



WILLIAM M. LAFFAN. SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1903.

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THE HAPPIEST MAN IN THE WORLD.

A St. Petersburg despatch to THE SUN relates the discovery by the Russian newspapers of a man in the hospital at Tomak who is 200 years old.

This reminiscence impresses us much more than the assertion that the fact of the old gentleman's double centenarianism "is supported by documents."

Don't all our young blades of 120 remember WASHINGTON or NAPOLEON? Amateurs of longevity are never surprised to find that very old men remember great men.

Our friend of Tomak is satisfactory enough, although he is a boy compared with RHEM GHUM MOLAS, who died in Lahore in 1437, aged more than 400.

But we must leave what the sceptical regard as cloudy and mythological regions and come down to business and the living present.

Will you hear an idyll of the plains, or shall we say an afterpiece to an Indian massacre and tragedy?

He works himself with the help of one hired man. He never wears glasses till he was 95. His hearing and eyesight are good.

Labor in South Africa.

Mr. BENJAMIN KIDD has been writing a series of letters to the London Times on the actual and prospective economic conditions of South Africa.

It is certain that, as yet, the surface of South Africa has been barely scratched by agriculture. Bacon has to be imported, although maize, on which American hogs are fattened, grows in 3-4-land elsewhere with merely nominal cultivation.

their support, the Kaffirs are satisfied; consequently, the product of a given tract falls very far short of its capabilities.

How is the problem to be solved? There is no doubt that white laborers would offer the most desirable solution if they could be persuaded to emigrate in adequate numbers to South Africa.

Mr. KIDD's conclusion is that British colonization in South Africa is confronted with a situation it has not had to face in Canada, Australia, Tasmania or New Zealand.

Not yet has Mr. CHAMBERLAIN in any of his speeches proposed a definite solution of the problem. It is certain that he does not approve of the scheme which finds favor in the eyes of many whites in South Africa.

President Roosevelt's Reprobation.

The statistical demonstration by President ELIOT of Harvard, that 28 per cent of the graduates from that institution of the period from 1872 to 1877 have not married and that the remainder have had, on the average, only two children each.

President ELIOT draws the conclusion from his statistics that "the highly educated part of the American people does not increase the population at all, but on the contrary fails to reproduce itself."

Some disagreement is reported from Albany among the New York City Republican members over a bill fostered by one of them, increasing from \$1,200 to \$1,500 the annual compensation of "attendants" in the Supreme Court of this judicial district.

Moreover, the increase by births since 1840 has undoubtedly been greater among the foreign-born than the native, so that the present one-sixth native of native population may be set down as composed largely, if not mainly, of descendants of foreigners who were here in 1840 or came later.

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This is a preventable evil, says President ROOSEVELT: "the trouble is one of character and therefore we can conquer it," and the remedy is suggested in this extract from his letter:

"There are certain great qualities for the lack of which no amount of intellectual brilliancy, or of material prosperity, or of ease of life can atone, and which show decadence and corruption in the nation just as much if they are produced by selfishness and coldness and ease-loving laziness among comparatively poor people as if they are produced by vicious or frivolous luxury in the rich."

"If the men of the nation are not anxious to work in many different ways, with all their might and strength, and ready and able to fight at need, and anxious to be fathers of families, and if the women do not recognize that the greatest thing for any woman is to be a good wife and mother, why, that nation has cause to be alarmed about its future."

Practically, however, the "comparatively poor people" are compelled in large part to consider questions of expediency before embarking in matrimony. Rich people are not confronted by them, and, actually, in the society of New York made up of the rich, comparatively early marriages are frequent.

Charged also to the contingent fund, is the remarkable total of 9,100 grains of quinine, purchased at different times on the sanitary account of the Senate.

Thursday the Treasury Department received one contribution of a cent, one of 20 cents and two contributions of 15 cents to the conscience fund.

