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Parker on the Regulation of Prices.

In the absence of trustworthy campaign information regarding the political philosophy of Chief Judge PARKER, perhaps some idea of his attitude on the greater questions of the day may be derived by a close study of the judicial opinions to which he has signed his respected name.

There is the notable case, for example, of Park & Sons against the National Wholesale Druggists' Association. It involved questions both of law and of public policy. An agreement on the part of manufacturers and wholesale dealers to sell their goods at the jobbing price only to such retailers as would conform to the manufacturers' retail price list was contested on the general ground that it was a contract and conspiracy in restraint of trade and against public policy.

Much of the essence of the trust question, apart from its Federal aspect in interstate commerce, was involved in this case, which went to the Court of Appeals just one year ago. We refer to it, as contained in 175 N. Y., 1-45, not in order to describe or analyze the various features of the case, but simply to quote what Judge PARKER wrote concerning it. In a separate opinion in concurrence with the decision of the court the Chief Judge said:

"The members of the association not only had the right to inform the manufacturers about those members within it and the dealers without it who were violating the plans agreed upon, but they also had the right to take such legitimate and honorable means as were within reach to ascertain what persons were violating the rules, and to give notice of it to all of the members of the association.

"But that course operated, says the plaintiff, in effect to deprive me of the opportunity of buying goods on terms as favorable as the defendant wholesale dealers bought them. True, but it may be answered that you *could* buy them on the *same* terms as the members of the association, which terms contain conditions governing the sale and the conduct of the members. Instead, you prefer to take the chances to be found outside of the association, and, before the courts will help you, you must show that the plans of the association, or its conduct under those plans, is unlawful as against you."

Of yet broader application and more general interest are Judge PARKER'S concluding remarks:

"It will be seen, therefore, that this is a controversy between opponents in business, neither side trying to help the public. Nor will the public be the gainer by the success of either. The motive behind the action of each party is self-help. It is the usual motive that inspires men to endure great hardships and take enormous risks that fortune may come. In the struggle which acquisitiveness prompts, but little consideration is given to those who may be affected adversely. Am I within my legal rights? is as near to the equitable view as competitors in business usually come. When one party finds himself overmatched by the strength of the position of the other, he looks about for aid. And quite often he turns to the courts, even when he has no merit of his own, and makes himself for the time being the pretended champion of the public welfare in the hope that the courts may be deceived into an adjudication that will prove helpful to him.

"Now, while the courts will not hesitate to enforce the law intended for the protection of the public because the party invoking such protection is unworthy, or seeks the adjudication for selfish reasons only, they will be careful not to allow the process of the courts to be made use of, under a false cry that the interests of the public are menaced when its real purpose is to strengthen the strategic position of one competitor in business as against another."

We take pleasure in presenting these excerpts from an unusually interesting and well reasoned opinion in a case where the cry of monopoly and conspiracy against the consumer had been raised in the highest of our State tribunals of justice. We think that citizens will follow closely the workings of Judge PARKER'S mind in his consideration of this attack on a so-called trust or combination in restraint of trade.

The salient feature of his decision and opinion is the evidence therein of a clear perception that the consumer's interest is not the only interest which it is the function of the law to protect.

East Side Rents.

The excitement on the East Side of the town, more particularly among the Jews of the Ghetto, because of the raising by landlords of the prices of rents, may be set down as in large part one of the many adverse consequences of the long-continued building strike. Rents in that district, which had formerly yielded only a small interest on the investment, rose because of the restraint on building during a period when the growth of the population of the town was unusually great. Increased demand, with an insufficient supply, produced its usual effect in the raising of prices.

That is about all there is to be said of the cause of the East Side troubles, except that the landlords against whose increased charges so violent a protest is made are in large part themselves Jews. The rapidity with which Jews accumulate money by small and persistent savings is well known; and when their savings banks accounts are large enough a favorite investment with them is in landed property, and more especially in tenement house property. Thus they have become very largely the landlords of the district of the Ghetto.

Moreover, the tenement house supply in the district has been diminished by the destruction of buildings for the approach to the new East River bridge at Delancey street, though meantime the Ghetto population has received great additions from the Russian and other Eastern European immigration. Obviously, the remedy for the consequent congestion of the Ghetto is migration to some other and less thickly populated district; and, perforce, such migration has been going on in a large and steady stream to the Brownsville district of Brooklyn, the Jewish population of which, according to the secretary of the Educational Alliance, has increased to 40,000, of whom are 3,000 families of Russian Jews who have migrated from the East Side Ghetto within the last three months. The cause of this withdrawal has been the high rents of the Ghetto. The result, however caused, is fortunate both for the Jews and for the community, since their congregation in a single and congested Ghetto is undesirable.

