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The Burning of the Slocum.

The destruction by fire yesterday of a steamboat crowded with excursionists is the most heartrending disaster of which New York has had experience during many years, for of the hundreds of lives lost the most were of women and children.

The General Slocum was not an old and wornout boat, though for more than ten years it has been familiar in the waters of our harbor as an excursion steamer. It was a stanch boat, in which the officers of the Lutheran Sunday School had reason to feel as much confidence as was felt in past summers by many organizers of similar excursions, and as was reposed, doubtless, by many others who had chartered it for the same purpose in the future.

The destination of the excursionists, too, was practically in the harbor of New York. The trip was not more hazardous, apparently, than taking a sail across the East River in a ferryboat; yet soon after the General Slocum had received its living load, and while it was still in the very harbor, fire broke out and burned so rapidly and fiercely that its speedydestruction followed.

The responsibility for the awful disaster seems to be attributable to bad discipline on the part of the officers of the boat and inadequate preparations for fire. Why it was not beached is a mystery, for as it kept on its course the fresh wind fanned the flames and in a few minutes the whole vessel was ablaze, and a great loss of life was made inevitable.

So it appears on first view. It looks like criminal carelessness that on a clear June day, right in the harbor of New York, a steamboat loaded with women and children should be burned to the water's edge and half a thousand of lives lost before succor could reach them.

A Marvellous Development of Trade.

The circumstances which have forced a long established house in New York to change the policy of refraining from advertising of which it had been proud as a distinction in its trade are related in *Printer's Ink*, a paper which makes discussion of the subject of advertising its specialty.

It is a house which was founded so long ago as the civil war; and for many years its mere reputation kept it supplied with a profitable custom. Accordingly, business conservatism, creditable enough in itself, led the establishment to persist in its old ways, in spite of the steadily increasing competition of newer houses in the trade which had been built up and magnified by means of liberal advertising. At last, however, it has been obliged to succumb and follow their example, if it would save itself from decadence.

The theory on which this house had proceeded was that the quality of the goods sold by it was a sufficient advertisement; and unquestionably the theory is respectable. In some departments of trade, too, it is a theory which may work satisfactorily, but only in those which deal with a comparatively small part of the public, and in a wholesale rather than a retail way. We have seen, however, many wholesale houses of long established reputation go into decay because of reliance on that supposed security. They have died of dry rot, while more enterprising competitors have absorbed their trade by pursuing modern methods.

The demonstration of the value and necessity of the publicity obtained through advertising is so complete and so patent at this time that no argument on the subject is needed. It may be said that there is now no great retail business, more especially, which has not been built up by it and is not still dependent on it for further advancement, and even for holding the position to which it has attained. The number of such houses which have gone ahead rapidly from a humble beginning to wide fame and large prosperity is many, as everybody knows, for advertising has made their names as familiar to the public as are the most celebrated monuments and the names of the most conspicuous men of the town and the nation.

The great department store has developed during the present generation, and primarily through the means of advertising. The daily cost of running one of these huge bazaars of trade is now more than a week's expenditure for a like purpose even in the day of Mr. A. T. STEWART's prime distinction as a merchant; and probably it is very much more. The largest crowd of customers ever attracted by him or by any other of the old time merchants is small beside the number which daily enters the great establishments of this time. It is like comparing a lively village with a populous town. In a single day as many people may now enter such a bazaar as could have been found in all the considerable dry goods shops of the town at the time when Mr. STEWART was building up his trade.

It has been a marvellous development. It is true that a generation ago the population of New York was only about a third of what it is now, and the population of the suburban territory has grown since then at even a greater rate. In New York and its neighborhood there are now about six millions of people. But this growth in population, the greatest and most rapid in any metropolitan area of the world, has been far exceeded in the development of the facilities for supplying the needs and satisfying the tastes of so great an aggregation of people. The trade methods of a generation ago now seem antiquated, the volume of trade done insignificant, relatively.

The prime impetus to this development has been given by advertising more liberally, more skilfully and more scientifically employed; but this far greater publicity could not alone have brought about the revolution in the methods of trade which has followed on it. Abler and larger administrative skill in management was made requisite. There has been developed a type of merchant more masterful, of more organizing power and of larger imagination than was ever known before in the department of retail trade. Something of the quality of statesmanship has appeared in the mercantile sphere. Here are now found veritable "captains of industry," men who have been able to organize new and great systems of trade of which there was no example and scarcely a suggestion even a generation ago. The largest and the most imposing of the establishments for trade in the New York of that time could be put in the space occupied by a single department in one of our present vast bazaars, yet nearly all of them were then either in humble little shops or had not come into existence at all.

