The Sun.

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The Snap Adjournment.

To-day and the next three days will afford the unparalleled spectacle of a Congress hurrying under high pressure and scurrying in confusion in order to adjourn at the time which suits the convenience or whim of an individual who is a candidate for a political office.

The normal time for the completion of the public business in a Presidential year is midsummer. The mean of all the adjournments of sessions corresponding to this, during the past forty years, is July 15. The latest adjournment of a corresponding session during that period was on Oct. 20. The earliest was on June 11. We printed these facts of record a month ago at the first appearance of the surprising report that President ROOSEVELT desired the Legislative Department of the United States Government to go into retirement before the end of April.

Nobody pretends that the legitimate business of the session can be cleared up before Thursday next. Nobody asserts that the legislative conditions of the present year are such as to justify a curtailment of the average session by nearly three months; or that there would be any idea of adjournment before the usual time if the probable nominee of the party in power were to be another Republican than the occupant of the White House. Nobody in Congress or outside of it believes that the snap adjournment will be accomplished without leaving undone things of great importance which ought to be done, without serious damage to national interests, without the evil consequences attending a precipitate closing, months before the usual time.

The outrage would be extraordinary even if the Executive were merely forcing, or attempting to force, an unseasonable adjournment of the Federal Legislature because in his view of public requirements it would be an advantage to have Congress off his hands. There is no pretence of regard for the public interests in this forced adjournment. It has been decreed from the White House, and acquiesced in by the majority leaders of the Senate and the House, because a candidate for President thinks that his prospect of election next November will be improved if Congress goes home before May begins.

This is not merely deferential self-abnegation on the part of a coordinate and equal department of the Government. It is abdication, surrender and self-effacement for the benefit of a single person in his capacity of citizen-candidate, not of President. It is Government for campaign purposes only.

Natural Cultivators of the Soil.

The March bulletin of the Italian Chamber of Commerce of New York presents a mass of very interesting statistics concerning the immigration of Italians to this country.

Until 1880 that immigration was trifling relatively to the whole volume. At its highest, in the decade between 1870 and 1880, it was less than 2 per cent. In the next decade it increased to nearly 6 per cent., and between 1890 and 1900 it had risen to something more than 17 per cent. But only in the four years from 1900 to 1903, inclusive, did its volume rise to proportions so great that the accession of Italians to our population began to provoke general attention and discussion as of serious consequence industrially and in its effect on our American race stock.

During the period from 1820, when immigration statistics were first officially collected by the Government, up to 1880, the immigration of Italians aggregated only 68,900 out of a total immigration exceeding ten millions. From 1880 up to the close of the fiscal year of 1903, however, the accession of Italians was 1,520,504; and of these more than two-fifths arrived between 1900 and 1903, or numerically 645,128.

The great centre of settlement of this new Italian population is the State of New York, where the number in 1903, as computed by this bulletin, was 486,175, of whom 382,775 were in the city of New York alone. Add the immigration of the present year, and the number in the city is likely to be increased to nearly half a million. This will make the Italian element of our population the fourth numerically, the first being the German, the second the Irish, the third the Jew, including in each the native children of the foreign born.

Together, the four races thus enumerated will make up about three millions, or three-quarters of the whole city population of toward four millions. Of native white Americans of native parentage, the percentage is very small. In the Manhattan borough it was only about one-sixth in 1900. Count out native descendants of the foreign born of the third generation, and the percentage becomes very much smaller.

New York is distinctively a community made up of immigrants from Ireland and from the continent of Europe and their descendants of the second and third generations. The so-called Anglo-Saxon element is relatively insignificant. This would be a small town if its population was confined to natives who can trace their American descent back of their grandfathers and to an "Anglo-Saxon" ancestry.

As the bulletin to which we have referred shows, the Italian immigrants are now almost wholly settlers in the great cities, and in New York, more especially; yet as a writer in the last number of the *American Catholic Quarterly Review* points out in a paper describing his observations in Italy last year, nothing is more noticeable than "the strong liking among Italians of all classes for farming as the occupation of life." They are also remarkable for their skill and economy in the cultivation of the soil. "The farming through Lombardy and Tuscany is like that of carefully kept gardens, and crops of some kinds seem to be gathered at almost every season." In southern Italy, also, from which comes the present immigration to this country almost wholly, the closeness and deftness of the farming are noticeable.

The time will come when this nice aptitude and peculiar predilection of the Italians for the cultivation of the soil will no longer be wasted in this country. Eventually they will assist powerfully in the agricultural development of the South, as yet only in its beginning.

Mr. Hill on the Lid.

It is not always wise to accept the criticisms of a politician on a politician. Vanity, or self-interest, or other emotions common to human nature may be the directing force; and so when we read that Judge ALTON B. PARKER'S friends are annoyed if not almost alarmed over the present status of his boom, it is well to look beneath the surface and not to accept the frantic criticisms which are being hurled by politicians against DAVID B. HILL. We prefer at this juncture to cull from a mass of views and opinions and assertions the comments of laymen, the testimony of the men behind the guns of a political campaign, as it were, and to read what they have to say of the present condition of affairs in the Democratic party of New York State.

