The Sun.

WILLIAM M. LAFFAN.

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What Does Parker Stand For?

It must frankly be conceded that ALTON B. PARKER, Chief Judge of the Court of Appeals of the State of New York, is to-day one of the most prominent candidates for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency.

It must also be admitted that he has proved himself to be an able Judge.

Beginning his judicial career as Surrogate of Ulster county, he has risen to be a Justice of the Supreme Court, a member of the General Term in this city, a Judge of the Second Division of the Court of Appeals during the entire existence of that temporary tribunal, and finally Chief Judge of the permanent Court of Appeals itself.

In all these positions he has evinced not wonderful but more than fair judicial capacity. He has been especially successful in his administrative work as Chief Judge.

It does not follow, however, that because a man is a good Judge he will make a good President of the United States. It is safe to say that there are at least a hundred Judges in the country who are as able as ALTON B. PARKER, but no one thinks of any of them as a candidate for President. What we should like to know is why any one thinks of PARKER. Not that we deny his fitness to be thus considered; we only want to know in what his special fitness consists.

Has he ever expressed himself on any of the great questions which interest the country?

Does anybody know what he thinks about the financial questions which were the main issues in the Bryan campaigns? Was he for free silver or the maintenance of the gold standard?

Is Judge PARKER an advocate of the readoption of the Kansas City platform with its denunciation of "government by injunction"?

Where does he stand on the question of expansion? Is he in favor of permanently holding our acquisitions or does he approve the retention of the Philippines only until their people shall be competent to adopt for themselves and maintain an independent form of republican government?

We think these are fair questions. We think they are questions which should be answered by an aspirant to the Presidency, even if he is on the bench; for upon his answers to them depend the wisdom and propriety of his selection to be the standard bearer of one of the great political parties of the Union.

And so we ask again, What does PARKER stand for? Up to the present moment of time, notwithstanding his prominence as a candidate, nobody seems to know.

Real Rapid Transit in Sight.

If the plan proposed to the Rapid Transit Commission by the Metropolitan were now a fact, even with the Belmont-McDonald subways still unfinished or never to be finished, this borough and The Bronx would be enjoying to-day the practical benefits of the most nearly perfect system of urban communication possessed by any city in the world.

The proposition seems incredible, or at least too good to be true. Had it been proposed ten or fifteen years ago to accomplish by compulsion what the Metropolitan now voluntarily proposes to do, it would have been rejected as impossible and destructive. It would have implied brutal confiscation.

In the interval the faculty of transportation has grown by what it fed on and its possibilities far transcend the wildest conception then entertained. Computed by the conditions of local transit as they existed at the time that electrical traction was introduced, the proposition before the Commission is equivalent to less than a two-cent fare as applied to the unit of city travel.

It is an astonishing manifestation of progress, but it must be admitted that while it is in the power of the Metropolitan to do it, it is not in the power of anybody else. It must also be borne in mind that were it proposed at any time heretofore to accomplish it by compulsion it could not only have been successfully resisted, but resistance to it would have had the overwhelming support of public opinion and the community's sense of fair play.

Death of the Isle of Pines Treaty.

The expiration, by time limit, of the treaty by which Cuba's sovereignty over the Isle of Pines was to be recognized opens the way for a determination of the question of the rightful ownership of that territory along the only proper and justifiable lines. At the root of the whole matter is this question: Did Spain cede the island to the United States by the Treaty of Paris, or was it left as it had been, part and parcel of the main island, politically and geographically? It does not appear that any effort has been made to decide this question. It has been assumed that the title to the island was in doubt, and that it could be settled by an agreement between Cuba and the United States.

Manifestly, if the island was ceded to the United States by that convention, there arises a doubt of our ability to alienate it by a treaty with Cuba. Territory actually belonging to the United States may not be transferred to another power by such a process. A question of the exact position of boundary lines is not involved. The island either is or is not, by cession from Spain, lawful territory of the United States. If it is, it may not be given to Cuba by treaty process. If it is not, a treaty which declares that we do hereby surrender and transfer something which does not belong to us savors of the farcical.

It is suggested that a new treaty may now be drawn by which there shall be imposed upon the presumably independent Republic of Cuba certain obligations regarding her administration of the territory in the event of our relinquishment of our undetermined claim upon it. It is proposed that in such case Cuba shall pass certain laws and establish certain conditions specifically in the interest of American citizens who assert that their investments in the island were made on a basis of assurance by American officials that the island was and would remain American territory. The United States once solemnly declared its intention to exercise neither "sovereignty, jurisdiction, nor control over the island of Cuba except for the pacification thereof." It surely cannot be contended that an attempt at the present time to dictate to Cuba in the matter of her purely administrative processes is necessary for her "pacification."

There is only one way by which this matter can be rightfully determined. That is the legal interpretation of the scope of Article II. of the Treaty of Paris. Was the Isle of Pines included by the term "the other islands now under Spanish sovereignty in the West Indies"? Did the Spanish Commissioners intend to cede, or understand that they were ceding, that island as well as Porto Rico, Mona, Vieques and Culebra? Did the American Commissioners intend that the Isle of Pines should be ceded, and did they understand that it was being ceded by the convention?

