The Sun.

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Russia's Action at Newchwang.

The proclamation of martial law at Newchwang by Viceroy ALEXIEFF is an incident of obvious importance, from both international and strategic points of view.

It is an appropriation of territory hitherto recognized by Russia herself as belonging to China, territory in which consuls representing treaty Powers have been residing under exequaturs issued by the Pekin Government. Henceforth the exercise of treaty rights is rendered impossible. The consular jurisdiction and the privileges comprehended under the term "exterritoriality" are suspended, and foreign consuls will possess no other powers than would be theirs in towns acknowledged to be Russian and placed temporarily under martial law. From the position taken by Viceroy ALEXIEFF, it is also a logical deduction that the United States gunboat Helena and the British vessel Espiègle may be ordered to leave the port, wherein they have been laid up during the winter; although, for diplomatic reasons, it is doubtful if such a step will be taken hastily.

Has China or any other neutral Power a right to protest against Russia's action at Newchwang? It seems to us that there would be no basis for such a remonstrance, inasmuch as both Russia and Japan, when in response to Mr. HAY's note they agreed to respect China's neutrality and "administrative entity," expressly excepted from the operation of the agreement Manchuria, as being likely to become a theatre of war. It is extremely probable, however, that, had Russia refrained from proclaiming martial law at Newchwang and suffered that place to remain a treaty port under Chinese authority, Japan, in her anxiety to win and keep the good will of all neutral Powers, would have been reluctant to land an army in that part of Manchuria which lies west of the Liao River; although, as a glance at the map will show, the Shengking Province of Manchuria extends along the northern and western coasts of the Gulf of Liao-tung as far south as Shanhaikwan. It was a tempting opportunity which Japan had thus far shown herself disposed to forego, for, being dominant at sea, she could easily have disembarked an expeditionary force on the western coast of the gulf named, and her commanders would then have found themselves in a country with which they became thoroughly familiar in 1894-95, during the late war with China.

Russia having taken the initiative in violating China's neutrality and administrative entity in that part of Manchuria which lies west of the Liao River, the Tokio Government is plainly at liberty to follow the example; and we may expect soon to hear of a Japanese military demonstration in that quarter. The strategic utility to Japan of an occupation of Newchwang is manifest. Not only would the railway running thence southward to the Regent's Sword peninsula be cut, and Port Arthur thus be isolated, but a Japanese force at Newchwang would be only a little more than a hundred miles distant as the crow flies from Wiju, on the Corean side of the Yalu estuary—a place which the main Japanese army, now advancing through northern Corea, may be expected soon to capture. That part of the Russian army which is now stationed on the Manchurian side of the Yalu, but which has outposts in northern Corea, would then find itself in a critical position, being exposed to simultaneous attacks in front and on the right flank. Under the circumstances, it would probably be forced to renounce its fundamental purpose of resisting a passage of the Yalu by the Japanese, and would have to retreat on Mukden, where, apparently, a stand is contemplated by the Russian commander-in-chief.

That a place of such strategic value as Newchwang will be surrendered without a fight is scarcely conceivable, and, no doubt, the proclamation of martial law was deemed by the Russian military authorities an indispensable preliminary to an effective defence. They must recognize, however, that they have given Japan a pretext for placing an expeditionary force on the western coast of the Gulf of Liao-tung, and they may have had reason to believe that, in no event, would such a demonstration have been delayed much longer.

From the moment that southwestern Manchuria becomes a scene of military operations, it will be comparatively easy to secure prompt and trustworthy information by way of Shanhaikwan concerning the course of events. Hitherto we have had to rely largely upon reports from Chefoo, which is on the southern or Shantung side of the Strait of Pechili.

Labor Issues in Politics.

Notwithstanding the purpose of labor leaders to keep their organizations, as such, outside the political arena, it is certain that the cherished issues of those organizations will play their part in the coming campaign. Action may be individual, but the mainspring of the action will be found in the plans and aims of the organizations. There are doubtless many whose votes for this candidate or for that will be more affected by the attitude of the nominee on labor questions than by broad considerations of good government and national welfare.

There are some who will vote against Mr. ROOSEVELT because of his clearly stated position on the question of the open shop, and there are doubtless others who will vote for him because they have not yet recovered from a conviction that his action in the coal strike was a victory for trade unionism. Some Congressmen will be supported, and others will be opposed, because of the position taken in reference to the Anti-Injunction and Eight Hour bills.

It is in every way probable that organized labor, as an organization, refrains from united political action because of the certainty of overwhelming defeat should it present its issues in a definite platform and put its ambitions to a definite test. Its more immediately available weapon is an attempt at industrial coercion. In that field its efforts are but poorly disguised, if they be disguised at all. Recognition of the union, the open shop, the eight hour day and their allied aspirations, may achieve limited though costly success by means of labor strikes. As distinct issues they would be hopeless at the polls. They would even be defeated by the votes of unorganized labor, not counting the votes of employers and the general public.