We gather from the communications which have flooded THE SUN office for nearly a week that the Democrats as Democrats pass lightly over Mr. HILL'S utter incapacity as the leader of his party in the State. As a matter of fact, many excuses have come to light in explanation of Mr. HILL'S failure as a party leader, but of those excuses it is not necessary now to speak. The situation as explained by most of the communications to THE SUN is that if the Democratic feeling against Mr. HILL were based on unreasonable prejudice it would not be entitled to the slightest consideration.

The gist of the complaints against Mr. HILL is that his career as a Democrat has been actuated by only one motive—how can the Democratic party advance Mr. HILL'S own political fortunes? The selfish ambition of a political leader sometimes carries with it political advancement and benefactions for his party. It is contended that in Mr. HILL'S career there has been nothing of this kind, and that by no act of his, either as Governor of the State or as a United States Senator, has he brought a substantial advancement to the party which so honored and advanced him for twenty-five years.

The Democratic party has been most generous to him; has he returned the favors? Has not his leadership brought the party in the State to the most depressed level in its history? Has not Mr. HILL'S ascendency suppressed all Democratic effort in the State? It is asserted that the State is brimful of Democratic timber and that there are many TILDENS and not a few CHURCHES and MANNINGS under cover, but that Mr. HILL is sitting on the lid.

Mr. HILL, in other words, in the estimation of the complainants, has established a Hill Trust for the manufacture of politicians of the Hill stripe and for the suppression of all Democratic sentiment in the State that does not contribute to the elevation of Mr. HILL himself to another office.

It is claimed that Mr. HILL'S intellectuals cannot grasp the great law of compensation in all walks of life, for it is asked what return has he made to the Democratic party of the State for the offices and distinctions it has conferred upon him. His party made him a Member of Assembly, an Alderman, a Mayor, twice Governor of the State, the State's Presidential candidate in 1892, and a United States Senator for six years. What return has Mr. HILL made? it is asked. The answer is, Mr. HILL has given over the State to the Republicans for ten years, and as if not satisfied with his work, he in 1902 handed the State over to ODELL, the Bold Grocery Boy of Newburg.

Russia's Mortgage on Turkey.

ABDUL HAMID II. was probably not very much disturbed the other day when M. ZINOVIEFF, the Russian Ambassador at Constantinople, called and asked for a little something on account of a long-standing debt. He has been receiving such calls at intervals during the past twenty-five years, and has paid up pretty much at his leisure. Russia has not been an exacting creditor except when her imperial debtor has launched out into some extravagance beyond the usual routine, such as the recent purchase of fast cruisers and orders for torpedo boats; and M. ZINOVIEFF'S visit was very likely prompted by these circumstances. His Government being a preferred and on the whole an indulgent creditor, was entitled to put in a reminder of its claims, especially when it is itself pressed for money.

Turkey still owes to Russia something over $125,000,000 of the 1877 war indemnity, and a few tens of thousands to Russian subjects for losses at the time of the war. Various sums have been paid on account at irregular intervals, but only once or twice under what could be called threats.

The Russian Government has no interest in an immediate liquidation of its rightful claims, however convenient it might be to have the cash at this particular juncture. It would much prefer to let the account run on for future purposes, though if the expected events in Manchuria do not turn out in its favor, a transfer of its claims on Turkey to some financial syndicate in France or Germany might become necessary. This would fall in with the wishes of Turkey's creditors, who not very long ago made proposals to Russia to take over the war claims in order to consolidate the Ottoman debt; but they would not probably offer as good terms now as then.

Whether the Sultan would care to exchange an easy going for a rigid creditor is not so certain; and it is quite sure that Russia would very reluctantly part with a lever which may one day be used for making territorial acquisitions on the great plateau of Asia Minor.

If events should lead to the assumption by a Continental syndicate of Russia's war mortgage on Turkey, it will be of surpassing interest to see from where and on what conditions the money is obtained. The transaction might be so arranged as to strengthen Russian power in Asia, or to advance the aims of Germany; and according as Paris or Berlin found the money that would be determined.

But, whatever her needs, Russia is hardly likely to forego any considerable portion, if any, of her mortgage on Turkey for a mere mess of pottage, as the Sultan's permission to send some of her warships in the Black Sea through the Bosphorus and Dardanelles would be. A free passage for them might be obtained, if wanted, by the threat to transfer the mortgage, which has a European sanction and is an effective instrument.

The Two Dromios.

Governor ODELL, through oversight doubtless, has neglected to set the legislative machinery in motion for an investigation of the United States Shipbuilding bond matter. The legislators have escaped to their homes, and the interest now centres on the problem as to whether Governor ODELL will call them together again for the purpose of carrying out the threat of many cold winter days that he would send a legislative investigating committee to make things lively for the United States Shipbuilding people. This was before his bonds were sold at auction and before Wall Street heard the talk that some sort of compromise had been reached and that Governor ODELL after all would not carry out his threat either to send a legislative court of inquiry or to send the United States Shipbuilding people before a special Grand Jury and a special Judge of his own designation.