This is the only proper basis for the determination of the status of the Isle of Pines. Gen. WOOD's muddling of the matter is an incident. The fundamental question itself is capable of determination. The people of the United States are above taking any advantage of a weaker neighbor solely on the ground of a technicality.

Disqualifications.

The *Times-Dispatch* of Richmond reports the following utterances of an unnamed Democrat at Washington:

"The Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS of Mississippi is barred from the nomination by his place of birth, and Mr. WILLIAM R. HEARST is by damned nigh everything else."

There is a misstatement of fact here. The remark gives the impression that Mr. WILLIAMS is not a natural born citizen of the United States, and is therefore constitutionally ineligible for President.

That is not so. He was born in Memphis, Tenn., on July 30, 1854. The time has gone by when the mere circumstance of birth in a Southern or border State debars an American citizen from nomination for President.

Also, the word damned is superfluous.

Reappearance of the Wood Case.

The question of the confirmation of Dr. LEONARD WOOD as a Major-General of the United States Army is to come before the Senate, in executive session, next week.

The death of Senator HANNA removes from this interesting case the central force of the opposition. It is known that, prior to his illness, Mr. HANNA was engaged in the preparation of an analytical review of the testimony given before the Military Committee. The Senator's profound interest in the case is well known, and use is to be made of the matter which he had prepared. It is also known that it was Mr. HANNA's purpose to submit to the Senate, in his speech on the subject, certain facts of his own knowledge.

The Wood case is a matter in which a few men, Senator HANNA being the most prominent, believing that the public had been misled with regard to the fitness of an officer who had been named for high preferment, arrayed themselves against an established public opinion and against the power of the Administration. The facts and the evidence which they presented had, unquestionably, great influence on the mind of the public. Should Gen. WOOD gain the coveted promotion, there will always remain a question whether a full and thorough investigation of his record, in both civil and military capacity, would have resulted in exonerating him from charges against him and sworn statements made concerning him.

There will always remain a conviction in many minds that the examination before the committee was neither full nor fair. One witness, Mr. ALEXIS E. FRYE, a gentleman of recognized standing in the community, has prepared and circulated in Congress and in official circles and elsewhere a pamphlet of fifty pages, in which, by the quotation of documentary evidence, he clearly contradicts certain statements made by Secretary ROOT on the strength of misinformation which could have been given him only by Gen. WOOD.

A part of Mr. ROOT's testimony reflected most seriously not only upon the intellectual qualities of Cuban teachers, but upon the moral character of some of the women employed in that capacity. Mr. FRYE supports his charge that Gen. WOOD made false statements to Mr. ROOT by quoting a statement made by Lieut. M. E. HANNA in the *Havana Post* of Jan. 19, 1904. Lieut. HANNA was aide-de-camp to Gen. WOOD. During the early part of the Wood régime in Cuba he was chief of the military school inspectors, and later was made Commissioner of Schools. He drafted the school law of the island which, in the summer of 1900, superseded the Frye law, and which is still the law of Cuba. He is now the Military Attaché in Cuba, and no other man is in a position to speak with so full a knowledge as can Lieut. HANNA. He says:

"I have never seen a class of women who conducted themselves with more circumspection than the Cuban teachers. If there was or had been an isolated case where a teacher had been discharged for immorality, or as being the mistress of the Mayor of a town, or because she could not write her name, I do not know of it."

Secretary ROOT's testimony upon this point was very positive, and there can be no question of the source of his misinformation. Lieut. HANNA thus joins the group of those between whom and Dr. WOOD there is a question of veracity.

Mr. FRYE further alleges, with supporting evidence, that Gen. WOOD's accounts "were in a state of utter confusion." To this point THE SUN has several times called attention. He charges Gen. WOOD with incompetency, with deliberate misrepresentation and with moral cowardice.

Mr. FRYE may be, as Senator FORAKER said, "an exceedingly emotional man," but his character and his standing in the community are quite equal to Gen. WOOD's. Statements from such a man are entitled, at least, to some respect when supported by documentary evidence and by the testimony of other credible witnesses.

Gen. WOOD will probably obtain his coveted promotion. But it will come clouded. At least one star on his straps will always have a blur upon it.

The Smelling Committee of One.

The Hon. FRANCIS EMROY WARREN, a Senator in Congress from Wyoming, may be said to have been born inquisitive. His positively first appearance was made in Hinsdale in western Massachusetts, a region full of an enlightened curiosity and desire for knowledge. Sociologists tell us that it is also a region of pocket pistols. The inhabitants of a sparsely settled district have to be prudent and carry their medicine with them. Precaution is the mother of safety.

