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WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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When Was Mr. McClellan Naturalized?

Our esteemed contemporary the *Washington Post* announces that it has learned "with some little amusement" that Mr. CHARLES F. MURPHY, the Tammany leader, proposes "to bring Mayor-elect McCLELLAN into the Presidential arena next year." The amusement of our contemporary is not caused by anything in the main proposition that strikes its sense of the ridiculous. It regards Mr. McCLELLAN as "a fine young man, able and popular," and adds that he would make "a most acceptable President."

What tickles the *Washington Post's* risibles is the alleged circumstance that Mr. McCLELLAN, having been born in Dresden, Saxony, on November 23, 1865, is not eligible under the Constitution. Our learned and acute contemporary proceeds humorously, thus:

"It may be that a little thing like the Constitution will not be considered by Mr. MURPHY, but we take it that the few remaining millions of American citizens will view the situation in a serious light."

Suppressing its mirth as well as it can, the *Washington Post* is good enough to expound the fundamental law that excludes young Mr. McCLELLAN from the high office for which his father was a candidate in 1864:

"The Constitution provides, among other things, that the President of the United States must be a native born citizen. While it is true that Mr. McCLELLAN's birth in Saxony was a circumstance over which he had no control and which might have been avoided if his parents had foreseen the contingency which now arises, the fact remains that he is not a native born citizen. He was born abroad. * * * He cannot hope to achieve that high honor unless he manages to be born again."

The amusement of the *Post* will be shared by many others who read its learned exposition of the law governing eligibility to the office of President. Supposing that Mr. MURPHY really entertains the purpose attributed to him by the Washington newspaper, he will begin to ask himself whether Mr. McCLELLAN is even eligible for Mayor, if the accident of his birth in Dresden deprives him of the rights of natural citizenship; for a citizen must either be a natural one or a naturalized one. If Mr. McCLELLAN was not born a citizen, when did he take out his naturalization papers?

We think, however, that the anxiety of the Hon. CHARLES F. MURPHY over this question will abate somewhat when he consults his copy of the United States Constitution and discovers that the learned expounder in Washington has misquoted that instrument. In the clause prescribing the qualifications for the Presidency there is nothing about being "native born." This is the exact language:

"No person except a natural born citizen, or a citizen of the United States at the time of the adoption of this Constitution, shall be eligible to the office of President."

The question, therefore, is not whether Mr. McCLELLAN was born in Saxony or in New York or New Jersey, but whether he was born a citizen or became one by naturalization. Natural born citizens of the required age are eligible to the office of President. Fortunately, the statutory law has left no doubt as to what, in the intention of the framers of the Constitution, constituted a natural born citizen. There has never been any doubt since the first naturalization law, enacted in 1790, declared that "the children of citizens of the United States that may be born beyond sea, or out of the jurisdiction of the United States, shall be held as natural born citizens; provided that the right of citizenship shall not descend to persons whose fathers have never been resident in the United States." The present statutory law, dating from 1855, drops the word "natural" as unnecessary, but provides for Mr. McCLELLAN's eligibility not the less unmistakably on that account:

"SECTION 1993.—All children heretofore born or hereafter born out of the limits and jurisdiction of the United States, whose fathers were or may be at the time of their birth citizens of the United States, are declared to be citizens of the United States; but the rights of citizenship shall not descend to children whose fathers never resided in the United States."

If Mr. MURPHY should succeed in nominating Mr. GEORGE B. McCLELLAN for President, and in electing him to that office, there would be no Constitutional obstacle to his inauguration. Mr. McCLELLAN is a natural born citizen. His birth naturalized him.

The Oregon Country.

The State of Oregon and the city of Portland are arranging an international exposition, to be held in the summer of 1905, in celebration of the one-hundredth anniversary of the exploring expedition of Capt. MERIWETHER LEWIS and Capt. WILLIAM CLARK from the Mississippi to the Pacific in 1804-05-06. The State has appropriated $500,000 for the expenses of the fair. Portland has contributed $400,000 and is raising another $100,000, and the United States Government has been asked to contribute $2,125,000.

It is proposed to add to the funds for the fair by minting "Jefferson medals," in facsimile of the medals bearing a portrait of THOMAS JEFFERSON, which were distributed among the Indians by LEWIS and CLARK, and also facsimiles of the "Beaver money of Oregon Territory," and placing them on sale for the benefit of the exposition.

The Treasury Department has compiled a table showing the receipts of the general Government from customs and internal revenue sources from 1851 to the end of the fiscal year 1902-03. It is shown that the total customs receipts from the ports and districts embraced within the Territory for fifty-two years were $20,357,504. Of this sum $11,316,286 was collected at Portland, and $13,715,043.12 in Oregon. Washington contributed $6,015,362, and the remainder was collected in Idaho and Montana.

The internal revenue receipts in the same period amounted to $14,255,809. Of this $11,806,162 came from the Oregon district, and the remainder from the Washington and Idaho districts. A part of the receipts from the Washington Territory are included in those for the Oregon district.