Governor ODELL'S apparent delinquency in this matter resembles the neglect or oversight of Representative LUCIUS N. LITTAUER of the Twenty-fifth district to carry out his threat, made in November last, that he would not permit the Fifty-eighth Congress to adjourn until it had appointed an investigating committee to look into his Government "rats and gaunts" contracts. The Fifty-eighth session of Congress is on the eve of adjournment, and yet Mr. LITTAUER remains in the background, either too diffident or too considerate to insist that his colleagues of the House shall investigate his Government contracts. But then, inasmuch as Governor ODELL may call together his legislators in extraordinary session for the purpose of making that investigation of the Shipbuilding matter, just so Representative LITTAUER may urge President ROOSEVELT to call together an extraordinary session of Congress to investigate his Government glove and gauntlet contracts.

> "While the lamp holds out to burn,
> The vilest sinner may return."

The Passing of the Panama Title.

The *World* thinks it detects trickery in the process by which the title to the Panama Canal Company's property was finally transfered to the United States Government at Paris last week. It says that the French stockholders met on Saturday and "found themselves confronted with a contract, signed, sealed and delivered, which they had only to ratify." "We are concluding a deal," our neighbor continues, "with the officers of the Panama Canal Company behind the backs of the stockholders."

This is distressing. We have held for many months an option on this property, at a price fixed by officers of the company elected for the very purpose of that sale by the stockholders. The transaction is completed now, under the terms of the option. In order to render the title unassailable hereafter, a meeting of the stockholders is held to ratify the sale.

The stockholders meet and ratify the transfer, with only five dissenting votes; and they hear the announcement of the almost unanimous vote with loud applause indicating lively satisfaction over the conclusion of the business. The idea of trickery seems to have been far from their simple Parisian minds.

The stockholders, says the *World*, "had only to ratify." Well, that is what they had to do and what they did.

The New Coney Island.

For many years Coney Island has borne an undeserved fame outside of New York as a "tough," bad and immoral resort, patronized largely by dissolute or absolutely criminal persons. Within the limits of the metropolitan district, where the habits of the pleasure ground were known, it was always recognized that what ailed Coney Island was vulgarity rather than sinfulness, and its value to the community has always been recognized. Much of its undesirable notoriety has been brought upon it by self-exploiting reformers, who chose to indict a whole community for the sins of a few, and to class the unpleasant with the wicked in order to send a chill down the spines of the homekeeping.

But within the last two or three years there has been a great change in Coney Island, and the establishments that will compete for the business of entertaining visitors this season are of a class distinctly higher than those familiar to patrons of the resort a decade ago. Some of the vulgarity that then won the name of immorality has been done away with, never to be brought again to the light of day. Many of the bad resorts along the beach have been closed, and it is improbable that they will ever reopen. They have been crowded to the wall by entertainment enterprises conducted on the most modern lines, representing large investments of capital, and presenting diversions thoroughly reputable and often amusing. It is not too much to say that at Coney Island now may be found a more complete collection of unusual and odd shows than any great exposition ever boasted. Among them days might be spent with a good deal of pleasure and no particular damage. There are queer mirrors, animal circuses, elaborate panoramas, elephant shows, peep shows, dancing pavilions, restaurants, bath houses, theatrical exhibitions and scores of other means for the promotion of gayety in persons of all kinds and conditions.

A man desirous of getting drunk and being knocked in the head and robbed can be accommodated at Coney Island. One anxious to lead a dissipated life can find there the materials to further that not unusual ambition. For such as do not care to indulge in violent dissipation, but who like to be with the crowd and see the sights, there is opportunity for amusement and recreation practically unending at Norton's Point. Every one not too sophisticated can have a good time there, and preserve his health, although his dignity may suffer an occasional fracture.

An apostolic benediction conveyed by long-distance telephone is a modern idea that should make all the dry bones in Rome rattle. The conservatives there are already startled enough by the common sense, matter of fact way in which PIUS X. carries out his plans regardless of tradition or conventionality. If the Pope can telephone a blessing, why not a major excommunication as well? Whatever was lost in official formality in such a ceremony would surely be counterbalanced by listening to the awful words uttered by the lips of PETER'S successor himself.

If casuistry were still in vogue, we fancy the delicate question might be discussed, whether by transporting his voice to Venice, PIUS X. has not, in theory, broken through his theoretical imprisonment, and removed his person in part beyond the Vatican limits. His crossing Rome to the Lateran basilica might follow as a logical development of his telephone message. As his pontificate advances, the Pope's strong individuality, his common sense and his placing religion above all other things are endearing him to all Catholics, however much officialdom may be disturbed. It is likely that he may do away with many misunderstandings between the Church and the world, if he lives long enough.

The Pacific's Pioneer Steamboat.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your interesting article in yesterday's SUN on "A Notable Anniversary for New York"—that of the arrival of the Sirius, "the first steam vessel which had crossed the Atlantic from the British Isles"—prompts me to record another memorable event of a similar kind, though on the other side of the globe.