These two facts explain why Mr. WARREN tampered with the pocket-pistol pocket of the Hon. BENJAMIN RYAN TILLMAN Thursday. Mr. TILLMAN was busy. He was expostulating with the Hon. JOSEPH WELDEN BAILEY of Texas, who differed with him as to rural free delivery, South Carolinians in Texas and other high matters. Absorbed in the discussion, the Palmetto PITT didn't feel the sociological hand in his medicine pocket or see that inquiring statesman prig a bottle of yellow liquid, remove the cork, smell of the contents, gravely, roll a humorous eye at the galleries, and then return the original package to its place. The galleries laughed. Junior Senators smiled. Mr. WARREN himself will not be 60 until June. The fathers of the Senate looked solemner and sadder than an old slate gravestone in Hinsdale, incised with limping elegies and devilish cherubs. The Dignity of the Senate had been abraded by the impish young investigator from Cheyenne.

The Hon. AUGUSTUS OCTAVIUS BACON of Georgia, rings Roman yet. He told Mr. TILLMAN of the searching of the toga and the smelling of the ampulla. Mr. TILLMAN rose to discomfit certain newspaper men who love to malign him. He explained that he had troubles in his throat and was carrying a bottle of boracic acid to cure them. Mr. WARREN averred the facetious purpose of his investigation. There is soreness and sorrow over the dryness of the Capitol restaurants, a dryness caused originally by the desire to "go on record" for total abstinence in the expectation that the other House would understand the joke. The tongues of scandal say: "O, what's the difference? Search those statesmen and you'll find them with the wet goods on them." Of course, this is not Mr. WARREN's language, but it expresses his idea. "I know," he said, deprecatingly, "that the Senator neither tastes nor handles."

Mr. TILLMAN would not have it so. He wished to rebuke a disturber of the Dignity of the Senate. He uttered this amene and impersonal reproof:

"The Senator does taste and handle, but he does not get drunk except at banquets, and then not so drunk but he can find the way home. He never makes such a fool of himself that he has to be hauled home."

Mr. ALLISON held up a protesting hand. And here the hammer fell. Mr. FRYE banged it tremendously. There was a consultation. It was agreed that the Dignity of the Senate should be preserved. *Fiat dignitas, ruat veritas!* Keep up the dignity, doctor the *Congressional Record*. So the words of Mr. WARREN and Mr. TILLMAN will be buried by mutual agreement.

But what is history going to do, and who can plaster the wounds of sociology, if the Senate is to appear, not as a knot of men subject occasionally to infirm tempers and mischievous propensities or belated puerilities, but a gallery of statues, heroic, calm, austere. Mrs. JARLEY's wax works in frock coats? Fortunately, the future MACMASTERS will be able to find in the newspapers the little Senatorial farces and pantomimes which are missing from the official record. A hundred years from now, Mr. WARREN, sniffing at Mr. TILLMAN's boracic acid bottle, will be an inviting figure to the imagination.

This present week, however, the Warren-Tillman incident belongs to morals; and this is the moral of it: "It's the 'butter-in' that gets the black eye."

Admiral Togo's Psychology.

Admiral TOGO, the commander of the Japanese squadron off Port Arthur, undoubtedly has three objects in view to justify the almost nightly exposure to which he subjects his vessels. First, of course, is the possible destruction of one or more of the enemy's ships. Secondly, the distraction of the enemy's attention from other activities of the Japanese forces. The third object is doubtless the wearing out of the crews on the Russian ships, mentally and physically, by compelling them to adopt a routine of constant and abnormal watchfulness, the effect of which will be to incapacitate them for service without a period of absolute rest.

From the beginning of hostilities the mental and physical strain upon a warship's company is trying and arduous. When the ship is in imminent danger this strain is increased many fold, until it reaches a point at which a partial or complete breakdown will result if it is long sustained. The effect of the initial successes of the Japanese fleet upon the *morale* of the Russians must have been bad. Add to this the effect produced by constant attacks, following each other so closely as to leave the defending ships' crews practically no time for rest and recuperation, and the result can hardly be other than a partial or complete demoralization of the Russians, mentally and physically, of proportions sufficient to prevent them from doing their best when the time for conflict comes.

The frequent alarms and constant watchfulness required of the Russian sailors at Port Arthur is practically certain to reduce their efficiency, as overtraining does an athlete's. This may reach a point at which their usefulness in an engagement will be seriously impaired. It is undoubtedly to produce this result that Admiral TOGO is now striving, and if the reports from the East are to be trusted, he is meeting with no little success.

Japan's Campaign on Land.

There is inherent probability in the report that the Japanese have landed a strong force at or in the neighborhood of Possiet Bay near the northeastern frontier of Corea on the Manchurian side. Its proximity, something under two hundred miles, to Ninguta Khoton on the Hurka River, a tributary of the Sungari, and near the line of the Harbin-Vladivostok Railway, almost indicates it as a point of debarkation for a force aiming to cut the railway between those two places and threaten Harbin while playing the Russians along the Yalu from Ping Yang in Corea and at Port Arthur at the extremities of their defence.