An Outrage on Emigrants.

Much criticism has been caused by the recent action of the Hungarian Government in compelling all of its emigrants to America to leave the country by the port of Fiume. Heretofore Hungarians have come to this country by the way of the ports of Hamburg, Bremen, Antwerp, Havre and Rotterdam, going thither from their native towns and using the vessels of the Hamburg-American, North German Lloyd, Red Star, French and Holland-America lines. By this new order, which goes into effect April 1, the emigrants will be turned back from the frontier railroad stations and sent to Fiume, where they will be compelled to take the vessels of the Cunard Line. The Hungarian Government is said to have made an agreement with the Cunard Line for a period of twenty-six years. Heretofore, the Mediterranean field has been occupied by the Italian, White Star and two German lines.

Although the official order is not to take effect until April 1 it has been actually carried out for several weeks past and has worked untold hardships to the poorer classes of Hungarians. Heretofore, emigrants from almost any part of Hungary have been able to reach the United States within eleven or twelve days from the time of leaving their native towns. Under the new rule they will be en route at least twenty-two days. For this service the Cunard Line has put into commission three steamers, which sail from Fiume at intervals of three weeks. These steamships call at Trieste, Palermo, Naples and Marseilles on their way to this country, thus making the trip much longer than if the vessels sailed direct from Fiume to New York.

Not alone are the emigrants compelled to remain longer at sea, but upon their arrival at Naples they have to pay a head tax of $2 each.

The number of people who are compelled to sail from Fiume is far greater than the passenger accommodations of the Cunard steamers provide for, and for that reason it is necessary to leave behind many thousands. For example, in the last of February, 1,900 emigrants collected by agents of the Cunard and Adria steamship companies, were herded together in Fiume for transport to this country. Of these, only 600 were embarked, as the company desired the remaining accommodations for steerage passengers to be taken on at Naples and Marseilles.

The *Arbeiter Zeitung* of Vienna of March 2, says:

"The remaining 1,300 emigrants, who would have had to wait at least two weeks for the next steamer of the Cunard Line and would have, in the meantime, used up all their small cash possessions, started to object. This compelled the company to send the 1,300 emigrants by railroad to Antwerp, where they were forwarded by coastwise steamers to Grimsby and Hull, and from there by railroad to Liverpool, from which port they finally started on the sea voyage."

The paper further says on the subject:

"The poor devils had to make their trip in freight trains. If they had made the trip via Antwerp from their homes, they would have been returned from the frontier by the frontier guards. This scandalous proceeding is confirmed to-day by the official newspaper, *Budapester Korrespondenz*, but is accompanied with the excuse that the agreement with the Cunard Line had not yet been closed. Care would, however, be taken that in the future at the calling ports only passengers travelling in first and second class would be taken. The State guardianship (promised to emigrants) looks very nice indeed."

The Hungarian Government claims to receive no direct benefit from this contract with the Cunard Line. It charges each emigrant $8 for a passport, which sum is deducted from the price of his steamship ticket when sailing from Fiume.

The assertion is made, and has not been contradicted, that emigrants cannot leave the country by the German frontier; thus compelling them to sail from the favored port. The question is raised as to the permissibility under international law of one Government's compelling its citizens to sail by one particular line, and it is not improbable that the foreign Governments, if they are satisfied that this contract has been made in good faith, will look further into the matter. Until then the unfortunate people will have to stand the brunt of inadequate arrangement which intelligent people under advanced liberal government, would hardly tolerate.

A Jewish Revival.

We observe that Jews are much disturbed at this time by the success of Christian missions established in Jewish quarters of the town. The subject is discussed frequently and very seriously in their papers and magazines.

For instance, a rabbi, writing recently of the circumstance that "our children are drifting into the missions," admonished Jews that "ours is the sin and ours the shame," on the ground that the door of escape had been left open by Jewish neglect. The *New Era*, a Jewish magazine, does not attempt to minimize this distracting Christian influence, but says frankly that it is "too true" that "the children are drifting into the missions," and that of the truth of "the stories of large attendance" at the Christian meetings "there can be no doubt." The reason for this Christian success, so far, it also attributes to "the indifference of the Jews." At last, however, it announces, the Jews are waking up to the danger. Movements have been started to counteract the missionary influence, but not so much because of fear that the children will become Christians as that they "will cease to be Jews."

Another Jewish secession alarms them much more. It is the movement among children of the severely orthodox Jews of the Ghetto, of which Dr. ISIDOR SINGER has lately spoken as portentous, and is away from religion altogether, toward complete infidelity and downright agnosticism, or at least, religious indifference. It seems that many of the young men of the Ghetto trained in the colleges and universities—and there are thousands of them—are affected profoundly by the prevailing religious scepticism, and have come to look somewhat condescendingly on the faith and ritual of their fathers, as evidences of minds without the light of modern criticism and investigation.

