to the axles. Provision must be made for locking the driving wheels together securely and quickly, in case of necessity, and the machines must be "adequately covered."

Not more than two men shall be needed to run one machine, and neither of these men shall be required to leave his post for the purpose of oiling or adjusting the mechanism or otherwise giving it the attention necessary to insure its operation. The machines must be made proof against interference from mud and dust; their driving wheels must not be less than six and one-half feet in diameter, and each machine must be fitted with a winding gear carrying seventy-five yards of flexible galvanized steel wire rope two and one-quarter inches in circumference. No provision need be made for carrying or attaching armor. Special requirements, of a technical nature, are laid down to govern the construction of steam vehicles intended for the competition. In judging of the respective merits of all the automobiles submitted their drawing power will be regarded as of first importance, while cost, simplicity of construction and expense of operation and maintenance will also be considered.

Other countries besides England wherein there has been noteworthy progress in the construction of automobiles for military service are France and Germany, whose experiments in this direction have been attended with satisfactory results. Russia and Austria and Italy, also, have come to look upon the automobile as a machine which must be reckoned with among other engines of war; and while these three countries have been less active than France and Germany and Great Britain in seeking to determine the full military value of the automobile, they have, nevertheless, been close observers of the developments in this line outside of their own territory. The same is true of the United States. We have produced here no formidable-looking war steeds armor-clad, with turrets and rapid-fire guns, corresponding to a contrivance made recently in England; but our army officers have noted carefully the developments in automobile construction elsewhere which are likely to affect future military operations.

The coming competition in England should prove more interesting than any similar one in the past. It should demonstrate conclusively the ability of automobile makers to follow in the process of construction the plans outlined by military men.

The Age of Consolidation.

From a Letter in the Troy Press.

"I can remember when there were five different railroad organizations between Albany and Buffalo—Albany to Schenectady, Schenectady to Utica, Utica to Syracuse, Syracuse to Rochester and Rochester to Buffalo. In writing to a friend about twenty (20) years ago, I expressed to him the opinion that we had too many railroads in the United States for the good of the country, and gave it as my expectation that in the lifetime of my children there would not probably be more than four great railroads in the United States. We are rapidly approaching that time already."

Gratifying Report From Uptown.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am pleased to be able to report that the Rev. Louis Albert Banks has reformed since you printed my letter calling his attention to the uncleaned sidewalk in front of his church. After the Christmas snowstorm the church sidewalk was cleaned as promptly and well as that of any saloon in the street.

NEW YORK, Dec. 28. WEST 104TH STREET.

A Christmas Gift to the English Language.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At the meeting of the Chemical Society held in London, Dec. 4, a new compound was described, euphoneously called Carbonylthiocarbimidophenylbenzylthiocarbamide.

Isn't this pretty near the record? E. L. F.

SYRACUSE, N. Y., Dec. 28.

WILHELM II., MÆCENAS.

The Kaiser's Utterances on Fine Arts and the Drama.

From the St. James's Gazette.

Nothing can be more certain than that the Kaiser's expressions of interest in art and the drama in particular are absolutely genuine and not mere platitudes expected of him because he happens to be a monarch. He has closely identified himself with and loved art from his earliest days; indeed, he inherited it from his mother, a Princess who, herself possessing unusual talent, took the utmost pains to cultivate it in her children. It is not generally known, in this country at any rate, that the Kaiser has painted several pictures besides the one which attracted so much attention two or three years ago. An oil painting bearing the signature of "William, Prince of Prussia," was exhibited as far back as 1886 at the Berlin Art Exhibition. It was a seascape, a man-of-war, lying near to the shore and engaged in target practice, being depicted, and though possibly this effort was somewhat overpraised at the time it is certain that it showed a very good artistic conception. Then, also, architecture, particularly naval architecture, is a subject which the Emperor shows much interest in. Designs submitted to him for his consideration are subjected to close scrutiny, and in a great many cases he makes marginal notes suggesting alterations, suggestions which, we are told, the draughtsmen themselves more often than not really approve of.

It is, of course, well known that his Imperial Majesty holds very high views of the work which art may do among the masses of the people, and, indeed, the persistent encouragement of the arts is an important feature of his social programme. Consequently, the artists themselves are the recipients of much notice from him. He frequently visits the studios, where he is always affable, interested, critical, and encouraging, and he also takes pains to promote the financial well-being of the profession he thus patronizes. He himself spends remarkably large sums of money on pictures, statues, and other *objets d'art*, and throws out hints to his wealthy subjects to induce them to go and do likewise.