On the first day of January, 1869, as then the United States Consul-General at Hong Kong, China, commissioned as such by Abraham Lincoln, I had the honor to receive officially at that port the first vessel that ever crossed the Pacific Ocean by steam. She came in under the star-spangled banner of the United States, the steamship Colorado, of the Pacific Mail line.

Then, at that central Oriental port, like the Sirius at New York, the great American pioneer steamship of the Pacific, thirty days from San Francisco, near 8,000 miles, came in all in perfect trim and in good order. And, as the Sirius at New York, she was welcomed by thousands of the curious of all nationalities thronging to see the American pioneer of steam navigation across the widest ocean of the globe, opening steam communication direct between Asia and America.

Being a sidewheeler instead of screw, the Colorado was a curiosity to the people as a great ocean steamer. At the private suggestion of the Governor of Hong Kong, I requested the captain of the steamer, if practicable, to treat the officials and distinguished citizens of Hong Kong to an excursion around the island. He readily complied. Some 1,200 persons, Europeans and Chinese, crowded the great ship, watching and admiring as we sailed. It was a gala day in Hong Kong.

Well knowing the peculiar facility with which our British cousins succeed in asserting claims to priority in every great marine enterprise, I made a special official report—giving a full statement of the ship's name, build, ownership, register, tonnage, exact dates of sailing and arrival, officers' names, number of crew, amount of coal consumed, and all appropriate notes from the log book—and forwarded that report to the State Department at Washington. I received the thanks of the Department for having done so. That record is doubtless there now.

But as to the Sirius. Though the first to come to us from the British Isles by steam, she was not the pioneer vessel of steam navigation across the Atlantic. Nineteen years before her arrival at New York, in 1819, the steamship Savannah, built and owned at New York, sailed from Savannah, Ga., for Europe, crossed the Atlantic to Liverpool, thence on to St. Petersburg, and returned, as her captain, Rogers, reported, "without a screw loose or a bolt started." And, curiously enough, on her voyage over she was chased two days by a British man-o'-war, whose captain, seeing her smoke, pursued, thinking it was a vessel on fire. But she finally outran her pursuer. And so, too, on approaching Liverpool harbor, she was met by tugs rushing forward to assist, supposing her to be on fire.

So the public records of the world go to show that the actual pioneers of transoceanic steam navigation across the two great oceans of the globe were American ships sailing under the star-spangled banner of the great republic. ISAAC J. ALLEN.

MORRISTOWN, N. J., April 23.

Heliotropism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is Mr. Amon R. Jenkins quite sure that the sunflower does turn to the sun any more constantly than any other flower does? The theory that human right-handedness is another form of heliotropism may be true; if so, the more carefully it is preserved from illustrations that don't illustrate the better.

I, too, was once glamoured by Thomas Moore's exquisite song:

> The heart that has truly loved never forgets,
> But as truly loves on to the close,
> As the sunflower turns on her god when he sets
> The same face which she turned when he rose.

But, alas, it is many a summer since a close observation of actual facts destroyed that poetical illusion—along with many another.

MATTER-OF-FACT.

HADDON HEIGHTS, N. J., April 22.

Call for a Scientific Person.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Scientists and students now have the opportunity of a lifetime. According to Alexander von Humboldt the earth is gaining one inch in a century by cosmic dust dropped from outer space upon its surface. Now, as the crew on the steamer Angler are bringing to the surface submarine rocks (which are sent to the Aquarium) that have lain countless ages on the bottom of the ocean, this theory might now be substantiated by subjecting these stones to an examination to find these particles of dust. F.

NEW YORK, April 22.

Lighter Moods of the Monticello Poet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I hope the enclosed will seem as excruciatingly funny to you as it does to me:

> Now, maidens come in many styles,
> In varied shades and hues,
> The rich, the poor, the meek and mild,
> The girl with lofty views.
>
> The tall, the short, the proud, the wise,
> Resigned, accept their lot;
> They have their ideals, 'tis true,
> Though they attain them not.
>
> But on one point they all agree,
> This platitude explain:
> The girls who don't come pretty
> Quite naturally complain.

MONTICELLO, N. Y. ALBERT G. RIVES.

REPLIES TO MR. DAVITT.

Several Americans Dispute His Facts and Deride His Opinions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Michael Davitt, in reply to my criticism over the signature of "American," makes two points, namely, that I am not an American, but a Britisher in disguise, and that the popular sentiment in this country is with Russia and not with Japan. Mr. Davitt has travelled in the United States, and he knows.

Now, as to my identity as an American, I would remark that my name and address are in possession of THE SUN. My ancestry in Pennsylvania, on both sides, is of the American Revolution and Colonial times. My great-great-grandfather was an officer under Washington. My family record is preserved at Harrisburg, Pa. I am of German extraction. But it is an old failing of Mr. Davitt to see a Britisher in every controversial bush.