Of course, advertising alone could not have produced results so stupendous, but neither could they have been produced without such publicity—without making the names of these houses, their situation and their wares as familiar to the public as are the City Hall or Trinity Church or St. Patrick's Cathedral. Of course, this publicity would be harmful rather than profitable if it led to the disappointment of those attracted by it; and accordingly the greater and the more persistent the advertiser the more reliance can usually be put in the descriptions and prices in his advertised bulletins. He invites public criticism and he must be proof against it.

The "New Sayings of Jesus."

It is well known that during the last six or seven years excavations have been prosecuted on the site of Oxyrhynchus—an important city of ancient Egypt which stood on the edge of the Western Desert, 120 miles south of Cairo—and that many Greek papyri, dating from the first to the seventh century of the Christian era, have been unearthed. Of the theological and classical texts discovered, none, of course, has hitherto aroused so much interest as a page (evidently from a book) brought to light in 1897, on which were inscribed a number of sayings attributed to JESUS. After an interval of six years, during which a search was made for documents in the Fayûm, excavations were resumed at Oxyrhynchus, with the result that another fragment of a collection of sayings ascribed to JESUS was found, written on the back of a survey list of various pieces of land. Another discovery was that of eight fragments of a papyrus in roll form, which, when intact, seems to have contained a lost Gospel; though whether the document should be regarded as an apocryphal Gospel or as an abridgment of one of the canonical Gospels may be the subject of controversy. The original Greek texts and English translations of these papyri have now been published through the Oxford University Press by B. P. GRENFELL and A. S. HUNT, the conductors of the excavations for the Egypt Exploration Fund.

Before glancing at the contents of these papyri—that differ from the canonical New Testament writings in only two important particulars, which exemplify on the one hand the inclination to sabbatarianism known to have been evinced by the Judaizing Christians, and on the other the pronounced tendency to asceticism which at an early period in Egypt was exhibited among the celibate anchorites of the Thebaid—we should explain why these sayings which purport to be those of JESUS should be received with caution. The Council of Laodicea, held in the year 363 A. D., after enumerating a list of New Testament writings stamped as canonical—a list agreeing with that presented in our Authorized Version, except that it excludes the Apocalypse—forbade the reading of all non-canonical books.

It is true that for a long time thereafter the prohibition was not enforced rigorously, but the canon of the Anglican Church, adopted in 1562, after giving the names and number of the writings properly included in the Old and New Testaments, goes on to say that, as for "the other books, the Church doth read [them] for example of life and instruction of manner; but yet doth it not apply them to establish any *doctrine*." In like manner the Westminster Confession of Faith, after enumerating the books of the Old and New Testaments that can be described as the Word of GOD, declares that the books classed as apocryphal are not of divine inspiration, or of any authority in the Church, and not to be approved or made use of otherwise than as human writings. The Roman Catholic canon, determined at the Council of Trent, adopted all the books in the Vulgate as sacred—except 3 and 4 Esdras, 3 Maccabees, and the Prayer of Manasseh. This Tridentine decree was confirmed by the Vatican Council. It follows that orthodox Christians, whether Roman Catholics, Anglicans or Presbyterians, cannot accept as genuine any sayings attributed to JESUS except those that figure in the canonical books.

It is, at the same time, indisputable that the papyri discovered by GRENFELL and HUNT are of remarkable interest from an historical point of view. Viewed in connection with the internal and external evidences of date, among which may be mentioned the type of uncial handwriting, they confirm what we had reason indeed to believe on other grounds—that during the third century of our era there were current non-canonical versions of the Gospel narrative, in which not only heretics but those orthodox Christians who carried asceticism or sabbatarianism to extremes found authority for their peculiar views in words attributed to JESUS. Thus, in the second of the "logia," or sayings inscribed on the Oxyrhynchus papyri discovered in 1897, we read: "JESUS saith, Except ye fast to the world, ye shall in no wise find the Kingdom of GOD; and except ye make the sabbath a real sabbath, ye shall not see the Father." This is just the sort of tradition which we should expect to see current among Judaizing Christians, of whom, naturally, there would be a good many in the populous Jewish quarter of Alexandria.

It is equally manifest that advocates of extreme asceticism would look with favor on a version of the Gospel narrative—the version of which GRENFELL and HUNT have discovered fragments—recording that "His disciples say unto him, When wilt thou be manifest to us, and when shall we see thee? He saith, When ye shall be stripped and not be ashamed." The passages involve plainly a reference to Genesis iii., 7: "And they were both naked, the man and his wife, and they were not ashamed," the meaning being that CHRIST's Kingdom on earth would not be manifested until man had returned to the state of innocence which existed before the Fall.

These newly discovered fragments of a version of the Scripture narrative which was current in Egypt more than sixteen hundred years ago will direct the reader's attention to the great difficulty of the task which the early fathers undertook when they tried to define and enforce a canon.

The Ten-Dollar Immigrants.