This movement away from Judaism is described by Dr. SINGER as extensive. "The vast majority of the present Jewish generation in central and western Europe, in America, Australia and South Africa," he writes, in further discussing the subject, "have no genuine religious tendencies;" "they profess their Judaism because they cannot help it." In other words, "contemporary Jewish society outside of the Russian pale, the ghettos of Galicia and the *mellahs* of the Orient is in process of religious dissolution." Moreover, since the emigration of the Jews of eastern Europe to America and South Africa, within the next fifty years, seems to him inevitable, Dr. SINGER goes so far as to say that already "the epoch when the ancient religious traditions of Judaism will have become a thing of the past" can be "approximately predicted," if this tendency to dissolution shall not be checked by "the definite reconciliation of the two wings of American Judaism," so that they may expend their united strength and zeal on "the tremendous work Providence has imposed on American Israel with the beginning of the twentieth century."

We referred the other day to a sermon by Dr. SILVERMAN of the Fifth Avenue Temple Emanu-El, in which he took the ground that religious infidelity has begun to grow distasteful to social "culture and refinement"—that it is becoming unfashionable. His reference was to the older and more prosperous Jewish society of the "Uptown Ghetto," as it has been called derisively by denizens of the East Side Ghetto of the orthodox Jews. The *New Era* magazine now confirms his judgment. It records with much satisfaction that from the very centre of this uptown district, where "only a few years ago the cause of Jewry seemed to be hopelessly lost," "the houses of worship were deserted" and "it was fashionable to scoff at religious observances and sneer at the men and women who adhered to ancient customs and usages." Jewish young men are now combining to assist the downtown Ghetto in resisting the encroachments of the Christian missions on the one hand and of agnosticism on the other. "To-day," it says, uptown "agnostics and believers of two decades ago" are organized in a brotherhood for the purpose of rekindling "veneration for the faith of their fathers" among the lapsing orthodox Jews of the East Side and to "hold them back" from Christian and from agnostic influences. The liberalism of the old settlers is going to the succor of the distressed orthodoxy of the newcomers, with an earnest determination to "play an important part in arresting the progress of religious decay with which a part of the Jewish community in New York is threatened."

This is certainly a very remarkable demonstration confirmatory of the view of Dr. SILVERMAN that the "culture and refinement" of Jewish society have come to look on infidelity or disregard for the observance of religion as in bad taste. It has very much of the appearance of a considerable Jewish revival.

Masks and Faces.

Most things are a matter of opinion. We are not unduly attached to our own or inclined to find fault with that of others. Of the millions of faces in the United States and Great Britain, how many has any one pair of eyes seen or, having seen, does it remember? Here is a correspondent whose impressions of our theory of "typical" faces don't agree with ours, as why should they?

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a continual reader and great admirer of your paper, and generally agree with your views upon most subjects. I must beg to differ with you, though, in a statement which you make this morning in your editorial column in your article upon 'Typical Faces.' Here you state that if you placed side by side the typical smooth-faced English 'Johnny' and 'an American athlete from the colleges or Wall Street,' it would be impossible to tell which was the American and which the Englishman. To me this seems an absolutely erroneous view. There is a distinct difference in the two types, call it what you will, a difference which is difficult to describe, but which enables one to distinguish at a glance the Britisher from the American. They have been brought up in such different atmospheres and environments that it is stamped upon their faces.

"NEW YORK, March 28. C. L. W."

Well, this is a keener eye, a sharper perception, a greater knack of defining the indefinable and grasping the unseizable than we possess. There are many sorts of Americans, Irishmen, Englishmen, Scotchmen; and we are not prepared to say that any one sort of face or physique is characteristic of them. Put a wig on the head of the Hon. GEORGE FRISBIE HOAR, and hang his picture among the portraits of the Lord Chancellors and see if he contrasts with the Englishmen or Scotch in that gallery. Put him in Oxford D. C. L. robes by the side of MILLAIS'S portrait of Mr. GLADSTONE, so accoutred, and let any observer who has never seen the Worcester Senator, pick him out, if he can, by any "typical" Americanism in the look of him. And Mr. GLADSTONE, essentially Scotch as he may have been, might be an old-time President of Yale or Harvard, before the "business manager" kind of college president came in.

Mr. HOAR'S colleague, Mr. LODGE, might be French, West Indian, Creole, by his exterior. Mr. DEPEW is the ancient respectable English verger or retired rural solicitor. We were shaved at Warwick once by Gen. GROSVENOR'S double, clad in the most respectable frockcoat that ever grew. There is, or was, somewhere up the Hudson, an American doctor who was the exact replica of Lord HOUGHTON and corresponded with him on the strength of the likeness.