It may be of interest to mention that the Kaiser's idea in ornamenting the "Sieges Allee" in the "Tiergarten" of Berlin and lining it with monuments erected for the purpose of personifying the historical actions and patriotic heroism of his prominent predecessors was not so much to perpetuate the memory of his own ancestors or to add to the attractiveness of Berlin, but to give a large number of artists remunerative employment extending over a long period. For it took many years to complete this great scheme, the details of which were drawn up by the Kaiser himself with the assistance of Prof. Koser, the eminent historiographer. When that important historical work was finally completed to the satisfaction of its originator, his Majesty, speaking at a banquet (Dec. 18, 1901) given to the sculptors and others, delivered the most remarkable and lengthy speech he ever made on art.

After urging the artists to continue to devote their lives and talents to the highest ideals of art, which ideals he pointed out, he said, "An art which oversteps the laws and limits I have thus indicated is no longer an art; it is a mere fabric, a handwork, and this art should never become." Turning to another aspect of the case for art, he said that it "must influence the people in an educative way; it must give to the so often toil-exhausted lower classes the opportunity of elevating themselves intellectually," and then, referring to the great ideals which are characteristic of the German people, he went on to say, "Prominent among these ideals is the desire to provide the working classes with opportunities of obtaining enjoyment by means of things which are beautiful, and that in this way they may raise themselves above their ordinary ideas and pursuits. The culture of ideals is the highest of all cultures, and if it has to fulfil its whole task then it must penetrate into the lowest classes of the population * * * But if art, as, according to its present tendency, not infrequently happens, does nothing else than represent misery in still darker colors than in reality exist, then it sins against the German people." This last sentence voices not only the Kaiser's detestation of a certain tendency in modern art, but also the opinion of a large number of Germans in general. More remarkable still, however, was the Emperor's fine declaration that "the true artist does not seek the praise of the marketplace, nor does he solicit the aid of the press," and then after referring in eulogistic terms to the modesty of the classical and mediæval artists he concludes: "The artist who descends to self-advertisement is unworthy of the name, no matter if he be praised a hundred or a thousand times."

Keenly interested as the Kaiser is in art, he is quite as much devoted to the drama, being one of the most constant theatregoers in Europe. As his speeches show, he places the drama even before art as a means of educating the people, and it is mainly through its portals that he is endeavoring to lead his subjects to their goal. He throws himself into the subject with characteristic fulness and it is an open secret that, as in the case of the well-known painter, Roehling, who produced several successful pictures based upon the Emperor's original sketches, the dramatists Wildenbruch and Joseph Lauff have written several plays, the plots of which were suggested by him. All dramatists, actors and artists who are brought into contact with him speak enthusiastically of his knowledge, his critical dexterity and his skill in stagecraft. And here it may be of interest to quote Von Berger, the present director of the "Deutsches Schauspielhaus" in Hamburg, who has the privilege of enjoying the Kaiser's personal friendship. "The Emperor," says he in a recent article, "considers art to be the most suitable means of popular education. He wants to see on the stage world-moving characters, splendor, dignity and impressive beauty, and what man of artistic feeling does not wish the same! * * * If Lauff has not been successful in plays in which such characters appear it is simply because he has not fully comprehended the Kaiser's splendid ideas." "When will the true poet arise?" concludes Von Berger in his remarkable eulogy of the Emperor's originality of conception.

The best illustration of the Kaiser's views on the drama is to be found in the words which he addressed to the members of the companies attached to the Berlin royal theatres when he received them on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of his accession to the throne. "I consider," he said, "that the Royal Theatre should, like the school and the university, be an agent of the monarch in the work of educating the rising generation and promoting the highest intellectual welfare of our dear Fatherland. It should contribute to the education of the mind, to the formation of character, and to the ennobling of the moral perceptions. The theatre is, indeed, one of my agents; and as it may be such a tremendous power in the hands of a monarch, it is my duty to support it."

Cure of Drunkenness.

From the Lancet.

An address on intemperance in women, recently delivered by Sir Thomas Barlow, Bart., is interesting on account of its practical suggestiveness. In dealing with the original formation of this habit but little importance is attached to the influence of mere heredity, though it is not denied that this factor does in some families appear to play its part. The practice of drinking, which culminates in drunkenness, is regarded and treated from first to last as a habit rather than as a disease, and one which has been developed out of acts of self-indulgence.

