The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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Glorious News for the Inmates.

With the passage of the bills introduced at Albany by Senators McEWAN and BARNES the control of the State charitable institutions will be centralized in the hands of Governor ODELL. The measures in question are framed to transfer to the Governor all the powers now vested in the Salary Classification Committee and thereby give him the absolute control of the entire personnel of the charities service.

This is an admirable proposition, if for no other reason than that it implies a guarantee of the quality of the food supplies of the lunatic and other unhappy wards of the State of New York. With the alimentation of the State institutions confined solely to MATTHEWS & Co. the Governor will be able personally to vouch for the excellence and purity of the goods and satisfy himself that a proper price is being paid for them.

We take it that there is no indiscretion in our commending to public confidence the eminent house of MATTHEWS & Co. of Newburgh, with its quiet, sedate and industrious associate, the distinguished *epicier* of the State House at Albany. Prime are its coffees, its Oolongs and Souchongs, its self-raising hams and its sugar-cured flour, and likewise the countless other commodities that make up the bill of fare of the State's various dependents.

Happy, too, the many philanthropists from whose shoulders our unselfish Governor takes the heavy burden of administering these State charities. Without other reward than the consciousness of good deeds done, they have given their time and labor to the cause, and it can well be imagined with what feelings of gratitude and pious resignation they see their thankless tasks assumed by the Chief Executive of the State.

How the eleemosynary charges of the Newburgh Charities Trust will thrive during the next two years, anyhow!

There Are Limits to the Treaty-Making Power.

The able dissertations of the *Tribune* on the extent of the treaty-making power interest us because they show how far an intelligent mind may be led astray in consequence of a fundamental misconception. The *Tribune* now remarks:

> "Our neighbor, THE SUN, still questions the theory that a treaty which is not self-executing as municipal law can be a valid international obligation."

Not at all. THE SUN's question refers not to all treaties that are not self-executing, but particularly to a reciprocity treaty involving the raising of revenue, a matter whereof the initiative is assigned by the Constitution to the House of Representatives.

That our neighbor's misunderstanding of our question is metaphysical is shown by the fact that it prints our question fairly, as follows:

> "How can a *reciprocity* treaty be binding in the international sense when it pretends to do what cannot be done by treaty alone?"

The reply of the *Tribune* is this:

> "The true answer to THE SUN's question is to be found in the meaning of the word 'binding' when we speak of a reciprocity treaty as binding in the international sense. It is binding in that it is of moral obligation. A nation's faith is pledged to keep the compacts which the Constitution in the most general terms authorizes the treaty-making power independent of other departments to conclude."

The *Tribune* continues:

> "The power to bind is not necessarily the power to enforce. In almost every department of the Government there are authorities with the right to make promises which some coordinate authority must exercise jurisdiction to carry out. These promises are valid, however, and bind the Government in law and morals. The enforcing authority may have the power to repudiate them, but it has not the right."

Here, we think, our neighbor answers itself, and very satisfactorily. It is quite true that in every department of the Government there are authorities with the right to make promises which some coordinate authority must carry out. The treaty-making power is one of these. When by treaty it makes a promise which it has a right to make, its promise is valid, binding in the international sense. When it makes a promise which it has no right to make, the promise is binding neither as domestic law nor as an international obligation.

The enactment of tariffs is a legislative function, in which both houses of the Congress and the Executive are concerned; but the Constitution expressly provides that revenue bills shall originate with the House. The treaty-making power cannot Constitutionally originate a revenue measure and force it upon the House merely because the Executive and the Senate have promised to some other nation that such and such rates shall be the tariff. The attempt to do that thing exceeds the Constitutional authority of the treaty-making power. The treaty-making power is established by that provision of the Constitution which confers upon the President "power, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to make treaties, provided two-thirds of the Senators concur." A subsequent provision declares that "all treaties made, or which shall be made, under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land."

Therefore, it appears that a treaty made without Constitutional authority, as, for example, in the matter of tariff regulation, does not become the supreme law of the land, and cannot be binding in the international sense. It is simply a case of ultra vires. In such a case the Executive and the Senate did not have the right to make the promise. Their promise is no more valid than if they had made a treaty invading one of the reserved rights of the States—annexing, let us suppose, Maine to New Brunswick, or Washington to British Columbia as part of the Dominion.

We are confident that the *Tribune* will perceive the significance of the limitation of the treaty-making power where revenue is concerned, if it will kindly imagine an extreme case.

Suppose that the Executive and the Senate happen to be free-traders, while the House is protectionist. Suppose the free trade Executive negotiates, and the free-trade Senate ratifies, a series of treaties with all the nations on earth opening our ports to their exports, free of duty—abolishing the tariff. Would the *Tribune* maintain for an instant that such a usurpation of the power of Congress over taxation and of the initiative of the House in revenue legislation would come within the right of the treaty-making power to conclude independently of the House, or that it would constitute a promise either legally or morally binding upon this Government?