According to a Rochester despatch to the Philadelphia Record, Miss SUSAN B. ANTHONY makes this severe commentary on President ELIOT's discovery that the average Harvard graduate has only two children:

"That is quite enough. Harvard graduates do not say make. The scrupulousity of some of the unfortunate Harvard graduates is a weight of shame unendurable to them. But suppose the amount were \$4,000 or \$40,000. Would those sensitive consciences try to put up with the guilt for so handsome a consideration?"

The White House and Its Critics.

It is queer to hear members of Congress who, with the intelligence that became their place in a highly civilized nation, duly appropriated money some time ago for costly alterations of the White House, discuss the appropriation for its maintenance in its new state in a spirit of rampant rancor.

The inevitably thankless job of altering the White House, the most beautiful and the most prized executive residence in the world, was intrusted to one of the most distinguished and accomplished architects in the country, Mr. CHARLES F. MCKIM.

Critics should reflect, also, that one of the most potent resources of the architect, the use of foliage, has not yet had time to be applied. When the trees are planted and the vines grown the effect upon the public eye is bound to be vastly more pleasing.

Pay of Court Attendants Enough.

Some disagreement is reported from Albany among the New York City Republican members over a bill fostered by one of them, increasing from \$1,200 to \$1,500 the annual compensation of "attendants" in the Supreme Court of this judicial district.

by an increase of \$72,000 in salaries during the second six months of the Low administration, exclusive of the sums required for the new offices established.

Who Got the Snuff?

The annual report of the Secretary of the Senate contains the itemized statement of expenditures from the contingent fund; and, as usual, this document is a repository of curious and useful information. Its jumbled pages likewise enshrine some mysteries.

The most pathetic entry is this, in the statement of unexpended appropriations: Expenses of Senate Committee, funeral of WILLIAM MCKINLEY \$300.00

One cent left! The vast extent of the legislative operations of our Government is reflected in these specified disbursements, which have an extraordinary range. While it appears that only twelve packs of playing cards and three packages of dominoes were ordered during the fiscal year on the account of the Senators, they consumed not less than a dozen quarts of hair tonic, costing \$28.70; and the generally prevailing conditions of prosperity are indicated by their requisitions for not less than 162 pocket books and purses, varying in price from 45 cents up to \$28, besides eleven of the so-called mesh bags of gun metal or sterling silver which are hung at the waist, four "beaded bags," and three "wrist bags."

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OURSELVES AND OTHERS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: Canadian speakers and writers have been nagging at your journal for some time, as they say it has done, the reception of the Cecil Rhodes scholarships. I hardly know to what they allude, but surely they ought not to be much surprised if a patriotic American journal demurs to the acceptance of foreign aid and to the implied recognition of the superiority of foreign aid.

The party now in power in Great Britain is the same which forty-two years ago rapidly welcomed the concession of the dotage of the American republic. Its tactics may for the moment be changed, but its character and objects remain the same.

A Plea for St. Valentine's Day.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: My little Matie's birthday has again come around, and in spite of all the years that have gone on as full of joy, hope and merriment, and as quiet as full of sorrow as in the days of yore, for he who drinks at the fountain of Eternal Youth never grows old.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN: The head of Washington on the new two-cent stamp is not a good example for our youth. The nose is the color of a toper's and the eyes are heavy with too much liquor and too little sleep.

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BLOW TO TRADE-UNIONS.

Tennessee's Supreme Court has Stopped Some Ambitious Schemes.

NASHVILLE, Tenn., Feb. 12.—The recent decision of the State Supreme Court declaring unconstitutional a city ordinance requiring the union label on all municipal printing has checked a raid of the same sort on the State. A bill was prepared by the trades-unions long before the Legislature met, demanding the union label on all State printing, and this bill was introduced only in the session by a printer member of the lower house.

Loud talk was at once heard of how every free printing office in the State was to be forced under union domination or out of business so far as doing any work for the State was concerned.

But the bomb exploded by the Supreme Court has changed all this, and now there is a wall going up from the labor agitators against the trades-unions. The trades-unions are prohibited from interfering with any man who wants to work. The labor men are getting ready to make a stiff fight against the measure.