The landing at Chemulpho does not in any way account for the number of Japanese troops that have been put on board transports and sent to sea. None of them so far have been seen or heard of west of Port Arthur. It may therefore be inferred that they have been put ashore elsewhere and will take advantage of the frozen roads to advance toward the railway, as for some weeks in the spring the ordinary roads and tracks in that part of Manchuria are almost impassable.

Another important point is that from Ninguta Khoton to the junction of the Hurka and Sungari rivers is a comparatively short distance. Once in possession of San-sin-tchen at that point, the Russian scheme of defence on the Sungari would be seriously interfered with, if not actually nullified.

Judgment.

In the House Thursday the Hon. ADOLPH MEYER, the Democratic Representative of the New Orleans district, made a singular apology for being right. He is a member of the Committee on Naval Affairs. He has sympathized with the policy of the majority of the committee in wishing to build a powerful and an adequate navy. In short, his ideas of what the American navy should be are or were those natural to a patriotic American and the representative of a great commercial city.

Some time on Wednesday, we must suppose, he allowed himself to be overruled rather than persuaded by those hopeless Democratic obstructionists whose notion of the functions of an opposition party is that it should resist even the most necessary and salutary projects if they are proposed by the party in power. The rout of these incapables in the Senate should have warned him. "But," he says, "I am yielding to the judgment of many of my colleagues, and am willing to advise somewhat more moderate plans."

The judgment of the Democrats who are kindly providing Republican arguments to be used next summer and fall! Rare judgment, such as Mr. BRYAN had when he explained that the purpose of forts was to overawe the workingmen in the cities.

Will not the great beneficiary change his name to WILLIAM BENNETT BRYAN?

Several Senators have called at the White House and urged upon the President that a strong feeling exists against the use of troops on the Isthmus in the absence of any serious trouble there.—*Washington despatch.*

But the marines have been on the Isthmus for three months. So vast is the difference betwixt Tweedledum and Tweedledee!

Railway Fares to St. Louis.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the line of your remarks about the St. Louis Exposition, it is interesting to remark that the railroads are pursuing the same policy as to tickets that made the Chicago Fair an incomplete financial success and that ruined the Buffalo Exposition. The railroads from this point make a time limit on their tickets for one fare, ten days; if you want more time, higher rate. I have never been able to comprehend this extremely limited time. Why not give thirty days?

July and August are the great vacation months, and multitudes of people have then time and money to spend; and were the time limit thirty days and the same announced now, they would make their arrangements to visit St. Louis and at the same time see something of the West and enlarge their horizon. With a ten day limit people will not go.

The railroads limited their Buffalo tickets to five days, with the consequence that multitudes of people who would have gone to Buffalo had the limit been fourteen days went elsewhere. It costs the railroads the same to haul people whether the time limit is ten or thirty days. I have visited all the expositions North and South in the last ten years and know something of the public feeling.

The light of THE SUN may do something to dispel this darkness. JOHN T. MORTON.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.

Are Filipino Boys Superior to American?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter from Clement Lumaine, in to-day's SUN, reads very well to those who have long hoped for a beginning of general ethical culture in this country of ours.

The boys of the Philippine Islands, taken by and large, are better mannered than the boys that are most accessible to observation in American cities. There is no gratuitous insolence or frowardness among the Filipino boys, and they do not run hither and yon in crowded places, or preempt comfortable seats by means of their agility: they do not forget their manners, and are not guilty of wanton destruction of valuable things, or of wanton assault upon passers-by or odd samples of humanity, under any pretext. The Filipino boy who studies and is bright becomes a man of such fine manners that he would be remarkable for them if he had the advantage of American surroundings.

This is due to the fact that in their common school curriculum they have a treatise on religion and deportment. Such a treatise, with the purely dogmatic element extracted, would speedily make a showing in the politeness and honesty of Young America. BENEVOLENT ASSIMILATOR.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.

The Electric Pilot.

From the Scientific American.

River and harbor pilots will be put out of business entirely if the invention of Prof. R. B. Owens should come into general use. Prof. Owens is now professor of electrical engineering at McGill University at Montreal, and the device referred to above is an electrical apparatus by which a boat may be taken through a narrow channel, without the least danger of grounding, by an officer of the boat entirely unacquainted with the water through which he may be passing. A properly insulated and protected cable is laid in the channel to be followed by the craft. An alternating current is passed through the cable, and two telephones on board the vessel are acted upon by the magnetic influences of the cable, so that it is possible to detect the deflections of the boat with regard to the position of the cables by listening at the receivers of the instruments.

ODELL—SHELDON.

A friend of George R. Sheldon, Republican national committeeman for the State of New York, said yesterday:

"I am familiar with the controversy between Gov. Odell and Mr. Sheldon. I have known the two men for years. I have been on equally intimate terms with both Odell and Sheldon, but in this latest exhibition by Gov. Odell against Mr. Sheldon I cannot sustain the Governor's attitude. Wise politicians and wise laymen do not mix politics with business.