An attempt is made to incite a socialistic agitation on account of an increase of rents on the East Side which has resulted from an inexorable economic law. The true and the only remedy has been found and adopted by the tenants who have left the district to get smaller rents in Brooklyn. The Ghetto is too greatly crowded, and in consequence the people who insist on living there have to pay high relatively for the privilege. With the ending of the building strike there will be a rapid increase in the number of habitations put up elsewhere and the Ghetto problem will settle itself. There will be no need and no justification for an anti-rent demonstration. If tenants move away in great numbers, as they should do wherever possible, rents will fall naturally with the diminution in the demand for tenements.

Democrats Defining Their Objections to Mr. Roosevelt.

It is fortunate for the Republicans if it be true that they are beginning to recognize the necessity of trying to parry the attacks that lately have been made on the President by Democratic members of Congress. So vigorous, so shrewd and so concerted have been the assaults that it is evident that the Democratic leaders intend to make Mr. ROOSEVELT'S fitness for the office of Chief Magistrate a conspicuous, if not the main, issue in the coming campaign.

That this plan of operation had been resolved upon was first disclosed in the House of Representatives when, in the course of a debate on the Sundry Civil bill, Mr. JAMES R. WILLIAMS of Illinois, himself a candidate for the Democratic nomination for the Presidency, declared that if he were called upon to select an issue upon which all Democrats could unite he would formulate it in four words, to wit: "ROOSEVELT must be defeated." There were many incidents, he said, in the present President's Administration which justified the apprehension that on some exciting occasion he would be liable to go off too suddenly and to deal too recklessly with the gravest affairs of government. Who but Mr. ROOSEVELT, he continued, is chargeable with retaining in office Cabinet Ministers who are responsible for the malfeasance known to exist in the Post Office Department, in the General Land Office and in the Indian Bureau? Whose fault is it but Mr. ROOSEVELT'S, asked Mr. WILLIAMS, that at every door which leads to opportunities for public plunder the Republican party stands on guard, refusing admittance to the people's spokesmen who desire an investigation? To what conclusion can the people come, except that the President is afraid that an investigation will uncover new crimes and cast still graver reflections on his Administration? Mr. WILLIAMS added that a joke had been perpetrated on the public when the announcement was made that Mr. ROOSEVELT was to be the anti-trust candidate in 1904. It is true, he said, that before he became President, and for a short time afterward, Mr. ROOSEVELT put himself forward as a "trust buster." Yet only the other day he allowed his Attorney-General to issue a statement which meant nothing unless it signified that the trusts had nothing to fear so long as they "stood pat" for the election of the present President to a second term.

As we have previously pointed out, Mr. GORMAN, a little later, made an even more forcible arraignment of the domineering temper and arbitrary conduct of the present tenant of the White House. The Senator from Maryland directed the attention of his colleagues to the fact that from some untraced source in the Federal Government had emanated requests, amounting to orders, that Congress must be dispersed. It seemed to be generally understood that the Fifty-eighth Congress would obey the fiat of this mysterious power. Never before, said Mr. GORMAN, had even Republican members of Congress abdicated in favor of another department of the Government. Never before, from LINCOLN to MCKINLEY, had the right of inquiry been repudiated by Republican majorities or by Republican Chief Magistrates. Now, on the other hand, although the duty of maintaining purity in the public service is preached incessantly at the White House, the silence enjoined upon Congress is like a wall of fog whenever a request is made for searching investigation. Senator GORMAN went on to say that a fraction of the American people seem dissatisfied with the present form of Government and to want to see power concentrated in the hands of one man, like a Czar. Have we not already reached, he asked, a point where the Executive department of the Government has usurped functions never intrusted to it by the Constitution? Was it not a fact that if a law of Congress does not happen to suit the present Chief Magistrate he changes it by Executive order? In fine, according to Mr. GORMAN, a new light has recently dawned to the west of the Capitol. "I'll attend to the law," is the watchword now issued from the White House. "Let Congress go home. I'll give the old soldiers more money; I'll amend the Interstate Commerce act and permit commerce to flow uninterruptedly across State borders." Mr. GORMAN concluded with the admission that he had no desire to dispute the President's honesty, but he submitted that something more than honesty was needed to qualify for the office of Chief Magistrate.

Subsequently, during the same week, Senator CARMACK of Tennessee, Senator MALLORY of Florida and Senator SIMMONS of North Carolina combined to impeach Mr. ROOSEVELT'S fitness for the post which he aims to hold for four years more. They did not hesitate to describe the President as "a man of spectacular propensities"; rash, hot-headed and impulsive; a man believed by hundreds of thousands, nay, millions, including many in the Republican party, to be by temperament and character disqualified for the exercise of the vast and elastic powers that may be asserted by a President. All of the Senators whom we have named are plainly convinced that one of the principal issues, if not the paramount issue, before the country this year is whether the American people, keeping in view what Mr. ROOSEVELT has already done as the unexpected successor of MCKINLEY, will deem it prudent or safe to give him a free hand for future divagations, as the accredited outcome of their deliberate choice.