Abraham Lincoln and Negro Suffrage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: An additional contribution of value on the subject of Abraham Lincoln's views on political and social equality between the white and black races, I send you the following letter, addressed by Mr. Lincoln to Michael Hahn, Governor of Louisiana.

"WASHINGTON, March 15, 1864. "MY DEAR SIR: I congratulate you on having fixed your name in history as the first Free-State Governor of Louisiana. Now you are about to have a contest which will probably result in your defining the election franchise. I barely suggest for your private consideration whether some of the colored people may not be let in—for instance the colored men of the State who have fought gallantly in our ranks. They would probably help in some trying time to come, to keep the jewel of liberty within the family of freedom. But this is a matter not to be decided by you alone. Yours truly, A. LINCOLN."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: Was Mr. Lincoln wrong when he said "I have no purpose to introduce political and social equality between the white and the black races" and that there is a "physical difference" between the two races?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: What a difference it makes whose ox is gored. Here is President Roosevelt making a great deal of noise about the "trusts" and the "trust-busters" in reference to the affairs of the "trusts" and of corporations in which he has no interest, but as soon as Col. Bingham turns on the light of publicity in reference to the increased expenditures of the War House, loses his position.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—Sir: In today's issue I noticed a paragraph regarding history of the late Louis L'Amour, who died in 1884. I was an old lady at Wellington Hotel (here) who I believe, knew most of the history. She was nearly 90 years of age and lived in Thirty-fourth street, between Fifth and Sixth avenues, about No. 40, for a long time. Her name was Mary Dale. I once lived in her house, and while there it was always said of her that she was the person, when a girl, that the poet was addressed to, by a man (young) who admired her. I do not recall her maiden name, but she was a very high-spirited girl. I can't remember the Rev. Dr. Collier was one of these. Mr. A. J. Leder of Orange was another friend. This happy woman was buried in the family plot in Newton Mass. She once lived in the house at 25th and 26th streets, New York, but for many years had lived in New York City.

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WOODBURY'S DUTY DEFINED.

City Lawyer Says He's Only Compelled to Keep the Streets Clean.

Justice Trux yesterday listened to a long argument over Street Cleaning Commissioner Woodbury's failure to remove the ashes, garbage and light rubbish from the big department stores. The Retail Dry Goods Association is seeking to compel Mr. Woodbury to remove the ashes and rubbish.

Assistant Corporation Counsel McGuire contended that the Court has no power to interfere with the Commissioner unless the rights of citizens were being violated. If the Commissioner is given the power to make the streets clean, then the Court was powerless in the premises.

"There is no statute," said Mr. McGuire, "which compels the Street Cleaning Commissioner to remove the rubbish and ashes from large buildings, factories and stores. His duty is to clean the streets in the interests of the public health. The Commissioner is not to be held liable for the removal of refuse unless some fraud, misconduct or crime has been committed by those in office."

THEY'D LIKE TO SIT ON GROUT.

The Coroners, That is—Because He Sat on Them Yesterday.

Comptroller Grout so worried the coroners yesterday that they finally turned upon him with the assertion that it would give them pleasure to hold an inquest on him. This happened at a meeting of the Board of Estimate.

Coroner Brown got angrier still, and, shaking his fist, shouted: "It seems to me that there is a member of the administration who is trying to make a grand stand. I am going to take the fight against the Comptroller."

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PORTO RICO REGIMENT AHEAD.

Hold the First Place Among Army's Crack Sharpshooters.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—In the list of crack sharpshooters who qualified in the Department of the East during the year 1902 published to-day by the War Department, thirty-two of the total of sixty-seven were members of the Porto Rican regiment and nineteen of them were natives. Captain H. H. Hamilton headed the list with an average score of 89.25 per cent. First Lieut. Terence Hannell was second, with 85.25 per cent. Sergeant Albert Zerk, third, with 81.50 per cent.