"Sheldon is a banker. Odell up to the time he became chairman of the Republican State committee in 1897 was comparatively a poor man. That is to say he wasn't worth much more than $100,000. Now he tells his friends he is worth $1,000,000. Sometimes he says he is worth $2,000,000. Odell and Sheldon are members of the Union League Club. Sheldon up to several months ago was treasurer of the New York Republican county committee. I ought also to say that President Roosevelt and Mr. Sheldon were at Harvard together. Mr. Sheldon has always been a steadfast supporter of Senator Platt. In fact, Mr. Sheldon at Mr. Platt's request became treasurer of the New York Republican county committee. This place is not a sinecure in a city normally Democratic by a large vote. Sheldon's father and Platt were warm friends and George R. Sheldon has had the fondest feelings for Mr. Platt. He is also deeply attached to the President, and until about two years ago he and Odell were bosom friends.

"Mr. Sheldon knew that Mr. Platt had nominated Mr. Odell for Congress and had made him chairman of the executive committee of the Republican State committee, and in 1896 wanted to nominate him for Governor. Mr. Platt next made Mr. Odell chairman of the State committee; and in 1898 Mr. Platt nominated Mr. Roosevelt for Governor and in 1900 Mr. Platt nominated Mr. Odell for Governor. I mention these things in order to show the personal relations of the men and at the same time to show their political consanguinity, if I may so term it.

"The United States Shipbuilding underwriting scheme was advertised in the spring of 1902. Alexander & Green and Col. John J. McCook engineered the movement. It was a failure. Sheldon and his friends were asked to put their shoulders to the wheel and reorganize the Shipbuilding syndicate. They consented, and Sheldon then learned that Gov. Odell had subscribed for $200,000 of the original underwriting of the United States Shipbuilding bonds, but had not paid his subscription. Here was a puzzle for Sheldon. On the closest terms of intimacy with Gov. Odell, Sheldon was compelled as a business man to request of Mr. Odell, as a business man, not as the Governor of the State, to pay his subscription. It was an unpleasant duty for Sheldon, and as a matter of fact Sheldon wouldn't have known Odell was a subscriber to the original syndicate (the subscription was not taken in Odell's name) had it not been for the fact that Odell's lawyers acting for him and Odell himself objected to taking up his original subscription, which by that time showed a loss of about $180,000. Sheldon as a business man, however, did not flinch. He was personally and politically fond of Odell, but he was compelled to do his duty, and Odell's original subscription had to be taken up. Odell was angry beyond expression. He has since declared it to be his intention to make things lively for Col. McCook and Alexander & Green. But Sheldon had nothing to do with the original syndicate. He was merely chairman of the syndicate which undertook to reorganize the original syndicate; and if Odell had got into a mess with the promoters of the original syndicate it wasn't Sheldon's fault. Odell, because Sheldon wouldn't flinch from his duty, became the bitter enemy of Sheldon.

"Before that, though, Odell, Platt and George Dunn, chairman of the Republican State committee, had selected Sheldon as the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor in the fall of 1902. As a matter of fact Odell himself selected Sheldon, but said it would not look well if he, the Governor, had selected his running mate; and so Platt and Dunn became sponsors before the public for Sheldon's nomination. Sheldon went to Oyster Bay and talked with his old friend President Roosevelt. He frankly told the President that he was engaged in a Wall Street banking business and had been a promoter of what were considered trusts. Sheldon also said to President Roosevelt that he wanted to make the situation clear before he decided to accept the nomination for Lieutenant-Governor. President Roosevelt questioned Mr. Sheldon closely and ascertained that Mr. Sheldon had not been and was not then engaged in any business enterprises which could supposably be prejudicial to Republican policies, and the President told Sheldon there was no objection to his candidacy. On the eve of the convention, though, the United States Shipbuilding failure was pressing, and the Sheldon reorganization syndicate, which demanded that the Odell subscription should be paid, had aroused the anger of Odell. This was not made apparent at Saratoga. Odell and his father only said that Sheldon's connection with trusts would weigh down the ticket. That was a subterfuge to defeat Sheldon's candidacy. Sheldon had never asked to be the candidate for Lieutenant-Governor.

"A year later, in 1903, when Frederick S. Gibbs, Republican national committeeman for the State since 1896, died, Platt recommended to Mr. Hanna, chairman of the national committee, that he appoint Mr. Sheldon to the place. Hanna, under authority of a resolution adopted at Philadelphia in 1900, could fill vacancies in the committee. Hanna and Odell and Platt and Sheldon had been on the closest political terms, and Hanna, as chairman of the national committee in 1896 and 1900, had been brought into close contact with Sheldon as treasurer of the New York Republican county committee. Platt, however, did not make his recommendation to Hanna that Sheldon be appointed to the place made vacant by Mr. Gibbs's death until he had consulted with Gov. Odell, notwithstanding anything Gov. Odell may say to the contrary. Odell protested to Platt and declared Sheldon had been responsible for certain publications in a New York newspaper concerning Odell. Platt investigated Odell's statement and found it entirely inaccurate; that Sheldon hadn't mentioned the subject to any representative of the newspaper in question, and Platt was then told: 'A dozen Wall Street men in the United States Shipbuilding syndicate knew of this matter; as a matter of fact they had to know of it, and, furthermore, it was known in every bank parlor in the Wall Street district. It is impossible to keep such matters secret.'