Twenty years ago the German head waiter in a beer garden near Third avenue was known as LOUIS NAPOLEON. A German waiter in a Boston restaurant grew rich in the days of the Turco-Russian war by his perfect resemblance to Count SCHOUVALOFF. You can find many "typical" Yankee faces in a German restaurant in this town frequented by the elderly men or in the Central Park. There are more "typical" Yankee faces in the South than in New England. The most extremely "English" people are certain Canadians.

Only the other day we saw ALFRED AUSTIN at his desk in the office of a trust company. RUDYARD KIPLING is a corn doctor in The Bronx. MATTHEW ARNOLD is, or was, an undertaker in Sixth avenue. We know a schoolmaster from Aberdeen who looks more like JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL than ever Mr. LOWELL did. What was there of distinctively English in the face of CHARLES DICKENS? VICTOR HUGO in his old age is driving a tin peddler's cart in a New England town, a Yankee of the Yankees by descent. We remember the Hon. CHARLES WARREN FAIRBANKS of Indiana when he was a "chemist" in Florence; and WILKIE COLLINS plays the fiddle every summer down in Maine.

So on. Put not too much trust in "types" or faces. Or in theories, even yours or our own.

Mr. Slaught's Enterprise.

Mr. S. H. SLAUGHT is to be congratulated upon his friends. Judging from the provisions of the bill H. R. 14260, just introduced, by request, by the Hon. CHARLES FREDERICK SCOTT, Representative at Large from the State of Kansas, Mr. SLAUGHT is attempting to induce the farmers of the United States to cultivate more extensively the ramie plant. He has written, and the Government has printed, two documents upon the subject. It has become apparent, however, that the ramie fibre silk and flax industry cannot thrive on words alone, and Mr. SLAUGHT is ambitious to make a practical demonstration of its possibilities.

To accomplish this is the object of the measure introduced by Mr. SCOTT. It provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall spend $110,000 in "assisting" the ramie fibre silk and flax demonstration, under the direction of a special agent to be appointed by the President at a salary of $3,000 a year and his expenses. It also provides that from 100 to 200 acres of land on the Island Reservation, or Arlington Farm, be allotted to Mr. SLAUGHT by the Secretary of Agriculture; that he be allowed to mail, under frank, 5,000 copies of his articles on the ramie silk fibre and flax industries, revised, illustrated, and adapted to inform the farmers, the copies to be printed by the Government Printer free of cost to Mr. SLAUGHT; and that the stereotype plates of the articles, pictures, and maps shall then be given to him.

A pleasant prospect for Mr. SLAUGHT if he can induce Congress to pass this bill "by request." But before the bill is passed, Mr. SCOTT might enlighten the scientific and agricultural world as to the identity of the person at whose request he introduced the bill to authorize "Government assistance in the development and encouragement of ramie silk fibre and flax preparation"; and why the Secretary of the Treasury is to be the patron of this experiment rather than the Secretary of Agriculture, into whose province it would naturally fall.

The National Hymn.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At a theatrical performance last evening one of the numbers on the programme was the playing of band music by the marine band of one of the European countries, on its way to the fair at St. Louis, and among the selections rendered was "American Fantaisie," by Victor Herbert, which included "Hail, Columbia," "Dixie" and "The Star-Spangled Banner." A few in the audience arose when "Hail, Columbia" was being played, there was applause for "Dixie" and when the "Star-Spangled Banner" was given, nearly all in the audience stood up, after some slight hesitancy. The enthusiasm was great, and after much applause "America" was played, this time the members of the band standing. Those in the audience, following the example, again came to their feet, greeted the first strains of the hymn with applause and later joined in the singing of it.

We are becoming educated. We have at last learned that it is the proper thing to uncover or arise when our national hymn or national air, whichever it is, is being played; but which shall it be, "Yankee Doodle," "Hail, Columbia, "The Star-Spangled Banner" or "My Country, 'Tis of Thee"?

I know this is an old question, and, being old, is it not about time that something definite should be determined upon? Some of us in that audience no doubt felt embarrassed in the presence of the foreigners at the bobbing up of a few here and there when each of the pieces was being played. How much better it would have been if all had known which was really our hymn, and all could have stood up together. Is there not some way of finally settling this matter, or has it been settled without some of us knowing it? D. T.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Inhabitants of Cockney District, London.

From the Louisville Courier-Journal.

"I am a Cockney, born in the sound of the great bell of Bow, in London," said Henry Leighton last night. "I am a genuine Cockney. That term can be properly applied only to a native of East London—a man who was born within the sound of the bell of Bow. The district is composed of foreigners, who take refuge there while fleeing from countries where they do not have liberty. This floating population, composed of Anarchists, Nihilists, and, in fact, every one who cannot live, elsewhere, composes the largest proportion of the inhabitants of the true Cockney district."

