The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19, 1903.

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.

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Joseph Chamberlain.

Mr. CHAMBERLAIN really wrote his resignation and his announcement of independent action weeks ago when he said:

"Unless the question of trade and commerce is settled satisfactorily, I for one do not believe in the continuance of the British Empire."

Professing that view and believing that the continued existence of the British Empire depends upon the adoption of a particular policy of tariff reform, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN could continue to act ministerially only with a Cabinet equally convinced of the supreme importance of his idea, and prepared to go with him to any extreme in realizing it.

Otherwise, Mr. CHAMBERLAIN, on his own statement, would remain in the Imperial Government only as an accessory to its ultimate destruction. This, from his point of view, would be very much like treason.

Therefore he takes himself off and stands apart and alone, a leader just now without a party, but waiting for one to gather to his support. Meanwhile, he leaves his former party free.

The manner of the doing of the same was artistically perfect. Nothing handsomer in the way of political correspondence has been printed for years on either side of the Atlantic than the letter of Mr. CHAMBERLAIN relieving Mr. BALFOUR'S Ministry of the inconvenience of his presence, and the reply of Mr. BALFOUR bidding CHAMBERLAIN Godspeed on his mission to the country.

A Phrase and an Alienist.

The *Portland Oregonian* puts on the sage look of the amateur alienist and makes this curious assertion:

"It is gravely to be doubted whether Mr. BRYAN, however normal on other subjects, is perfectly sane when he gets on the subject of the 'Money Power.'"

Evidently Mr. BRYAN'S terminology is not understood where rolls the Oregon. In Mr. BRYAN'S system the "Money Power" means the anti-Bryan capitalists and the aggregated capital that will not consent to be milked for the benefit of Bryanite campaign funds. To quote an axiom of the Bryanite philosophy, the "Money Power" "puts the dollar above the man."

Aggregated Bryanite wealth and Bryan capitalists do not belong to the "Money Power." The Hon. TOM JOHNSON perspires wealth and reeks with monopoly, yet Mr. BRYAN loves him like a brother at once and son. Col. MOSES CINCINNATUS WETMORE of Missouri lights his anti-trust cigars with banknotes got by selling out to trusts; but Mr. BRYAN delights to hunt rabbits and bears and trusts with him every year. Mr. HOGG of Texas and Mr. TOWNE of New York spout oil and correct Bryanite sentiments. Therefore they are against and not of the "Money Power."

The Oregon amateur alienist mistakes a technical phrase for a mental lesion. In a somewhat different sense the expression "Money Power" or "Money Devil" was long used with excellent results by Col. HENRY WATTERSON, a publicist remarkable for sane and sober thought and language. Buttressed by the authority of two great names, "Money Power" is an American classic.

The Expiration of the Proposed Hay-Herran Treaty.

Our neighbor, the *Times*, contends with its usual force of persuasive argument, that Mr. ROOSEVELT himself fixed and determined the limit of "reasonable" time for dealing with Colombia when he, or his Secretary of State, allowed eight months for the ratification of the Hay-Herran treaty negotiated on the 22d of last January. The eight months will expire on Tuesday next. Hence, in our neighbor's opinion, the reasonable time predetermined by the President expires next Tuesday likewise, and Mr. ROOSEVELT, under the terms of the law, must on that date turn to Nicaragua and Costa Rica, and prepare to dig a canal by the inferior route.

With due deference to our neighbor's opinion, we feel ourselves compelled to make a distinction between the idea of a reasonable time for the accomplishment of a great purpose, and a reasonable time in which to ascertain the success or failure of a particular instrument designed to accomplish that purpose. The duration of the one reasonable time is not necessarily coterminous with the duration of the other.

This may seem metaphysical to those who are more in a hurry to turn back to Nicaragua and the inferior route than we believe President ROOSEVELT to be; nevertheless, we must insist upon the distinction.

The reasonable time allowed for the ratification of a proposed treaty is itself reasonably elastic, and is frequently extended. At every period the reasonableness depends on circumstances existing at that time, and not on any preconceived calendar or schedule.

For example, our neighbor will recall the case of the negotiations with Great Britain for the elimination of the restraints imposed upon this Government by the Clayton-Bulwer Treaty. Suppose a law had given the Administration a "reasonable time" in which to secure from Great Britain the abrogation of the treaty, with the alternative of action in violation of the treaty, and a war with England in consequence.

We do not think the *Times* will maintain that the limit originally set upon the life of the first Hay-Pauncefote Treaty marked the expiration of reasonableness in that attempt; or that Secretary HAY was unreasonable in using more time in his further and finally successful efforts to accomplish the great end then in view.

It seems to us that the President will be justified in awaiting further instructions by the Congress whose meeting is now in the near future.

The Washington Circular on the Miller Case.