In rifle practice nine of the forty-six who qualified as sharpshooters in the Department of the East were from the Porto Rican regiment, although but two were natives. Capt. Frank L. Graham of that regiment, however, secured the best record, with an average score of 90.75 per cent. Capt. Albert and Sage of the Twenty-third Infantry being tied for second place, with a percentage of 78.50. The mounted battalion of the Porto Rican regiment also secured the highest in revolver firing, with an average of 69.7 per cent, the Second Cavalry being second, with 62.1 per cent. Company I, Porto Rican Cavalry, secured the best company score, 73.8 per cent. Troop M, Seventh Cavalry, was next, with 72.4 per cent.

PROPOSES A BEECHER TERRACE.

Overlooking East River and Built on Roofs of Row of Warehouses.

At a hearing held yesterday on the proposed new park at Orange, Henry, Hicks and Pineapple streets, Brooklyn, the site being opposite Plymouth Church, Edward H. Dockman proposed that a terrace be built on the roof of the Columbus Heights, overlooking the river, instead of the Orange street park.

Mr. Dockman proposed that it be built as an esplanade, extending about 2,000 feet along the waterfront by fifty feet in depth. He thought the city might obtain a revenue by building along the waterfront a row of terraces could be laid out.

"The elevation," said Mr. Dockman, "will give an unobstructed view of New York Harbor from the Williamsburg bridge to Staten Island. The view would be the finest in any city in the country and the terrace would be comparatively small."

The hearing was adjourned to Feb. 25, at 2 o'clock, to set plans for the esplanade will be prepared for that meeting.

RATHBONE SEEKS VINDICATION.

Senate Committee Takes Up His Petition Asking for an Investigation.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 13.—The Senate Committee on relations with Cuba to-day took up the petition of E. J. Rathbone, formerly Director of Cuban Posts, asking for an investigation by Congress into the manner in which he was convicted by the United States courts. Rathbone contends that his conviction was illegal and he asks for a chance to vindicate himself. Senator Hanna has been supporting Rathbone's petition since the committee's investigation, and it was because of his insistence that the committee took up the matter.

The committee to-day spent the entire session in the discussion of the subject, in which the extent of the committee's power in the premises was the principal question. Rathbone came up yesterday, however, beyond the appointment of Chairman Platt and Senator Teller as a sub-committee to consider further the case and report later to the full committee.

WATER FOR A FRANCHISE.

The Huckleberry Road Spurns a Proposition to Do Some Street Spaving for the Union Railway Company.

W. H. Page, Jr., counsel for the Union Railway Company, which wants to extend its tracks over Macomb's Dam Bridge, told the Board of Estimate yesterday that his company would reject the franchise if some members of the board insisted on imposing further burdens on the company.

SHOCKED MR. GROUT.

Little Request for \$75,000 for Appellate Court Fittings—Not a Cent, Says He.

President Swanstrom of Brooklyn asked the Board of Estimate yesterday for an appropriation of \$75,000 for furnishing the top floor of the Brooklyn Borough Hall for the Appellate Division of the Second Department.

"Seventy-five thousand dollars for fitting up one court room is a colossal sum," what for? The Judge wanted a mosaic in the hall of the kind that the Appellate Division has in Manhattan."

"They did nothing of the sort," Mr. Grout replied. "The Sinking Fund Commission had been authorized to make a loan of \$50,000 for the Appellate Division. I won't vote one cent for this work until I know all the details."

So action was postponed for a week.

ALDERMEN'S SALARIES TO DIE.

What's the Use?—The Mayor Tells 'Em Flatly He'd Veto It.

The Aldermen have dropped the agitation they began about two months ago for the increasing of their yearly salary from \$1,000 to \$2,000 and the bill they had introduced in the Legislature authorizing the increase has been dropped.

Following the dropping of the bill several of the Aldermen called on the Mayor to ascertain how he felt about it. Mr. Grout replied that he would not vote one cent in favor of the proposal and that he would veto any such measure if it came before him.

The sunset and best of Good For Them in January Alternative.