Mr. FRANK P. SARGENT, the Commissioner-General of Immigration, takes a sensible view of the situation presented by the immigrant rate war between some of the transatlantic steamship companies. He is not alarmed at the prospective dumping on our shores of hordes of undesirables, for the very good reason that nothing of the sort is feared by him or by the authorities in Washington.

The door to the United States is locked on the inside, and the key to that lock is not in the keeping of the warring steamship lines or of the undesirable immigrants themselves. It is in the hands of the Federal Government, and it can be turned to bar the way against any immigrant unfit to land in this country. As long as the situation remains as it is now, no one need fear the effects on this nation of the steamship war now in progress.

There is no reason why a $10 immigrant should not be as good a man as one who pays $20 for his passage. Among those who take advantage of the present reduction in rates to come to this country will be many who will develop into sturdy Americans, patriotic, industrious, prosperous and happy; and of such we cannot have too great a number, no matter what fare they pay coming over.

England's Iron and Steel Industry.

The next definite step in the process of England's proposed fiscal reform will be the publication of reports prepared by the board of investigation which has been taking testimony regarding the details of industrial interests affected by the Chamberlain scheme.

Thus far the discussion of this important issue has been in a large degree academic. Statistics have been quoted, but the same figures have been brought forward by both sides in support of opposing arguments. Mr. CHAMBERLAIN asserts that British trade is decadent, and presents an array of official figures in support of his assertions. His opponents declare that British trade is now greater than ever before, and they quote the same figures for their case.

The investigating commission has been engaged in analyzing conditions and actual and possible influences as well as volumes and values. Naturally, special attention has been devoted to England's most important industries. Of these, iron and steel stand among the foremost, if they do not, in actual importance, outrank all others.

Because of this, there is great interest in the testimony given before the commission by Mr. J. STEPHEN JEANS, the Secretary of the British Iron Trade Association, and a recognized authority upon all matters connected with the iron industry. Mr. JEANS shows that during the last ten years British iron production has only a little more than held its own, while the total amount handled, native and imported, has shown an increase so small in comparison with the increase in other countries that the result is most unsatisfactory. During the same period the American output of iron and steel has been trebled.

A clear inference from the statement of Mr. JEANS is that while England is yet able to hold her own in pig iron, she is decidedly beaten in steel. Inasmuch as steel is the form in which iron now finds many of its most important uses, this is a matter of supreme concern. The United States and Germany are England's competitors in steel, and Mr. JEANS admits that she is beaten, perhaps hopelessly, by both.

England's weakness in this competition is attributed by Mr. JEANS chiefly to the wider home market of both the United States and Germany, by which they are enabled to produce in larger quantity than England can, and to lessen cost by the economies possible in extensive operation, such as a freer use of automatic machinery and special appliances. Germany has a home market for about 5,000,000 tons a year. The United States has a home market for 15,000,000 tons a year. England finds domestic use for only 3,000,000 to 3,500,000 tons. With her surplus she must compete in a field in which Mr. JEANS declares her beaten. England's trade with Canada may be cited as a case in point. Notwithstanding a preferential of 33 1-3 per cent. on many lines, Canada purchases from the United States about four times as much of iron and steel, in their various manufactured forms, as she does from England.

English confidence in the future of the iron and steel industry is already badly shaken. Unless producers can be absolutely assured of a market, it appears from the statement of Mr. JEANS that England's steelmakers are not justified in installing plants on the American and German scale. The industry appears to be between two fires. Continuance of present methods means inability to compete in the markets of the world, and it is doubtful if the British Government is prepared to underwrite large industrial investments made on the strength of an imperial zollverein.

The reports of the commission will doubtless furnish ammunition for both sides in the campaign. A question of some importance just now is whether the greater part of it will not be out of date before the campaign centres on a distinct issue in a national election.

The Hearst and Parker Table Makers.

After acquiring the entire Illinois delegation of 54, under a castiron resolution of instructions, Mr. WILLIAM R. HEARST announced yesterday in his New York newspaper that he, and not Judge PARKER, was the leading candidate for the Democratic nomination. This was before the result of the conventions in Arkansas and Mississippi was known.

Mr. HEARST's figures yesterday morning were these:

	Delegates.
HEARST	283
PARKER	175
GORMAN	42
OLNEY	26
WALL	26
GRAY	6
Uncommitted	290

Mr. HEARST's table assigns to Judge PARKER the entire delegation of the five States which have instructed for PARKER—namely, Connecticut, Georgia, Indiana, New York and Tennessee—and three votes from Ohio, which, he assumes, is divided as to preference.

That makes the 175 votes which HEARST concedes to PARKER. As to his own standing, he claims the whole vote of Arizona, California, Hawaii, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Nevada, New Mexico, Rhode Island, South Dakota, Washington and Wyoming, besides fragments of broken delegations from Colorado, Florida, Kansas, Maine, Massachusetts, Ohio, Oregon, Utah and West Virginia. The scattering votes he claims in this last mentioned group of States amount to not less than 71, against the 3 assigned by him to Judge PARKER from the same source of supply.