The question between the President and labor unionism is now sharply defined. Mr. ROOSEVELT declared his attitude in unmistakable terms in his letter to Secretary CORTELYOU, under date of July 14. Therein the President expressed his "hearty approval" of that statement of the coal strike commission which "adjudged and awarded that no person shall be refused employment or in any way discriminated against on account of membership or non-membership in any labor organization."

Unionism clearly defines its position in the circular recently sent by the Washington Central Labor Bureau, with the indorsement and approval of the American Federation of Labor, to more than five hundred Central Labor Unions throughout the United States. These bodies claim a membership of about 2,500,000 workingmen. The pith of the declaration of the union lies in the following extract from the circular:

"*Whereas* the President of the United States has seen fit to reinstate W. A. MILLER, who is an expelled member of a trades organization, notwithstanding the overwhelming evidence of his moral turpitude, and has also committed himself to the policy of the open shop, as shown by his letters,

"*Resolved*, That the order of the President cannot be regarded in any but an unfriendly light."

Certain features of this circular require explanation to avoid confusion. That the President committed himself, without reservation, to the "policy of the open shop" cannot be denied. Nor can it be denied that in so doing he arrayed himself squarely against what the union leaders hold to be the most important, if not the vital principle of labor unionism to-day. But it is by no means certain that, at the time the President's letter was written, "overwhelming evidence of MILLER'S moral turpitude" had been submitted to Mr. ROOSEVELT. That was not the ground upon which MILLER was expelled. The ground of his expulsion is elsewhere stated in the circular. MILLER had been found guilty of "flagrant non-unionism."

MILLER'S morals came in on the side, as a later argument for his permanent removal. They may or may not have been doubtful, or even abominable. With that feature of the case, the public has nothing to do until absolutely clean life be made a necessity to applicants for membership in labor unions and for Government posts under the civil service rules. MILLER was expelled from his union for "flagrant non-unionism," and was reinstated in his position in the Government Printing Office, by order of the President, on the ground that the laws of the union could not be permitted to override the laws of the United States. The question is the "open shop." The President says that all shops shall be "open." Unionism says that there shall be no shops for the non-unionist.

The issue being thus reduced to its precise terms, attention at once falls upon another clause in the circular. That declares, among other matters, that the principles of trade-unionism are intended to instil into the hearts of the working classes "the blessings of free government." Refusal to a non-unionist of the right to earn his living and to maintain his family is not consistent with this declaration.

Another of these principles is declared to be the education of the working classes, so that they "might uphold the law and its representatives." Unwritten, if not written, laws of this land insure to every man the right to "life, labor and the pursuit of happiness." With this principle and its present official representative, President ROOSEVELT, the Washington circular now declares that unionism is at odds.

Does England Want the Congo Free State?

Prominence has been given recently to the Congo Free State through charges of exceeding brutality toward the native people on the part of settlers and officials. So direct and so vigorous have the charges been that an official reply has been made. It is merely an old story in a new field. Complaints from English sources upon such a subject do not come with the best of grace. English residents were notable among the offenders, and England's history presents a very long array of similar experiences in other lands. While England's colonial policy of recent years has undoubtedly been a wise one, it has, even in recent years, again and again come into conflict with native peoples, sometimes with military force and sometimes by instances of individual brutality, all lamentable, but perhaps not always entirely avoidable.

Perhaps it is not for us to cavil at the so-called atrocities which have been the constant attendants of the vanguard of civilization. Our own ancestors, both English and American, were none too gentle with the Indians whose possessions we now occupy. It has been the history of all colonization; but when England or English people complain against their neighbors for processes in which they are themselves adept, we naturally look for ulterior motives.

England never shuffles about her questions of territorial expansion, although she may not make premature announcement of her desire for any given region. A little study of the map will show how much that vast area of equatorial Africa would mean to the mother of colonies. It is the connecting link between the territory which she now controls in South Africa and in Egypt.

A hundred years ago, nearly, England took permanent possession of what is now Cape Colony. Through many vicissitudes of political fortune she has crept northward until her northern boundary line touches Lake Tanganyika, nearly 2,000 miles from Cape Town, and marches with the southeastern border of the Congo Free State. At that point the Congo State and German East Africa form a continuous barrier from the Atlantic to the Indian Ocean. Upon the north England holds Egypt, from which she is in no way likely to release her hold. Her influence extends southward from Alexandria to the sources of the White Nile, more than 1,500 miles away. There her holdings join the border of her East Africa Protectorate, with its Indian Ocean port of Mombasa and the new Uganda railway. Here again she strikes the sea to sea barrier of the Congo State and German East Africa. Control of the Congo State would give her control, through British territory, from Cape Town to Cairo, nearly 5,000 miles.

Were England in control of the Congo State, now intervening between her lines in Africa, her holdings in that continent unbroken by foreign possessions would embrace an area of nearly 5,000,000 square miles, or about 45 per cent. of the entire continent of Africa. This, in its area, would be about the equivalent of Canada, Alaska, and one third of the United States proper.

