The Sun.

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President and Boss.

An interesting difference of opinion between Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH and the London *Spectator* regarding the virtues of government by party has been displayed recently in the columns of that journal. In his last letter Mr. SMITH illustrated his position by a reference to the United States, and said:

"In the United States you have the party system full blown. The two standing organizations, the Republican and the Democratic, have overlaid the Constitution, and are recognized by law. Unscrupulousness is almost the avowed qualification of a Boss."

The *Spectator* replied that America is behind Great Britain in the evolution of the party system, but that before long correctives will have grown stronger, as they have in the older country. It does not seem to have quite taken in such recent American developments of the system as are implied in making a "boss" of the President, or the Governor of a State, for the conducting of nominations and elections.

If the delegates of the several States assembled in Philadelphia who proposed, and the delegates in the several State conventions who adopted, the Federal Constitution, could return to earth they would be amazed, no doubt, by present doings regarding the national conventions. Great indeed would be their astonishment at seeing these conventions dictate to the Presidential electors next November two men, one of whom must by those electors be made the President, how much soever the people—only a petty fragment of whom have participated in the choice of delegates to either of those nominating conventions—may object to the prescribed candidates.

Greater still, most probably, would be their astonishment were they to be confronted with the spectacle of an actual President of the United States using the power of his office to promote his own selection by one of those nominating conventions, and then organizing machinery for further using those official powers in order to influence voters to vote for himself and against the opposing candidate.

It does not necessarily follow that because President ROOSEVELT is thus seeking another term, he is selfishly thinking only of honors and emoluments appertaining to the office of President. He is a zealous partisan. His biographer, Mr. JACOB RIIS, has been careful to mention that Col. ROOSEVELT said to the New York State Bar Association in 1899:

"I am a loyal party man, but I believe very firmly that I can best render aid to my party by doing all that in me lies to make that party responsive to the needs of the State, responsive to the needs of the people."

It is quite possible that he is doing all that in him lies for another term for the unselfish purpose of educating, disciplining, and leading his party in what he deems the paths of righteousness and decency. He is a terribly earnest man, untethered by conventionalities either in office or out of office, who preaches the doctrine of the strenuous life and insists that "success comes only to those who lead a life of endeavor." He cannot be expected to await the slow movement of the masses of his countrymen. Patience and a keen sense of the ludicrous side of his own conduct are not among the most exceptional of his exceptional qualities. The *Spectator* and Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH should think of that, as no doubt they do.

There was no feature of the Federal Constitution, as we now know it, that produced in the convention which framed it more debate, conflict and reversal of conclusions voted, than the creation of the office of President. Was he to be chosen by Congress, by the Senate, by the State Legislatures; by the people directly, as now the members of the House of Representatives in Congress are, or by a special body of electors created by each State? A good result seemed at one time hopeless, but a new special committee of one from each State invented the plan which was subsequently adopted, after substituting the House for the Senate as the elective body in case the State electors failed to make a choice.

The chief points of debate concerned the best method of excluding the exercise of intrigue by an actual incumbent of the office in behalf of his own candidacy with the body which might have the power of selecting the President. It was for that reason ruled that no Senator, or Representative, or person holding a Federal office of trust or profit, can be a Presidential elector.

Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH is quite right. The party system has "overlaid the Constitution" if the Presidential electors, appointed in and by each State, cannot exercise any discretion, but must choose the candidate indicated by the national convention of the party controlling in November a majority of the electoral votes of the States. The word "overlaid" was felicitously used.

It is obvious that neither those who framed, nor those who adopted the Constitution, contemplated the existence of forty-five States, voters five times in number the whole of the then population including men, women and children, and the difficulty which the Presidential electors, sitting in each State, would have in concentrating a choice for President without nominating conventions.

But the growth of nominating conventions has not made it necessary or appropriate that the actual President should intrigue with, or put pressure on, his own party in power to secure a nomination for another term. It is precisely that which the framers of the Constitution intended to prevent. They could not have expected that the actual President would, in order to procure his own election, ever become a party "boss."

Elementary.

To the sages and patriots about to meet in Chicago we submit the subjoined form of platform resolution:

"FREE LABOR—Liberty of contract is the foundation *of* our social structure. The right of every man to sell his labor to whom he will for such price as it pleases him to accept is guaranteed by the Constitution. It is an inalienable right. It shall be enforced, at whatever cost."

Is it to be believed for a moment that the party of Free Soil and Free Manhood under the American flag will evade a plain declaration of this just, incontrovertible and necessary principle?

Were there any delegates to the Chicago convention so disposed, they might derive comfort and take heart of courage from the circumstance that THEODORE ROOSEVELT, their foreordained leader in the coming canvass, has already said:

"There is no objection to the employees of the Government Printing Office constituting themselves into a union if they so desire; but no rules or resolutions of that union can be permitted to override the laws of the United States, which it is my sworn duty to enforce."