Our Contemporary Ancestors.

It is a comfort to know that even in these hustling and devil-wagon-driving United States there are large areas where the modern improvements and depravations have not come. Uniformity is monotonous. Machine-made civilization is too prevalent. It is a curse or nuisance of the modern world that its citizens are altogether too much alike. People dress alike, think alike, talk alike, have the same little affectations. The native tang and original accent, the smack of the soil, are disappearing. The villages are cities in miniature and dressed in borrowed robes. No wonder folks like to travel to far-away corners and cubbyholes of the earth, to live among head-hunters and cannibals. For novelty and the sake of contrast, travellers will go far.

In this country, still almost unexplored by most of its own citizens, there are some millions of reasonably primitive folk. Not so primitive as the Esquimaux, the Apaches, the Nairs and other tribes of which M. RECLUS has written so entertainingly, but primitive in comparison with the mass of the American people. Of little sets of such primitive folk, strange or simple, humble religious or economic communities lingering on more or less feebly we hear once in a while. Reversions toward savagery in country towns are described in the magazines or the daily press. A few novelists and folk-lorists have staked their claims in the richest American field for their purposes, the Blue Ridge and Cumberland Mountains.

Everywhere the mountaineers are the true conservatives. Physical geography keeps them in what may be called the backward class. They are remote from the movement of the world, sufficient unto themselves. They have air and freedom. For our own part, we can't pity them because they do not enjoy the blessings of circulating libraries and so on. They are the only philosophers. They have limited their wants. They exist without those thousand and one superfluities that are necessaries to most of us. They speak the tongue that SHAKESPEARE spoke, the old Bible English of the seventeenth century. If they have a dialect, it is a good one, grown legitimately and with roots still traceable in England, Ireland or Scotland. For the opera, they have such divine scraping of catgut, such real old American fiddling, as can be heard and danced to nowhere else. For theatres, they have the age-long tragedy of their feuds. For the most part they inherit a stern theology, brightened by religious emotion or emotional religion. Fierce and gentle, suspicious and placable, free from radical cant, hopelessly or nobly conservative, as we have said, they are the blameless Ethiopians of to-day. For why should we blame them if they have their own theories in regard to manslaughter and "moonshine" whiskey? They are perfectly competent to drink their own whiskey and do their own manslaughter; and in their prejudice against the United States revenue officers they merely show themselves to be extreme anti-Federalists, still true to the ideas which produced the so-called Whiskey Insurrection of a hundred and odd years ago.

We are reminded of these spirited and original citizens by the address made last week at a dinner of the Liberal Club of Buffalo by Dr. WILLIAM GOODELL FROST, president of Berea College, Kentucky. Dr. FROST's college is on the edge of the great district occupied by what he wittily calls "Our Contemporary Ancestors," a district that includes the "backyards of 9 States," 200 counties, a population of 3,000,000. "It is a longer ride from northern Ohio to eastern Kentucky," said Dr. FROST, "than from America to Europe, for one day's ride brings us into the eighteenth century." A region without railroads, severed from the world, unchanged since the Revolution; a region of old-fashioned home industries, carding, spinning, weaving, dyeing. A region where the kerosene lamp, which you may find among the fish-skin-wearing tribes of Siberia and generally in the darkest out-of-the-way angles of the earth, burns without a chimney. For it "is a delicate matter to carry a lamp-chimney on horseback over twenty miles of mountain road."

Ride up to one of these mountain cabins. This is the greeting you get:

> "Howdy, strangers; light and hitch your beasties."

Chaucerian words "which have been dropped by polite use, linger in the solitude." Proverbial wit or wisdom flashes from such a phrase as this, repeated by some mountain [illegible]:

> "You can't help a saying but thought come inter yer heads, but [illegible]."

This may have been said more elegantly in many another language, but never more forcibly. Do you want a great secret of happiness? Hear Dr. FROST tell this anecdote:

> "Once up in the mountains, [illegible] Berea, fifteen miles away, for shopping. 'When you cannot get what you need at the little store down by the creek, where do you go?' I asked. The mountain woman answered with a frank smile: 'I go without.' And it appeared that she had never been to any town or city in her life. It is brought home to the visitor in this region that the number of things people can do without is very great."

The number of things people can do without is very great. So Wisdom cries out from the mountains, and no man regards it. Dr. FROST's college has 1,000 students already; but we hope that it will be a long time before all Our Contemporary Ancestors rid themselves of their eighteenth-century frames.