But the Congo State would mean even more than that to England. Her present ports of traffic for her more than 1,000,000 square miles of South African territory are Durban and Cape Town. The commerce of Rhodesia must go 1,500 miles southward and return 1,500 miles northward in order to reach its destination. Transvaal products must travel 1,000 miles. Pretoria ships its products 1,000 miles southward to Cape Town, from which point they are forwarded 6,000 miles to England. With England in possession of the Congo State Rhodesian and even Transvaal products could go northward by rail to a port at the mouth of the Congo River, only a little further away than Cape Town, and save 2,000 miles of sea voyage to England.

Nor are the natural resources of the Congo State itself to be left out of consideration in a question of England's possible desire to possess it. Its area is approximately 900,000 square miles. It is now peopled by some 30,000,000 of the Bantu race. Its European population numbers about 2,500. Although bisected by the equator, it is not all unhealthful, and a portion of its area is even regarded as salubrious. It includes vast forests of valuable woods. Its agricultural possibilities are almost limitless. Valuable deposits of metals and minerals are said to exist within its borders. Good government, transportation facilities and intelligence and persistent industry are needed.

In undeveloped possibilities the Congo State has perhaps no rival to-day. Belgium, its practical governing power, does little with it. England could perhaps make it a possession of great value. At all events, the region is certain to attract interest in the early future.

The Socialistic Vote in Democratic Cities.

On Tuesday next the Democrats of Boston will hold their primaries for the election of delegates to the several nominating conventions. From being a stalwart Republican city, Boston has become one of the strongest Democratic cities in the North. It polled for Governor last year 45,000 votes for GASTON, the Democrat; 32,000 for Governor BATES, the Republican; 8,300 for CHASE, the Socialist Democratic candidate, and 205 for Mr. PARTRIDGE, the nominee of the Early Bird Prohibitionists. The total vote of the city was 85,000, and about one-tenth of it was cast by the Socialist party.

In Chicago, the cosmopolitan population of which is so varied as to offer, as might be supposed, a good recruiting field for outside parties, the Socialists number about 30,000, in a total of 350,000, a smaller proportion than in Boston.

In New York, with about 600,000 voters, the combined Socialist vote in the municipal election of two years ago was only 15,000, notwithstanding the extent to which the voting population of this city is being increased by the naturalization of newcomers from eastern Europe.

Gen. McClellan and Commissioner Greene's Father.

There is no doubt that Governor MURPHY'S explanation is true. The omission at Antietam of any reference to Gen. GEORGE B. MCCLELLAN was purely accidental. It was a curious, but by no means an unusual oversight.

There used to be a children's game which consisted of finding geographical names upon the maps in an atlas. A novice at this game would almost invariably choose some obscure town or village set down in the smallest type, and the same would be discovered easily. An expert would select the name of a county or province sprawling in large but scattering letters across the map, and this would be overlooked by some of the most diligent searchers.

On the same principle, it is not hard to understand why the name of the commander of the Union forces was overlooked by everybody on Thursday last. It reached across the page.

President ROOSEVELT is not to be blamed for neglecting to mention Gen. MCCLELLAN in his speech. He was not reciting the general history of the battle or framing a bulletin of honorable mention except for specific purposes.

New York's School Appropriations.

The Board of Education's departmental estimate of expenses for 1904 amounts to $23,260,472, or nearly double the amount wanted to run the Police Department, and $4,000,000 more than the combined estimates of the cost of maintaining the Police and Fire departments during the same year. The items included in the estimate are for the running expenses of the schools, and they show an increase of $3,000,000, as compared with this year. There will be 889 new teachers in the regular courses, 717 new teachers in the evening schools and 621 new teachers in the vacation schools.

These figures convey some idea of the tremendous machine that is devoted to the education of the children of New York city. Much more money is spent on education than on the policing of the city, the prosecution of accused persons, the maintenance of the courts, and the punishment of criminals.

Out of a total budget of approximately $100,000,000 to be raised by taxation, practically a quarter goes for the education of the children through the Board of Education. Large sums are also appropriated for this purpose through other channels, and the expenditures for school sites and buildings made from the proceeds of bond sales mount into the millions each year.

No one complains because of these vast expenditures. In fact, there is loud and continual complaint because sufficient sums are not spent to give a seat to every child of school age in the city—a community angry because its officials do not spend money fast enough. About 80,000 children of school age are in part-time classes now in the city of prodigious expenditures.

Some of the school officials believe the time will never come when the school capacity will equal the demands made on it. They are wrong. Some day an administration will come into office that will spend such a sum for school sites and buildings as has never been appropriated before, provide a seat for every child for a full day's tuition, and thereby earn a great name in the city annals.

The Shiftlessness of Thomas Gowan.