If Mr. HEARST had deducted the 3 Ohio votes from Judge PARKER's column, and the 71 scattering votes from his own, his exhibit of solid delegations under the unit rule would have been as follows:

HEARST	162
PARKER	172

Thus Mr. HEARST's processes of enumeration exhibit HEARST as in the lead, while the computations of the Parker mathematicians arrive easily at a different result. The margin of uncertainty is such that the friends of either candidate can construct tables satisfactory to themselves, just as they can announce without fear of conclusive contradiction that in States where the conventions are yet to be held Hearst sentiment or Parker sentiment, as the case may be, is steadily growing.

It would be interesting to get from one of the women who went to the wedding of Miss WHELEN and Mr. GOELET on Tuesday and actually mobbed the bride as she left her carriage a plain statement of just what those women desired. They "clawed" the bride and to disinterested observers appeared to wish to pull some of her wedding garments off her. In calm moments it is altogether unlikely that any one of these women would cherish a wish to annoy a bride or to damage her wedding robes. Yet in the inexplicable excitement which grows upon them from reading the yellow thrillers about the preparations for a wedding in "high life" many women do things for which we are certain they can give no reason. What one of these bride mobbers can tell what she really wished?

Our neighbor, the *Tribune*, declares that a gentleman named EDWARD M. SHEPARD, living in this town, hopes to be nominated for President at St. Louis by the Democrats next month.

In directing the diplomatic and consular representatives of this nation to substitute the word "American" in their titles for the words "United States," Secretary HAY of the State Department has merely extended a rule which he adopted while Ambassador to Great Britain, when he changed the title of his embassy from United States to American.

When Mr. HAY put "American" at the top of his note paper, there was some criticism in London and in Canada, but it soon died out. The employment of the continental name was called "boastfulness," "bad taste," "presumption," "usurpation," and other hard names, but the appropriateness and convenience of the term won its way, and it is not likely that the Secretary's present orders, extending the practice further, will arouse much discussion other than academic.

The first intimation that Brittany is about to break away from France comes to us in a project for a constitution of Independent Brittany, printed by the Archdruidical press at Lampol and mailed from Switzerland. This contains a curious mixture of feudalism and very modern notions. The head of the State will be an elected Ducal Governor, who will rule with the modernized Estates or Brittany; there will be universal suffrage, in which women will share; there will be a national Church, with an Archbishop at the head, but no Italian shall be Apostolic Delegate. To round out the territory of the old duchy of Brittany, whose subdivisions are the feudal counties, various contiguous departments of France will be annexed.

The most interesting provision, perhaps, is the establishment by the side of a Catholic State Church, of a "yearly druidical commemoration organized by the Druids and Bards of Armorica."

Alternative Readings.

New the summer
Girls resorting
To the beach with all her might,
Engaging in | All the manly
Engaging to | sports in sight.

THE CLOSED SHOP AND THE RIGHT TO COMBINE.

Earlier Judicial Interpretations of Conspiracy Under the Common Law.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read the opinion of Judge Adams of Illinois in your issue of the other day. It is an admirable opinion in its simplicity, directness and comprehensiveness. But it lays down the principles of law that have been in existence for ages. The offence usually committed by these various combinations of workingmen who have established unions is the offence of conspiracy. It may be either civil or criminal, or both. The offence criminal and civil is defined as follows: "A combination between two or more persons to do a criminal or an unlawful act or a lawful act by criminal or unlawful means."

When the offence comes within this definition it is a crime punishable by fine or imprisonment or both, and also may be followed by a suit for damages.

In a criminal conspiracy the crime is complete if the object or purpose is unlawful, and the agreement is made. The crime is also complete and committed where the object is lawful and the means adopted to carry it out are unlawful.

In case of a conspiracy and there is a civil remedy sought—that is, where damages are sued for—the conspiracy itself furnishes no cause for damages unless something is actually done by one or more of the conspirators, pursuant to the scheme and in furtherance of the object which results in damages. The gist of the action is the damage and not the conspiracy, and the damage must appear to have been the natural and proximate consequence of the defendant's act.

In New Jersey, one of the abiding places of the common law, in 1867 the Supreme Court dealt comprehensively with a criminal conspiracy covering the question of master and servant. The syllabus of the case is as follows:

It is an indictable conspiracy for several employees to combine and notify their employer that unless he discharges certain enumerated persons, they will in a body quit his employment.

Chief Justice Beesley writes the opinion, and he has this to say:

Indeed, I think it may be said that there are, comparatively, but few cases of combinations in which indictability does not attach, either to the end in view, or to the instrumentalities devised, which are punishable by a public prosecution.