The Beginning of Racing in the East.

Every owner and admirer of the racehorse in these parts will turn his attention to-day to the opening of the Eastern racing season of 1903 at the Bennings track in Washington. The reports which have come from this track during the last few weeks indicate that never before have the conditions surrounding the inauguration of a year's racing been more favorable than they are now, and, for numerous reasons well known to turfmen, the season as a whole promises to surpass all of its predecessors. The Bennings meeting, while it is outside of the metropolitan district, is of more than local importance.

The owners of thoroughbreds about New York, besides exerting themselves to the utmost to put their animals in first-class condition, have in many cases materially increased the size of their stables. With this increase in numbers will be found, we believe, a corresponding increase in strength. Moreover, this department of the American turf has recently acquired the support of several gentlemen not directly identified with it in the past. Among them is Mr. E. E. SMATHERS, whose purchase of the noted Western racehorse McChesney lends color to the report that he is about to build up an immense racing stable. Other newcomers of prominence are Mr. W. B. LEEDS, who is to be associated with Mr. ANDREW MILLER, and Mr. C. A. DRAPER, owner of the great four-year-old Major Daingerfield. We are told, also, that Mr. CLARENCE H. MACKAY, who formerly possessed one of the best stables in the country, is to return to the sport with all the vigor and enthusiasm characteristic of his previous racing career.

Concerning the horses which will race this year on the metropolitan tracks, the statements of trainers and others in a position to know warrant the belief that they will prove both game and speedy. Most of them have emerged satisfactorily from their winter quarters and, unless all signs fail, many records will be smashed between now and next December. No better weather could be desired than that of the last few weeks for preparing the thoroughbreds hereabouts for their initial appearance at Aqueduct, on April 15, and they should go to the post on that day in exceptionally fine form.

But how, it may be asked, are the horses to perform consistently with inexperienced jockeys? Or, in other words, how can the smaller stables which have failed to secure the services of the comparatively few first-class riders expect to win valuable stakes in competition with their more fortunate rivals? It is true that the number of expert jockeys available at the present time is uncommonly small. Perhaps not more than a dozen of the lads now in the saddle deserve to rank as experts, and they are, almost without exception, employed by the larger stables. The jockey problem is, however, one which is likely to be solved without much trouble as the season advances. There is in this country no scarcity of clever apprentices, and many of them promise to develop into fine jockeys. From New Orleans, also, it will be possible to obtain several riders who came to the front rapidly during the winter.

The very fact that there is an urgent demand for high-class jockeys, who can command extravagant salaries, should be, and doubtless will be, sufficient to bring about a remedy for the present situation within a short time. By this it isn't meant that every boy ambitious to emulate BURNS or REDFERN is sure to succeed as they have, but rather that those who have shown that they "have it in them" to become jockeys should find an excellent opportunity now to forge ahead.

The Stop Signal Must Be Obeyed.

The frequency of railroad accidents recently, due to the failure of engineers to observe and obey signals, has led the general managers of the railroads converging in Chicago to issue new orders to their engineers concerning the latters' conduct out on the road. It has been shown to the satisfaction of those managers that the rules directing that trains shall be brought to a full stop at danger signals and shall be run at reduced speed when passing certain other signals have been grossly disregarded. Danger signals clearly visible have been passed repeatedly when no obstruction was in sight ahead, and fatal collisions have resulted.

The new order states emphatically that the engineer who runs past a signal meant to stop him will be immediately dismissed, even if his disobedience of the rules causes no accident. It matters not whether the danger signal is that of the block system, is displayed at a station, or appears at any other point on the road; the engineer who ignores it will lose his job.

It is said that, with the issuance of the order in question, the officers of the roads involved have resolved not to place in charge of fast trains, requiring constant watchfulness on the part of their engine crews, engineers who have worked overtime or who are not as fresh as they should be for the service demanded. The aim will be to intrust all passenger trains, express trains particularly, to experienced and wide-awake men who will have no excuse, at least on the ground of being physically fatigued, for failing to comply with the rules. Wherever it is practicable to improve the signal systems in use, they will be improved at once; and if a better system can be found than any now employed, these railroads have promised to install it.

Presumably, the engineers have been instructed, also, invariably to obey signals, whether by so doing they can or cannot "keep to their schedules." If they have not been so instructed trouble is likely to result. Engineers who, while observing strictly the rules of the road, are thereby prevented from running on time certainly should not be held responsible for the delay thus caused; and it is proper that they should receive from their employers some assurance of protection in such cases. Heretofore, engineers of belated trains have declared that, besides receiving a severe reprimand for their tardiness, they have often been punished by their superiors, when their delay was due solely to the fact that danger signals set against them had retarded their progress.