"Platt, satisfied that Sheldon was innocent of the Odell charge, went ahead and recommended Sheldon's appointment as national committeeman. Mark Hanna has told that by return mail, instantly, he appointed Sheldon and was overjoyed to do so. He loved George Sheldon and always said George was one of his boys. Hanna knew nothing of the United States Shipbuilding business until later; but he received an ugly letter from Gov. Odell complaining of the Sheldon appointment, all of which greatly troubled dear old Uncle Mark.

"Last fall Gov. Odell reorganized the New York Republican county committee and Sheldon retired as treasurer. He had held the place many years and had performed many inestimable services for the party, local, State and national; but Odell was still pursuing him, and Sheldon retired from a most uncongenial environment. Gov. Odell has since asked a number of wealthy Republicans to become treasurer of the committee, Cornelius Vanderbilt particularly, and all have declined. The county committee, on the eve of a Presidential and Gubernatorial fight, has been without a treasurer for three months.

"Gov. Odell now insists that Sheldon shall resign as national committeeman for the State. Under his appointment by Hanna, Sheldon could hold the place until his successor is elected at Chicago late in June. But notwithstanding any arrangement any Republican may have made with Gov. Odell looking to Sheldon's resignation, and notwithstanding any view some Republicans may entertain of such an arrangement, neither President Roosevelt nor Mr. Platt will, in view of all the circumstances, directly request Mr. Sheldon to resign from the place given to him by his beloved friend Hanna; and if they do, Sheldon, if I know him, will decline to do so. His Republican friends would regard him with contempt if he did."

THE MORALS OF THE CUBAN TEACHERS.

Alexis E. Frye's Reply to Secretary Root's Testimony in Gen. Wood's Behalf.

The reply of Alexis E. Frye, formerly Superintendent of Schools in Cuba under the American Military Government, to the testimony of Elihu Root before the Senate Committee on Military Affairs, in defence of Gen. Leonard Wood, has been printed and submitted to the Senate. Mr. Frye's statement is made under oath. That part of Mr. Root's testimony of which he makes particular denial is printed as follows on page 807 of the report of the Wood hearing:

Mr. Frye claimed that Gen. Wood did not tell the truth, because he said that the teachers would not be removed, and they were removed. As a matter of fact, they were removed, and it was because it was found that there were gross abuses: there were schools where teachers were being paid where they had practically no scholars at all; there were places where mulatto women had schools who were mistresses of Mayors of towns; there were cases where the teachers had to receipt for their pay by making their mark; there were schools where the teachers were of notoriously bad character, and a very bad state of things was developed.

Mr. Frye, who wrote me that letter in September that you have, after a full explanation with Gen. Wood, saying that Gen. Wood was right and that he was wrong, turned back to the idea that Gen. Wood was wrong and a bad man merely because, —only after he had been superseded—because, while I believe Mr. Frye to be an honest man and a good man, he certainly was not a good administrator and did not conduct the business of the educational department in a way that was possible to continue.

In answering this testimony Mr. Frye makes affidavit that at no time during the entire period he served as Superintendent of Schools did he have power to appoint or dismiss teachers; that he never appointed or recommended a man or woman for any position in the public schools; that never, while he was in office or afterward, was a single act of immorality on the part of any woman teacher brought to his notice, and that the immorality of women teachers was never mentioned or alluded to between him and Gen. Wood.

In support of this affidavit, Mr. Frye reprints from the *Havana Post* a statement by Capt. Hanna, now our Military Attaché in Havana, who in 1900 was an aide to Gen. Wood. Capt. Hanna declares that "if there was an isolated case where a teacher was discharged for immorality * * * or because she could not write her name I do not know of it."

In addition of this, Señors J. A. González Lanuza, Juan B. H. Barreiro, Enrique José Varona, and E. Borrero Echeverría, three of whom were Secretaries of Public Instruction in the Governor's Cabinet, the other being Commissioner of Schools, make affidavit that they never, either officially or unofficially, heard of a teacher charged with immorality or who could not write her name, and that at no time did any American have the right to appoint or dismiss a teacher, all the teachers being appointed by the native boards of education.

Mr. Frye challenges Mr. Root to produce a teachers' payroll signed with a "mark" made by a teacher who could not sign her name.

Of the schools with "practically no pupils at all" Mr. Frye makes this statement: "The opening of Cuban schools began in January, 1900. In sixty days 1,338 schools were organized, with 69,476 children enrolled." Schools were in all stages of growth when, says Mr. Frye, "Gen. Wood took fright very needlessly," and on March 3 ordered the whole movement stopped. Says Mr. Frye:

In vain I appealed to Gen. Wood to recall this blind order; in vain I showed him the horrible confusion growing day by day—buildings rented and partly repaired, schools just opened but having few children, teachers under contract waiting to begin work, cities in which certain wards were without schools, &c.