It may be safely said that a combination will be an indictable conspiracy, whenever the end proposed, or the means to be employed are of a highly criminal character, or where they are such as indicate great malice in the confederates; or where deceit is to be used, the object in view being unlawful; or where the confederacy, having no unlawful aim, tends simply to the oppression of individuals.

After the above recital of general principles, the case in hand was discussed as follows:

It appears to me that the alleged aim of this combination was unlawful. The effort was to dictate to this employer whom he should discharge from his employ. This was an unwarrantable interference with the conduct of his business, and it seems impossible that such acts should not be in their usual effects highly injurious. How far is this mode of dictation to be held lawful? If the manufacturer can be compelled in this way to discharge two or more hands he can by similar means be coerced to retain such workmen as the conspirators may choose to designate. So his customers may be proscribed and his business be controlled.

We cannot close our eyes to the fact that the threat of workmen to quit the manufacturer, under these circumstances, is equivalent to a threat that unless he yield to their unjustifiable demands they will derange his business, and thus cast a heavy loss upon him.

In such a condition of affairs, it is idle to suggest that the manufacturer is free to reject the terms which the confederates offer. If a single employee should demand the discharge of a co-employee, the employer would retain his freedom, for he could entertain or repel the requisition without embarrassment to his concerns; but in the presence of a coalition of his employees it would be a waste of time to pause to prove that, in most cases, he must submit, under pain of often the most ruinous losses, to the conditions imposed, in his necessities.

In my opinion, this indictment sufficiently shows that the force of the confederates was brought to bear upon their employer for the purpose of oppression and mischief, and that this amounts to a conspiracy.

In the decision of this celebrated case the Judge distinguishes the old case of the Commonwealth vs. Hunt, 4 Met. 111, a Massachusetts case. He says:

The foundation of the indictment in that case was the formation of a club by journeymen bootmakers, one of the regulations of which was that no person belonging to it should work for any master workman who should employ any journeyman or other workman who should not be a member of such club. Such a combination does not appear to possess any feature of illegality, for the law will not intend that it was formed for the accomplishment of any illegal end, without proof

The New Jersey case stands unreversed and is a leading case in this country in conspiracies of this character. It was so sweeping that New Jersey in 1883 passed a statute to overcome the effect of it so as to permit men to combine for the purpose of encouraging others to enter into a combination to enter or quit work, by *peaceable means*.

This law simply deals with that particular case and has no effect upon private rights, as has been declared by numerous chancery decisions in New Jersey since.

The case, however, states the general principles, and these principles have been declared by the courts again and again. It is an indictable conspiracy for a number of workmen to conspire together to persuade employees under contracts to break their contracts of employment and to leave before the term has expired. It is not essential to the offence that threats or intimidations be used. It amounts to intimidation, coercion or threats within the rule for employees to combine to agree to stop work and notify their employer that they will stop work unless he discharges certain employees.

The principles of the common law are so broad on this question that a number of States have passed statutes to modify them, to this effect, that it is not unlawful for workmen to combine for the purpose of persuading other workmen by peaceable argument and persuasion to cease working for another, if they are not under contract of employment for a fixed period. Under this view of the principles of law as to the criminal offence, probably the by-laws and constitution of every labor union would disclose a criminal conspiracy.

The civil side of this question brings up the matter of injunctions and damages. Many cases in recent years have been decided by the various States, settling the principles upon which injunctions are granted and damages fixed. New Jersey has taken an advanced position on the question of injunction.

The underlying principles governing these injunction cases are well stated by Vice-Chancellor Pitney in the case of Frank Dugan vs. Herold, New Jersey Chancery, 1901. The syllabus is as follows:

Every free person has a right to work where he sees fit, and no other person has a right to prevent his doing so, or without his consent even to endeavor to persuade him to quit. Employers where third parties interfere with their employees against the latter's consent, and endeavor by unlawful means to induce them to quit work, have a right to sue for relief. Injunction is the proper remedy for an employer where numerous third parties interfere with his employees against the latter's consent and endeavor by unlawful means to induce them to quit work.

A review of the cases on the question of damages shows that the underlying principles are pretty well settled. The two leading English cases were decided in the House of Lords, one in 1898 and the other in 1901. Allen vs. Flood was the first and Quinn vs. Leathem the other.

The point decided in Allen vs. Flood is that an act lawful in itself is not converted by a malicious or bad motive into an unlawful act, so as to make the doer of the act liable to a civil action.

Quinn vs. Leathem decides that officers of a trade union who conspire to injure a person by combining to induce and actually inducing his servant to break a contract with him, and other servants to quit his employment, and to cause a customer of such person to cease and refrain from dealing with him or receiving his goods by threatening such customer that his men, who are members of their union and who are satisfied with their employment, will be called out of his employ in case he does not cease and refrain from dealing with and receiving the goods of the person first mentioned, are liable in an action in favor of such person for the damages caused by the breaking of his contract by the servant and the quitting of employment by the others and by the refusal of the customer to further receive his goods, in consequence of such threats and in the fear of the calling out of his men in case he does not.