Particular stress is laid by critics of the President on the following Executive acts: First, his unconstitutional interposition between employers and employed in the anthracite coal strike, an interposition not requested by the Legislature nor by the Governor of Pennsylvania. Secondly, his inflexible determination to promote Dr. WOOD to be a Major-General in the Regular Army, with the knowledge that such promotion would cause WOOD at no distant day to become practically the head of the military system of the United States. Thirdly, his virtual exercise of the war making power by the "fifty miles order," which, say the Democratic Senators, was an application of force by the United States against Colombia. Fourthly, the promulgation by Executive fiat of the rule that hereafter the age of sixty-two years shall be accepted as proof, *prima facie*, that veterans of the civil war are "disabled" in the meaning of the Pension law. Lastly, the Executive order directing all officials of the Federal Government—civil, military and naval—to abstain, during the pending war between Russia and Japan, from either action or *speech* calculated to irritate either of the combatants; although Mr. ROOSEVELT'S proclamation of neutrality, issued about a month earlier, declared that the free and full expression of sympathies, in public and private, is not restricted by the laws of the United States.

With regard to the first of these Executive encroachments, the intervention in the anthracite coal strike, it may be thought to have been sanctioned by Democrats as well as Republicans, since almost all the Representatives and Senators, without distinction of party, concurred in voting the $75,000 required for the expenses of the unconstitutional Commission. It is true that the appropriation was voted without any serious opposition, and it is no credit to Democratic spokesmen of Southern and Western communities that this was the case. At the time, however, the inhabitants of Atlantic seaboard cities were panic-stricken with apprehension that adequate supplies of their customary combustible would be lacking during the impending winter. Experience and sober second thought have taught them that the upholding of the Federal Constitution in its integrity is worth a chill.

On the dislocating and catastrophic effect of WOOD'S vertiginous promotion on the discipline and *morale* of the whole body of officers in the Regular Army it is almost superfluous to dwell.

Passing to Mr. ROOSEVELT'S assertion of the war making power, in his interposition between Colombia and Panama, we do not forget that in the "Prize cases" the United States Supreme Court, by five Judges against four, decided that under the insurrection and invasion statutes, and under the power to execute the laws, the President can begin a war before and without an authorization of such a step by Congress. This, at least, is plain, however: that so long as this decision stands unreversed, it behooves the voters to choose a President who, like MCKINLEY, will refrain from exercising the war making power.

As to the ruling sanctioned by the Department of the Interior, for which, of course, Mr. ROOSEVELT is responsible, the ruling that the attainment of the age of sixty-two shall, in the case of survivors of the civil war, be accounted *prima facie* proof of disability, it is obvious that if this decision, which will take millions from the Federal Treasury, is permitted by Congress and the United States Supreme Court to stand, there is scarcely any extent to which functions heretofore supposed to belong to the Federal Legislature may not be arrogated by the Executive.

Finally, the President's opponents impute to him a congenital inability to distinguish the constitutional limitations of a President's powers, because he, evidently, could not see the flagrant contradiction between his neutrality proclamation and his subsequent Executive order forbidding the free expression of sympathies on the part of Government officials during the pending war in the Far East.

Such are some of the grounds on which, evidently, leading Democrats are preparing to convince the country that the White House ought to have a new tenant after March 4, 1905.

Our Endangered Prosperity.

The *Morning Post* of London is of the opinion that "England can strike at the very foundation of American prosperity by declaring the intention to force its transferrence to Canadian territory. Against the United States every Canadian clearly sees that the only effective policy is that of retaliation. A duty on foreign wheat of two shillings a quarter would compel the American farmer to sell his land, remove across the boundary line, bring down a rail or two of the McKinley tariff wall against Canada and give us cheaper and better wheat than is now supplied by the half exhausted acres of the South."

We sincerely hope that the proprietors of America's "half exhausted acres," which now produce only about 700,000,000 bushels of wheat in the course of a year, will not become panic stricken by this alarming forecast and move across the border in a body. Canada would be glad to get a good many of them, no doubt, but she is not yet entirely ready to absorb such a multitude.

The *Morning Post* is a respectable publication, but it has slipped a cog somewhere on the wheat question. England now imports, as grain and flour, the equivalent of about 150,000,000 bushels of wheat a year. Canada's present surplus for export is about 30,000,000 bushels, and it will be a number of years before she can possibly supply the English market with its full requirement.

We doubt if England is quite ready yet to pay $7,000,000 a year duty on 120,000,000 bushels of foreign wheat for the sake of bringing in 30,000,000 bushels of Canadian wheat under an imperial preference. The *Morning Post* would probably argue that the foreigner would pay the tariff; but in view of the fact that the foreigner would be in control of the situation, and perhaps disposed to retaliate, there remains the possibility that he might control the price. At all events, our wheat growers will be quite safe in holding on for a little while yet.