"I call attention to this judgment and award by the Anthracite Coal Strike Commission in its report to me of March 18, last: 'It is adjudged and awarded that no person shall be refused employment or in any way discriminated against on account of membership or non-membership in any labor organization, and that there shall be no discrimination against or interference with any employee who is not a member of any labor organization by members of such organization.' I heartily approved of this award and judgment by the Commission appointed by me, which itself included a member of a labor union. This Commission was dealing with labor organizations working for private employers. It is, of course, mere elementary decency to require that all Government departments shall be handled in accordance with the principle thus clearly and fearlessly enunciated."

We are quoting from two letters written by President ROOSEVELT, at Oyster Bay, on July 13 and July 14 of last year to Secretary GEORGE B. CORTELYOU in Washington.

What was elementary twelve months ago is elementary to-day. What was decent then in the way of the clear and fearless enunciation of the fundamental principle of Free Labor is decent now. What Mr. ROOSEVELT did not hesitate to declare then, in the face of angry opposition from that comparatively insignificant fraction of American Labor which claims the right, in organized unions, to speak as if it were the whole of American Labor, and to dominate and legislate for the entire five or six millions of trades workers, may well be affirmed by the national convention of the great party which struck off the shackles of four millions of slaves.

Free labor in the open shop is the greatest issue before the people in 1904; greater than the currency, greater than the trusts, greater than the tariff. A clear, fearless enunciation of the doctrine laid down by Mr. ROOSEVELT last summer would again vitalize the Republican party.

It would make that historic organization once more the party of an idea, not merely of a man.

The Stricken Parish.

The lists of the dead and missing of the Lutheran excursion party on Wednesday contain few names which are of English origin or of an Irish or even a Latin origin. They are almost exclusively German and Scandinavian, with some Jewish names, apparently, mixed in.

Complaint is made by Jews that on the East Side of the town where the Lutheran parish is situated and where Jews are numerous there is much proselyting among them, or attempts at proselyting, by Christian churches and associations. The Jewish names in the lists of the dead and missing of the General Slocum may be there simply, however, because of the tendency of children to join in such an excursion, though they are not of the religious faith of its organizers.

The Lutheran Church is one of the greatest of the Protestant divisions in this country, and its recent growth has been especially remarkable. Of about thirty millions of church members of all sorts computed as being in this country at the present time, out of a total population of about eighty millions, the Lutherans, in their twenty-five divisions, comprise perhaps one-twelfth. The Roman Catholics are about one-third. The Lutherans, together with the rest of the Churches denominated Evangelical, make up about four-fifths of the whole number of Protestants. To describe the points of difference distinguishing the Lutheran from the other "Evangelical" churches, and more especially the Presbyterian family, to which they are nearest in discipline, would be too long a story. It is enough to say that they date from the time of the Reformation and are peculiarly orthodox in their religious faith and strongly conservative in their adherence to it.

The Lutheran parish in Sixth street is situated in a district notable for the good character of its inhabitants. It is the region in the neighborhood of Tompkins Square, once the seat of an exceedingly well-to-do native population, but now almost exclusively foreign in its constitution, as the names in the lists of the sufferers from Wednesday's disaster bear witness; but in New York there is no district more orderly and more attentive to religious observance. One of the largest Roman Catholic parishes in New York, St. Brigid's, is in that district. The people of the region are generally well dressed and exceptionally well behaved, and the shops in the avenues running through it give evidence of a population able to get not merely comforts, but luxuries also. We doubt if there is anywhere in New York a district where church-going is more general.

This territory may be described as between First and Tenth streets and the East River and Third avenue, and in it or contiguous to it are more than a score of Christian churches and missions and four Jewish synagogues. Its spiritual welfare, therefore, is well looked after, and if there is anywhere in New York a God-fearing population it is there.

That whole district now is in mourning. It has been afflicted as never before in its history. The Lutheran parish, from which the ill-fated excursion party was gathered, is of a simple and unquestioning religious faith, and there is nothing eccentric or sensational about its methods or in its tone. It is in a crowded neighborhood, and excursions such as that of Wednesday are a necessary relief to the many inhabitants of the district. This parish, moreover, was remarkable for the magnitude of its Sunday school and for the devotion to the religious education of the pupils on the part of both pastor and people.

It is on such a community, of the very best among the whole four million people of New York, that this terrible blow has fallen. No wonder that the critics of religion and the scoffers at its theory of an all wise and tenderly loving personal GOD rise up with such bitter aspersions as those contained in the letter of our Brooklyn correspondent of yesterday. But they might as well inveigh against all the suffering, care, disappointment and torture to which the human race has always been doomed, great and small, and no matter whether Christians or Jews or heathen, before the advent of Christianity and not less since that advent, except so far as the progress of enlightenment has multiplied preventives and ameliorations.