In a recent New York case the general principles are well stated:

It is not the duty of one man to work for another unless he has agreed to; and if he has so agreed, but for no fixed period, either may end the contract whenever he chooses. The one may work or refuse to work, at will, and the other may hire or discharge at will. Workingmen have the right to organize for the purpose of securing higher wages or shorter hours of labor. They have the right—that is, to cease working in a body by prearrangement until a grievance is redressed—provided the object is not to gratify malice or inflict injury upon others, but to secure better terms of employment. A peaceable and orderly strike, not to harm others, but to improve their own condition, is not a violation of law.

A combination of workmen to secure a lawful benefit to themselves should be distinguished from one to injure other workmen in their trade. Here we have a conspiracy to injure the plaintiffs in their business by threatening to call a general strike of the related trades; the defendants forced the contractor to discharge competent workmen who wanted to work for him, and whom he wanted to keep in his employment. They conspired to do harm to the contractor in order to compel him to do harm to the plaintiffs. While no physical force was used, the practical effect was that members of one labor organization drove the members of another out of business and deprived them of the right to labor at their chosen vocation.

The above principles being clear, there is hardly a strike of any kind that the unions are not guilty of criminal conspiracy for which they may be indicted: guilty of acts in disobedience of injunctions, and thereby in contempt of court; guilty of acts for which they would be answerable in damages. As the unions and their members are generally not responsible, suits for damages avail not.

Injunctions are easily obtained, but the punishment for contempt is a cumbrous and slow process, leaving the indictment as the most useful and available process of the law to bring them to terms, but even this requires courage and an enlightened public opinion. LAWYER.

NEW YORK, June 15.

The Needs of Porto Rico.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It was very kind of you to publish in your mighty SUN my letter of May 20, in which I suggested the employment of Porto Ricans on the Panama Canal works as a timely relief for the economic stagnation of Porto Rico, owed in great part to the excess of population within her limited area. The generous editorial printed in your Tuesday's issue, under the caption "More Complaints from Porto Rico," and inspired by an article in the *Boletin Mercantil de Puerto Rico*, brings me face to face with another of the recognized causes of the island's pauperism. As the paper in question is the recognized standard bearer of the Spaniards living in Porto Rico, I am not surprised at all that it did not allude to a feature of the problem on the mind of unprejudiced and far seeing Porto Ricans, viz.:

One of the main causes of the stringency in the island lies in the fact that the Spanish planters and agriculturists, having learned at heart the ancient Spanish notion of pocketing all to themselves the profits of their sales, without giving a proportional share of their earnings, in the shape of decent wages, to their helpers, stick to their old habits, instead of emulating the fair and equitable practices of the new American rulers of giving participation to their toilers in the prosperity of the business at which they are engaged. Concerning this it seems to me that although the regulation of wages belongs to the mutual convenience of employers and employees, and in no way demands legislative action, the American Government, for the sake of the moral and material equilibrium of Porto Rico's interests, should try to devise and adjust a rate of living wages for the starving insular peons, who are actually earning around 40 cents a day.

The Spaniards resident on the island lose sight of the fact that there is a sacred duty owed to the Commonwealth where they live and thrive, superior to their sordid tendencies and private interests as individuals. The whole cannot be sacrificed to the part, especially if we take into consideration the very plausible reason that the prosperity of Porto Rico workers will redound to the benefit of all. The very life of a community is something more than the individual advantages of part of its members. The solution of the island's economic problem does not belong exclusively to the American statesmen. It is a mutual question in which the favored and the sufferers should suggest and contribute to the relief of all. As there are individuals who strive to purify the moral practices and customs of the whole citizenship, there should be patriotic persons interested in the welfare of all within the sphere of their hopes and efforts. The Spanish landowners on the island—and they are the majority—have a moral duty to perform toward their fellow workers, and they cannot escape it even under the mantle of foreigners.

That is one of the most interesting features of this momentous question.

NEW YORK, June 14. D. COLLAZO.

Interest in the Civic Museum Idea.

From the Evening Mail.

The Carnavalet Museum is an object lesson in the history of Paris. A similar museum here would have much to draw upon. There are Indian relics in abundance to serve as reminders of prehistoric New York, Dutch and English remains are still to be had, and in the collection would properly go all recoverable vestiges of the older days, which the changes of modern life are destroying so quickly. The library would be especially valuable because of its maps, plans and official records.

A correspondent of THE SUN suggests the classification under which exhibits should be placed: Municipal records; models and proposals for the embellishment of the city; illustrations of public works, private and municipal; illustrations of civic life; historical; bibliographical; and, lastly, a memorial collection to Mr. Green.