Our home market is growing, and there is an increasing demand from the Far East, particularly from Japan and China. We may yet be independent of the English market. Canada is growing, but it will be some time before she crowds us out of the wheat business.

Authoritative Denial of the Canard About the Teeth.

The *Utah State Journal* of Ogden, a Democratic newspaper friendly to Gen. MILES and presumably to the cause of prohibition, printed on March 18 this brief but specific and circumstantial account of an alleged insult to the distinguished soldier by President ROOSEVELT at a reception in the White House:

"The President left the General standing among the waiting courtiers for a word; and, finally, when the turn of Gen. MILES was reached, in the presence of a score of people ROOSEVELT opened wide his lips and hissed: 'I Show You My Teeth, Sir, I Show You My Teeth!'"

The horror of the thing produced an immediate sensation in Utah, where both Gen. MILES and Mr. ROOSEVELT are widely and favorably known. While the excited discussion of the alleged incident was proceeding, a citizen of Utah, Mr. VOLNEY C. GUNNELL, wrote directly to the White House inquiring whether the story was true or false. Mr. GUNNELL received this answer:

WHITE HOUSE, Washington, March 23, 1904.

MY DEAR SIR: Replying to your letter of the 18th instant, with accompanying clipping, I beg to state that the quotation to which you refer is a lie out of the whole cloth. Very truly yours,

WM. LOEB, Jr.,

Secretary to the President.

We regret to say that the *Utah State Journal* refuses to retract, even when confronted with the document from the White House. It calls the phraseology of the note "undignified but characteristic," as if the dignity of Mr. LOEB'S language had any relation to the truth or falsity of the statement that Mr. ROOSEVELT once opened wide his lips and hissed at Gen. MILES these words of passion, "I show you My Teeth, sir, I show you My Teeth!" The Ogden newspaper further insists that it had the story from a gentleman who was present, whose word "stands unquestioned in the United States" and "whose character is quite as high as that of any man in the country."

Nevertheless, the official denial from the White House must stand as conclusive unless the *Utah State Journal* produces its anonymous informant, so that he can be cross-examined to determine the accuracy of his memory concerning the exact words said to have been hissed at Gen. MILES by Mr. ROOSEVELT through wide open lips.

There is strong confirmation of Mr. LOEB'S denial in the circumstance that no such incident is recorded in the biography of the President by Mr. JACOB A. RIIS, whose minute observation and faithful pen not the smallest particular of dentistry would be likely to escape.

What a difference there is between that form of intense personal energy which devotes itself to evading, overriding and defying the laws, and that which Mr. WILLIAM TRAVERS JEROME has displayed in his successful campaign at Albany to make more effective the means for the conviction of influential lawbreakers!

It may be that the reported attempt made on King ALFONSO'S life at Barcelona is a "political" move, another outbreak of the Catalonian hatred for Spain that is centuries old, and disguises itself under the name of "republicanism" or "Carlism" or "anarchy," as convenience suits. Real political meaning it cannot have. The Carlists at present have no standing whatever in Spain, as the Church has turned its back on them, and both the Pretender and his heir are hopelessly discredited. ALFONSO'S youth has prevented any personal intervention in the Government, for either good or bad, and it is hard to see what improvement or change in the Spanish chaos could be attained by the substitution for him of a president or dictator.

From the Iliad and the Odyssey.

Agamemnon camped outside the walls of Troy.

"Mere force of habit," he volunteered. "As a boy, I always watched the game through a knothole in the fence."

After this, nobody wondered why he spent so many years at the pastime.

Penelope was putting off her suitors with the shroud expedient.

"How foolish," said her friends. "Why don't you tell them you'll be ready as soon as you get your hat on straight?"

Perceiving the indefinite time she would gain, she regretted her wasted labors.

How They Made His Portrait Lifelike.

Pursuant to a brilliant thought,
Illuming last vacation,
A certain House committee planned
A pleasant innovation.
They'd decorate their quarters with
A portrait of the Speaker,
For he had been, when at their head,
Just to the strong, kind to the weaker.

To have it lifelike, all agreed
'Twere best their work to smuggle;
While getting "Uncle Joe" enthused
With art they'd wisely juggle;
And so they placed an artist friend
Unnoticed in a corner—
The Speaker was to play the pie,
While he should play Jack Horner.

They'd have it as we know him best,
"Old Uncle Joe" in action,
And so to rouse his logic they
Put forth each strong attraction—
Appropriations, tariff rates,
And trade, from trust to broker,
In vain—till some one launched at last
An argument on poker.

MARGARET SULLIVAN BURKE.

GERMANY'S MERCHANT MARINE.