Will the Lutheran parish of St. Mark's fall into decay because of its terrible loss? The more probable result will be a passionate revival of religion. The mourners will seek the consolations of religion in their affliction, and their faith will be increased rather than diminished. The Brooklyn scoffer may tell them that the GOD they worship is a monster of cruelty and malignity, but they will bow before Him in humble submission. Thy will, not mine, be done, will be the cry of their anguished hearts. It is not in times of prosperity and of abounding health that the churches are crowded. It is in times of grievous depression like those of 1857. When human agencies are unavailing against suffering the mass of society still turns with faith and hope to seek succor from above. Religion continues dominant in the world, and human logic is still powerless to overthrow it.

Bryan and Parker.

Except for the purpose of discharging some of the accumulating back water of his oratory, the visit of Mr. BRYAN to the enemy's country next Monday seems superfluous. He is to protest against the nomination of Judge PARKER, but how does he know that he will not be protesting against his own principles? Judge PARKER'S rigid orthodoxy in voting for him in 1896 and 1900 is the one salient positive political course which has been attributed by authority to the Esopus candidate in recent years.

On the other hand, why do any of the New York supporters of Judge PARKER resent the Nebraskan's invasion? There are other Parkerites who are better informed. The platform adopted by the Kentucky Democrats June 8 opens with this confession of faith:

"The Democratic party of Kentucky in convention assembled affirms its faith in and adherence to the great and fundamental principles of Democracy as expounded by JEFFERSON, exemplified by JACKSON and ably defended by BRYAN."

The majority of the Kentucky delegates are understood to be for PARKER. The resolution just quoted shows that they are for BRYAN, too.

Evidently Mr. BRYAN and the propellers of the Parker boom are playing at cross purposes. Whatever of Judge PARKER'S views as to the living present is still locked in his bosom, it is safe to say that he adheres to the great and fundamental principles of Democracy. Why should the New York Democrats object, any more than the Kentucky Democrats do, to the able defence of those great and fundamental principles by Mr. BRYAN?

Mr. BRYAN may be a Parker man without knowing it. Judge PARKER may be a Bryan man without knowing it.

The Case of Major-General Lord Dundonald.

The closing paragraph of a report recently submitted by the committee of the Honorable the Privy Council of Canada, approved by the Governor-General on June 14, runs as follows:

"For the reasons herein set forth, the sub-committee advise that the Right Hon. the Earl of DUNDONALD be forthwith relieved of his position as General Officer Commanding the Militia in Canada."

The complaint against Lord DUNDONALD arises from words used by him in a speech at a dinner at Montreal, in which he is considered as having assailed the Government of the Dominion in general, and the Minister of Agriculture in particular. Gen. DUNDONALD admits the substantial correctness of the report of his speech. Therein he fell little short of a direct and open charge that political preference was shown in certain appointments to positions of command in the Canadian militia, such a proceeding being detrimental to the best interests of the service.

The committee therefore reports that "it is impossible to do otherwise than characterize the speech of Lord DUNDONALD as a grave act of indiscretion and insubordination." It declares that "further evidence has been afforded of Lord DUNDONALD'S failure to appreciate the position he occupies as a public official." It "deeply regrets that an officer of Lord DUNDONALD'S high rank, that of Major-General in the British army, should have been so misguided as to fall into these grave errors, and to pursue a course which, if ignored, would be fatal to the discipline and subordination to constituted authority which are essential in both civil government and military service."

Gen. DUNDONALD, with the honors of a South African campaign thick upon him, was appointed by the British War Office, on July 1, 1902, as General Officer Commanding the Canada militia. In an address delivered in Toronto early in September of that year he laid down four fundamental propositions as essential in militia service: First, thoroughly trained officers; secondly, officers with brains; thirdly, promotion for merit, and not through favor or affection; and, fourthly, efficient riflemen. It is generally admitted that his work thus far has been eminently successful and satisfactory.

In the organization of a new corps Gen. DUNDONALD recently named for a commission a certain man whom he regarded as properly fitted and qualified for the post. Confirmation was refused by Minister FISHER, whose opponents declare that the ground of refusal was the nominee's political affiliation with the party of opposition. Gen. DUNDONALD seems to have felt that the act was political, and gave public expression to his opinion. The case has now become a cause of active party contention, and a somewhat interesting situation has resulted therefrom.

Gen. DUNDONALD holds his appointment in Canada under an assignment from the War Office in London. He is deposed from that appointment by the Privy Council of Canada. A despatch from London states that the War Office declines to recall him and refuses to suggest that he resign. This is held to be equivalent to an opinion that the General was justified in his view of political interference with his work, if not in his expression of that view. Meanwhile, the Canadian authorities have power to relieve him from the exercise of his command and leave him in suspense pending the final determination of his case.