In his travels in the United States Mr. Davitt must have confined his intercourse to members of the Clan-na-Gael and he could surely not have read the newspapers in the States and cities he visited, or he would not make the astonishing statement that he makes in regard to American sentiment about the Russo-Japanese war. Why, Mr. Davitt, your political hobby has perverted your ordinary perceptions if you really believe what you say. I will venture to affirm that not only is American sentiment practically a unit for Japan but that, moreover, the sentiment of Irish-Americans is also for Japan by a large majority. I number many among my friends and they are all against Russia.

In point of fact the man of Irish blood, unless he is possessed of a distemper or is carried away by intemperate zeal, is too chivalrous to give his sympathies to a brutal bully like Russia in her contest with a brave, alert little nation, only a fraction her size, which she tried to rob and oppress and then to intimidate. The drubbing that the bully is getting at the hands of her intended victim pleases the civilized world, including the millions of Russian subjects who are daily praying for Russian defeat. Men like Michael Davitt do a wrong to the cause they seem to promote by trying to identify Irish aspirations for home rule and independence with Russian absolutism, tyranny and the knout.

In common with all Americans of ancestry far back, I was born and bred amid anti-British prejudices, and a family tradition that my grandmother, long deceased and who was a little girl at the British occupation of Philadelphia, had a pitcher of milk knocked out of her hand by a Hessian soldier of King George, still rankles. But these prejudices of a century ago are rapidly fading away in the American mind and heart and men like Mr. Davitt can no longer conjure by them. It is unnecessary to speak of American sympathy with Ireland and of the part that the Irish race takes in the affairs of our country. I served in the great civil war in a Pennsylvania battery composed mostly of the sons of Irish miners and I learned then to appreciate and love the sterling qualities of the race. Since the war my most cherished associations have been Irish-American of the Catholic faith. My knowledge of the history of the race in the United States makes me an enthusiastic admirer of Irish-American citizenship, which has done so much, proved so entirely loyal, won such high rewards, and is now a part of the bone and blood and fibre of our nation into which it is dissolved.

The truth is that Mr. Michael Davitt is egregiously mistaken in the American sentiment and character and does not read his own race aright in this country. To understand the latter he should not try to study it alone in the organizations that perpetuate old world politics in the United States. Nor should he try to gauge native American sentiment by what he is told by imaginative individuals belonging to these organizations, or by fugitive glimpses out of passing car windows.

I think it would be difficult for Mr. Davitt to find one representative American newspaper that favors the cause of Russia in this war, and Mr. Davitt should know that in the United States the newspapers are the index of the public sentiment. AN AMERICAN.

NEWARK, N. J., April 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Mr. Davitt's second letter is as amazing and amusing as the first. His logic is so mixed that he defeats his own ends. His first letter on the Far East was filled with railings against our lynchings, our inconsistencies, our intolerance, and listing a dozen faults he thinks we have copied from England. He also drags in India, Finland, South Africa, the South, and a host of other irrelevant subjects and then asks me what Kishineff has to do with the Eastern question. Nothing. I fully agree with him. Neither has any of the topics he drags in for his own political ends. My letter plainly showed that because I deplore the exaggerated charges against friendly nations, I called attention to the anti-Russian feeling stirred up by the lurid articles he penned for the yellow journals illustrated by pictures of unspeakable outrages, with Russian soldiers and officials in the foreground, and from his cable descriptions.

It is humorous to learn that all who do not agree with Mr. Davitt's one-sided vituperations are therefore Englishmen. I never was in England in my life. But I do not like to see a foreigner of a few weeks' residence sneer at American faults and dictate to our conscience, speaking from a lofty platform of ignorance, intolerance and inconsistency, and therefore I claimed that our divided sympathies in this free land were no more enigmatical than the different opinions in his country with its Nationalists, sincere and consistent men, and the men of perhaps equal sincerity who flock in thousands to the English army and public service, hundreds to rise to the highest positions. Impartial facts are neither slurs nor un-American.

Mr. Davitt's letters, however, are always full of narrow animosities, his attitude that of sublime teacher and leader to all mankind, and utter scorn for those who try to be rational. When he knows us better, he will find that the average American sees there are two sides to all questions, and so he loves tolerance above all things. And we do not like to see our national dignity lowered by irrational attacks on friendly nations, be they Russia, Japan, England or any other. We have very serious problems of our own to solve, and they need all our attention. Mr. Davitt thinks he has a mission to perform, but he must not take himself too seriously. We like to hear his views, we resent having him try to force them down our throats as the final and absolute. We have read history, we are not children, and his idea of logic and his want of balance are distinctly childish.

WILTON G. FISHER.

PLAINFIELD, N. J., April 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Fact, fancy and falsehood are so closely woven in Michael Davitt's letter that it is difficult to separate them. Mr. Davitt is so blinded in his hatred of England that he cannot see his own blunders in statement. The most conspicuous example of his lack of logic perhaps is his reference to the famine in India. The British Government did not cause the crops to fail, but it did save millions of lives, even if millions were lost. Russia did not make a present, virtually of Alaska to the United States. It was a profitable sale. The services of "a Russian fleet in American waters" never was proffered to the United States. This fiction has been exposed so often that it is scarcely worth denying. England did not twice try to overthrow this republic and fail. I cannot understand what Mr. Davitt is driving at by that assertion. He surely cannot refer to the War of the Revolution as the first attempt. England was then unsuccessful in retaining her hold on the colonies which afterward became a republic. He cannot refer to the War of 1812 as the second attempt. He appears to be ignorant of American history. He also is ignorant of the history of Corea and of Japan when he says the currency of Corea has been damaged "with base coin made in Japan." No such condition exists or has existed. I refer to the Corean Consul in this city in support of my statements.