The Results of the Enlightened Policy of Encouragement Begun by Bismarck.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Bismarck did a great piece of work in behalf of the extension of the foreign commerce, particularly exports, of the Empire of Germany when he secured the passage in 1885 of the German ship subsidy measure. Contracts with the North German Lloyd and Hamburg-American lines followed almost immediately. These contracts established a fortnightly steamship service between Germany, China, Japan and Australia. A biweekly service from Trieste to Alexandria was also established. The subsidy was 4,400,000 marks ($1,047,200) payable monthly. It was provided that soldiers and sailors, civil officials, as well as ammunition, should be carried at special rates. Certain wares, articles of export, also received favorable rates.

Prior to this, as early as 1879, a law had been passed allowing all shipbuilding material to be imported free of duty. The State railways made special rates, and do now, as a matter of fact, for shipbuilding materials. In addition, the moral support of the Government has always been given in such a generous way as to be equivalent to large appropriations.

This subsidy to the Asiatic lines was followed in 1890 by a subsidy of 900,000 marks ($214,200) to the German East Africa line. This boomed Germany's East African business. Two years later, 1892, and without further subsidy, the German-African steamship company extended the terminus to Durban, Natal. A branch line from Zanzibar to Bombay was also established. The first Asiatic ship subsidies were for fifteen years, but in 1898 they were rearranged for fifteen years longer. An additional subsidy of 1,500,000 marks ($357,000) was allowed, making the Asiatic ship subsidy cost the country 5,590,000 marks ($1,330,420) per annum. The extension runs to Oct. 1, 1914. The African subsidy also runs to April 1, 1916.

"To-day," says United States Consul Brainerd H. Warner, Jr., of Leipzig, "the German East Africa line is sending a steamer from Hamburg every four weeks, around the African continent. Once a month the steamers circuit westward, and once a month they sail through the Suez Canal."

Further and smaller subsidies to other lines in foreign trade followed, and to-day Germany's ship subsidies total yearly as follows:

Asiatic lines	$1,180,420
African lines	312,800
Between Australia and Pacific Islands	28,560
Between Cape Town and Swakopmund	2,499
Total subsidies	$1,473,779

The rapidly increasing foreign commerce of Germany, particularly in exports, attests that this annual outlay is well spent money—"bread cast upon the waters." Germany is now the third of the three billion-dollar exporting nations of the world. Still more, these subsidy "investments" not only "serve the industrial and commercial needs of the empire, but the international and imperial postal service as well. The business interests of the empire, well armed with the best educational qualifications, have been the backbone and life thereof."

Five companies control over one-half of the total steamship tonnage of Germany. Their increase in recent years in ships and gross tonnage tells part of the story of subsidy aid in developing Germany's merchant marine and increasing Germany's foreign commerce:

	1898		1901	
	Vessels.	*Ton'ge.*	*Vessels.*	*Ton'ge.*
Hamburg-American	57	226,653	120	526,176
North German	44	244,204	115	497,344
Hansa German	35	83,648	41	146,233
South American	28	93,535	32	126,815
Kosmos German	20	65,208	28	104,835

In 1876-1880 (average yearly) 34,721 German vessels, of 3,224,000 tonnage, engaged in foreign trade, entered German ports; but in 1903 the figures were 68,283 vessels, of 11,380,000 tonnage. In other words, twice as many vessels, and nearly four times as much tonnage; and the increase is attributable mainly to the ship subsidies granted, beginning with the Asiatic one in 1885.

Consul Warner says: "The German South African and Asiatic lines are being more and more patronized by passengers. The German lines to the Far East are already enjoying greater popularity than the old and long established English lines." Of the popularity and lucrativeness of the German lines to New York we are all aware—258,000 passengers in 1902, and 310,000 in 1903.

Six German vessels engaged in foreign trade entered German ports in 1901 for every three foreign vessels. Nothing approaching that can be said of American vessels engaged in foreign trade entering American ports, as we have only 871,000 tons so engaged, all told.

Consul Warner closes his valuable report by saying: "That this country, constantly referred to as the great German Empire, which in reality is much smaller than the State of Texas, younger in age, and with less commercial and industrial experience than any of the four great world Powers, should be far ahead of all countries in the excellence of her merchant marine is truly astonishing—second only to England in point of tonnage on the high seas, which will insure her for years to come an enviable place in the world's carrying trade. Her position on the high seas to-day is due to the desire of her patriotic people—to the firm determination with which they have been possessed—to develop a merchant marine of which to be proud."

No one will deny that the American people have just as much patriotic desire for a merchant marine worthy of the dignity and world-leading trade of the United States. What blocks the way? The House of Representatives of the United States, or rather a majority of the House. The time is approaching when the voters of the United States, irrespective of party, will demand from each candidate an ante-election pledge to vote for the rehabilitation of the American merchant marine. When that is done the sound of the hammer will again be heard in the silent American shipyards, and the Stars and Stripes will soon after be frequently seen in each and every port of the world.

WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, April 6.

Notes From Japan in Jap English.

From the English Columns of a Tokio Paper.

PUBLICATION. Many kinds of the map of the East included Manchuria, Corea, Japan and the western side of the Yellow Sea, have been published suddenly, and people buy any one of them viewing with other, and consequently the printers are working all the day and night to supply them to them. And many magazines, novles and essays on the war have been published, and they are read by the nation which like to battle. *How is it in Russia?*

MR. TOYOJIRO TAKAMATSU. He has reported "that I showed my vitascapes 178 times at thirty-one country towns and had 105,002 lookers on and paid the taxes, yen 47.62." Some years ago, when he was laboring a large cotton mill at Tokio, he was cut off his upper limb by the machine, and consequently he declined the mill and entered a law school to study it.

THE CRUELTIES OF WAR. Each Arch-Bishops of the Hongwanji (Buddhist) is mostly animate soldiers to battle bravely that is, to kill their brethren barbarously in spite of they should pray Buddha to have peace policy. They are unrefined ones. What shall we do to refine them?

Haribe, Ensign, Professor of a Military Academy, Pekin, China, committed suicide filling chagrin at that he could not proceed with the army.

Ikumura divorced his one liged poor wife to responed to a call for Military labor in the battlefield. When he saw her after some days, he cut her bright black long hair, saying that do not marry another.

Yozo Mori, territorial soldier, who was in Sendai, rejoiced to have been called together, and closed his house. While he is going to Nagoya with his two kinsmen he has suddenly become a war-insurance, and he left the metropolice to go back his birth place being attended them.

Cheap restaurants near military camps are full of people which are soldiers and its seers and the houses call them all night.

The Minister for Education has instructed to all the teachers of various schools to teach them in calm until the war shall be pacified.

Officers of some departments of our Government have been ordered to deposite somewhat of their sowing to any post office why?

A big lecture meeting was held at Tokio Christian Young Men Association Hall at 7 P. M. The 17 ult. seven speakers did and above five hundred audiences came to hear. The police of erudition called down two of those for perhaps he misunderstood them.

Both Japanese and foreigners are presenting money in succession to our Government to defray the war expences. It will be large sum.

Strange Provision of Guardianship.

From the Green Bag.

The following is a literal transcript of the second clause of a will filed and probated in L. county, Wis., a few years since:

"I hereby commit the guardianship of all my children until they shall respectively attain the age of twenty-one years, unto my said wife, during her life; and from and after her decease unto my much esteemed friend ——, his executors and assigns."

April Gardening.

'Tis now with hoe and spade we dig
And labor like the dickens,
To furnish forth the proper fare
For Neighbor Jones's chickens.

THE STRATEGY OF THE WAR.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There are two points, in connection with the operations in northern Corea which have just concluded, that I have not seen discussed in any comments on the war, and which seem worth noting because they give a pretty fair indication of the quality of the Russian commander and troops that were south of the Yalu.

The first was the fineness of touch with which Gen. Mistchenko and his Cossack force, recruited from the frontier guards of the Argun, a tributary of the Amur, came in contact with the Japanese beyond Ping Yang without bringing on a serious fight. The other was the adroitness with which he withdrew the whole of his force from in front of the Japanese without leaving any trace of his whereabouts or line of retreat. These two feats entitle him to a high rank among cavalry commanders, and make it very likely that we shall hear of him again in more important affairs.

His duty was to feel the Japanese advance and nothing else, and it is evident that he did it satisfactorily and with a comparatively light force, simply impinging on the enemy as he advanced, with all the delicacy of touch of an expert in his trade. In a way it reminds one of the famous ride of Gourko across the Balkans in 1877, when he swept round through the Hain Boghaz into Roumelia and back by Shipka.

From the latest reports it would appear that the Japanese have not found the situation on the Yalu just what they expected, and that they will have to modify their plan for the second time, for it was evident that at one moment they seemed to contemplate meeting with serious opposition before reaching the river, though they must have known that no commander would force a general action with a stream like the Yalu behind him at this season of the year.

The absence of trustworthy information as to the whereabouts of the main forces of the two armies renders it difficult to guess when and where the first decisive conflict will take place, nor is it likely that anything will be known until the eve of or perhaps the day of battle. What we have to look for is rather a series of manœuvres, tedious to the onlookers, but vital to the chances of success when the clash does come. The issues at stake are too great to permit of light handling, and the intense secrecy observed on both sides is a guarantee that surprises are in store.

Napoleon at the outset of his career brought on himself the reproach from the old Austrian pedant, Würmser, that that young man was violating all the rules of the art of war; but it was the diplomatic and strategic artfulness of his violation of the rules and not of the vital principles of the art that won the way into Italy. While hypnotizing the diplomacy of military observers of the Powers by grandiloquent addresses to and reviews of an army of cripples in one part of France, he was secretly moving the columns of his real army to an unknown point of concentration, from which he fell on the Austrians and swept them from his path.