The probable result is his retirement from Canada and the placing of a Canadian at the head of the Dominion militia. This may not be done without a little friction between Canada and the mother country. England would be very glad to continue to participate in Canada's military affairs. Canada's troops set a very good example for some of her own in South Africa. Yet Canada will be a loser by Lord DUNDONALD'S withdrawal, and England cannot safely insist upon a British officer as G. O. C. of the Canadian militia.

The Wall of the Preadamites.

Dull work at Chicago. The newspaper correspondents are short of "stuff." They are not to be blamed for representing the coming appointment of the Hon. GEORGE BRUCE CORTELYOU to the chairmanship of the National Committee as a stone of scandal to the veteran politicians of that committee.

It is hard for the old war horses to be turned out to grass, but necessity knows no law, and Mr. ROOSEVELT is conceded to be a necessity. Who minds the grumbles of the superannuated fogies who have been managing Republican politics for years and believe that wisdom will die with them? Young, fresh, bubbling with vigor, imperious and innocently monopolistic, Mr. ROOSEVELT has taken charge. He is the convention, the committee, the party. It is well that the responsibility for things should be undivided. There can be no scapegoats. All the glory or all the blame will be Mr. ROOSEVELT'S.

The members of the titular National Committee ought to be grateful that such is the case. That they are not, shows how hard it is for men who have once had power to give up even the vain shadow and simulacrum of power.

According to the correspondent of the *Herald*, a conference of "some of the most influential Republicans" was held Monday night, and to "save the face" of the National Committee it was decided to propose this plan to the President:

"It was to create a campaign committee which would have charge of all the important details of the campaign. Of this committee Mr. CORTELYOU should be chairman and the National Committee should recognize his authority during the campaign and give him all the aid in its power. Then some one else should be made chairman of the National Committee, who would be the titular head of the organization for the next four years. It was pointed out at this conference that thus Mr. CORTELYOU could have full swing, the President could actually run his own campaign and if he were elected he could thank himself and 'Divine Providence,' as Gen. HARRISON did in the campaign of 1888, and if he were defeated he could blame no one but Mr. CORTELYOU and himself."

Mr. ROOSEVELT will "run" his own campaign; and Mr. CORTELYOU is as amiable an agent as the old fogies deserve. In case Mr. ROOSEVELT is elected, he will accept full responsibility. He is not the man to divide burdens or honors with Divine Providence.

How long will it take those Preadamites at Chicago to find out where they are at?

Moral Maxims From Pottstown.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A great many ponderous academic discourses have in late years burdened our more heavyweight reviews on the subject of "Direct Election of Senators," "Popular Initiative," "Swiss Referendum," &c.

Juridical abstractions, purely. To get all such ideas translated into practical shape, to enact them, in brief—go to real men of affairs, go to business headquarters.

For instance, given a vacancy in Mr. Hay's American Senate from Pennsylvania. First Citizen Mr. Alexander J. Cassatt informally bids a festive quorum of other first citizens to a Farmer's Club dinner, names, or popularly "initiates," his country neighbor, Philander J. Knox (when Greek meets Greek) for the vacant seat; and the referendum committee just then at hand as good as completes the necessary election—since what follows, of course, is chiefly automatic.

I say it in all respect for Mr. Cassatt's terse, plain style; in all respect for Mr. Knox; in much confidence toward the future sagacious bearings of Pennsylvania upon Congress; and with increased regard for the sharp insight of bright young Americans whom I have sometimes referred, when they debated on abstruse referendum topics, to the "Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science," who smartly objected, "Oh, those are all theoretical writers. We want something practical."

Headquarters for business; Pennsylvania buttermilk for genial, simple health: behold, sir, the moral maxims of your humble reader.

TERE CALFEKIN.

POTTSTOWN, Pa., June 16.

A Farmer for President.

From the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Mr. Henry A. Simpson, a farmer of Pana, Ill., has written to Mayor Carter H. Harrison of Chicago asking the distinguished Executive of the Windy City to boom him for the Democratic nomination at St. Louis.

HOW IT SEEMED LONG AGO.

Century Old Descriptions of the City and the Nation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In following the lead of some of your correspondents, let me contribute a few selections from "The Picture of New York; or, The Traveller's Guide through the Commercial Metropolis of the United States. By a gentleman residing in the city. New York: Published by Isaac Riley & Co. Sold by Brisban & Brannan, City Hotel, Broadway, 1807." The "gentleman" was Dr. Samuel Latham Mitchell. He prefaces the guide with the statement that previous authors had not devoted as much attention to New York as its importance demanded.