Christian Science and Rich and Poor.

From the London Truth.

I thought that Christian Science was a luxury confined to the rich, but from the inquest on a Christian Scientist held last week it appears that the cult has got a hold among the "lower orders."

The Gossip's Way.

From the Philadelphia Press.

Miss Gaussip—It's easy to tell that a man's been drinking.

Mr. Goodart—Yes; so easy that even if he hasn't you go ahead and tell it anyway.

A Solemn Thought.

From the New Orleans Times-Democrat.

It is a solemn thought,
Most solemn, of a verity,
With pregnant meaning fraught,
That we were once posterity.

The people we've forgot,
Even the very pink o' them,
Were once unduly hot
To know what we would think o' them.

From this a lesson good
We learn about futurity;
Cease vain solicitude
And rest in full security.

AMERICAN REGISTRY.

An Argument Against Granting It to Wrecks of Foreign Built Ships.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* All who admire doers of daring and difficult deeds will agree with what you say regarding the credit due to Capt. Thayer, who sailed the wrecked British ship Pyrenees all over the Pacific and finally brought her safely to San Francisco in a condition fit for repairs. But why should such an accomplishment entitle Capt. Thayer to American registry for his vessel? The laws of the United States have always denied American registry to foreign built vessels, and this Capt. Thayer must have known, or should have known, when he purchased the wreck of the Pyrenees.

The objection to the granting of American registry to the Pyrenees is that her lower cost brings her into competition with American built vessels that have cost much more than she has, the effect of which is to unduly enhance the value of the Pyrenees and to unjustly depreciate the value of American built vessels with which she may compete. The Pyrenees, you should know, would not be satisfied with mere registry—that is to say, the privilege of engaging in the foreign trade under the flag of the United States—but her owner will insist on being given the privilege of placing her in the coastwise trade, if he so desires. The coastwise trade has been reserved for American built vessels whose owners have gladly paid the much higher price exacted by American shipbuilders for American built ships, believing that the Government would adhere to this old, time honored policy of reserving the coastwise trade exclusively for American built vessels.

Is there anything in the daring and successful recovery of the British built ship Pyrenees that should entitle her owner to put her into free competition with more expensively built American vessels? I have an interest in a considerable number of American built vessels for which I have paid anywhere from 25 to 50 per cent. more than I could have had them built abroad for. Why should my property, which I have acquired relying upon the good faith of the Government not to subject it to the free competition of foreign built tonnage, be subject to such competition because of the romantic circumstances under which Capt. Thayer saved her?

Please understand that my objection is not to the Pyrenees, as such alone, but is to the admission of foreign built vessels which have been wrecked in foreign waters and brought to the United States for repairs. In almost all such cases the vessels are brought here, not because their owners prefer to employ American shipbuilders to repair them, but because, as in the case of the Pyrenees, the United States is the nearest and most available place to which the needed repairs can be made. There are pending in Congress, at this time, bills for the admission of four foreign built steamships, wrecked in foreign waters and brought to the United States and repaired; and each one claims to have romantic reasons equally as strong as those of the Pyrenees to justify the granting of American registry to her. The consequence of this sort of thing is this: American vessel owners who but for this practice of admitting such wrecks to American registry would place orders in American shipyards for needed tonnage, hold back and put off such purchases, looking for a chance to buy up one of these foreign wrecks, provided she can secure American registry.

If the five vessels which have been built in foreign countries, which have been wrecked in foreign waters, and have been repaired in American shipyards simply because American shipyards are most available for such repairs, receive American registry, their value will be enhanced several hundred thousands of dollars. They can be sold in the United States for an advance of several hundred thousand dollars above their present value lacking American registry. Congress is asked to vote value into these foreign wrecks for the particular benefit of the individuals who have acquired possession of them, to the positive injury of American shipowners and shipbuilders. If these registers are granted, it will merely encourage adventurous and speculative American citizens to scour the seven seas of the world for foreign wrecks, which they will fetch to the United States for repair, and the "free ship" idea will obtain by piecemeal. I should say that it would be far fairer all around for Congress to throw open the doors wide to the admission of any foreign built ship owned by an American citizen in order that all may have an equal chance in purchasing them at their comparatively lower cost, than to do it in the cases of a favored few, as is proposed, and as seems to be altogether too likely, in the case of the four pending bills to which I have referred.

I am a Democrat who believes in protection, equal protection for all American citizens; and this I have been demanding for the vessel property that I am interested in and entitled to. My vessels that engage in the foreign trade receive no protection in competition with foreign vessels, wherefore I am forced to confine my trade largely to the coastwise business of the United States; but if there I am to be confronted with the competition of foreign built vessels, my ruin is nearer at hand than it otherwise would be, lacking protection only in the foreign trade.