The sale of public lands in the Territory has brought $20,255,744 into the strong box. Of this $9,403,815 came from Washington, and $7,916,174 from Oregon. The total income of the Government from all these sources has been $54,869,057.

Since 1867 the Government has expended $13,181,731 on the improvement of the rivers and harbors of the "Oregon country." In 1870 the expenditures amounted to $286.27; in 1895 they reached the total of $1,129,877. Last year they reached an aggregate of $891,242, or more than has been spent in any year except 1895 since 1867.

These figures give but a slight idea of the contributions to the nation's wealth from the Oregon country. They serve to recall vividly, however, the vast wealth of the empire which LEWIS and CLARK were the first to explore.

The Secretary of War on the Witness Stand.

Secretary ROOT is inaccurately reported by the *World* and other newspapers which represent him as stating to the Senate Committee on Military Affairs that "all the specific charges ever formulated against WOOD have been carefully investigated by the War Department and found without justification."

The reason why we are sure that Secretary ROOT has not made the foregoing statement is this:

When the conflict of testimony arose between Major RUNCIE and Gen. WOOD as to responsibility for the article attacking Gen. BROOKE, and when Gen. BROOKE had demanded an inquiry, and when RUNCIE practically challenged the fullest investigation of that incident, Secretary ROOT himself wrote to Gen. WOOD as follows:

"I don't like the last paragraph of RUNCIE's letter to you. I will not, however, waste any time in discussing the matter further. *It is clear that public considerations of the highest importance arising out of the necessities of the future of Cuba, and overshadowing all personal questions, require that this incident should be closed without further public discussion or explanation.*"

That is why we do not believe that Secretary ROOT's testimony before the Senate Committee is accurately reported in this instance.

The Little Pin With the Flag on It.

Up to June 30, 1903, 15,119 rural free delivery routes had been established. The work goes on apace. People cry for them. The rural carriers are crying for more pay. The Hon. JOHN W. MADDOX, a Georgia Representative in Congress, cries that political favoritism is shown in the granting or shelving of petitions for new routes. As Mr. MADDOX was born in 1848, his apparent surprise that politics should insert itself into this virtuous dependency of the Post Office Department can hardly be genuine. His speech of last Tuesday on the subject and the sparks of interrogatory, dissent and explanation thrown off by other members give the materials for a curious little study of the comparative political efficiency of Congressmen at the pie counter.

Four States, Iowa, Indiana, Ohio, Illinois, have 5,039 of the 15,119 routes. Add Michigan, Wisconsin, Kansas, and seven States—singularly enough, seven Republican States—have one-half of all this bucolic pie. The twelve Southern States have fewer routes than Iowa and Indiana together. According to Mr. MADDOX, of 7,270 petitions for routes from the Southern States, 1,239 were rejected; of 4,068 from Iowa and Indiana, 322 were rejected. "Is not that remarkable?" asks the Georgian. Not a bit remarkable. The Southern roads are notoriously bad. It is a kindness to the misguided Southerners who want jobs as carriers to reject many Southern petitions. But the Hoosier pikes, the old Roman roads of Iowa, invite travel. Density of population has not been considered. Ease of intercommunication must have been the criterion.

Misled by his theory, Mr. MADDOX applied statistics to what are called "county routes"—that is, places where the mail service is extended over the whole county:

"Take these States, Iowa and Indiana. They have eighteen of these county routes, while the twelve States I have named have only fourteen; and of these fourteen seven are located in one district, and that happens to be a Republican district. [Laughter on the Democratic side.] Eight of those routes are located in the State of Tennessee, and of these, seven are in one district—in the district represented by my distinguished friend from Tennessee [Mr. BROWNLOW]. I have no war to make on my friend Mr. BROWNLOW, because I believe that but for him and his assistance I possibly would not have obtained half the routes that I have now, for I have called upon him to go around and help me in this matter. Yet the country is supposed to be run by the Congress of the United States, not by men who crawl and grovel in the dust before some official of the Department."

A Congressman doesn't have to crawl and grovel, but he has to hustle and hump himself, as Mr. BROWNLOW does, for instance. As Mr. MADDOX himself does. He admitted that he had got ninety-one routes in his district. The Hon. JAMES A. HEMENWAY of Boonville, Ind., reminded him that "if the other members of Congress had been as successful as the gentleman from Georgia there would be more than 34,944 of these routes," or more than twice the actual number. So Mr. MADDOX had done twice as well as he had any reason to expect.

Mr. MADDOX said that, "take out the cities and you will find about seventy-five of the liveliest members of the House" in these seven States so affluent in routes. Naturally the Indiana men are among the liveliest. Of Indiana's 1,882 petitions, 1,113 were granted. The theory of Mr. HEMENWAY is that the people of Iowa and Indiana and certain other States "were educated up to rural delivery." He should have said that the Representatives were "educated up to it." Even some Democrats. The Hon. JAMES M. ROBINSON, Democrat, of Indiana, asked Mr. HEMENWAY, as chairman of the Committee on Appropriations, to disavow that the rural free delivery service "has been used in Indiana for partisan purposes." "How many routes has the gentleman in his district?" asked Mr. HEMENWAY. Mr. ROBINSON confessed to nearly a hundred:

Mr. HEMENWAY—And the gentleman is a Democrat.