He contributed an exhaustive geological and geographical description of the city. Even then man was changing the face of nature. Said Dr. Mitchell:

But many of these inequalities have disappeared before the levelling hand of improvement. Hills have been dug down and swamps have been filled up. Knolls have been pared away and gullies brought to a level. By vast labor and expense much of the original asperity has been taken off and the surface smoothed as far as was desirable. A great deal of this regulating business is still going on in the newly settled parts of the city. The quantity of earth carted away is, in many places, really surprising. The lake of fresh water, called the Collect, near the middle of the city, is rapidly turning to dry land, and the neighboring hill, called Bayard's Mount, has been cut through to its base. In a few years both these natural objects will disappear and it will only be known from history that they ever had an existence.

Dr. Mitchell recorded the fact that the bay froze over in 1780, "to the serious alarm of the British garrison." The Common Council possessed great powers. It could make freemen of the corporation, and any person not a freeman who "exercised a trade" or followed an occupation in the city, except at the fairs, was liable to a fine of £5. Aliens were "forbidden to be made freemen of the city until after they have been naturalized or denizenized." However, no prosecutions were brought under these sections. The city derived its water supply from wells and pumps. Dr. Mitchell wrote:

A police office is held daily at the city hall for the more effectual discovery and apprehension of offenders. The Chancellor, Justices of the Supreme Court, Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, whenever they shall deem the occasion to require it, may lawfully be in the office, and do all that shall appear requisite for them, as conservators of the peace. * * * On the first Tuesday of May, annually, the Mayor, Recorder and Aldermen, or any five of them, of whom the Mayor or Recorder shall always be one, are authorized to appoint one or more fit inhabitants for each ward of the city to be overseers of the wells and pumps in their respective wards for the ensuing year. Their duty is to cause the wells and pumps to be viewed, examined, cleansed and put in good order and repair and to maintain them so; and to keep regular accounts of the money expended for the same. In case of neglect of duty the overseers may be each fined five pounds, for the use of the city. They are to account with the Common Council once in three months. Persons wilfully injuring the wells or pumps are, on conviction, to be fined 40 shillings; or, on refusal or inability to pay the same, they are to be committed to the Bridewell for a month, or until the forfeiture and costs are paid. When servants or apprentices do damage to the pumps or wells the fine shall be paid by the master or owner; and in default thereof, the offender shall be sent to Bridewell. (Revised Laws of New York, Vol. 2, p. 89.) * * *

The morning daily papers were: *The American Citizen, The New York Gazette, The Mercantile Advertiser, The Morning Chronicle, The People's Friend.* The afternoon daily papers were: *The Commercial Advertiser, The Evening Post, The Public Advertiser.* A description of the "Park" is included under the same title:

The park is a piece of inclosed ground situated between Broadway and Chatham street, in front of the new City Hall. The area consists of about four acres, planted with elms, planes, willows and catalpas, and the surrounding footwalk is encompassed with rows of poplars. This beautiful grove, in the middle of the city, combines in a high degree ornament with health and pleasure; and to enhance the enjoyments of the place, the English and French reading room, the Shakespeare gallery, and the theatre offer ready amusement to the mind; while the mechanic hall, the London hotel and the New York gardens present instant refreshment to the body. Though the trees are but young and of few years growth, the park may be pronounced an elegant and improving place.

Other spots that receive extended notice were the Ranelagh, Vauxhall and Academy of Fine Arts. What this is a comprehensive guide and includes descriptive "tours" to New Utrecht, to Rockaway, to Islip, to "Passaick" Falls, to King's Bridge and to Sandy Hook and the Sea-beas Banks. In speaking of the Hudson, the author makes the interesting statement that "it is understood, that in convenient states of the water, a vessel which can pass the bar at Sandy Hook, may be navigated to the city of Hudson."

HOFFER STRIKER MOTT.

NEW YORK, June 13.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "New York a Century Ago" and "New York City in 1804," late articles in THE SUN, are before me; so is the American Atlas, published in 1796 by John Reid of 106 Water street. It contains twenty maps, dated 1783 to 1796. The map of New York State, "compiled from the most authentic information," shows a road from New York city, which is represented by a few dots at the lower end of Manhattan Island, to Lake George. The first place named on this road is Phillipsburg, at or near the eastern and southern end of Tappan Sea, and at the northeast corner of the sea, or zee, is a place designated by the one word "Mill." The road continues north just east of the Hudson River, and the next place is Pecks Kill. Then come Fish Kill, Poughkeepsie, Strattsburg, Rynbeek (I give spelling as on map), Palatine T., Livingston, Hudson, Kinderhook, Troy, Lansingburg, Schancook, Fort Edward, Kingsbury, Fort George. A dotted line through the lake indicates that travel was continued by water.

Along a road just west and parallel with the Hudson River, from Albany south, are Kochacte, Lunenburg, Kaate Baan, Kingston, Hurley, Marbletown, New Paltz, Newburg, New Windsor, Haverstraw and Orange T., and so to Paulus Hook (Jersey City).