Mr. Davitt ignores the history of Russia when he attributes a benevolent object to that despotic monarchy in its occupation of Manchuria, and he offers no excuse for Russia's insolent refusal to stand by her word and withdraw and which has brought her into the plight she now finds herself. Accuracy in statement is necessary in drawing logical conclusions. ANOTHER AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, April 20.

The Best Golf Player in Congress.

From Leslie's Weekly.

Although Senator Aldrich of Rhode Island is considerably past his sixty-third year he has taken such excellent care of his physical health that he appears much younger. The Senator spends most of his leisure time out of doors, indulges often in athletics, and is said to be the best golf player in Congress.

The Personal Pronouns.

Teacher—What are the three personal pronouns?
Pupil—He, She and It.
Teacher—Give an example of their use.
Pupil—Husband, wife and baby.

HOTEL ARITHMETIC.

"Inquirer's" Complaint of an Overcharge Shown to Be Baseless.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent in to-day's issue who seems puzzled about "hotel arithmetic" is, I think, mistaken in assuming that the quarter of a day charged for was the price of his lunch, although it may have been so virtually in his case. Unless he actually gave up his room after breakfast, he was undoubtedly regarded as still occupying it, even though he had stated his intention of going away during the day, and of course he was charged for it accordingly. If he had happened to want to use the room in the meantime he would have been justly indignant to find it assigned to some one else, and in such a case could have been rightfully charged only for lunch instead of for a quarter of a day. Now, "Inquirer" may have actually occupied his room exactly two days and no more, but he should remember that it was his privilege to continue to occupy it after lunch and until the next meal hour without further charges.

The fractional parts of the hotel "day" are marked by the meal periods; but a meal in itself does not necessarily represent a corresponding fractional part of the cost per day. For instance, suppose a person registers at a hotel before lunch on the American plan at $5 per day, with the understanding that no room will be assigned to him until 8 P. M., owing to a crowded house. In the meantime he eats two meals and then finds he cannot remain over night. In such a case he certainly will not be charged $2.50 for half a day unless that is the actual price of the meals on the American plan. On the other hand, if a room had been assigned to him, although he may not have so much as looked at it, he would be charged for half a day, no matter what the rate was. TRAVELLER.

NEW YORK, April 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* THE SUN of to-day prints a letter from "Inquirer" regarding hotel mathematics. "Inquirer" says that he with a friend and his wife went to a New Jersey winter-summer resort and stopped at a first-class hotel, as their "position socially demanded." "Inquirer" was assigned to a $3 per day room, but there being no more untaken at this first-class hotel at that price his friend and wife were assigned to a $5 per day each room. These prices included both room and meals. They remained two days and a quarter, the extra quarter being for lunch, and "Inquirer" was charged $6.75 and his friend and wife $22.50, and the party making inquiry wants to know why his two friends were charged $1.25 each for the same lunch that he paid 75 cents for.

Please, dear editor, why will you put such soul-rending problems before an unmathematical public? You know well enough we do not all stop at $3 a day hotels, let alone those higher up at $5 per day. But as you have done it, the writer, as a humble typewriter mathematican, feels it his duty to come to the rescue.

Now, the difference between the prices charged—75 cents and $1.25—has nothing to do with the lunches or the quality of the food, but is represented by the cost of the "social position" of his friend and wife over that of "Inquirer" while they were in the $10 per day room, his being only $3 per day. You know that social position these times is not secured cheap, and any one who would kick at a matter of 50 cents per day—oh, well! what's the use? Here comes the boss, and I must get to work.

TYPEWRITER MATHEMATICIAN.

NEW YORK, April 22.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent "Inquirer," who is puzzled over the apparent discrepancy of his and his friend's hotel bill, basing the bills on $3 and $5 per day respectively, may set his mind at ease. There is no discrepancy.

The $5 guest simply pays $2 more a day for his room than the $3 guest and pays exactly the same for his meals—three a day. That is, the $3 guest pays 75 cents for his room and 75 cents each for his meals, while the $5 guest pays $2.75 for his room and 75 cents for each meal. If "Inquirer" will figure out his friend's board on this basis he will find the charge made correct, as follows:

Room 2¼ days, at $2.75, is	$ 6.18¾
Board 2¼ days, at $2.25, is	5.06¼
	$11.25

Total, $22.50 for two.

Of course the discrepancy between 75 cents and $2.75 per day for room is great, but it does not affect the mathematical feature of the case. If "Inquirer's" friend were an old traveller he would have surrendered his room before breakfast and paid for his two breakfasts separately—so that his bill would have stood $21.50 or (if the breakfast charge was $1) at $22, a saving in any event. But if he kept the room 2¼ days he must not object to paying for it for that time.