The efforts of the managers of the Western railroads to compel rigid adherence to the rules relating to signals are highly commendable, and the managers of other railroads in this country will do well to follow their example.

Four Western Municipal Elections.

There will be municipal elections next month in four important Western cities, Chicago, Cincinnati, St. Louis and Cleveland. In Chicago, Cincinnati and Cleveland the election will be for Mayor. In St. Louis the voting will be for members of the Municipal Assembly.

The Democrats in Chicago have renominated for a fourth term Mayor CARTER H. HARRISON, and the Republicans have put in nomination against him GRAEME STEWART, who is the Illinois member of the Republican National Committee. Mr. HARRISON was renominated with unanimity; Mr. STEWART was chosen after a bitter and protracted primary fight waged against his nomination by supporters of J. M. HARLAN, a son of Justice HARLAN.

In Cincinnati the political conditions of Chicago are exactly reversed, for the Republicans have renominated their present Mayor, JULIUS FLEISCHMANN, and the Democrats have set up against him MELVILLE E. INGALLS, president of the "Big Four" railway system, who has also the support of the Citizens' organization of Cincinnati in the movement to dislodge the Republican organization from control. Mr. FLEISCHMANN bears the same relation to the Republican organization in Cincinnati as Mr. HARRISON does to the Democratic organization in Chicago.

In Cleveland, where for some years a factional controversy between Republicans has contributed greatly to the prosperity of their Democratic opponents, a party nomination in the interest of harmony has been made. HARVEY GOULDER is the Republican candidate, running against TOM L. JOHNSON, single tax and municipal ownership reformer, renominated by the Democrats.

In St. Louis the chief political importance of the April contest turns on local legislative control, preceding the Louisiana Purchase Exposition, an event of overshadowing local importance.

The three States in which these four municipal elections take place have collectively sixty-eight Electoral votes. All three are of political importance and have long been the favorite States for the holding of national conventions. The results of these elections, if decisively in favor of either party, may not be without some significance in national politics.

Mayor HAYES of Baltimore, "past fifty and a confirmed bachelor," has promised to get married if he is reëlected and can "get a girl to have him." An unconditional promise would be more effective with the Baltimore voters. They cannot put their trust in bachelor candidates who promise to reform. The present Governor and Lieutenant-Governor of Kansas are signal and shameless instances of the perfidy of unhitched politicians who pretend to want to do better. With almost all the holy vows of heaven they promised to marry if they were elected. They were elected, and ever since they have continued to be contumacious and unrepentant celibates. Such examples throw suspicion upon Mayor HAYES's sincerity. Now is the time for him to subscribe to the marriage register.

Missouri has a mightier orator than CHAMP CLARK, a tenderer poet than ABEL SINKENZOOPER. Col. JAKE CHILDS, sometime editor of the *Richmond Conservator*, published in what he sweetly styles "the carbon queen of the Missouri Valley," falls in a long and foaming cascade over the "semi-centennial" number of that sterling sheet. With just emotion he recalls "history crystallized by heart beats that throb from the Potomac to where the mighty billows spend their force on the golden strand of the California coast." He counts the churches and schoolhouses that "greet the eye of the passenger on the trains as they flit by with the speed of angels' wings." Here is the peroration:

> "Well may we be proud of our mighty domain whose emerald prairies, tapestried with flowers, is the home of a generation of men who have no counterpart in the annals of history, builders of an empire far more renowned than that of the Cæsars or the Olympian gods."

The builders of empires have found in Col. JAKE CHILDS a builder of words worthy of the swelling act of the imperial theme.

The school of application for marine officers at the Marine Barracks, Washington, to which subalterns were sent for instruction on joining the corps, is to be superseded shortly by a more complete course of instruction to be given at Annapolis. It is proposed to establish there a school at which minor tactics, small arms, security and information, military topography, military law, field engineering, ordnance and gunnery, submarine mining and administration will be taught to newly joining officers. A battalion of marines will be stationed there, commanded by a Major, who will have a Lieutenant as his adjutant, and four Captains as company commanders and instructors. Student officers will be attached to the companies, and will spend a year at the school. In every way, and especially because of the great number of new officers appointed, the plan is commendable.

[illegible] Chinese.

From the Japan Weekly Mail.

[illegible]

OUR COLONIAL BUSINESS.