THOMAS GOWAN used to drive a coal wagon. On Labor Day he and other drivers employed by the coal firm for which he was working struck because they were ordered to work. Last Thursday morning GOWAN was a prisoner in the Harlem court. He told this story to the Magistrate:

"I can't get any work now, and the union has ordered me to stay out. When I went home last night I found my children crying for food and my wife so weak she could hardly walk. In order to save them from starving I went out and stole the door knobs, hoping to sell them."

A probationary officer investigated the story and found it true. GOWAN'S employers said he was a sober and hard-working man. GOWAN'S family was weak for want of food. When the strike was called, $4.12 was due him. Of this he had to pay $4 for a cap, belt and cane to wear in the parade. He must have paraded with a happy heart. Was there not 12 cents left to support his family indefinitely?

The trouble with THOMAS GOWAN seems to be that he is shiftless. How else can we account for his inability to support his family on 12 cents? What would he have done, had the union been less generous with him?

A heavy frost in Colorado this week is estimated to have spoiled $250,000 worth of cantaloupes at Rocky Ford. At New York prices this would mean that 750,000 melons were nipped by the cold. The melon raising business and the number of communities interested in it increase annually. The St. Louis *Globe-Democrat* has been investigating the melon industry of Marion county, Ill. In 1885 Uncle BILLY ROSS, having lived in Texas for a time, returned to his home in Alma, bringing with him a pocketful of melon seeds. At first he grew only enough melons to supply the home demand, but the fertile bottom land was so rich that he was able to send some melons to Chicago. The commission merchant to whom he consigned them called for more. Other farmers began to plant melons, and since 1885 the trade has amounted to $1,400,000. It is growing constantly. Land which was worth $10 an acre twenty-five years ago now sells for over $100 an acre, if it is ever thrown on the market.

In one year an acre of land produced melons which netted $350 to the grower. Returns of $100 to $200 an acre are not uncommon, according to the *Globe-Democrat*. Through August and early September the harvest extends, and the whole section has felt the benefit of the trade.

Marion county ought to erect a monument to Uncle BILLY ROSS.

The trades unionists of Wallington, an enlightened New Jersey town, have been beaten by the women of the place. The painters' union wanted such high pay that no one could afford to have his house decorated. Wallington was in danger of going to wreck and ruin, a weather-worn community. Then Mrs. STEPHEN KIMKO took brush in hand, and began the painting of her own house, breathing defiance to the union. Other women saw her and volunteered to help. Now the women are painting the town, and not red. That is left for the beaten and out-generaled painters' union to do.

During the last week of August the New York city death rate was 17.57, against 18.90 for 1902. The "corrected death rate," in compiling which non-residents and infants under one week old are excluded, was 16.77. In spite of the presence of several large institutions, whose population is in part drawn from other boroughs, The Bronx had the lowest death rate, 14.97 for all classes, and 14.38 for residents more than a week old. Richmond's death rate for all classes was 19.40, and the corrected rate was 15.81. The figures for Queens were 17.13 and 15.09 respectively. Brooklyn's death rate was 16.84, and the corrected figures were 16.12. In Manhattan the rate was 18.39, uncorrected, and 17.65, corrected. It appears that Richmond was the most unhealthful borough for strangers and infants, and Manhattan for its own residents. The cool weather had much to do with the low death rate throughout the city.

Amendment of the Naturalization Laws Called For.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What I advocate is a very simple proposition:

1. To put a stop to the degradation of the ballot by the repeal of the naturalization laws and an amendment of the Constitution, so that the dignity of citizenship can be conferred on men of foreign birth who may have distinguished themselves in any way to the honor and benefit of the country, as did John Ericsson.

2. To establish a judicial revision of all outstanding certificates of naturalization, thereby cancelling a very large number of fraudulent issues, with the effect of elevating, in the public mind, the estimation of the ballot. ALBERT GRANGER.

NEW YORK, Sept. 15.

The Truth About Lear and Ivanhoe.

Lear had been driven into the storm.

"It was the cruel way she did it," he sobbed. "Goneril's husband played the cornet until 12 o'clock every night."

His proud spirit broken, the old man told Shakespeare and succumbed.

Scott was reading the proof of "Ivanhoe."

"Why don't you make him give up his seat on the elevated?" we suggested.

"Because," he replied, "that would be an exaggeration. The public would never believe it."

Hereupon the chivalrous Knight had to go to press with only a measly tournament to his credit.

ONE REPUBLICAN'S VIEW.

Independent and Outspoken Comment on the Municipal Situation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is a matter of interest at this time for those Republicans who look back upon the political events of the past ten years to consider carefully the results of elections in this State that have taken place during that time and the causes that have led up to those results.