The road from Albany westward, named Niagara road, passes through Schenectada, Stone Arabia, near the Coroje River, through German flats and White's Town (Utica) to Fort Schuyler, Geneva, Canandaigua, Hartford, on the Genesee River, and so to Fort Niagara.

On Long Island are the names of Brookland, Bedford, Bushwick, Jamaica, Flushing, Oyster Bay, Hampstead, Huntington, Smithton, Setalket, South Hampton, East Hampton, and these are all.

"The State of New Jersey from accurate surveys" is interesting. Paulus Hook and Hoboken are only names, while Bergen is indicated by six dots at cross roads, one leading from Hoboken to Newark and the other from Paulus Hook north to Hackensack, Fort Lee, English Neighbourhood, Closter, Peramus, Zabriskie's Mills. The only settlements in northeast Jersey, south of Paulus Hook, are Constable Hook and Bergen Neck, but no road to either is shown. Staten Island is represented as part of New Jersey.

Richmond is located in the centre of the island by six dots. Roads lead to several shore points, west to one opposite Elizabeth, and another opposite Amboy, and south east to Old T. and New T.

A road runs south from Newark to Elizabeth and Rahway, so to Woodbridge and Amboy, then south of the Raritan River to Middletown and Shrewsbury, from there to Cape May and on that road the only places named south of Shrewsbury are Deal and Leeds. Most of Monmouth and all of Burlington, Gloucester, Cumberland and Cape May counties are designated as "an extensive forest of pine trees."

West of Pennsylvania there are no roads, but evidences of travel, as "carrying places," are indicated between headwaters of rivers running in opposite directions. Of special interest this year is the fact that all territory west of the Mississippi River is called "Louisiana," and between the fortieth and fiftieth degrees of latitude not a name appears on the map, except of these rivers: Missouri Carvers, St. Peters, Green, Yellow, Iowa Main and Padoucas, and Lakes Eel, Bear, White Bear and Sturgeon.

More than half way to the Pacific Coast a large body of water is indicated with streams running into it from all sides and no outlet and no name. Doubtless this is Great Salt Lake. I have read that such a lake was reported by Indians before whites investigated that region.

South of latitude 40 degrees and north of 30 degrees are St. Francisco, Puerto de Monterry, P. Estero, St. Cruze, St. Barbara, St. Catalina and Clemento. West from St. Francisco are Axaas, Bagopas, Quivira, Peguaya and St. Fe.

Having read THE SUN for more than forty years and taken it every day for over thirty years, I send you the above that it may "shine for all" who are not so fortunate as to own an atlas of 1796. C. F. KITE, M. D.

JERSEY CITY, June 13.

Paying for the Poor.

Millionaire—What is your diagnosis?

Physician—I find you have a $10,000 pain in your stomach, a $5,000 pain in the great toe, and a $00 twinge in the left ear.

THE VICTORIOUS JAPANESE.

Has a Mysterious High Explosive Anything to Do With Their Successes?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The action of Tuesday last near Wafangtien, as it is called by the Russians, and Telissu by the Japanese, in which the Russians were badly defeated, seems to have turned, as have the previous land conflicts, on the superior qualities of the Japanese artillery. Gen. Stakelberg in his report of the cause of his defeat speaks of the terrible execution done by the Japanese shells, that literally cut to pieces his batteries. From this we may conclude that the Japanese land artillery is using projectiles charged with the ysterious Shimose powder, whose bursting effects wrought such havoc among the gun crews of the Variag at Chemulpho. If so—and the Russians so far as we know, have nothing equivalent to it—it is rather to the Japanese artillery than the other arms that their past victories are to be ascribed, and their success in the future will have to be attributed.

It bodes ill for a prolonged defence of Port Arthur, if the same high explosive is going to be used against the Russian works defending that place. Some few months ago the Austrian War Department, whose corps of chemists is second to none, made experiments with a new high explosive on a fort constructed in every respect as if intended for the defence of some important position. The result was staggering to the engineer officers who had spared neither material nor ingenuity in devising safeguards against the effect of the fire about to be directed against t. Leaving out of account the fact that there was no return fire from the fort, the result of the two days bombardment to which it was subjected was that the work had lost all appearance of its original form, and was converted into a misshapen wreck. The experiment was regarded as conclusive of the value of the new explosive. The operations against Port Arthur from the land side will therefore be of particular interest, in view of the effect of the Japanese artillery elsewhere. The greater part of the Russian artillery with the army in Manchuria up to now, we know to be of comparatively old date.