Noteworthy Illustrations of the Principle "More Lands, More Trade."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The vital point of interest to us in connection with our non-contiguous territories is to what extent such acquisitions increase our trade, not only in sales to those territories, but in necessary purchases from them. Following this thought, the subjoined figures of such trade, both ways, for the seven months ending Jan. 31, 1903, are of interest:

	Our Exports.	Our Imports.
Porto Rico	$7,208,144	$4,011,151
Hawaii	6,319,466	7,687,057
Philippines	2,272,765	6,535,290
Alaska	3,500,141	9,931,015
Guam and Tutuila	44,948	......
Totals	$19,343,464	$28,164,513

This makes a total merchandise trade of $47,507,977 for the seven months. Our purchases from the Philippines increased $4,351,742 over the prior corresponding period. This increase was mainly in hemp, the chief staple of the Philippines. We now buy it direct from Manila and save the English and Spanish profits.

It is of special interest to note the increases and decreases in our exports to the Philippines:

	Exports.	Increase.
Copper, and manufactures of	$13,217	$11,693
Cotton manufactures	235,973	126,931
Fish	26,671	21,300
Fruits and nuts	22,440	8,858
Scientific apparatus	56,788	45,902
Builders' hardware	43,587	6,392
Leather, and manufactures of	87,275	19,888
Refined mineral oils	192,269	131,992
Paints, pigments and colors	18,681	6,491
Meat and dairy products	56,706	6,771
Soaps	9,650	4,574
Vegetables	66,299	30,671
		Decrease.
Breadstuffs	$155,090	$125,947
Coal	22,510	101,829
Hay	55,570	234,161
Iron and steel manufactures	369,089	140,336
Paper, and manufactures of	32,714	56,283
Wood, and manufactures of	141,175	98,190

The decreases explain themselves—our short crops, the senseless coal strike and the heavy home demand for iron and steel manufactures. The point of encouragement is the many lines of our manufactures in which increases are shown above. And many more smaller increases could also have been shown did space permit. The Philippines are a steadily improving market for our manufactures. In time that demand will repay us for all our efforts to make a careless people self-supporting.

In the case of Porto Rico our sales increased by $1,062,107, distributed all along the line. Our purchases increased $1,496,830, made up chiefly of:

	Purchases.	Increase.
Coffee, green	$351,700	$348,310
Fruits and nuts	142,985	99,183
Molasses	106,435	30,343
Sugar, brown	2,094,529	624,476
Cigars	1,095,397	499,624

The increase in green coffee is most encouraging as a beginning toward the day when our colonies will produce the $71,000,000 worth of coffee we are yearly obliged to buy.

Our purchases from Hawaii fell off from $9,577,996, prior corresponding period, to $7,677,158, a shrinkage of $1,900,838, all of which was in sugar. This is partly offset by Porto Rico's increase of $624,476 in the same commodity.

Alaska continues to do well. Besides the $9,931,015 in merchandise, this productive Territory also sent us $10,729,705 worth of gold and $76,419 of silver. In salmon alone, Alaska sent us $8,919,010. Is it not time we began to give more attention to Alaska, its progress and its needs, than hitherto? As Gov. Brady says in his 1902 report, "Who will fight for Alaska?"

Taking a broad view of our entire colonial situation, one is forced to the conclusion that the tropical products of the Philippines, Porto Rico and Hawaii and the fish, furs, gold, coal and minerals of Alaska have fallen to the American nation just when needed to help meet its rapidly and largely increasing consumption of everything, and the wants of the colonies will help keep our factories busy.

WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, N. Y., March 22.

The Bowery Not In It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If I should write a story wholly concerned with the adventures of an Arctic exploration party, introduce my characters only when they were dancing around the North Pole, keep them there throughout the book, and leave them there in the last chapter, would the reviewers comment on the pictures of Bowery and East Side life contained in the book? I ask this not in a spirit of complaint, but wonder. Your review of my novel, "Lees and Leaven," says that the story concerns itself with the Bowery and the East Side tenements. I feel that this is said with amiable intention, for the review was favorable throughout; and my wonder arises because not a character in "Lees and Leaven" comes from or goes to the Bowery, nor is the Bowery mentioned, or so much as referred to in any manner in the book. The only tenement mentioned in the book is distinctly located by the author as west of the theatre section of Broadway. I love the Bowery, and expect to go there many times more for characters, scenes and language, so, as I said, I write this only in a spirit of wonder.

NEW YORK, March 21. EDWARD W. TOWNSEND.

Male Corsets.

From the St. James's Gazette.

At the beginning of the winter season the *Tailor and Cutter* recorded the fact that gentlemen were paying attention to the shape of their waists, and stated that, while some tailors were padding the hips of the garments they made, others were making their garments very close fitting at the waist. This journal now adds: "A walk round the West End to-day will convince the most sceptical of the satirists who hurled their shafts of ridicule at this fashion a few months ago that they have wasted their energies, and they will do well to learn that fashion's follies never have been, nor ever will be, cured by these invectives. To-day the most popular overcoat is the D. B. Frock; the newest lounge is close fitting at the waist, and if the large number of inquiries we have had during the past week or two for the names and addresses of men's corset manufacturers is any guide to the taste of the smart dressed young men of to-day, then the wearing of these effeminate articles of attire is on the increase."