You should know that the admission of the five vessels that are now seeking American registry will probably prevent the building of as many as fifty American schooners of 1,000 tons carrying capacity, as well as cause a depreciation in the value of all of the American built tonnage now engaged in our coastwise trade. Are romantic reasons justify the infliction of such injuries upon American shipbuilders and shipowners?

F. S. PENDLETON.

NEW YORK, March 28.

The Business Man and His Stenographer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* That the average business man does not know how to dictate a letter properly is not necessarily any reflection on his general intelligence or education. Every really competent stenographer knows this. It is the business of a well qualified stenographer to supply the deficiency in his employer's literary attainments. He should have the tact and ability to correct quietly all errors in dictation, whether grammatical or rhetorical, always preserving the dictator's style and language as far as possible.

There are some employers, however—capable, practical men of executive ability—who, although their education may have been sufficient, are almost devoid of any literary sense; yet they are so stubborn in their notions of written English that they do not take kindly to the corrections of their stenographers, no matter how tactfully executed. Such employers may be better satisfied with an amanuensis who transcribes notes just as they are dictated, right or wrong; and that is about all the majority of stenographers ever pretend to do, anyway.

The real difficulty with the average business man is that he is not as yet educated up to the full and proper use of the stenographer. It is up to the average stenographer to impart this education, but he must educate himself first.

NEW YORK, March 29. STENOGRAPHER.

Woman Suffrage in England.

From the London Spectator.

On Wednesday a motion by Mr. McLaren declaring that the disabilities of women in respect to the franchise ought to be removed by legislation was carried in the House of Commons by 114 (182 to 68)—a heavy majority, obtained, however, in a very thin House. No member of political eminence joined in the debate, but Mr. Labouchere resisted the proposal on the ground that women did not desire it, which is doubtful. There is, however, no serious intention of sanctioning the change, against which there are three solid reasons. One is that, women being in a large majority, it would one day, when the suffrage is again extended, involve a complete revolution; another, and the most serious, is that if the masculine minority resisted the feminine majority, the latter would have no means of enforcing their will, and legal right would thus be separated from actual power; while the third is human instinct. If a henpecked man is universally despised, why is a henpecked State to be respected? The proposal is one of many which always succeed until they become serious.

A True-born Englishman.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN keenly dissects another conceit in gravecloths in its editorial comment on the "British type," resurrected by Mr. Henry D. Sedgwick. Daniel Defoe flayed alive this conceit two hundred years ago, but the corpse has been paraded of late, in spite of its ancient and fishlike smell, by the Immigration Restriction League and other alarmists, who are making a bogey of the defiling of the "pure Anglo-Saxon" strain by the alien influx from southern Europe. Everything in the "British type" that is worth preserving in the American will be perpetuated without the aid of a humbug incubator; hence I offer Mr. Sedgwick a few of the rude clips of Daniel Defoe:

"For Englishmen to boast of generation
Cancels their knowledge and lampoons the nation.
A true-born Englishman's a contradiction,
In speech an irony, in fact a fiction.

* * * * * * *

These are the heroes that despise the Dutch,
And rail at newcome foreigners so much,
Forgetting that themselves are all derived
From the most scoundrel race that ever lived;
A horrid crowd of gambling thieves and drones,
Who ransacked kingdoms and dispeopled towns;
The Pict and painted Briton, treacherous Scot,
By hunger, theft and rapine hither brought;
Norwegian pirates, buccaneering Danes,
Whose red-haired offspring everywhere remains;
Who, joined with Norman French, compound the breed
From whence your true-born Englishmen proceed."

NEW YORK, March 28. L.

THAT NORTHEAST PASSAGE.

Nordenskjold's Route to Be Followed By the Russian Fleet.

Paris Correspondence of the Courrier des Etats-Unis.

A project of unusual boldness, but which it would not be impossible to realize, has been under discussion for some time in military circles. It is the proposition to send the Russian fleet from the Baltic Sea to the Sea of Japan, not by the usual route through the Suez Canal (which would be a long voyage during which the neutrality laws would make coaling impossible), but around the north coasts of Europe and Asia—the course followed in 1878-79 by Nordenskjold.

The plan is attributed to Admiral Makaroff, who, according to the reports, was in consultation in relation to the matter with the General Staff of the Navy before his departure from St. Petersburg. It was natural that such an idea should arise in the mind of this distinguished seaman who, in time past, published a study of the methods of utilizing the Kara Sea for commercial purposes, during the period when it is free from ice. In this work, he based his calculations upon the performances of the celebrated explorer referred to, Nordenskjold.