In 1892, principally because of the labor troubles at Homestead and a spirit of unrest among the laboring classes, President Harrison was defeated by Mr. Cleveland and the Democrats were placed in control of both houses of Congress. The result of that election, as every one knows, was the repeal of the Sherman Silver Purchase act and the passage of the so-called Wilson-Gorman Tariff bill. The passage of the latter, the acrimonious discussions that took place between the Democratic leaders over the bill and the fact that Mr. Cleveland allowed it to become a law without his signature, together with the depression in business circles that followed, caused a revulsion of feeling among the people, and in the Congress election of 1894 a tidal wave, such as has been seldom seen in this country, swept the Republicans back into power in Congress by an overwhelming majority. The effect of this change of opinion was felt strongly here in New York. Rock-ribbed Democratic districts, where Republican Congressmen had not been elected for many years (such as the Sixteenth, of which Westchester county then formed a part), went Republican, and in New York city William L. Strong was elected Mayor. This revulsion of feeling in New York city, however, was not entirely due to national politics. A Republican Legislature, assisted by a Republican Governor, had appointed a committee to investigate the affairs of the New York police force and other matters pertaining to the city's government. On account of the corrupt condition of affairs exposed by this committee, the election of a Republican Mayor was made possible (combined with the reasons heretofore given). Instead, however, of reaping the fruits of the exposures made by the Lexow committee, the leaders of the Republican party decided to combine with other political forces in the city. The result was that although a Mayor was elected who was a Republican, the organization was not strengthened thereby commensurately with their success.

In 1896 the Democratic National Convention nominated Bryan on a Populistic platform, which made Democratic victory in New York impossible; and the Republican ticket, including Mr. Frank Black, the candidate for Governor, carried the State by a larger majority than was ever known in the political history of New York.

Then came consolidation. It was a Republican Legislature that had made this possible. It was a Republican Legislature that had given Greater New York its charter. The Republican party was the only organized body fighting Tammany Hall at that time; and it was but fair to assume, because of these facts, that the Republican organization should have at least some part in the choice of a nominee for Mayor. A self-constituted committee, however, took it upon themselves to force a nomination upon the Republican organization. Had the leaders of the latter allowed themselves to be dictated to in this manner by men who had no voice or authority in political circles, it might have meant the disruption of the organization it had taken years to build up. The Republicans, therefore, nominated Benjamin F. Tracy for Mayor, a man whose honesty and ability could never be questioned.

Every one remembers the result of that fight. Although the Republican candidate was defeated, it was a glorious defeat and one which every true Republican, no matter how much he desired Tammany's overthrow, took great satisfaction in when it was remembered that the organization of the party had preserved its independence and integrity.

Next year at the State election, after a bitter fight, in which there was crimination and recrimination between those Republicans who desired that Governor Black should have another term and those who thought that if he was nominated he would fail of election, Col. Theodore Roosevelt was nominated; and he was elected by over 18,000 majority, despite the fact that the whole political machinery of the city of New York was arrayed against him, and the bitterness aroused among those Republicans who favored Mr. Black's renomination cost him many votes. Yet in spite of these facts Governor Roosevelt was elected by a substantial plurality. Then, however, the Republican organization in New York city had retained its independence and its members were in accord.

Two years later, in 1900, McKinley's popularity, and the fact that Bryan was too bitter a pill for the Democrats of this State to swallow, again turned an avalanche of votes into the Republican column, and with the aid lent by the national ticket Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., who had received the nomination for Governor, was swept into office by an irresistible force.

Then came the events of two years ago. The "committee" had been taught a lesson by their experience of four years before. They had lost much of their haughtiness and dictatorial manner, and even consented to consult with the leaders of the Republican organization. Instead, however, of having a straight fusion ticket (if such a thing is possible—that is, only representatives of the "Citizens' Union" and Republicans on it), the attempt was made to cater to every little organization that controlled, or claimed to control, a few votes. There were O'Brienites and Sheehanites and Stecklerites; independent Democrats, Mugwumps and every known stripe of politician (except Tammanyites—and in the light of future events I am not sure of that) who had read the handwriting on the wall, represented on that ticket. Tammany was defeated, but despite the fact that Republicans cast 80 per cent. of the vote for Mayor the organization was persistently refused recognition, so far as patronage was concerned. Men who represented only themselves or perhaps a score or so of the "chosen" were placed in office, and the wishes of thousands of voters in New York were ignored.

And the result was seen in the last election for Governor. From a majority in Greater New York for the fusion ticket of nearly 35,000, the vote changed to a majority of 112,000 for the Democratic candidate for Governor, Bird S. Coler, and he the weakest man the Democrats could possibly have nominated. Contrast Governor Odell's vote in New York city with that received by President Roosevelt in 1898 with Tammany in full power for four years in this city, and the baneful influence of fusion methods will be seen.

What was the cause of this? Ask any district leader why there is a lack of enthusiasm among his workers. Mingle with the Republicans who have fought for years around the Republican banners. Nine out of every ten will tell you they would rather go down to defeat with banners flying than work hard and win an election only to see others, who were anywhere but on the battlefield, receive the fruits of their labor.