Professionalism in English Schools.

From London Truth.

It may not be generally known that the cricket scholarship is already an accomplished fact in English schools. The evidence of the fact is to be found in the advertisement below, from a London daily paper:

[illegible]

Candy and Fruit in Lent.

From the Milwaukee Sentinel.

[illegible]

WHEN THE POPE WAS A PRIEST.

An Engineering Project of His That Has Never Been Realized.

The Roman correspondent of the *Echo de Paris* interviewed the leader of the delegation from Carpineto just before the beginning of the ceremonies of the Pontifical jubilee. Carpineto is the native place of Leo XIII.

"Are there any people now in Carpineto who knew the Pope there?" asked the correspondent. The answer was, "There are people there who saw him, but none who knew him. Remember that for the last twenty-five years he has been confined in the Vatican, and it is nearly fifty years since he was made Cardinal. Fifty years count for something in the life of a population. No, nobody in our town is now alive who knew the Pope when he was a priest. But I knew old Lodovico Salvagni, who was accidentally killed three years ago. He was the companion of the Abbate Pecci, now Leo XIII., and he loved to talk of the Pecci family. He knew the father of Leo XIII., Count Lodovico Pecci, who, he said, was a splendid type of nobleman with the bold profile of a soldier. As, doubtless, you know, Lodovico Pecci was a Colonel in the great Napoleon's army. The Pecci family was always among the most prominent in Carpineto, and had blood relations among the highest nobility of the surrounding country.

"Of the present Pope old Salvagni told many interesting recollections. Here is one of them which I often heard him repeat: When young Pecci was simply the Abbate Pecci, he was fond of long walks. One day, in company with Salvagni, he reached a romantic place called Maenzana which dominates a beautiful valley separating two high mountains. The two pedestrians stopped there to lunch frugally while seated on the grass.

"'Say, Lodovico,' said the Abbate, 'wouldn't it be a fine thing to have a bridge over that beautiful valley, leading from one mountain to the other?'

"'Certainly,' replied Salvagni.

"'Well,' continued the Abbate Pecci, 'if ever I become Pope I will build that bridge.' And both laughed heartily at the little joke, never dreaming that the time would come when the humble priest would become Pope.

"But he never built the bridge. He had too many other bridges to build; and the people of Carpineto firmly believe that he will not die before he builds a bridge from the Holy See to the Quirinal."

Did the State Ever Buy an Alleged Hydrophobia Cure?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Forty years ago, at Stuyvesant, N. Y., there was a Dr. Clow, who claimed to have sold a sure cure for hydrophobia to our State authorities at Albany for $5,000. My father had this formula and gave it to me. I have not seen it in many years, but remember that a knuckle bone of a calf must be burned and reduced to powder, and filings of copper mixed with this, &c. Dr. Clow or Clough was thought to have cured a number of cases of rabid dog bite in Columbia county. The Secretary of State ought to have the formula if State money was ever paid for it.

E. M. B.

NEW YORK, March 21.

The "Transactions of the New York State Medical Association" for 1891 contained a paper by Dr. Henry D. Didama of Syracuse in which there is the following reference to the State purchase of an alleged remedy for hydrophobia:

> In the good old days when wisdom and economy prevailed the Legislature of the State of New York paid $5,000 for a remedy for hydrophobia, of which the infallible efficacy was attested by overwhelming evidence. * * * The remedy for hydrophobia bought by our sapient legislators was never used after its composition was made public, although it contained, among other potent ingredients, calcined oyster shells, the marrow of a hog's jaw and verdigris obtained by soaking in vinegar a penny of the reign of blessed Queen Anne.

A statement from the present official custodian of the State's own hydrophobia cure would be of interest to the medical profession.

The Friends and Foes of Devery.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Can it be possible that there are any people in New York who would for one moment seriously regard Devery as a candidate for Mayor?

Does "Deveryite," whose letter appeared in yesterday's SUN, imagine that the decent element of the citizens of this town have forgotten the everlasting stigma that was put on our fair name by that same Devery? It may be possible that the element to which Deveryism appeals may have forgotten, or if remembering, uphold that sort of thing; but, thank God, there is a self-respecting element (and they are in the vast majority) who have not forgotten, nor will they forget till the last vestige of his influence shall be wiped out.

"Charlie" Murphy has sense enough to feel the political pulse of the people, and he knows very thoroughly that the party of which he is head, as well as the opposing party, will not stand for Devery—ism for one moment. His candidacy alone would be a disgrace, as was his occupancy of the office of Chief of Police.