Mr. ROBINSON—And for that reason I ask the gentleman to disavow that in Indiana at this time it is used for partisan purposes.

Mr. HEMENWAY—It is not necessary to disavow it. Here are two Democrats, neither members of the Committee on the Post Office and Post Roads, and neither having their seats upon this side of the House, with more than twice the number of routes that they are entitled to be given. The member always gets the credit of securing these routes, and it is well understood in Indiana that JIM ROBINSON can get more free delivery routes than anybody else in Indiana. [Laughter.]

Not every member can be a JIM ROBINSON, but he must be as lively as he can. Lively Mr. MADDOX gave a birdseye view of the rural delivery landscape:

"Go up and look at that map in the office of the Superintendent of Rural Delivery. * * * They have a little pin with a flag on it, and they will take that with the agent's name and set it out in the different States all over the country. Out there in the middle West it looks like a dense forest, even down in Panama. Then look over this vast territory, which many gentlemen on this side represent, and you will see what looks like an occasional cottonwood on a bald prairie."

Mr. MADDOX forgets that rural free delivery is educational in its purpose. The people "down his way" are not "educated up" to it. The number of cottonwoods may increase to some extent in proportion to the liveliness of the Southern members, but there will always be a necessary relation between the number of little pins on the map in the office of the Superintendent of Rural Delivery and the number of Republican and Democratic votes.

One of the Additions to Our Race Stock.

The population of this city, made up of representatives of more than fifty nationalities, was enumerated by the census of 1900 at 3,437,202. At the first of January, 1902, it was estimated by the Board of Health as 3,583,000. At present, estimating its growth since 1900 at the annual rate of increase in the period from 1890 to 1900, it approximates 3,900,000.

New York is unique among all the great cities of the world in the mixture of races and nationalities in its population. In 1900 its white population of foreign birth and parentage constituted about five-sixths of the population; and as the great majority of our growth since then has been by immigration and by native births among the foreign, the percentage is still higher now. Of the foreign races in the population, the most numerous at the present time, in their order, are the German, the Irish, the Jewish and the Italian, and together these make up at least nine-tenths of the whole number. Of the natives of native parentage, in 1900, nearly six-sevenths, or 600,019 out of 737,477, were born in the State of New York.

The foreign of other races than the four we have named, though their percentage is so small, are many numerically—two hundred thousand and more. Among these a notable colony is the Syrian, of which the Federation of Churches has just made a careful and thorough study, and if the conclusions of the report are justified Syrians will become eventually a very considerable element in the American population.

Already, it estimates, there are tens of thousands of them in this country, scattered through every State and Territory. Between July, 1901, and June, 1903, alone the number of Syrian immigrants who arrived in New York was about nine thousand, of whom more than a third remained here. It is significant that nearly nine hundred of them went to Southern States, and more than a third of these to Louisiana and Texas.

Syrians first made their appearance in this country at the Centennial Exhibition at Philadelphia in 1876. They brought with them articles made of olive wood, for which the demand proved so great that its fame started a considerable immigration hither. The coming world's fair at St. Louis will draw still more of them.

Peddling is the occupation of about a third of them, and factory work of another third; but because of lessened curiosity concerning their Oriental goods they are giving up peddling. In factories they are getting along much better. The report attributes to them "remarkable capacity for the administration as well as for the work of factories." The Syrian is now putting to use his inherited quickness and cleverness of hand in tobacco and other factories requiring that dexterity, and sometimes he goes into the manufacturing business for himself. He also inherits trading instincts from the ancient Syrians, and as he is industrious, persistent, thrifty and sober he is getting ahead at it in this country, and more particularly in this city. His mercantile credit is good, too, for almost uniformly he is prompt in meeting his obligations.

The Syrians show a strong disposition to acquire American citizenship. "The Syrian is usually sentimentally enthusiastic over the country and the President, boasts of his citizenship, papers his walls with lithographs of great Americans, and is most proud of his American-born son." He is "individualistic; socialism, anarchism, unionism have no charms for him." But he has the prevalent Oriental disposition to deceive. He is law-abiding. "The universal testimony of the police authorities is that there is no more peaceful or law-abiding race in New York." Like other immigrants of an alien speech he is eager to send his children to school to learn English.

In religion the Syrians are chiefly Maronites and Greek Catholics, though there are about one hundred Jews from Syria. The report finds that "the average New York Syrian is much more religious than the average New York American"; but the tendency of the children with whom English is supplanting Arabic will be to attend American churches, the Maronites the Roman Catholic, the Greek Orthodox the Episcopalian and the various Protestant Churches.

Syrian immigrants are almost wholly Christians; and as the Christian population of Syria is about one million, the source of supply is large enough to make them a very considerable race element in America if they continue to come here, as now, at the rate of about five thousand a year. The description of their characteristics, as here given, indicates that they will not be an undesirable addition to our population.

The Syrian community in Manhattan is almost wholly in the district between Cedar street and Battery place and West and Greenwich streets.