Gen. Stakelberg's defeat is chiefly important, not because of its effect on the situation at Port Arthur, but for the consequences it may entail elsewhere. Gen. Kouropatkin is fatally tied to the railway line with insufficient force to keep it open and at the same time detach an army strong enough to prevent the development of Gen. Kuroki's plans before the rains set in. The situation is further complicated by the fact that his line of retreat, should he find himself obliged to fall back beyond Mukden, is on one flank and liable to be cut in upon at several points. What saves the situation for the moment is that Gen. Kuroki cannot very well afford to make a heroic movement in the direction of Mukden until he is assured of a new base at Dalny with open railway communication at least as far north as Tashichiao, or can establish himself at Newchwang. He may accomplish the latter by a march across from Siuyen, which is now in his possession; or he may wait until Port Arthur has fallen and the squadron there is disposed of.

The movement of the Vladivostok squadron is now a matter of much interest, as it may have a coaling station at an unknown point on the coast or some island, or a rendezvous where it will meet coaling ships. In that case it becomes a disturbing influence in Japanese naval calculations. F.

NEW YORK, June 17.

The Boer Generals at St. Louis.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A clipping has been sent to me of a letter published through the columns of your esteemed journal and dated June 7, entitled "The Whereabouts of the Boer Generals," and signed "American." The party writing this letter is disseminating information concerning some of the gentlemen who are with us in our enterprise in St. Louis and stated that Gens. Cronje and Viljoen, who are with us here, are not the genuine Generals who took part in the war in South Africa.

For the information of this gentleman and all readers who may have been misled by this publication, I wish to assure you that Gen. Pietrus Cronje, who commanded the Boers in the famous seven days fight at Paardeberg and who was compelled eventually to surrender to Lord Roberts on the 27th of February, 1900, is now with this company in St. Louis and can be seen at any time from now until the conclusion of the exposition.

Gen. B. J. Viljoen, who was also a prominent leader of the Boer forces, is associated with this company.

Miss Alice Roosevelt was in St. Louis recently and she was photographed in the grand stand seated at the side of Gen. Cronje, and this photograph was reproduced in many of the local papers.

The Generals referred to sailed from South Africa on the Doune Castle on March 12, 1904, arriving at Newport News, Va., on April 6, and bringing with them five hundred Boer and British veterans who fought in the South African war.

The statements in this communication are subject to verification by any person wishing to investigate. A. W. LEWIS,

General Manager, South African War Exhibition Company.

ST. LOUIS, June 15.

Life Preserver Demonstration.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As a result of the General Slocum disaster the subject of life preservers has naturally arisen, and on inquiry among the women and girl friends of my acquaintance I was astounded to discover that a very small percentage understood how to adjust the modern life preserver, some thinking they should be put on by stepping into them.

The thought occurred to me, and I would like to see it become a custom, to have the proper adjusting of the different styles of life preservers demonstrated, at least once a month, before the separate classes of the schools of our city and vicinity One, or at most a few persons, could cover the district satisfactorily, and the expense entailed would be very little compared to the good accomplished.

I sincerely trust this will come under the eye of the proper authorities and the suggestion be speedily adopted. W. L. DOUGLAS.

BROOKLYN, June 17.

The Middle Name.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Please explain to a wondering reader why so many college men burden themselves with those wonderful middle names. Look at the list of fellowships announced and prizes distributed at Princeton yesterday:

Edward Harshberger Butler.
Dwight Woodbridge Edwards.
Conway Wing Shearer.
Raymond Sanderson Williams, &c.

What has become of our old friends John Smith and Robert Brown? Are all the honors corralled by the fellows with the ponderous names, and have we no chance at all? How about it? Where are those good old fashioned names like George Washington, Thomas Jefferson, Abraham Lincoln, Grover Cleveland, William McKinley and Theodore Roosevelt? Have they gone out of fashion?

NEW YORK, June 17. PLAIN JIM.

Short Arms as Well as Short Legs.

From the London Daily Chronicle.

An interesting suggestion was made recently in this column, writes a correspondent, that the Japanese should give their legs a chance, and rise to the height of the Western nations. This was to be effected by sitting on chairs instead of the floor, so as no longer to cramp or atrophy the tendons; for it is the leg that makes the principal difference in stature. But short arms are not brought about by sitting on the floor, and the Japanese seem built to be short by the token of the extraordinary brevity of their arms. They are the arms of a people doomed to remain little, and how they cope with the iron, the furnace and the cannon of their "civilization" is a wonder.

Bury Uncle Sam?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When John Hay seductively puts on his stationery "American" instead of "United States," one is tempted to inquire why not "American Army" and "American Navy?"

But where would Uncle Sam be then, poor thing! Must we bury him? No doubt the angels "loading round the throne" would receive him kindly on Johnny's introduction. U. S. V.

NEW YORK, June 17.

Coloring Silkworms for Colored Silk.

From the Paris Comos.