The order was relaxed a little, but Mr. Frye makes these charges against Gen. Wood:

That my trouble with Gen. Wood arose from his neglect to pay salaries due to starving teachers under my care.

That his accounts were in a state of utter confusion.

That I repeatedly called his attention to conflict in his laws causing the confusion.

That in my letters to him I spoke frankly, even bluntly, perhaps even discourteously, in trying to argue or shame him into doing his duty by the schools.

That the letters themselves give perfect proof of the confusion and state frankly to Gen. Wood that the fault was his own.

That Gen. Wood could not grapple with the situation, did not show ability to correct his laws and orders, and did not have the courage to resent the strong terms in which I tried to spur him on to do his duty by the teachers.

Of Gen. Wood's untruthfulness Mr. Frye gives as an example an incident that occurred while the Cuban teachers were at Harvard University in 1900. Gen. Wood had devised a new law, reducing the teachers' pay. Mr. Frye advised him against it, but Gen. Wood insisted upon promulgating it. The teachers were much upset. Mr. Frye says:

He sent me the following telegram:

"Inform teachers no cut in salary. Error in print. WOOD."

Knowing the facts I, of course, refused to post such a notice.

In another case Gen. Wood declared that the failure of the military authorities to pay the professors accompanying the teachers was "due to Frye." This the professors knew to be false, and had not Mr. Frye restrained them they would have taxed Gen. Wood with the falsehood.

In September of 1900 Gen. Wood had a long talk with Mr. Frye, in which he convinced Mr. Frye that he wanted to be friendly. Anxious to promote harmony, Mr. Frye wrote the letter referred to by Mr. Root, believing that Gen. Wood was going to treat him better in the future. This turned out to be a false hope. On Dec. 10 Mr. Frye applied for a three months leave of absence. The request was granted, with the indorsement by Adjutant-General H. L. Scott, "it is trusted the entire time desired will not be needed." On Jan. 9, 1901, convinced that he could not preserve his reputation and his honor serving under such a man as Leonard Wood, Mr. Frye resigned, relinquishing a work in which he had labored without reward or compensation for the credit of the American people.

The Danish Sharp Shoeing Method.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Danish method of sharp shoeing has been in use over fifteen years in this country, and in Great Britain for over thirty years. In this country calks or spikes are screwed in both toe and heel. The shoe "X" speaks of would not be of much use with sharp calks in heel only for horses drawing loads or going up steep grades. It makes more work for the driver to replenish with sharp calks, and this is the only obstacle that keeps them from being more generally used. But "a merciful man is merciful to his beast." R. H.

GREAT BARRINGTON, Mass., Feb. 23.

The March number of *McClure's Magazine* is uncommonly good. There are eight short stories, one being by Anthony Hope, another one of Myra Kelly's amusing tales of East Side school children. Mr. Thomas Nelson Page begins a series of articles on "The Negro," Miss Tarbell continues her remarkable history of the Standard Oil Company, Mr. Samuel H. Adams tells the story of the Caleb Powers trial in Kentucky, Mr. C. G. D. Roberts has an animal story, and Mr. Joseph Stickney a rattling sea sketch. There is a little verse, and Mr. H. McCarter tries his hand at a modern allegorical picture.

RUSSIA AND GERMANY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One of the most important incidents in connection with the Russo-Japanese conflict has been apparently overlooked in the excitement of the war news. I refer to the decree of the Russian Government admitting German iron into Russia free of duty.

Clearly this is the result of bargaining of some kind or another between the two Governments; and taken in connection with the statement published in THE SUN of Feb. 9, concerning the great increase of imports of Russian grain into Germany, it leads to the conclusion that an understanding mutually advantageous to the two countries, commercially and politically, has been arrived at or is in course of elaboration.

From the military point of view this growing commercial intercourse between Russia and Germany is of great value to the former in the present juncture, and may be still more so in the near future. It would be no less so to Germany should she find herself one day mixed up in complications beyond the seas with her imports of foreign foodstuffs threatened or interrupted.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26. F.

FORBES MAY WAIT MONTHS.

Gov. Wright Says He Can Be of Service to the Philippines by Remaining Here.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 26.—Gov. Wright has cabled Secretary Taft from Manila that arrangements can be made to wait several months for W. Cameron Forbes, the new member of the Philippine Commission. The despatch is in answer to an inquiry by Secretary Taft on Wednesday, when Mr. Forbes was in Washington.

Gov. Wright in his despatch says that Mr. Forbes can be of service to the Philippines at this time by remaining in the United States, particularly if he can take up and conclude the negotiations with American capitalists for the immediate construction of the proposed railroad system in Luzon.

SULLIVAN AND HAMBLETONIAN.