The Porto Ricans and Citizenship.

The position of those residents of Porto Rico who have desired to be admitted to American citizenship since their island became a part of the territory of the United States has attracted the attention of the Senate, and there is a prospect that something may be done for their relief. Our naturalization laws require that applicants for citizenship must renounce their allegiance to a foreign sovereignty, and the Porto Ricans have not been able to do this since their island passed from the jurisdiction of Spain. Manifestly, they are not subjects of the King of Spain. Nor are they subjects or citizens of any other Power, unless it be the United States. But they could not renounce their allegiance to this nation, for that is the very thing they aspire to attain.

The courts have puzzled over several cases of Porto Ricans ambitious to become American citizens, with uneven results. It is comparatively simple for a Hollander or a Swede to be admitted to United States citizenship, but the Porto Ricans have been barred out because the law never contemplated applications from individuals in their situation. Now Senator FORAKER, chairman of the Senate Committee on Porto Rico, has devised a plan under which the course will be clear for them.

In a bill which he has introduced it is provided that the Porto Rican shall not be required to renounce allegiance to a foreign sovereignty, but shall make his declaration of intention to become a citizen a year before his admission; and residence within the jurisdiction of the United States shall be regarded as residence within the United States for the purposes of the five years residence clause of the existing law.

Thus the Porto Ricans are put upon a better plane than are other applicants for naturalization. It will be interesting to see how extensively the changed standing of the islanders affects the numbers who apply for admission to citizenship.

Some of the activities of the Department of Health are not known to the public. Its report for the second quarter of this year discloses the fact that the division of chemistry analyzed a sample of ashes, a towel, a brandy drop, three samples of grass, two of ice, some of ice cream, some mud, two wines, a toy and forty samples of bay rum in the three months. In all, 2,253 analyses were made and 2,354 reports forwarded by the division. In the same period 9,585 white men, 9,589 white women, 809 colored men and 305 colored women were married, the total number of marriages being 9,894, of which it appears that four were of colored men to white women. Three of the mixed marriages were in the borough of Manhattan and one was in Brooklyn.

What authority has the venerable and eloquent Senator HOAR for his astonishing statement about the female elephant?

If Prof. SHALER carries out his threat and puts an end to his elementary course in geology on account of disorder in the classroom, the Harvard undergraduates will find that they have killed the goose that laid the sheepskin egg. In former days good old Dr. PEABODY'S "Ethics" course was the salvation of tottering degrees, and Prof. CHARLES ELIOT NORTON'S "Fine Arts" had utilitarian as well as æsthetic attractions. For a generation Prof. SHALER'S "Natural History 4," as it used to be called, has been crowded by ingenuous youth in search of a "snap" as well as of scientific knowledge.

The criminal recklessness of one irreverent class endangers the degrees of its successors at Harvard as well as its own, and shakes the existing structure of the Harvard scholarship.

Where the $35,000,000 Went.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The report of the United States Treasurer for the fiscal year shows that the Government expended about $35,000,000 more than in the previous fiscal year. The report does not detail the increased expenditures, but Assistant Secretary of the Treasury Keep has figured it out as follows:

Rivers and harbors	$4,800,000
Philippines relief	3,000,000
State war claims	6,000,000
Public buildings	2,500,000
Internal revenue refunds	1,500,000
Suppression bubonic plague	1,000,000
Increase naval fleet	8,000,000
Other naval purposes	6,500,000
Indian trust fund	2,000,000

The *Protectionist* for December is authority for the statement that these figures have not before been made known to the public.

WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, Dec. 17.

The Art of Cross-Examination.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your recent review of a book with the above heading by a local lawyer suggests an experience in which a local lawyer figured some time ago, showing that it is not only the expert who is badgered or embarrassed, as he would have us believe.

In a case against the Metropolitan Street Railway, a rather positive and eccentric Irish woman was asked in cross-examination to give her impression of the length of two minutes, which she said had elapsed before she was extricated from the car. The ingenious arts of the railroad's lawyer had been used to discredit and confuse the old woman with the sole result of making her more positive and obstinate.

"Well," said he, finally, "let us see, my dear lady, how you know the length of two minutes. Perhaps you will keep silent for that exact time while we keep record."

With this he struck an attitude with watch in hand, smiling blandly at the jury.

This she did to the second with the help of a clock at the far end of the court room, of the existence of which her tormentor was blissfully ignorant.

It is needless to refer to his further cross-examination, continued for the purpose of determining the activity of her sense of time.

A.

NEW YORK, Dec. 16.

The Demand for Ten Thousand Dollar Bills.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* To the astonished young woman who wants to know if there are any ten thousand dollar bills in circulation, and if there is any man in this world who gives even one, I would say I doubt it, but there are printed ten thousand dollar bills, and they can be had at the United States Treasury in Washington.

The late William H. Vanderbilt gave presents of $10,000—not many, but several—but they were his personal checks. Neither do any of our multimillionaires use them; their personal checks suffice.

An ill defined rumor says that Dr. Parkhurst has offered to give out one of them to any man who will conscientiously follow him in politics for an unbroken year—but the report is not credited in well informed reform circles.