I can illustrate a great peculiarity of the working of the American plan—so-called. At the hotel where I reside a weekly charge for table board is made and no reduction is made for an absence of less than four days. The consequence is that the boarder who has been absent two days, in order to gain the reduction, goes elsewhere to eat for two days more and the hotel in question loses the money he spends elsewhere. Query: Is that good business policy on the part of the hotel?

NEW YORK, April 22. RESPONSE.

Parker Sentiment in Virginia.

From the Portsmouth Star.

Bryan and Hearst will not have any consideration in the Virginia State Democratic convention. The editorials in the newspapers, the interviews with prominent politicians and the statements of men who have travelled throughout the State, all agree in the declaration that no one but Parker is considered available as a candidate for the Presidency by the Democratic party, and he will be considered, in spite of the protests of William J. Bryan.

One of the interviews, which states the situation accurately and tersely, is that of J. Boyd Sears, State Senator from the Eastern Shore, who says: "There is no one in sight but Judge Parker." Another interview, with Herbert I. Lewis, Commonwealth's Attorney of King William county, says: "In my section everybody is for Parker—business men, farmers and politicians. There was some talk of Hearst a few weeks ago, but his so called boom seems to have developed into a boomerang."

Indications of Hearst appeared in Virginia in three ways. There were newspaper correspondents and writers who "had met Hearst," or "been seen by an agent." There were newspapers which sometimes need money to use in their business. There were publicists of the J. Temple Graves class, but lacking in his nerve and ability, who were employed to suggest various men as candidates, in order to distract the attention of the people and dissipate the strength of the party, so that Hearst might take advantage of the dissensions they could create.

These Hearst employees have no influence. They made their bargains and probably did their work. That was the end of it. The bad temper of Bryan and the fanatical desperation with which he has clung to the defeated platforms and the discredited candidate have made him a political pariah. Virginia, therefore, is for Parker.

One Landlord's Way With Children.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was amused when I read "Hail Columbia's" remarks on boys and girls. He can never expect anything different as long as he pursues the policy he does, and condemns the children before they enter the house. I have always got along with the children by having something in my pockets for them—pennies, candy, or, in the summertime, slices of a big watermelon.

No walls or wainscoting are damaged or disfigured by the children, but a lot of complaints about the damage done by the grown-up folks I could tell. I guess "Hail Columbia" is a holy terror, and if he spent his time and money in getting on the right side of the children he would have less complaint to make. Let him try the penny cure and he will have few complaints and bills to pay.

My property is situated in the densely populated portion of the East Side, close to the Williamsburg bridge. ADMIRER.

SEA CLIFF, L. I., April 23.

Kentucky Green Goods.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am reliably informed that the Kentucky contingent in and about New York city will meet next Wednesday evening at the Waldorf to organize a Kentucky Society. Under the circumstances would you advise me to attempt to buy mint for future delivery? BROKER.

WALL STREET, April 22.

A prose poem on spring by Maurice Maeterlinck opens the May number of the *Metropolitan Magazine*. It is illustrated by appropriate and poetic pictures by Jules Guérin. Mr. Bonsal's article on the Mikado balances Mr. G. Creighton Webb's statement about the American debt to Russia. Among the contributors of fiction are Maurice Hewlett, W. A. Fraser, David Gray and J. J. Bell, while Clinton Scollard, O. Herford and others furnish verse. The cover is very artistic.

THE KUNGHUZE BANDITS.

A despatch in THE SUN the other day from Manchuria said that neither the Japanese nor the Kunghuzes had succeeded as yet in inflicting any damage on the railroad across Manchuria from Harbin to Vladivostok. Many readers perhaps were mystified by this linking of the Kunghuzes with the Japanese as the enemies of Russia. Who are the Kunghuzes?

They are the people who figured prominently in all the Russians wrote before the war to justify their military occupation of Manchuria. Russia asserted that the presence of these brigands made it necessary to keep a large force in the country to guard the railroad. Their home is among the mountains that cover the whole of Manchuria north of Harbin. Not a single respectable cart road extends from Harbin through these mountains to the Siberian frontier, though a few rough caravan routes have carried considerable trade between eastern Siberia and southern Manchuria. Here live the Kunghuze bandits who made much trouble for Russia until a short time before the war began.

Their industry was sometimes the pillage of villages, whether Manchurian or Russian, or the robbing of trade caravans among the mountains. They acknowledge the mastery of their leading chief, Haidengu, who inspired so much terror far and wide that one of his parents was permitted to live south of the mountains at Kirin undisturbed by the Chinese Governor. At last the Russian General Kaulbars headed a campaign against the rebels, as they were called, killed many of the Kunghuzes, and captured the son of Haidengu.

This put an end about two years ago to the aggressive tactics of the brigands. They set up in business as the protectors of commerce, which means that they imposed a tax upon merchants for insuring the safety of themselves and their property in passing through the mountains. The Russians were willing to settle with the brigands on this basis, and peace reigned until the outbreak of the war.