In order to defeat Tammany Hall year after year it is necessary to build up as strong an organization, with honest aims, as that built up by the leaders in Fourteenth street. And this cannot be done so long as a kaleidoscopic ticket, beside which even Joseph's coat of many colors would seem plain, is nominated and elected, only to engender bitter feeling among those people whose votes elected them. The political fate of the city is not the only thing at stake. Last year the State was nearly lost to the Republicans; and who can forget 1884, when a change of about six hundred votes in New York city would have placed Mr. Blaine in the Presidential chair?

AN ORGANIZATION REPUBLICAN.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18.

Deficient in the Sense of Value.

Mrs. Knocker—So your husband has no idea of the value of money?

Mrs. Bocker—None whatever. He absolutely doesn't realize what a lovely bonnet $50 will buy.

The First Submarine.

At modern inventions and claims
The ancients undoubtedly laughed,
For Jonah most certainly had
The very first submarine craft.

NEW WARSHIPS LACK GUNS.

Vessels Completed Faster Than the Gun Factory Can Furnish Armaments.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The imperative need of providing facilities at the naval gun factory in Washington for turning out guns at a faster rate than is now possible has been brought to the attention of the Navy Department in a report of a board composed of Capt. W. M. Folger, Commander J. M. Bowyer and Lieutenant-Commander F. F. Fletcher. This board was appointed several months ago as the outcome of a statement by Chief Naval Constructor Bowles, that completed war vessels were delayed in being commissioned by the failure of the gun factory to furnish their armaments on time.

According to the board, the factory facilities should be greatly increased. At present three shifts of men are employed, each eight hours, but they cannot do the work required on account of lack of shops and machinery. In the board's opinion there should be a factory big enough to do all the work with only one shift working eight hours. It is recommended that facilities be provided for turning out all guns of 7, 8, 10, 12 and 13 inches calibre, and half the guns of smaller sizes, the remaining half to be built by private contract. On account of the demand for the batteries of new ships, the Navy Department was recently obliged to place an order for sixty guns.

In describing the condition produced by the limited work which the gun factory is able to perform, the board says:

"By January, 1907, when the last of the present ships authorized is due, there will be required 128 guns of 8-inch calibre or their equivalent in 7-inch guns, over and above the number that can be completed at the gun factory up to that date. At an output of sixteen 8-inch guns per year, working double time, the delivery of the last guns will be about eight years behind the date of completion of the last ship."

In view of the serious condition pointed out by the board, Secretary Moody is expected to ask Congress to appropriate liberally to build more gun shops. Estimates of $3,464,358 to make the necessary improvements are submitted with the board's report.

AN UNWRITTEN LETTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Indignant as the American people would be should one of the high officials of their Government so far forget himself as to accept presents from any source which would lay him under a moral obligation to their donors, I believe that there would have been no dissent from approval of the course of the President if the news despatches from Boston had contained the following letter to-day:

MY DEAR LITTLE GIRL: It is necessary that the President of the United States, in the words of one of our great Judges, should "avoid not only evil, but the appearance of evil," and for this reason I have established a rule against accepting any presents except those little tokens that my old and intimate personal friends are kind enough to send me; but in the case of your beautiful flag I have decided to make an exception to the rule, and accept it. I shall not keep it for myself alone, but it will be draped in the Executive Offices of the White House, where all who visit the President may see it. Thus it will be an inspiration to all and a constant reminder of the noble history of our country and the devotion of its people.

Really the flag belongs to all of us, to each as much as to any one else, to love and defend. That is one of the chief reasons that cause me to break my rule and accept your present. The flag is not like a train of cars, or a cask of wine, or a horse, or a saddle. If any one wanted to give one of these to me, I should not break the rule. I should refuse to accept such a present, because, though I might have no thought of wrongdoing, the acceptance might be misconstrued by some persons, and the honor and dignity of the high post I am striving to fill might be smirched. But the flag is different; I feel that the people all over the United States will know that there can be nothing amiss in my accepting that, for it can hide no wrong or improper design, and can do only good, in keeping always before me the high purposes and noble aims of those who have defended and upheld it.

As you must be the better for the fine thoughts that filled your mind while you were working over this beautiful flag, combining its stars and stripes, stitching on its fabric, so I and all the others will be the better for looking at it, and feeling the thrill of holy pride which it inspires in all Americans.

Grow up, my dear little Marie, loving the flag, and doing good as you know the men and women who have loved it before you did. You will be a worthy citizen, no weakling, and a pride to the flag itself. Yours truly, THEODORE ROOSEVELT.

Miss MARIE COSTEAU, Boston, Mass.

I think that no American would have found fault with the President who accepted such a gift in such a spirit.

JAMES MCGUIRE.