B.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

PRACTICAL ARMOR TESTS.

The Firing Against the Turret of the French Battleship Suffren.

The results of the experimental firing on the forward turret of the French battleship Suffren, which took place at Brest recently, and was described in THE SUN at the time, have just been made public, and are apparently very satisfactory to the French naval constructors. They are certainly of great interest to all naval powers.

This test was made at the instigation of the Minister of Marine, M. Pelletan, to decide some very important questions of naval construction. It appears that an artillery officer of high rank had expressed a grave doubt as to whether the system of turret construction adopted would answer its purpose in war and meet all requirements; while, on the other hand, the naval constructors claimed that the material was excellent and the system had come up to every test.

To avoid all discussion, M. Pelletan decided to make a practical test which would definitely settle the question. It may also be noted in passing that the Minister had expressed himself as opposed to battleships and in favor of fast cruisers; consequently, it is possible he may have expected some results confirming his views in this respect.

The firing test was to determine primarily whether the turret was still capable of being turned after receiving a square hit by a projectile of large calibre and moving with high velocity, or whether it would become jammed and no longer be capable of being traversed. Secondarily, the test was also expected to determine the effect of the shock of a heavy projectile striking normally to the surface of the turret, not only on the two guns and their ammunition installed in it, but also on the electrical, telephonic and hydraulic means of sending orders, on the system of communication in general, on the hull of the ship and the structural connections, and finally on the crew itself.

The forward turret of the Suffren, which was selected for this test, contains two 12-inch breech-loading rifles and its armor has a thickness of 10¼ inches. In order to prevent this armor from being injured, the turret was covered on the starboard side with an unhardened steel plate, about 8 feet 2 inches high, 3 feet 1 inch wide and 21.6 inches thick, weighing 30 tons. Over this a piece of canvas was stretched, to serve as a target. Arrangements were also made to prevent fragments and splinters from flying about and injuring the vessel.

One of the 12-inch guns in the turret was loaded with a service charge, but the projectile received only its fuse—not its bursting charge. Another shell was placed on the loading tray, to see if the shock of impact on the turret would knock it off, and a number of others were placed in the ammunition hoist, in order to determine whether it would be possible to break the cable or other parts of the hoist, thus dropping the projectiles into the magazine below: there were six projectiles in all in the turret.

Two cylindrical shells were specially constructed and given the weight of the service projectile, about 750 pounds, corresponding to the heaviest projectile used by the French navy. The powder charge was sixty-six pounds of smokeless powder.

For the trial the Suffren and the Masséna (which latter was to do the firing) were moored in the Bay of Roscanvel, at Brest, at a distance of about 328 feet apart. The Suffren was backed, at a distance of about 490 feet, by Longue Island, which was to serve as a butt to catch the projectiles. Torpedo boats kept the surrounding area clear of boats or spectators for a distance of 500 yards.

Preparatory to the firing all the forward ports of the Suffren were closed; steam was kept up to run the 1,200-ampère dynamo, which worked the electrical turbines for clearing the ship of water, in case of necessity; and a steam launch was held in readiness for all emergencies. The Captain was in the conning tower and the other officers, as well as all the men, were below the armored deck. In the forward turret six sheep were placed. The Minister of Marine himself stood in the stern of the Suffren.

On the Masséna all officers and men were ordered below the armored deck. The 12-inch gun, which was to do the firing, received a charge such as to give the projectile the proper striking velocity for a fighting range of about 1,070 yards.

Two preliminary shots were fired for ranging, both of which struck the rocks on Longue Island and covered both vessels with dust and stones.

The first actual trial shot struck the plate a little to the right of and above the centre of the plate, with 1,640 foot-seconds velocity, producing a nearly vertical crack about 0.3 inches wide. The head of the projectile peeled off. The turret could still be turned.

The second trial shot, with 1,966 foot-seconds velocity, struck just at the centre, widening the vertical crack to about 2 inches, the plate bending away from the turret. The shell was broken up, a large fragment injuring the port gangway of the Masséna, another breaking the starboard boom of the Suffren, and smaller ones causing cracks at several points in the armor.

Every precaution was taken to insure secrecy: the Suffren went at once to the dockyard at Brest, her turret covered with canvas, and the men were forbidden to go to the starboard side of the vessel. All the instruments used in measuring velocities, shock, &c., were placed under seal.

The Minister had announced, however, that the test was quite satisfactory, that no serious injury was sustained by the turret in spite of the severity of the shock, and that the sheep calmly went on feeding, without appearing to be disturbed in the least. The French Minister appears to have been convinced of the excellence of the material and system, as he has since let the contracts for the turrets for the new battleships.

The protective plate was removed from the forward turret in the Cherbourg dock, and it was found that the forward turret still turned as easily as the after one, and the hoists worked as before.

The second shot bent the turret armor slightly, but not enough to interfere with its turning. The wires for night firing, however, were broken. The electric motor for working the turret stood the test perfectly, without any increase of resistance to the current for revolving the turret, or for laying and loading the guns.