To-day, however, the Kunghuzes are the allies of the Japanese. Some of them were in the company of the disguised Japanese army officers who attempted to destroy the bridge across the Sungari River at Harbin. According to the despatch mentioned above they have not injured the railroad, but they have greatly annoyed the Russians by cutting the telegraph lines between Harbin and Vladivostok. If we should hear some day that Port Arthur was cut off from electric communication with Harbin for a few days, it would probably be the work of these brigands. As it is, Russia has been compelled to keep repair forces busy along the line between Harbin and Vladivostok ever since hostilities began.

The tribe has also seized the opportunity to renew their old predatory habits. The latest reports from eastern Siberia say that these mountain natives have increased their price for "protecting commerce." They now demand 40 per cent. of the value of all goods on the caravan routes. They have killed a number of merchants who refused to pay the price and complained to the authorities. They have also made bold to attack one of the little steamers on the Sungari River, and have demanded that 40 per cent. of the value of all cereals and vegetables carried on these boats this season be paid to them. The boat they attacked was the first to move on the Sungari this year, navigation having been opened earlier than usual, and while there was much floating ice in the river, on account of the desirability of bringing food supplies to the Russian troops at Harbin.

Thus, while Russia faces her great enemy in the south, she has among the mountains behind her another foe whose depredations are likely to be particularly annoying now that the Russians really need to fix their entire attention upon the enemy in front.

A Moving Scene.

From the Hyden Thousand Sticks.

On Wednesday morning in North Hyden, on Main street, lined up eight wagons and teams for the purpose of moving the family of Mr. Abner Eversole to London, Ky. The teams are as follows: Joe Napier, 4 mules, Pleasant Woods, 3 mules, Wm. Begley, (Shep) 2 horses, Wm. Wooton (Moccasin) 2 mules, Uncle Reid Cottongem, horse and mule, Hughes Asher, 3 mules, John Reins, 2 mules, Jim Salyers, 2 mules. The family consist of Mrs. Abner Eversole Stella, Lawerance, Johnny, Gordon Roosevelt and little Dortha Eversole. Also Misses Halla and Bessie Eversole the daughters of Mr. A. B. Eversole, who will attend school at London. And Miss Maggie Roberts, a daughter of F. G. Roberts, who will make her home at Mrs. Eversole.

Whale Impaled on Warship's Ram.

From the London Graphic.

When between Malta and Gibraltar, on her way home to pay off, H. M. S. Diana struck a large whale some sixty feet in length. The impact was not felt, but the officer of the watch noticed, on taking bearings of an island which the ship was passing, that she was not making the headway which was to be expected, and he then discovered that a large whale was impaled on the ship's ram, and was just appearing above water. The ship was stopped and the engines were reversed, and as she went astern the whale dropped off. A similar occurrence was recorded in the *Daily Graphic* in 1890, when H. M. S. Immortalite ran into a whale off the coast of Portugal while on her way to England. On that occasion the collision between the ship and the whale was distinctly felt.

Secretary Taft the Strong Man of His Class.

From the Washington Post.

When Secretary Taft and Representative Fowler of New Jersey come together they are as cordial as brothers. Almost twenty years ago they were fellow students at Yale. To Mr. Fowler Judge Taft is plain "Billy," and to Judge Taft Mr. Fowler is "Doc," that having been his nickname in college.

As a college boy Judge Taft was the "Bully" of his class, which meant that he was the strongest man and stood up at the front in the class rush. He was a freshman when Fowler was a junior. The New Jersey Congressman, almost as stalwart a physical specimen as the present Secretary of War, was likewise a strong man in his class. The two saw some vigorous tests of strength in their college days, but that has only increased their mutual regard.

Too Much Courting in This Church.

From the London Daily Mail.

The vicar of St. Paul's, Scotforth, Lancashire, has invited suggestions from his congregation for the curtailment of opportunities for courting in church.

One member of the congregation has proposed that offenders should be placed in seats nearer the pulpit, and the vicar's own remedy is the drafting of "a blacklist." The curate hinted at a separation of the sexes, and mentions that he has even heard of photographs being handed about by young people in the church.

The vicar certainly thought it a duty to restrain the practice as far as possible, and finally two laymen were appointed to discuss and recommend preventive measures.

National and Explanational.

From the Washington Star.

"Is that Congressman what you would call a national figure?"

"Well," answered the village wag, "when he's in Washington he's national, but when he gets back here he's explanational."

An Appeasing Solo.

From the Hyden Thousand Sticks.

The services were further characterized by a solo rendered by Miss Mattie Eversole. She sang in a clear musical tone which appeased the ear of the listners.

In the May number of *Country Life in America* a genial optimism tells the reader that summer is at hand. There are profusely illustrated articles on salmon fishing and camping out and canoeing and mountain climbing. An unusual and very effective double page picture of the Rocky Mountains goat at home shows the advantage of the large size of the magazine. Mr. Herbert K. Job provides more of his remarkable bird pictures. The reading matter, including some of the more interesting articles, is made to meander through advertisements for more than half of the pages