Let us see what Nordenskjold did. On July 4, 1878, he left Gothenburg, on the Cattegat, on board the steamer Vega and, traversing the North Sea, proceeded to Tromsoe, where he took in a supply of provisions. There his real expedition commenced. On Aug. 1 he arrived in the Kara Sea, which he crossed in four days. On Aug. 19, the most northern cape of Asia, Cape Chelioushkin, was rounded for the first time. On the 26th, the explorer passed the mouths of the Lena. He continued his voyage toward the northeast and, on Sept. 27, reached Kaluchin Bay, near Behring Strait. By this time the season was well advanced, and the next day he was frozen in. The hibernation lasted 264 days. It was not until July 18, 1879, that the Vega could resume its voyage. From that time onward the expedition encountered no more obstacles, Behring Strait being traversed without difficulty. After touching St. Lawrence Gulf (Asiatic coast) the vessel reached Clarence Point (American coast), visited Behring Island, which it left on Aug. 19, and disembarked its crew at Yokohama on Sept. 2 without losing a man.

It was thus shown that it was possible to use the passage between the North Sea and the Pacific Ocean. Questioned upon this point, Nordenskjold declared: (1) That it ought to be possible to sail along the northern coast of Siberia in a few weeks with a well built and well directed steamer; (2) that the Kara Sea route offered no difficulties; (3) that no obstacle was presented by Cape Chelioushkin; (4) that the difficulties of the trip were to be found near the eastern coast of Nova Zembla and in the strait to the south of Wrangel Land.

Taking the itinerary of Nordenskjold as their base of calculation, the officers of the navy figure out that the Russian Baltic fleet could go from Libau to Vladivostok, about 8,750 miles, in forty days. By starting on June 20 it would arrive on July 30.

The members of the Russian General Staff are thinking seriously of this northeast passage. Ice-breakers of the Yermack type will start for the White Sea, as soon as the cold season is ended, for the purpose of testing whether the expedition will be possible or not. If the northeastern passage cannot be utilized, the Russian fleet will go to the theatre of the war by way of Suez.

One thing is certain: the Baltic fleet will start. It will consist of nine battleships, a considerable number of cruisers and torpedo boats, which will counterbalance the Japanese fleet, and will have the advantage over it of not being overworked. All the vessels not at Libau and at Cronstadt have received orders to commence their preparations, and the work is going on night and day.

TYPICAL FACES.

A Difference of Expression Characteristic of the American Type.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your leading article on the above subject on the 28th inst., you ask the following question: "So divested (i. e., of whiskers or mustache), will a gallery of American faces differ essentially from a gallery of smooth-shaven Irish, English and German faces?" If we assume that feature is the essential thing in a face the answer to the above question should be No, but if we assume that expression is the essential thing the answer should be Yes.

It is taught by ethnologists that there is nothing more persistent than physical or facial (i. e. structural) type, but this by no means holds true of expression. Now, seeing that Americans of even the oldest stock are of English, Irish and German descent, dating back not more than two or three hundred years, they could not differ materially in feature from their kindred beyond the seas. But they certainly have developed a new expression. And this is differentiated by its keenness and eagerness. It is the expression, so to speak, of a man with his eye on the future, while the European expression is that of a man with his eye on the past. I do not think therefore that any one at all experienced in physiognomy could mistake an American for a European face—not even the London Johnny's, cited by you, for the New York Johnny's. Of course, individual cases might prove puzzling, but these should be regarded as the exceptions which follow every rule.

As to what Prof. Starr of the University of Chicago says, namely, that Americans are reverting to the Indian type, I confess I have been sometimes startled by seeing the resemblance which some white men have developed to the aborigines. But it is more than probable that this resemblance is the result of an admixture of Indian blood. Unquestionably, however, environment is a great face maker. Climate and habits of life, with the thoughts and emotions springing therefrom, leave their stamp very distinctively upon the face. So that a man dwelling in the woods and leading a life pretty similar to that of the Indians will in course of time begin to look more or less like an Indian. He will not develop his high cheek bones or his black hair, but he will certainly develop largely his complexion, his watchful, suspicious eye, and his air of stern reserve and taciturnity. To this extent only, I think, is the statement of Prof. Starr reconcilable with fact, and as Americans are getting away from the woods as much as they can there is not the slightest danger that, say, a thousand or a hundred thousand years hence, their descendants will look like Mohawks or Ogalallas. FRANCIS MOONAN.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Religious Spirit of the Russians in War.

From the London Truth.

The war, seen from Russia, appears much more a sacerdotal than a military thing. Metropolitans, popes, bearers of great vessels filled with holy water, clergy, Christian and Moslem, to swear in troops, signs of the cross, genuflexions, and rites that only the orthodox can understand, draw attention from Generals and smart young officers. The Czar comes out more in his religious than his military character. Gen. Kuropatkin, whom we knew so well in Paris as the companion in *partie fine* restaurant dinners and suppers, went out of his way at Moscow to secure the protection of St. Sergius against the Japanese. He arrived at that city on Sunday morning en route for Harbin, his future headquarters; but, instead of pushing on, he made a pilgrimage forty miles out to the Monastery of St. Sergius.