This test is of great value to all navies, and the results have been awaited with great interest by the naval experts, as well as naval officers in general, and they add new arguments to the advisability of having plenty of battleships in our navy.

The Tale of the Tip.

With pocketbook quite void,
And weary of shelling out,
He was visibly annoyed
At the monetary drought;
Tip! Tip! Tip!
From the least to the highest grade,
For there wasn't a man who didn't ask,
So he paid, and paid, and paid.

Tip! Tip! Tip!
Of modesty not a trace;
Tip! Tip! Tip!
With a seasonable grace.
It's oh! to be a boss,
With a score of clerks or so,
But supposing your business shows a loss,
You've not the heart to say no.

Tip! Tip! Tip!
Till the brain begins to swim,
Tip! Tip! Tip!
Till all traces of profit grow dim.
Cents and dollars and checks,
Checks and dollars and cents,
Till he closes the snap of his purse with a vim
In absolute self-defence.

O what a joyous time,
From which they never forbear;
It's a paying game for others, maybe,
And it comes round every year.
From cook to housemaid, valet, boy,
They all want their Christmas tip,
As they show with unvarying rectitude
Accounts of their stewardship.

With pocketbook quite void,
And weary of shelling out,
He was visibly annoyed
At the monetary drought;
Tip! Tip! Tip!
From the least to the highest grade,
For there wasn't a man who didn't ask;
So he put on a hypocritical mask,
And paid, and paid, and paid!

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

THE OBSERVANT VOTER.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a Republican. I expect to vote the Republican ticket. If Mr. Roosevelt, however, comes out for labor unionism much more I shall be under the painful necessity of changing my vote for a man of the Cleveland stripe—if such a man be put up by the other side—who will stand for law and order as against strikers and their riotous methods. I object to this coddling of labor leaders by men of any party. The labor vote is not all there is to consider in this country.

MALCOLM K. DEPUYSTER.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Three cheers for Linn Bruce! He has the courage of his convictions. He says the up State Republicans ought to give the city men a show. It is the first voice out loud from Macedonia. New York city needs help, not hindrance. Every concentration of power of departments during the past three years has been opposed by New Yorkers. The Republican party in New York city has been killed by Odellism, not by leaders. This is evidenced by the difference between the vote for the frosty Low and the wily Odell.

Governor Odell may claim Platt is still leader until he is blue, but the public knows well that Platt would never have placed Murray in the shoes of Linn Bruce.

Let the organization, if there be one now, pass a bill on the saloon question, leaving it in the great cities to the voters of each Assembly district as to Sunday opening or closing or as to hours; and while a few reformers who believe that the minority rules, or should rule, will kick, the Republican vote in New York city will increase with a bound, whether the leaders hold jobs or live in their districts or not. Give New York city equal privileges with the country on local option. Justice is not license, and the people can be trusted to have what they want in New York city as well as in the State.

A few more gentlemen should make Mr. Odell understand the situation. It takes courage to educate ignorance. The task was commenced last night by Linn Bruce. Let the good work go on and even Ben Odell may see the light.

THIRTY-FIFTH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT.

NEW YORK, Dec. 17.

ST. LOUIS AND THE FAIR.

Criticisms of an Acidulated Binghamton Man, Which We Don't Indorse.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It impresses me that St. Louis needs, more than anything else, an importation of about 10,000 Yankees with a knack of doing things. The whole impression one gets here is of a city that has "bitten off more than it can chew"—is trying to do a lot of things and can't, or doesn't know how.

Entrance from the East is effected by means of a bridge, after a wait of two hours on the Illinois side of the Mississippi River and another hour in the yards after reaching the Missouri side. This, the travelling man told me, is a regular thing, and has been so for months. Yet the city is expecting great crowds next summer at the exposition. They have been trying for more than a year to get better terminals, but so far they have not even got a law passed to enable the railroads to make the improvements.

The world's fair is of a piece with the rest. After spending $10,000,000, getting $5,000,000 from the United States Government, they are whining around for $4,000,000 more. For the $10,000,000 they have built structures that an efficient contractor would duplicate for $6,000,000, and make money. Any one who saw Chicago will not care to waste time on it, for it is very similar.

In spite of assurances to the contrary, there is no evidence that the city will have accommodation for 50,000 guests next summer, to say nothing of such crowds as they claim are coming, from 100,000 to 200,000, or more. There are not 200 vacant houses or flats in the whole city now, and very few are being built. The new hotels are insignificant in number. No one would apply the term insignificant, however, to price.

The people themselves are singularly apathetic in regard to the fair. It has been made an excuse for raising their rents and their entire schedule of living expenses, and they look forward to next summer with dismay.

There is no prospect whatever that the city will have transportation facilities at all adequate to a world's fair crowd, or, indeed, sufficient to care for traffic except with the most exasperating delays. There are no adequate steam lines, and no new street car lines, beyond two or three branches of lines already existing. I see no reason but incompetence.