SANTA BARBARA, Cal., Sept. 13.

Note on the Progress of the Bootblack Industry.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will you please turn the all powerful rays of THE SUN on the intolerable bootblack nuisance that exists on the Staten Island ferry line and renders the trip across the beautiful bay a half hour of distress and agony instead of pleasure and comfort? At present four strong lunged, swarthy young Italians range at will about the lower decks of the craft that serve as ferryboats on this line and from shore to shore render life unendurable for passengers by their continual cries of "Shine!" "Polish!" Not content with passing through the cabins and shouting to the extent of their lungs, they deliberately peer into the faces of those who are reading their newspapers and act abominably; and yet this is known and tolerated by the management of this line, upon whom appeal to discontinue the nuisance has had no effect. The action of the bootblacks is bad enough, but one of their "shines" is even worse; and as this fact is known to all regular ferry patrons, notwithstanding all their soliciting, they secure little to do.

If we must have bootblacks on these boats, why not establish chairs where passengers who require such service can go, and not have the entire lower decks devoted to the bootblacking industry? I hope that you will show up this annoyance in such light as will cause it to cease, in order that we may read our SUNS in peace while *en voyage* from beautiful Richmond to bustling Manhattan.

NEW YORK, Sept. 18. A SUFFERER.

Invective in Prayer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Tomo Sargentich in to-day's SUN objects to the use by Moslem students and devotees of the prayer against the enemies of Islam wherein infidels and polytheists are declared to be the lawful booty of the faithful. I would like to point out that on the thirteenth day of every month, the Sixty-eighth Psalm is read in all Protestant Episcopal churches by both Minister and people, in which the following three Christian verses occur:

"21. God shall wound the head of his enemies and the hairy scalp of such a one as goeth on in his wickedness.

"22. The Lord hath said, I will bring my people again as I did from Basan; mine own will I bring as I did from the depths of the sea.

"23. That thy foot may be dipped in the blood of thine enemies and that the tongue of thy dogs may be red through the same."

Surely the tone of this is no better than that of the Moslem prayer referred to. The fact is that in both religions this style of invective has become a matter of form, a relic of a past age, to the literal meaning of which only fanatics adhere.

I should add that Mr. Mohammad Barakatullah is not a Turk. He does not know a word of Turkish, but is a Moslem Hindoo whose native tongue is Urdu or Hindustani. FAIR PLAY.

NEW YORK, Sept. 16.

An International Romance.

A young English woman named St. John,
Met a red skinned American It. John,
Who made her his bride,
And gave her beside
A costume with gaudy bead Frt. John.

Her old sweetheart, a fellow named Beauchamp,
When he heard the news, said, "I'll teauchamp
A lesson or two;
I'll make them feel blue
As soon as I'm able to reauchamp."

He invited his side partner, Cholmondely,
To assist him, but he acted glolmondely;
Just sat still and heard,
But said not a word,
Expressing unwillingness dolmondely.

So Beauchamp, whose home was in Gloucester,
Returned there, convinced he had loucester,
Nor grieved at her fate
When he heard that in hate
Her spouse o'er a precipice toucester.

F. W. W.

WAIL FROM NORMAL COLLEGE.

An "Edna Rice" Who Doesn't Exist Protests at a Faculty Rule.

The Normal College on East Sixty-eighth street is in something of a hot and tearful state just at present over a rule passed by the faculty last year, the effects of which are just beginning to be felt.

Studies at the Normal College are classified by the faculty into seven groups. The new rule says that any student who failed in two groups out of the seven would have to take the year's work over again. Whoever failed in one, could try another examination in that subject in the fall. A second failure sends the student back again.

The 2,800 students of the college didn't pay much attention to the new rule when it was first made. Since the July examinations, however, about 300 have found that they've got to spend this year going over old work.

Yesterday THE SUN received a communication inscribed in the bold angularity of feminine youth. It was signed "Edna Rice, 118 East Forty-sixth street," and pleaded that a reporter be sent to the college, immediately, "so that the public may resent by just clamor this unjust action."

The reporter found the door of the Normal College guarded by a policeman who said: "President Hunter has given orders that he won't see any one and Superintendent Leal's gone home." One of the teachers said:

"It's the silliest thing I ever heard. I know that when a lot of the girls found they'd have to take last year's courses over again, they made some fuss and their parents made a little protest. But they all thought the new rule fair enough until they found they were going to be caught by it themselves. As for Edna Rice, there's not such a girl in college. But I'd almost rather one of my girls should fail in all seven courses than write to a paper under an assumed name."

The building at the address "Edna Rice" gave has been torn down for two weeks.

GEN. GRANT ON THE CANTEEN.

He Regards Its Abolition as a Vital Misfortune to the Military Service.