In the implied indictment of the individual and of society, where custom and example have much to answer for, there is no want of sympathy. On the contrary, every allowance is made for misunderstanding, temptation and human frailty. At the same time, the element of moral responsibility is never lost sight of. It is in the recognition of this quality that we find the clue to successful treatment. Sir Thomas Barlow is no pessimist. He firmly believes in the possibility of reclamation, and he relies for the attainment of this object largely upon an awakening of the moral sense.

Intemperance is not a mere disease; it is not even an uncontrollable habit. It is a moral wrong to be admitted, repented of and combated by every available means if the poor victim is ever to obtain her emancipation. It is not to be expected that she can, at all events as a rule, be depended upon to work out her own salvation on these lines. She has, nevertheless, "to a certain limited extent the power in her own hands," and it is necessary to make her see this. Moreover, the assistance of friends, and especially an example of abstinence on their part, can do very much to help her.

There must be few persons, and probably no medical men, who do not in their hearts admit the truth of these observations. We believe that the alcoholic habit is in no sense different in character from any other form of use and wont, such as is constantly seen to influence the course of human conduct. It is infinitely more injurious than the great majority of such personal customs. It is as curable as they are, and mainly by those moral, intellectual and social means which have been considered above.

The surest and best of Blood Purifiers is Jayne's Alterative.—*Adv.*

PROPHECY INTERPRETED.

The Terrible Outlook as Seen by a Long Island Student of Prophecy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a student of Scripture and of current events in the light of prophecy, and do not fail to discern "a decline in Christian belief," which is outlined in your paper of to-day. It seems a most solemn thing to see Christian nations stepping upon the verge of a most terrible impending conflict which is now threatening in South America, and at the same time celebrating the advent of the Prince of Peace.

The Prophet Isaiah has in the inclosed quotation foretold the recent Anglo-Saxon conflict recently waged in South Africa. But this, we are told, is "before the harvest, when the blossoming is over." "The Blossom of England, the Sweet May Flower," Queen Victoria, had all but finished her reign of peace and prosperity. The Saxon Boers—the branches of the race—were "cut down" and "taken away," and "many sprigs of the English nobility were "cut off." But the harvest remained to be reaped among the sons of Italy, Spain, France, Germany and England.

For an example of the "birds of prey" referred to, one has but to recall the tactics of the Boers at Spion Kop, at Ladysmith and throughout the campaign and how these antecedents of the English race were eventually, at the Modder River and elsewhere "cut down" and "taken away" to St. Helena, Bermuda and Ceylon.

These reminiscences will but serve to fix our attention upon those "birds of prey" of the Venezuelan plateau, those Latin races whose ultimate object is to consolidate under the leadership of the Beast, the Fourth Beast of Daniel the Prophet, who is also referred to by the writer of the Book of Revelation, John the Apostle, as the Beast that shall rise up out of the sea. It should here be borne in mind that the expression "the sea" would cover the entire Western Hemisphere. England, "the land-shadowing with wings which is beyond the rivers of Ethiopia," being the most westerly point of land known then. In fact, America could only be spoken of as "the sea" in Scripture; being of a cosmopolitan character, no other single term could designate it.

Here is the prophecy of Isaiah (Isaiah, xviii., 3-7):

All ye inhabitants of the world,
And dwellers on the earth,
When an ensign is lifted upon the mountains see ye.
And when a trumpet it blown, hear ye.
For thus hath Jehovah said unto me,
I will take my rest,
And I will observe from my dwelling place
Like clear heat upon herbs,
Like a cloud of dew in the heat of harvest.
For before the harvest, when the blossoming is come,
And the flower becometh a ripening grape,
He shall both cut off the sprigs with pruning knives,
And take away and cut down the branches.
They shall be left together unto the birds of prey
And to the beasts of the earth:
And the birds of prey shall summer upon them,
And all the beasts of the earth shall winter upon them.
In that time shall a present be brought unto Jehovah of Hosts
Of a people scattered and ravaged,
And from a people terrible from their existence, and thenceforth,
A nation of continued waiting and treading down
Whose land the rivers have spoiled,
To the place of the name of Jehovah of Hosts,
The Mount Zion.

To one who has seen the above prophecy fulfilled only in part, in the South African war—really a third part, or pruning time—out of season, indeed; for the "blossoming was over and the flower was becoming a ripening grape"—the remaining two parts unfulfilled, viz: the "harvest"—and who is there among the "dwellers on the earth" who will fail to foresee this carnage "harvest" now threatening in South America; unless temporarily diverted, to be followed by the third, or Zion movement—the above affords a chapter of great interest. C. E. BOYNTON.