It is the same way with the job St. Louis took up with such a flourish twenty-three months ago of punishing the boodlers. Do you know the result? Well, there have been nineteen convictions, but not one solitary boodler has seen the inside of the penitentiary, and the Supreme Court of the State the other day turned the boss, Ed Butler, loose entirely, on technicalities that must make a Missourian ashamed of his State. Every case that has been passed on by the Supreme Court has been reversed, and last night it reversed two of its own former decisions, with the effect of turning loose several hundred criminals already in the penitentiary.

The chief trouble seems to be that St. Louis is trying to be a city of the first class, and to rank with New York, Boston, Chicago and Philadelphia. It is not a sure leader of the cities in the second class, for Pittsburg and Baltimore crowd it close in real industrial and commercial importance. It has "bitten off more than it can chew."

The only thing, it seems to me, that they do with success here, besides making and drinking beer, is to sell shoes. They certainly do that on a great scale. But as a city it never in the world will be within seeing distance of any of the four leaders among American cities. It is too slow, to stupid, too inert, and too well satisfied with itself. The world's fair will jar some of the conceit out of it, but the jarring will react uncomfortably on the people who do it. If any of it can be jarred out in advance, it would be a fine thing for the city and the public.

F. L. JOHNSON,
Of Binghamton, N. Y., Thank Heaven!

ST. LOUIS, Dec. 15.

Senator Smoot's Case and Polygamy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Before the decision is reached at Washington with regard to the unseating of Senator Reed Smoot it seems to me it would be desirable to bring before the people the real attitude of the Mormon Church as to the practice of polygamy, even if, as I understand, the charge of polygamy is not to be the only nor the principal charge urged against the Senator from Utah.

In a pamphlet entitled "Mormonism, Its Origin and History," H. R. Roberts, a former Representative from Utah who was not permitted to take his seat, after writing of the "new marriage system" from the so-called revelations of Joseph Smith, through the period of its publicly proclaimed existence up to the time of its discontinuance through a revelation given to President Woodruff, has this to say:

The Saints submitted and there the matter rests. If the labors and sufferings of the Church of Christ for this principle have done nothing more, this much at least has been accomplished—the Saints have borne testimony to the truth. And it is for God to vindicate His own law and open the way for its establishment on earth, which doubtless He will do when His kingdom shall come in power, and when His will shall be done in earth as it is in Heaven.

The pamphlet from which the above quotation is taken was purchased in March, 1903, at the bureau of information conducted by the Mormon Church in Salt Lake City, by the writer.

Does it not show very plainly that should the Mormon Church, through its Senators and Representatives, ever obtain a controlling voice in the matter the practice would again be established; and is not political strength for that purpose what they are working and planning to acquire?

EAST ORANGE, Dec. 12. E. D. KING.

The Yale Student's Hewlettish Story.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your issue of Dec. 15 was an article headed "Plagiarism at Yale." As an editor of the *Yale Literary Magazine*, in which the story which Mr. Kennedy unconsciously took from Mr. Maurice Hewlett was published, and as one wholly acquainted with the facts in the case, I would like to lay greater emphasis than was laid in your paper on the entirely unconscious nature of Mr. Kennedy's act. So complete was his unconsciousness of copying that the occurrence does not deserve the name of plagiarism which you gave it, and which implies, in popular usage at least, some degree of conscious appropriation of others' work. I trust that you may, by printing this, somewhat balance your previous overstatement and consequent injustice.

ALEXANDER GORDON.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 16.

Fiction and Reviewers.

From the London Outlook.

The occupation of the reviewer—particularly of the reviewer of contemporary fiction—is one of the worst of the "dangerous trades." It is one of the worst, because white lead and phosphorus kill the body, but are not able to kill the soul, while the constant reading of modern fiction is able to destroy all simplicity and sanity and moral and intellectual health.

FOR STABLE EXCHANGE IN CHINA.

Secretary Hay Reports on the Work of the International Commission.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—The President to-day transmitted to the House a communication of Secretary Hay concerning the work of the Commission on International Exchange, which was constituted by Congress in compliance with a request from the governments of China and Mexico for the establishment of a fixed ratio between the moneys of the various gold standard and silver using countries of the world. Secretary Hay asks for an appropriation of $100,000 to enable the American commissioners to carry on the work in China and says:

"It remains to carry this policy to completion by representing the conclusions of the foreign commissioners to the Chinese Government, and for this purpose Prof. J. W. Jenks has gone to China with instructions from the President.

"Measures to put an end to the fluctuation of exchange in China appear to be desired equally by the people and Government of China and by the foreign merchants doing business there. The representatives of the Imperial Government, under instructions from Pekin, have supported the representatives of the United States and Mexico at the principal capitals of Europe, and assurances of approval of the objects of the commission have been communicated to our Minister at Pekin."

The Secretary then quotes from a joint petition recently received at the State Department, which was addressed to the American Minister and other members of the Diplomatic Corps at Pekin by the chairman of the Shanghai, Hong Kong and Tientsin General Chambers of Commerce, as to the necessity to the Powers carrying on trade with China, no less than to China herself, that this question of a uniform coinage, as a preliminary step to the establishment of a currency on a gold basis, be taken in hand at once.