The details of the museum deserve careful consideration; we can imagine nothing that would be a better memorial to the man who brought about the consolidation of the city, or more interesting to New Yorkers and students from other places.

Had Seen Forty-two Revolutions.

From the Cornhill Magazine.

Thirty years ago, when visiting Santo Domingo in an official capacity, he was taken in hand by a newly appointed minister, who undertook to show him around. Coming to the courtway of a prominent building, the guide pointed to a doorway and remarked, as complacently as if he were indicating the name of a street: "That is where our last Emperor was shot."

In the course of his sojourn he came upon an aged man, held in high esteem by the community because he had been witness of a quite exceptional number of revolutions and lived to tell the tale.

"How many have you seen?" the visitor asked.

"Forty-two," the patriarch modestly replied.

It appears that when a boy the old man had seen Louis XVI. and Marie Antoinette carried to the guillotine. Emigrating to Santo Domingo, the tale of revolutions rapidly ran up till it exceeded forty.

A Back Bay Observance.

"On the Fourth," little Emerson Copley remarked,
"I trust you will all bear in mind
The request that I make. It is small, I am sure;
A trifle, in fact, you will find.
I merely would ask that you purchase no punk,
No caps, or producers of noise,
With any intention of lowering me
To the level of commonplace boys.

"On the Fourth of July," he continued, "to me
There is nothing so palpably tame
As crackers, torpedoes and kindred affairs,
When fired in Liberty's name.
The popping they make is incompetent quite
To keep pace with my patriot's zeal,
And I frankly confess that the never give vent
To the joy that I inwardly feel.

"So allow me," said he, "on the Fourth of July,
To peruse, undisturbed, in my den,
That document famous which years ago came
From the studious Jefferson's pen.
Do this, and at eve I will gladly appear,
The fireworks costly to see,
For the rockets' red glare and the bombs in the air
Will remind me of Francis Scott Key."

ARTHUR H. FOLWELL.

THE "ISOLATION OF ENGLAND."

Edward the Seventh an Asiatic Emperor as Well as a European King.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a Hindu paper called the *Amrita Bazar Patrika*, which is one of the leading native papers of India, the editor discusses the Japanese victories. He says the nations of Europe regarded the Japanese simply as yellow dwarfs, who would be crushed like flies under the feet of Russian giants, but now we see that the Japs have proved their superiority both by sea and land, and the latest victories leave but little doubt that the Russians are no match for them. The editor then asks, How is it that the Japanese are inflicting these constant defeats upon the Russians? And in reply he says: "It is simply because the whole Japanese nation to a man, nay to a woman, has consecrated the lives of its people to the cause of the country. When mothers and wives cheerfully give up everything so that their sons and husbands can go forth to fight the enemy of humanity, and when the highest ambition of every Japanese is to die for his country, no other result than that which the world is now witnessing could be possible."

As I am writing this letter I find that in this morning's SUN your correspondent "F." says that England "cannot be an American and a European world power too, and that between two stools she is likely to fall to the ground." But your correspondent overlooks the fact to which I directed your attention some time ago, that the policy of the great Semitic statesman, Lord Beaconsfield, as indorsed by Queen Victoria, was to make Great Britain "an Oriental Power." As a European Power she is isolated. No intelligent person doubts this. But as an Oriental Power she stands as the faithful ally of Japan, ready to face the world. King Edward has visited the East, he has clasped the hands of every military leader in the native army of India, he has received the personal allegiance of every native ruler. He is now regarded by the Asiatic as a Ghengis Khan, an Emperor Akbar, or a Mahmud of Ghuzni. The Orientals thoroughly understand the conditions of the constitutional government of Great Britain. They understand that the Emperor of India as King of England rules by the will of the people. They know full well that he would not occupy his throne for a single day if his millions of subjects were not at his back. He in his person represents a united force.

The whole position at the present time is significant. A special committee of the House of Commons has reported on the defences of the country, and Sir Ralph H. Knox, in a minority report, says: "Conscription is not necessary, as the real and only defence of an island power is in its fleet." What is the meaning of all this? It simply means that King Edward will carry out the traditional policy of his distinguished mother, the policy of Lord Beaconsfield, the policy of Lord Salisbury, of Mr. Balfour, Lord Curzon and Lord Roberts, and not the cringing policy of either Mr. Gladstone or Lord Lawrence. Consequently, Great Britain will stand aside and allow Russia to test her strength with an Oriental nation single handed.