Messrs. Levrat and Conte of Lyons recently caused subcutaneous injections of neutral red to be made into worms ready to spin. Worms thus treated were instantly colored red and gave a light pink silk. Probably multiplied injections administered several days before the spinning would have given rise to a completely red silk.

A Prayer for the Dead Children.

Lord God, whose judgment ever right
Has fallen, swift and keen as light
Upon our land,
The prayers of thousands echo loud—
The poor, the rich, the humble, proud,
In sorrow stand
To ask thy mercy on the souls
Of those over whom the water rolls
Or breezes blow.
We feel the force of thy decree
"Suffer ye must to come to me"—
Oh, mercy show!

JUNE 17. J. F. C.

THE FEAST OF THE SUN.

Will Flammarion's High Conception Reach the Top of Eiffel Tower?

From the Matin.

The idea which M. Flammarion submits to his colleagues of the Astronomical Society of France is perhaps more poetic than scientific. He wants to organize a feast of the sun, to go back, loaded with prodigious scientific baggage, to a tradition whose origin belongs to the earliest civilizations. The astronomers are invited to meet on the top of the Eiffel Tower, June 21, under the auspices of the society, to speak of the sun, to celebrate his splendor and to discuss the latest discoveries made upon that orb which sustains the world's and universal life. The guests, overlooking the "City of Light," are expected to listen to speeches of some of the most illustrious among those who devote their lives to scrutinizing the mysteries of the firmament.

In his home in the Rue Cassini M. Flammarion received the *Matin* reporter with affability. "The feast of the sun," he said, smiling, "is only a project. I think it will be adapted by my confrères, but it is quite possible that several of them may refuse to participate in the manifestation. Astronomers are stay-at-homes. They seldom quit their retreats to mingle in public life, and, therefore, I cannot say positively that the feast will take place."

"What was the original idea of your project?"

"Civilization has thrown back humanity from nature, the source of all beauty and of all truth; and nature exists only by the all powerful sun. People do not dwell sufficiently upon the fact that the sun, seated on his throne in space, 149,000,000 kilometres from us, makes us whirl around him like a stone in a sling, and sustains us by his incommensurable force. He envelops us in a fecund radiation so prodigious that all terrestrial life and all natural energies in activity are regulated by it.

"From all times men have admired that inconceivable power, from the Pontiffs of the Sryas, the sacrificers of the Incas, the priests of Zoroaster and the vestal virgins down to the peasants in our fields who still light bonfires on St. John's eve.

"Yes, yes, we may well be permitted to reestablish the feast of the sun. But it can never be, as has been insinuated, a pagan feast or the manifestation of a philosophic system. It will simply be a feast of science, and it is science alone that can bring us to a higher understanding of the grandeurs of nature."

Thoughts About Coffee.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your article entitled "More Complaints From Porto Rico" you say: "The limit of their possible production of coffee, at prices reasonably remunerative, would be under rather than over $15,000,000 a year, of a high grade and expensive article." And a little further on you speak of the "cheaper grades" which we import from other countries.

In conversation a few weeks ago with an American who had been in the island for almost a year, he informed me that the coffee raised there was of the very poorest grade and such as we in this country did not use.

Will you kindly let me know the grade of Porto Rico coffee and among what class of people, if any, it is used in the United States? GEORGE HOWARD.

STATEN ISLAND, June 16.

This letter raises a question of individual preference, determined by individual taste. The writer's American friend, who resided in the island for nearly a year, did not like Porto Rico coffee. A short time ago President Roosevelt was reported as having said that Porto Rico coffee was the best in the world, and was used at his table in the White House.

The same proposition applies to many other drinkables. A likes Japan tea, B prefers Formosa; C wants the China product, D insists upon the Ceylon article; while E declares that any other than India tea is utterly unfit for human use. Nokes wants his alcohol in the form of champagne, while Stokes scorns champagne and inclines to "corn likker." An individual like or dislike cannot be regarded as a complete demonstration of either superiority or inferiority.

The real merit of any article of this kind is usually determined by the demand for it and the price at which it is sold in competition with other brands. Before the European market was lost to Porto Rico, as a result of the war, the Porto Rico berry found there a ready sale at prices which at least classed it among the best grades. The article has a very limited sale in this country, not because of inferiority, but because it is almost unknown to the general market, and because, as a people, we are not particularly discriminating in such matters. Rio coffee, which sells for a few cents a pound, we use in hundreds of millions of pounds. The hill grown berries, among which the Porto Rican product is classed, command two or three times the price of the Rio, presumably on the ground of superiority.

Those who merely want a fluid that is wet and hot and reasonably palatable are doubtless better satisfied with the regular market brands of coffee than they would be with dandelion root, roasted peanuts or chicory. The man who wants coffee cannot do better than follow the example of the President and revel in a few cups of decoction from the Porto Rico article, always remembering that no coffee is good unless it is properly made from a properly roasted berry