Secretary Hay says that there is no doubt that the great benefits to the trade of the United States and other exporting and manufacturing nations would result from the adoption of a stable exchange in China; that the experience of Russia and Japan indicated that the introduction of the gold standard increased foreign trade and the investment of foreign capital, while the importations into China from the United States during the past year had greatly fallen off, partly as a result of the violent fluctuations in silver during this interval.

The Secretary in conclusion says: "The subject is one of material importance to the economic welfare of China and the United States, and the successful termination of the work of the American commission would tend to enhance materially the influence and prestige of this country in Oriental affairs."

EMPEROR'S RING DUTIABLE.

Jade Not a Precious Stone, but a "Mineral Compound" to the Custom House.

"It is jade, your Honor—jade looted from a Chinese palace by a Japanese officer during the China-Japanese war." This argument was used by counsel for Tiffany & Co., who appealed from a decision of the Board of Appraisers. A quantity of jade, imported by Tiffany & Co. some time ago as precious stones, upon which the duty is 10 per cent., was adjudged by the appraisers to be a mineral compound, demanding 45 per cent. ad valorem duty.

"This particular exhibit, your Honor," went on counsel, "is a ring that was worn by the Chinese Emperor while practising archery. Its purpose is to protect the finger against the 'kick' of the departing arrow."

But the looted jade was declared by Judge Platt to be a mineral, all the same.

To Mark Graves of Confederate Soldiers.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 17.—Senator Foraker's bill appropriating $100,000 for marking with white marble tombstones the graves of Confederate soldiers who died in Northern hospitals or prisons, was to-day favorably reported to the Senate from the Committee on Military Affairs. A similar bill passed the Senate last session but failed of action in the House.

Russia and Afghanistan.

Recent private letters from Afghanistan describe active military preparations looking to an emergency. Fortified posts have been established at intervals on the main roads leading from Kabul to the Indian and Russian frontiers for the protection of depots of supplies intended for troops on the march, and the Amir is said to be personally taking much interest in military matters. On the Russian side all the minor ferries on the Oxus have been closed, only the railway bridge at Charjui on the Trans-Caspian Railway and the ferry at Kherki being open for traffic. At all the other ferries and crossings guards have been placed to prevent travel.

At the same time, the Russian authorities were taking steps to stimulate their trade with Afghanistan. On all goods purchased by Afghan traders in Russian territory a rebate will be granted equal to the tax levied on the merchandise in Afghanistan by the Amir's officials. Further, the customs dues on goods imported from Afghanistan have been reduced 20 per cent. The effect of these changes has been a considerable increase in trade this year.

Another matter of interest reported is that pilgrims to Mecca from Russian territory are no longer permitted to travel through Afghanistan and India, but go by way of the Trans-Caspian Railway, Constantinople and the Suez Canal. A few who attempted to pass through Afghanistan by unfrequented routes were intercepted by the Afghan Governor at Tashkurgan and turned back, the Amir cooperating with the Russian authorities to prevent the use of the Indian route during the continuance of the plague.

Error of Five Cents Causes Loss of $17,000.

From the Railway and Engineering Review.

The greatness of little things finds frequent illustration in railroad operation. A case has just been discovered where, nine years ago, an error of five cents was made in the computation of a rate sheet between two given points. It was found upon investigation that, as a result of this error, the two railroads operating between the two points have lost upward of seventeen thousand dollars during that time. This shows why railroads are so strenuously opposed to what are considered inconsequential reductions in rates. The business in question was simply the passenger traffic between Dallas, Tex., and a small town located a few miles away. It is the multiplication of the little things that so seriously affects railway revenues. The loss of a fraction of a cent per hundred pounds on some commodities means thousands, if not millions, of dollars to the railroads, and makes the difference between profit and loss. It is only by the most zealous care that railroads are enabled to maintain their revenues on a paying basis, and it is for this reason that the value of little things is so well understood by railway officials generally.

Freedom for Woman in Masculine Garb.

From the Boston Advertiser.

Since Dr. Mary Walker introduced the idea of women wearing the masculine habit, she has won recognition in a startling way. The male garb is not donned by women for its comforts, but to conceal identity, bury a past, and divert to one side the undesired admiration and attentions of men.

In the present year alone there have been five recorded cases where women have risen to man's commercial and professional stature merely by the aid of his garments. At home the disguise would be doffed, and the prudent, modest housewife and decorous mother would blossom forth. The scorn of men and also their flattery is avoided by a mere change of garments. Women suffragists have long been looking for emancipation from the tyranny of man. Where else can freedom be found so easily as in the robes of masculine dignity?

Report of Supreme Court Proceedings.

From the Baltimore American.

The Supreme Court of the United States has at length decided that it is not incompatible with the dignity of the highest judicial body in the country to permit the public to be informed of its proceedings through press reports made in its presence. The action taken by the court on Monday, when an official announcement was made that reporters would not only be permitted to take notes of arguments, but would be provided with conveniences for so doing, must be regarded as a notable concession—an acknowledgment that the court has erred in its policy of suppression of news in which the people have a direct interest.