So in the present case it is not to the much advertised spots on the map that we must look for the first sensational and serious conflict, but to points not yet known to which the leading minds on either side are manœuvring to force the other where it must accept or give battle.

The present campaign is one of the most interesting, from every point of view, of any during the wars of the past half century. The Japanese army is a brand new one, complete in every detail, with, so far as we know, an intelligent appreciation in all ranks of what it is fighting for. The Russian army, on the other hand, is more or less rusty from long inaction and the monotony of peace service; and it is without the stimulus that inspires its adversary. Both have skilful commanders who understand how to handle the material under them. F.

NEW YORK, April 7.

The Quick-Feeding Commission.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Now that barber shops are under proper surveillance, and we are relieved from the apprehension of being shaved by unsanitary methods, would it not be well to infuse a little twentieth century civilization into some of our restaurants?

Some sort of commission might be installed to supervise and regulate the practice of hasty feeding. The object of such supervision need not be sanitary improvement alone, unless that designation were construed to include the suppression of malignant forms of dyspepsia and the alleviation of that peculiar mental malady which frequently develops after a 25-cent noonday feed and manifests itself by a misanthropic desire on the part of the patient to inflict a lasting injury on some defenceless mortal.

The commission should give considerable attention to overhauling the curriculum. A working knowledge of chemistry should be speedily injected into the cook, and at frequent intervals he should be required to demonstrate his progress in that science. For instance, as a test, he might be asked to analyze that particular brand of pestilence handed out to the long-suffering public under the name of "apple dumpling," to explain the chemical properties of it and tell just why it is necessary for it to have those strange characteristics, and whether if it were prepared in a simple manner, giving it the nature of an innocent refreshment, any chemical elements would be put out of business or fall into disuse as a consequence.

A course of study should also be insisted upon which would have a tendency to instil into the mind of the culinary practitioner the fact that the person who invented that species of apple dumpling is now known to have been an evil genius who came to a bad end, and that even now the Recording Angel is making careful note of the progress of that vicious concoction, indicating that the eternal happiness of all who foster it is at stake.

The proprietor should by no means escape the vigilance of the commission. Some proficiency in metaphysics, political economy, &c., should be demanded of him. He should be able to answer offhand such a question as: "Why is it that when an addle pated individual aspires to become a merchant, having only a small capital and a still smaller allowance of gray matter, he generally picks out the restaurant business as the most fertile field for the development of his talents?"

Even some of the patrons should be made subject to the requirements of the board. The cheerful imbecile with an alarming elasticity of stomach and spirits who maintains a benign countenance while devouring a couple of disreputable eggs and, who is so exasperatingly amiable that if necessary he would sit on a picket fence while benevolently partaking of a plate of infamous "fish cakes with tomato sauce," should be forced to divulge the secret of his perennial joy. In fact, it might really be better for the commissioners to begin their crusade with this cheerful patron, as probably no material progress will be made until he is instructed that while cheerfulness is a good thing it is a serious obstacle to civilization if practised without discretion.

But however the commissioners begin or carry out their scheme, let us hope that they will begin soon. T. S. B.

NEW YORK, April 6.

Our Peril From a British Fleet and Army.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I saw in the *Philadelphia Press* lately that at a meeting held some time ago in favor of a deep water canal across the Delaware peninsula the statement was made by a speaker that if they could get the canal the United States would be as safe from a foreign fleet as we now are from a foreign army. I wish with all my heart that this was true; but the fact is exactly the opposite.

With the present one-sided treaty with England regarding the Lakes, England can send a fleet, destroy every city on the Lakes, and land an army in the richest part of the States before anything can be done to prevent it—in fact, in a few days.

I hope that after that the tide would turn, but it is an awful advantage to have in case of trouble, especially as nowadays a declaration of war is considered unnecessary. I am amazed that nothing has been done before in this matter. O. M. A.

HONG KONG, China, March 7.

The Beneficent Microbe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The "Awful Microbe" letter in to-day's SUN is very interesting and quite true. Every one should read it; but "High Price Guesser, M. D." certainly should know, and does probably know, that without microbes we could not enjoy good health—in fact, would perish. Water without animalculæ, or microbes—for what are they but microbes?—would not be fit to drink; and a certain percentage must be in good food. Let us be just even to microbes. They have their rights, also. MICROBE.

NEW YORK, April 6.

THE FEAR OF PRIVATEERS?