HEMPSTEAD, Dec. 25.

John Mitchell and the Public.

From the Greenville, S. C., News.

The testimony before the arbitration commission, whatever else it has established, has fixed the fact beyond dispute that the anthracite coal strike was instigated and prolonged by John Mitchell, the president of the United Mine Workers of America, for the sole purpose of increasing the power of organized labor in the hard-coal regions of the United States. When it became evident that the controllers of the mines understood the true issue at stake and were determined to continue the fight to a finish Mr. John Mitchell lost heart and attempted to save his face by proposing arbitration. He was lucky enough to succeed.

The "wicked" mine operators realizing their duty to the public surrendered their rights as private citizens and the owners of private property and agreed to arbitration. The result of this arbitration remains to be disclosed. The main point for the commission to decide is who is responsible for the strike, "this wickedest thing in the world." Who is responsible for the suffering now existing over a large part of the United States? Is Mitchell responsible for this universal suffering and inconvenience or are the mine operators responsible? Let the members of the arbitration commission say.

To us the attitude of Mitchell in this emergency is strikingly like that of the "Dynamiter" in Stevenson's thrilling story of that name. The greater the public calamity, the greater the chances of success, the greater the glory of the Anarchist. It will be remembered that one of the plots of the "Dynamiter" in Stevenson's realm of romance was to place his infernal machine where it would hurl to disaster an orphan asylum of innocent children—not that he had any grudge or ill will against the orphans, but that the effect on the general public would be so startling. Mitchell, as the "Dynamiter," had no personal grudge against any particular member of the great American public; what he wanted was to sacrifice the greatest number of the public, irrespective of their condition, in order to create a sensation and a possible reaction in favor of the mine workers. The scheme has not worked to perfect satisfaction. While the general public has been inconvenienced, the poor have suffered.

How Jaggers Won at Monte Carlo.

From the London Daily Mail.

The history of the Yorkshireman who netted, it is said, £80,000 after some months' work at Monte Carlo, is one which can never now repeat itself. This enterprising Mr. Jaggers engaged a staff of clerks, who noted, hour in and hour out, day in and day out, week in and week out, the result of every game at every roulette table. The figures were tabulated, and Jaggers found, as he had hoped, that each roulette wheel possessed a bias.

Certain numbers came up and certain combinations occurred more frequently on some wheels than would be the case if the mechanism ran true. Jaggers and his staff staked accordingly; and, with the aid of a large capital, soon cleared £210,000 profit. Their plan was then discovered, and the wheels altered so as to be interchangeable from table to table. Jaggers, not knowing that the wheels were now shifted nightly, continued playing on his system, and promptly dropped £40,000. Like a wise man, he stopped and set himself to the task of discovering what was wrong. He soon did so; discovered, too, that each wheel had some distinguishing mark, so that he could recognize it wherever it was in use. Tracing his biased wheels daily from table to table, Jaggers was rewarded by recouping his lost £40,000. Finally, the Casino mechanics devised a plan by which not the wheels, but the compartments of the wheels, could be interchanged. Movable partitions were too much for Jaggers. He paid off his clerks and returned to Yorkshire to enjoy the fruits of his observative faculties.

Bishop Schereschewsky's Great Work.

From the Japan Weekly Mail.

One of the most heroic figures of the present-day world is a man whose very name is known to few and whose life is familiar to even fewer. He lives in a small hired house in the city of Tokio. His name is Samuel I. J. Schereschewsky. For six years he was Missionary Bishop of Shanghai. Nineteen years ago illness, contracted largely through his work, rendered him almost helpless. Refusing to be a burden to the mission, he resigned his see. But he refused to consider that his working days were over.

With his paralyzed body he could no longer go about the work of evangelization, but he could at least sit in a chair and work for China by translating the entire Bible into easy Wenli, so that more of the common people might read its message. This he has been doing for many years, working with such restless energy, in his struggle against pain and helplessness, that he has kept two secretaries busy. He wrote his translation of the entire Bible in Roman characters upon a typewriter, though he could use only one finger of each hand and needed eight years to complete the task. He has worked under conditions that put to shame many of us who speak or think of the great deeds we might do if our circumstances were only different.

Diseases of the Writing Trade.

From M. A. P.

Many occupations have diseases which are more or less incidental to them, and literature is not exempt. The two most prevalent literary maladies are writer's cramp and swelled head. The unfortunate thing about writer's cramp is that it is never cured. The unfortunate thing about swelled head is that it never kills.