This was Lord Beaconsfield's policy. It was the policy suggested to Ameer Shere Ali Khan. But it was rejected. Now Japan has stepped in. Whether victory comes to Russia or to Japan, the fate of the Muscovite in Asia is sealed. No party Government can interfere. Whether Lord Curzon is in power as the leader of a Conservative government, or Lord Rosebery, as the leader of the Liberal, the policy will be one. It is a policy which appeals to the heart of every Englishman. It is one which arouses the enthusiasm of every copper colored native of India. One hundred and fifty millions of Moslems in Asia, not reckoning those in Africa, regard Russia as their common enemy. Three hundred and fifty millions of Buddhists do the same. The great warlike Sikh nation of the Punjab and the fighting Gurkhas of Nepal are always loyal to British interests. The victories of Japan have reawakened the warlike spirit of Burmah and Siam. Persia is ready to separate herself from Russian influence, and Afghanistan, Bokhara, and Turkestan are only waiting for the summons to rally around the green flag of Islam and to crush the Muscovite. China is setting her house in order, and a visit of one of her princes to the fair at St. Louis may have a wonderful bearing on the policy of China in the near future.

To repeat what I have said: As a Continental Power, Great Britain is isolated, but as an Oriental Power her position is unique. The immense warlike preparations of Great Britain, the sudden recall of Lord Curzon from India to join the counsels of the nation and the popularity of Japan in every corner of the British nation all indicate that Great Britain is preparing for a struggle single handed with the Muscovite. The great and terrible Indian Mutiny of 1857 significantly followed close on the defeat of Russia in the Crimea. Great Britain will take care that India is fortified against the intrigues of Russia, and the expedition to Thet is only a slight indication of the line of policy which Lord Curzon will pursue whether he occupies the position of Prime Minister, or Secretary of State for War, or Secretary of State for India. We have only to read the writings of this distinguished statesman to understand his attitude toward the aggressive power of Russia. AN ORIENTALIST.

NEW YORK, June 14.

Americans Buying Cuban Real Estate.

From the Washington Post.

"At the present time it is estimated that one-fourth of all the realty of the Island of Cuba is owned by Americans," said Charles T. Phillips, a prominent citizen of Havana. "In the month of March last there were 100 transfers of land in Pinar del Rio to Americans, some of the tracts being 5,000 acres in extent. At the present rate it will not be long ere one-half of Cuba will be the property of enterprising people from the United States. This, in my opinion, will come about inside of two years.

"The sure result of this extensive Yankee ownership will be annexation. Under the present laws of the island it takes five years' residence as an essential of citizenship. Five years from now Americans will be so numerous and their interests so heavy that their influence will suffice to make of Cuba an American possession, which is the best destiny of the country.

"The conditions to-day are very satisfactory. No better evidence is needed than the way the $35,000,000 bond issue was taken up. New York city alone would gladly have absorbed the whole amount. With a revenue of $80,000,000 from tobacco and sugar and $60,000,000 from bonds of all kinds, an enormous amount of capital is going to be turned loose for the benefit of the Cuban people, and improvements are at hand that will make of this favored land one of the most prosperous and attractive spots on the Western hemisphere."

After All, Only an Illusion.

From the Boston Record.

"Speaking of consistency," said Prof. Royce, "there once was a Hindu sage who said that everything was illusion, so one day when he was in the middle of a field his friends let a 'bad' elephant loose. The sage ran at the top of his speed and climbed a tree. When the elephant had been secured the wise man's friends gathered under the tree and said:

"'We thought you said everything was illusion.'

"'I did,' said the frightened but still true philosopher.

"'Ah! but you ran fast enough when the real elephant pursued you.'

"'You are mistaken again,' said the sage. 'There was no elephant, and I did not run. It was all illusion.'"

Important Courtship Decision in Pennsylvania.

From the Milton Evening Standard.

A Montgomery county Judge has rendered an important decision—of especial interest to girls. He has declared that it was not an offence for a girl to sit on her lover's lap, and in charging the jury said: "If every girl in Montgomery county who sits upon her lover's lap were to be judged of ill repute, we should have to blush for our county. That Judge is all right.

Summer fashions have the lion's share in *The Delineator* for July, as is but natural. Among the stories, Mrs. Babcock's narrative of two crows and the continuation of Mrs. Hugh Fraser's Japanese tale are noticeable. The photographs in the trip around the world in this number are of Egypt and the Holy Land. The announcement is made that the magazine hereafter will print colored fashion plates.

Spring Poem by a Member of Parliament.

From Blackwood's Magazine.

The Winter is done, come into the Sun;
Come away to the hills and the heather;
For leave never wait, 'tis the Spring at your gate,
Love and Spring must go Maying together.

The birds and the bees are alive in the trees,
Little lambs in the meadows are playing;
Then out on the swain who's alone in the lane
When Chloe would have him a-Maying.

So, couples, make haste, if you're eager to taste
Of the joy that the Summer can bring you;
Nor deem it a wrong to give ear to my song,
The sweetest a lover can sing you.

The Winter is done, let us follow the Sun
As he dances o'er hills and the heather;
For leave never wait, 'tis the Spring at your gate,
Love and Youth shall go Maying together.

IAN MALCOLM, M. P.