A Dangerous Poolroom.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Some day, as you say, there will be a terrible catastrophe in a poolroom. For instance, one of the finest rooms in the city holds on a Saturday or holidays over 400 men. Two upper floors in an old time tenement house are used for the purpose. Every window and the skylight is heavily barred. There is only one way of ingress or egress furnished. This is a narrow hallway which, in time of panic, twenty men would block. The door, opening from inside, would do credit to any fortress. The ground floor of this building is occupied as a carpenter shop, full of inflammable materials. To empty this room on a Saturday night takes fully fifteen minutes.

What would happen if a fire started in the carpenter shop? EDWARD DOE.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Right and Left in Buttoning.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent of to-day in defence of lefthandedness says that "a woman who buttons her jacket from right to left is just as able mentally as her husband who buttons his coat in the opposite direction."

It would be a rather sorry outlook for women if buttoning jackets from right to left was any evidence of mental deficiency, for all women's coats are made to lap in that direction. Perhaps you can suggest why this distinction is made between a man's and a woman's outer garment—for even the tailors who make coats for both sexes invariably follow this rule. L. D. B.

NEW YORK, March 29.

Not Yet.

Her face would stop a clock, they said;
But tho' it's seen afar,
No face of which we've ever read
Has ever stopped a car.

LURANA W. SHELDON

STRANGE CASE OF MRS. ARNOLD.

Her Children Anxiously Awaiting Decision if She Is Indian or Negro.

From the Kansas City Journal.

The hardest fought and most interesting of all the suits for recognition as citizens of the Choctaw Nation is that of Martha Arnold et al. It is the only case where there is an element of sentiment in the motive. In all other cases the frank declaration is made that a participation in the tribal lands and moneys is the only desire. But in the Arnold case social status is involved. The defence of the Nation is that the plaintiff is a negress instead of a halfbreed Choctaw. The four sons of the plaintiff are men of property and education. They have white wives and their children are in white schools and universities. Hence they have hired some of the most able lawyers in Indian Territory, Texas, Arkansas and Georgia to represent them. They have spent more money than their share of the tribal estate would amount to, because of the social question.

The decision in favor of the Arnolds was rendered in 1897 by Judge William Springer, former Democratic floor leader in the House of Representatives. He wrote an able and elaborate opinion of the case. Expert ethnologists had testified on racial peculiarities. A lock of Mrs. Arnold's hair had been sent to the Smithsonian Institution and the experts had declared that it was not the hair of a mulatto. Mrs. Arnold has long, straight black hair, a Roman nose, thin lips and high cheek bones. But her voice and dialect are those of the typical black mammy.

Her story is stranger than romance. She claims to have been a granddaughter of John Lucas, a fullblood Choctaw Indian of Mississippi. She says she was taken, when a young girl, to Georgia by a schoolteacher named Miss Amy Waddley. She was left for a while at the plantation of Washington Arnold, a wealthy Georgia planter. She later went to live with his brother, James Arnold, another wealthy planter. She acted as his housekeeper. The second Arnold was a widower and Martha became his common-law wife. At the close of the war he took her and her children by him to Arkansas, leaving his Georgia plantation in charge of his sons by his first wife. It is claimed that the family had started for Indian Territory to join the Indians, but they stopped in Arkansas and bought a place.

Upon the death of James Arnold there was litigation between the two sets of children as to the possession of his property. This was compromised by the first children retaining the Georgia property and the second children the Arkansas accumulation. The second children and their mother came to the Indian Territory and have since resided here.

Sons of Washington Arnold and James Arnold, prominent men of the South, testified in behalf of the plaintiffs. They upheld the story of the Waddley woman and swore that Martha Arnold had never been regarded as a slave on either plantation.

Owing to the remoteness of the time, the evidence on both sides often destroys itself with contradictions. How much of this is due to age clouded memories and how much to self-interest is a problem for the court.

The court has not yet rendered a decision in the case and will not until the simpler cases are out of the way. It is understood that instead of the case being assigned to one of the three Judges, as is the rule, the entire bench will try to ravel its complications.

DIAMOND OF 1,000 CARATS.

Its Value About $25,000,000—Philosophers' Stone Discovered by Pinta.

From the London Daily Mail.

Five operations on his eyes within the last three years have rendered the retirement of Mr. Streeter, the veteran jeweller and expert in precious stones, imperative. Mr. Streeter's establishment in Bond street is as well known as the Bank, and sometimes nearly as valuable.

Beneath the shop is a capacious safe which often contains as much as a million pounds' worth of valuables. It stands on a base of concrete to prevent tunnelling, and is fitted with four steel doors, to disturb which means the ringing of alarm bells in all parts of the building. A guard of men sleep near it every night, and a powerful dog prowls round its iron walls.

Mr. Streeter has in his poss