He may be a hero in the eyes of that class which can be won by his loafer tactics of hanging out on a street corner, "blowing" to unlimited beer, barbecued beef and like appeals for popularity, but decent people want none of him.

If he should be brazen enough to run for Mayor, I hope that he will be so thoroughly snowed under that the fact will be knocked through that thick skull of his that his methods don't go. Nothing else will ever convey the facts to him.

NEW YORK, March 21. DECENCY.

The Forty-second Street Crossing.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Something must be done to increase the safety of foot passengers at the Forty-second street crossing of Fifth avenue. I came over that way about half past 5 o'clock last Saturday afternoon, as I do every afternoon, and it was simply awful. The big policeman was doing the best he could, but it wasn't much, and a woman took her life in her hands trying to get across the avenue. All the travel is on the north side of the street, and will be for a long time yet, and something should be done to make the drivers of vehicles give foot passengers some show. Why wouldn't it be possible to compel all drivers to walk their horses for fifty feet on each side of the car tracks, and have a white line painted across the avenue to indicate where the walk began? Then if they went faster they could be arrested. They don't walk now, and when the avenue fills up, as a car passes and stops the long line of vehicles, the rush that follows the passage of the car is like a dam broken loose before a raging torrent. If the drivers had to walk their horses for a hundred feet they might lose a few seconds of time, but we on foot wouldn't lose our lives or our limbs. Can't something be done?

YONKERS, March 19. COMMUTER.

An Outside List.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have observed that you bar the eccentricities of Indian and negro nomenclature from your list of immortals; but members of your society will find something interesting, all the same, in a selection of names taken from the rolls of the Chickasaw and Choctaw nations as made up by the Dawes Commission. There is a quaint touch of civilization about them:

Excellent Love, Uple Bogle, Cora Tuggle, Indian Territory Speaks, Chick and Chook (twins), Ola and Homa (twins), Fat Kiel, Smile Hancock, Hale Fobb, Mealey Tecumseh, Billy Wolf, Lying Hampton, Sweet Magnolia Brown, Sweetland Cole, Holly Brate, [illegible] July 4, Pless Jonathan Kelly, Eplurribus Guest, Fancy Nora Brown, Nervus Jackson, Always Billy, [illegible] Watts, Dicy Jiggetts, June Love.

These are all "straight goods."

MUSKOGEE, I. T., March 18. F. S.

Marksmanship of the Formidable.

From the Spectator.

H. M. S. Formidable has recently fired twenty-seven rounds, each round costing the country about £40. These twenty-seven shots were fired at a target 300 square feet in area at a range of about 1,800 yards. This range is one at which probably no battleship would engage in time of war on account of torpedoes. Of the twenty-seven rounds fired by H. M. S. Formidable, one hit the mark, giving a percentage of 3.7. H. M. S. Formidable cost considerably over £1,000,000. The guns of the Formidable, made at Woolwich, are admirable weapons. What is the war value of a £1,000,000 battleship that misses a small target at a short range twenty-six times out of twenty-seven?

ARNOLD WHITE.

When a Man Has a Cold.

From the Chicago News.

[illegible]

THE END OF THE MERRIMAC.

Why the Confederates Destroyed Her—The Story of an Eye-Witness.

From the Troy Times.

In a communication recently published in THE SUN, and republished yesterday in the *Troy Times* William L. Stone of Mount Vernon, N. Y., in the interest of the "truth of history," says in regard to the destruction of the Merrimac at Hampton Roads in the spring of 1862:

> Second, the Merrimac was not sunk by the Monitor, but, being driven into the Roads by that vessel, was subsequently blown up, either by the Confederates or ourselves, this being still a mooted point. So much for history.

If one who was present on that memorable occasion may venture to speak on this "mooted point," the writer, who was an officer attached to the United States ship Susquehanna, then lying at anchor off Fortress Monroe, and who saw the fragments of the Merrimac as they fell, begs to say that the Merrimac was not "driven into the Roads by that vessel" (the Monitor); also that the Merrimac was destroyed by the Confederates. There was no question about that at the time of the occurrence among those who were present and participating in the stirring events of the period.

The facts are that a movement by land on Norfolk had been projected and was being executed under the eye of President Lincoln. Troops had been conveyed in barges from Fortress Monroe to Sewell's Point and were moving on Norfolk. This movement forced the evacuation of Norfolk and its fortifications by the Confederates. The navy yard was fired, and the Merrimac, which had been lying at Norfolk, moved down to Hampton Roads, where her officers and crew destroyed her. The Monitor was all the time at anchor near the Susquehanna. She did not drive the Merrimac "into the Roads." The Federal vessels, which were all lying with anchors buoyed, slipped their cables and immediately after the explosion were under way for Norfolk. The Susquehanna was the second vessel in the line. The first, whose name I forget, met with no difficulty, but the Susquehanna struck upon a pile obstruction, which, fortunately, she passed over, and proceeded with the first vessel and shortly reached Norfolk, where at the navy yard the fire was still raging furiously. So much for the "mooted point"!