A Theory of the Main Deterrent of British Interference in Our Civil War.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If those correspondents who have been trying in your columns to explain why the British Government did not interfere actively in our civil war will look a little further they may discern a more powerful reason than any they have mentioned. It is probable enough that the Queen was averse to any action that would precipitate war, and I think there is no doubt that Prince Albert exerted what little influence he possessed to prevent intervention. I think, too, it is useless to question the fact that Russia was ready to help us if we needed her help. But all these considerations sink into insignificance in the presence of one that might have been a matter of life and death to the people of Great Britain.

By the treaty that the great Powers of Europe signed at Paris in March, 1856, they relinquished the right of privateering, and some of the smaller Powers afterward joined in it. The United States Government, fortunately, did not become a party to that treaty. The reasons were interesting, but need not be given here. When, in 1861 (the year the war began), Charles Francis Adams was sent as our Minister to the Court of St. James, his instructions included this passage:

If, as the President does not at all apprehend, you shall unhappily find her Majesty's Government tolerating the application of the so-called seceding States, or wavering about it, you will not leave them to suppose for a moment that they can grant that application and remain the friends of the United States. You may even assure them promptly in that case, that if they determine to recognize they may at the same time prepare to enter into alliance with the enemies of this republic.

And in the despatch in which he warned the British Government to prevent the Confederate ironclads from leaving the shipyard of the Lairds at Birkenhead, Secretary Seward reminded that Government that the President had asked and received from Congress "authority to convert the mercantile marine into armed squadrons by the issue of letters of marque and reprisal."

It is not likely that the gentlemen who formed the British Government were altogether ignorant of its own history, and they must have remembered what havoc American privateers wrought with British commerce in the war of 1812-15. Open the history of that time and read a few items in the list of their prizes: "Six tons of ivory, 160 dozen swan skins, $500,000 worth of dry goods, $60,000 in bullion, $20,000 worth of indigo, eighteen bales of Turkish carpets, $40,000 in gold dust," &c. besides the captured vessels themselves. And all this was accomplished by mere sailing vessels. The half dozen Confederate cruisers quickly showed what might be done by armed steamers. It did not require a very astute Prime Minister to see that in case of war with the United States a fleet of privateers would issue from American ports, and in a few months the commerce of Great Britain would be swept from every sea. Nor could England's great navy prevent such a calamity, for that whole navy could not blockade the coast of New England alone. With their commerce gone, the wail of famine would go up from every densely populated town in the British Isles. This alone furnished an all-powerful reason for that Government to turn a deaf ear to the proposals of Louis Napoleon, resist the clamor of its more reckless subjects, and decline the tempting offers of cotton and free trade. It is a singular fact that the historians of the Rebellion, with one exception (no matter which that is), have not mentioned this important element in the great conflict.

Now and then some sentimentalist in Congress proposes the abolition of privateering, and the proposal is echoed through the country by that ignorant sentimentalism which does so many inhumane things in the name of humanity. I wish they would read Thomas Jefferson's argument on the subject which he set forth in an article published in May, 1812. ROSSITER JOHNSON.

AMAGANSETT, April 6.

Speculations Induced by a Game of Whist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* An interesting example of the exceedingly large numbers which express the possible ways in which a few objects can be combined or selected was brought to light recently by a remark at a whist party—an example which may be of interest to your readers, particularly because of some suggestive consequences of the greatness of these numbers.

The remark in question was about the possible recurrence of exactly the same whist game. A simple calculation shows that the number of ways in which the whist hands can be dealt out is a number rather larger than sixteen billion billion billions! The fact that each hand could be played in so many different ways would of course still increase this number.

One can easily satisfy oneself that if a billion of the earth's inhabitants (the majority) should play whist twelve hours a day at the rate of a game a minute, they could not play all such games till more than twenty million times as long as the astronomers have agreed upon as the probable duration of the earth as a habitation for man (5 to 10 million years). The practical impossibility of the accidental recurrence of a game is at once apparent.

It is of course possible to conceive of a systematic and exact enumeration of such possible games as a part of the pursuit of knowledge to which our investigators are giving their lives and labors; and in these days when so much stress is laid upon original research in our universities, it is far from unlikely that many of us are engaged upon tasks equally trivial and impossible, although this may not be so apparent as in the whist problem.

To one interested in the discovery of truth such an example must bring home forcibly the fact that this pursuit has often only subjective value, and it may suggest to him the very disquieting questions as to what truth is worth discovery, and as to a criterion for the utility of truth. O. D. K.

PRINCETON, April 5.

Connecticut River Bass Taste of Oil.

From the Hartford Courant.

In a number of bass caught this year in Connecticut waters a decided taste of kerosene has been noticed, and in one instance at Lyme several people were disagreeably affected after eating of the fish. Bass that have been cooked in Saybrook, Wethersfield and in Brooklyn, N. Y., which are known to have been caught near Saybrook, have given off a strong order of kerosene, and they were not cooked upon oil stoves, either.

The fishermen at Lyme and Saybrook are unable to account for the dis