An Iconoclastic Sportsman Attacks Their Respective Reputations.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Frequently in your paper, both in the editorials and in the news columns, I see references made to "the only Sullivan," "the mighty John L.," "the Pride of Boston," "that incomparable pugilistic artist Prof. John L. Sullivan," &c. Now, in our sporting history there have been two greatly overestimated characters. One is Hambletonian and the other is John L. Sullivan. Hambletonian was bred to all the choicest mares in this country and produced four per cent. of horses that could be ranked as trotters, and in regard to the greatest of his get, Dexter, there has always been strong doubts as to who was his sire.

What is the record of Sullivan? The only men he ever fought that could be ranked as first class were poor old Paddy Ryan, Charlie Mitchell, a middleweight; Jake Kilrain and Corbett. Sullivan did defeat Ryan, but the best he could ever do with Mitchell was a draw. Kilrain and he fought seventy-five rounds under a blazing Mississippi sun and Sullivan was declared the winner after Kilrain had become so exhausted that he was unable to continue. When Corbett and Sullivan fought, Corbett made a perfect monkey of Sullivan and his great superiority in every point of the game was so manifest that the contest was almost pitiable. Corbett had previously defeated Kilrain with the greatest ease in eight rounds, and later on fairly ate up Charlie Mitchell in less than three rounds.

We must also remember that Sullivan fought most of his battles under the London Prize Ring rules (where a man can do about everything to his opponent except bite him), which give the stronger and heavier man a great advantage. In all his battles Sullivan had the advantage in weight of from twenty to forty pounds. Sullivan was strong and husky, had plenty of courage, was a good one-hand hitter, was quick for such a big man, but was a poor ring general and lost his temper very easily.

I saw Mitchell taunt Sullivan in the ring so that he made the latter fairly blind with rage, and if "English Charlie" had possessed the hitting powers of Jeffries, Fitzsimmons, McCoy, Sharkey or half a dozen other "pugs" that one might name, he could have sent John L. on a trip to dreamland in short order.

I would place Sullivan in a class with Goddard, Paddy and Frank Slavin, Maher and Sharkey. To compare him to Jeffries, Fitzsimmons, Corbett and Jackson is like comparing Richard Harding Davis to Thackeray or Gen. Sambo Bowles to Gen. George Washington.

Please give us a reston "the great John L.," and when you give him credit give him credit for what he really was—a good middle-class heavyweight. AN OLD-TIMER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25.

Surface and Subway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The most important argument in favor of the tunnel railroad plan submitted to the Rapid Transit Commission by the Metropolitan Street Railway interests is the promise contained therein of transfers from the surface railways to the underground trains. If the transportation problem in Manhattan and The Bronx is to be solved, it must be borne constantly in mind that rapid transit on the surface lines is impossible now, and will never become possible.

The surface railways should perform two functions: transport the "short haul" traffic, and act as feeders for through trunk lines designed to transport passengers comparatively long distances at a high rate of speed. The surface roads can no more furnish fast transportation over long distances than the underground roads can be laid out to meet the requirements of the "short haul" passengers. The only system of transportation lines that can meet the needs of Manhattan and The Bronx is one in which subsurface railways can be run in combination with the surface lines. On such a system a passenger can board a surface car at any point, transfer to the subsurface road at the first station, ride to a station connected by a street car line with his destination, and thus complete his journey by the most economic and expeditious means.

By combining surface and subsurface railways, a result will be reached beneficial to all the people of the city. The benefits of a subway line without surface connections would be restricted largely to persons living along its route or near its termini. A. M.

NEW YORK, Feb. 26.

Senator Hanna.

From Harper's Weekly.

We may be quite sure, however, that the exceptional weight which he had acquired so quickly in Republican councils was a source of less profound and fervent satisfaction to Senator Hanna than the knowledge that, in the minds of the great mass of fair minded citizens, he had, by personal contact, wholly dispelled the misconceptions of his character engendered by the libels and aspersions sent broadcast by the "yellow" press during the campaign of 1900. It mattered not whether a man was a walking delegate, a Populist, or a Socialist, the first-hand knowledge which he gained of the real Mark Hanna during the last few years caused him to brand with contempt and loathing the lies and caricatures which, throughout the campaign of 1901, were concocted by malignant hirelings and exercised a baleful hypnotism on an ignorant and thoughtless section of the American people.

Brown University and Its Critics.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Wednesday's SUN tells us that the Brown students burned an effigy of Caspar Whitney because Mr. Whitney is of the opinion that paid athletes should not be members of college teams. What silly rot on the part of the Brown students! Why single out Mr. Whitney from the army of amateur sportsmen who hold the same opinion?

If Brown has any fair and square sportsmen it is up to them to come out with an apology.

NEW YORK, Feb. 25. BAY STATE.

The Golden Rule in France.

From the Bookman.

We have just seen a French translation of one of Mr. Roosevelt's books, and in casually running through it we came upon a most delightful thing. Mr. Roosevelt had quoted the famous remark of Senator Ingalls to the effect that "In politics the Golden Rule and the Ten Commandments are an iridescent dream." To this quotation the French translator felt it necessary to append an explanatory footnote which reads as follows: "The Golden Rule: One of the aphorisms ascribed to Pythagoras."