TROY, March 19. D. M. GREENE.

POLITICAL NOTES.

The Constitution of Oregon provides that any alien who has declared one year before the date of election his purpose to become a citizen is qualified for suffrage. Under this provision a person not a citizen of the United States may be a voter.

Maine continues to be a "prohibition State" in which the agitation for prohibition is carried on vigorously. The Prohibition vote of Maine in 1900 was 4,300.

During the last five years no practical headway has been made in securing a comprehensive system of street names in the borough of The Bronx. There are many duplicate names of streets in that territory, where the rapid growth in population and the increase in the number of new streets make some early action desirable.

Democratic primaries in Chicago, unlike those held by Republicans, who had two rival candidates for the Mayoralty nomination, Stewart and Harlan, were entirely harmonious except in one ward of the city, the Twenty-first, where the opponents of Mayor Harrison, led by R. E. Burke, opposed the renomination of Alderman Honoré Palmer. The Palmer ticket won at the primaries by a majority of 1,835.

The Constitution of Florida provides that elections by the Legislature shall be *viva voce* and elections by the people shall be by ballot. Up to a few years ago voting in Kentucky was done by the *viva voce* method, each man declaring his choice, and the abuses incident to it brought about its repeal. The danger of *viva voce* voting in Kentucky may be better understood from the fact that many of the voters were armed.

Adrian C. Anson, for many years first baseman and captain of the Chicago baseball club, has been a candidate for Treasurer on the Democratic ticket in Chicago and has been carrying on for some time a vigorous contest to secure the nomination. Despite Chicago's pride in its former popular baseball club, Mr. Anson, more generally known as "Pop," failed to secure the nomination at the recent convention. It went to Ernest Hummel. The office of City Treasurer in Chicago is lucrative.

The relations between the two factions of local Socialists continue to be badly strained and much of their ammunition is used in combating the aspirations of each other. The Socialist Labor party has heretofore been very weak in those cities or districts in which Irish or Irish-American voters are numerous, and the Social Democratic party has proved more successful in such towns in getting recruits. The organ of the Socialist Labor party makes, in consequence, perhaps, this diplomatic and tactful allusion to its opponents: "To-day the verdant Kangaroos will take part in the Hibernian parade, appearing in the division of the Central Fakirated Union. Although mainly Germans who think the Vaterland the hub of the whole world, they will march behind Erin's green flag, because they are of that color themselves. In fact, they will be labelled, so that the general public may make no mistake in distinguishing them, thus: 'Hoch! der greenest guys mit dis bunch.'"

On April 9 there will be a civil service examination, comprehensive and competitive, under authority of the Municipal Civil Service Commission, for the post of office boy. The compensation of this personage, when officially chosen from out of the number of applicants whose papers must be on file not later than Friday, April 3, at 4 P. M., will be $240 a year. On the day preceding, April 7, there will be an examination for gymnastic instructor. Persons familiar with calisthenics, hygiene, comparative anatomy and the streets of New York can compete.

The Constitution of South Carolina has a strong provision against lynching, which is as follows: In the case of any prisoner lawfully in the charge, custody or control of any officer, State, county or municipal, being seized and taken from said officer through his negligence, permission or connivance, by a mob or other unlawful assemblage of persons, and at their hands suffering bodily violence or death, the said officer shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and upon a true bill being found shall be deposed from his office, pending his trial, and upon conviction shall forfeit his office, and shall, unless pardoned by the Governor, be ineligible to hold any office of trust or profit within this State.

The term of the Governor of Kentucky is four years, and State elections under the Constitution of that Commonwealth are so adjusted as to fall in the years preceding the national elections for President. Kentucky will elect a Governor this year, and the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination is Gov. Beckham, who was chosen on the Goebel ticket in 1899 as Lieutenant-Governor and succeeded to the office of Governor on the death of the latter and was chosen for the balance of the term in 1900 by a plurality of 3,800. Prospective Republican candidates are William J. Deboe, lately a United States Senator, whose term expired on March 4, and Clifton J. Pratt, who is the present Attorney-General of the State elected on the Taylor ticket in 1899. The salary of the Attorney-General of Kentucky is [illegible] and that of the Lieutenant-Governor is [illegible].

The Kaiser's Handless Ball.

From the London Daily Telegraph.

[illegible]

The Early Bird.

[illegible]

[illegible]