WASHINGTON, Sept 18.—Brig.-Gen. Frederick D. Grant, commanding the Department of Texas, says in his annual report to the Secretary of War, in discussing courts-martial, that in a large number of cases the apparent motive for desertion was liquor. He points out the degrading influences of drinking saloons near army posts, and leads up to a discussion of the canteen question, of which he has this to say:

"The abolition of the canteen feature of the post exchange, however radical and positive be the objections to the light beverages formerly served therein, I may say, although a total abstainer myself, is regarded by me as a vital misfortune to the military service. Whatever be the convictions and prejudices of reformers on the subject of temperance, the fact should be apparent that the best and surest method of fostering temperance is to fight against and oppose all tendency to excess."

MUSTER JACKET FOR JACK TARS.

Some Naval Officers Urging the Department to Adopt It in the Navy.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18.—The American man-of-warsmen doesn't look natty enough when he goes ashore, some naval officers think, and they are urging the Navy Department to increase his wardrobe. The increase suggested is to consist of what is known as a muster jacket. It is a sort of bobtail dresscoat, made of blue cloth and decorated with brass buttons.

Years ago, long before any living naval officer can remember, the men of the United States Navy had a muster jacket, which got its name from being always worn at Sunday morning inspection. Pictures of bluejackets of the War of 1812 show them wearing this garment. A sample of the proposed muster jacket has been made and was examined by officers of the Navy Department to-day. Foreign men-of-warsmen have such jackets, and it is contended that they present, on that account, a much nattier appearance than the coatless American sailors.

BRONZE TABLET UNVEILED

In Memory of the Officers and Men of the Ninth Infantry.

UTICA, Sept. 18.—Lerayede Chaumont Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution has unveiled a handsome bronze tablet at Sacketts Harbor in memory of the officers and men of the Ninth United States Infantry who lost their lives during the campaigns in Cuba, China and the Philippines, 1898-1902. It bears the names of the officers, headed by that of Col. Emerson H. Liscum, and the names of 286 men who fell with them in the service.

Wants Postage Stamps at Wholesale Rates.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It must occur to every civic mind that paying the same amount proportionally for a single two-cent stamp as for a hundred or a thousand is not fair economically and not fair to the purchaser. On almost every article sold in a wholesale way nowadays there is a reduction or rebate. But upon two-cent stamps and other postage our Government has not been seized with any abnormal symptoms of relenting, and the citizens of this twentieth century land are permitted to purchase as many postal cards and postage stamps as they want at the regular market value.

It seems only proper that some sort of change should be made, that "books of postage" should be issued containing fifty two-cent stamps, and be sold for, say, 96 cents. And in like ratio books of 100, 200 and higher amounts should be issued for $1.92, $3.84 and so on. This same reduction should apply to postal cards, and, in fact, to all kinds of postal prices.

In these days of prosperity, liberty and liberality a merchant citizen of this great republic ought not to pay the same rates as some sentimental woman, who buys perhaps a few hundred stamps. To all advertising merchants who expend yearly $1,000 or more in postage a rebate of not less than $10 or more should be allowed.

BOSTON, Mass., Sept. 17. CHARLES N. HOLMES.

Town Meeting Cake.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A learned friend of mine who is especially well versed in New England culinary lore informs me that when he was a boy in Abington, Mass., no respectable citizen ever failed to attend Town Meeting or to carry home with him from that great gathering of the people a liberal supply of Town Meeting cake. I am a Southerner, and until he told me of it I never heard of Town Meeting cake.

My learned New England friend describes it as a kind of bun—a definition which is entirely too vague. Ex-Senator William Eaton Chandler of New Hampshire says he distinctly remembers the Town Meeting cake as one of the most delicious morsels imaginable, and agrees with my learned friend from Abington that every respectable citizen was expected to carry back home at a considerable outlay of cash a liberal supply of Town Meeting cake as evidence that he had participated in the Town Meeting; but Mr. Chandler asseverates that the Town Meeting cake of his boyhood was a kind of doughnut.

What are the constituent elements of the New England Town Meeting cake, how is it cooked, what relation is it to the doughnut, the cruller, the bun, &c., and how much of it can the uninitiated eat with safety? J. J. DICKINSON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Sept. 18.

The Next Speaker's Spanish Policy.

From a speech at the Hamilton Club in Chicago by the Hon. Joseph G. Cannon.

Young man, build castles in Spain. You'll never live in their fairy walls, but you'll try to live in them. You'll build a cottage and make it a home you'll perhaps build a mansion and call it a residence, but you'll never live in your castles in Spain. Build them when young and build them ever afterward; for in trying to live in them you are bringing good to yourself and the world. I have been building them all my life, and build them regularly, even now. I have never lived in them, but in striving to do so we do something of use to the home and the family. In the aggregate this castle building in Spain makes civilization.

A Senatorial Title.

From the Rochester Union and Advertiser.

In Washington Senator Allee is mentioned as "Allee Samee Addicks."