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THE ORIGIN OF EVIL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The General Flood disaster, falling like the Tower of Siloam on a number of innocent victims, has turned the thoughts of many of your correspondents to the origin of evil. The origin of evil is a part of the mystery of the universe, as to which all that can be said is that it is a mystery still. Materialism offers no solution. A material origin of evil is not only not proven, but is unthinkable; we have no apparent reason for assuming that the evidence of our physical senses, however aided by science, is a complete account of the universe, or more trustworthy than the instincts of our moral nature which speak of something beyond.

Should the Russians Be Ranked Among Aryan Peoples?

THE opinion of Gen. HAINES may be summarized as follows: He believes that the number of workmen required has been overestimated, an insufficient allowance having been made for the efficiency of modern mechanical appliances for such work. He believes that the work should be done by the Government and not by contracts and sub-contractors; that sanitary and industrial ends will be best served by the adoption of a semi-military system in the control of the workmen; and that the best workmen can be drawn from the negroes of the Southern States.

The Man Without a Delegate.

THE persistence of the demand for Mr. CLEVELAND'S nomination, notwithstanding the fact that he is not a candidate, is the most salient feature of the situation in the Democratic party at the beginning of the convention week. It is heard on all sides. The possibility of a nomination that would be very much like conscription for duty is discussed everywhere. The man without a delegate, instructed or pledged, at present divides the attention of the party with the candidate who, under the powerful if subterranean management of Mr. HILL and Mr. BELMONT, has secured votes enough in advance to insure him a long lead on the first ballot at St. Louis.

Gen. Hains on the Labor Question in Panama.

IN an interesting and instructive article in the July number of the North American Review, Gen. PETER C. HAINES considers the question of labor on the Panama Canal. He is of the opinion that a much smaller number of workmen will be required than is generally supposed. It is to be hoped that he is right on this point. The smaller the number of laborers, the less will be the danger of epidemics which would cost human lives and cause delay in the work.

The Awakening of the South.

DISCUSSION of the most effective methods of stimulating the development of the South continues to be prominent in the Southern papers and agricultural societies. In the first place, a large immigration of Northern farmers is reasonably expected, now that the superiority of the agricultural advantages of the South has been advertised so extensively—for example, by the great profits made from the last cotton crop, though, as the Southern Farm Magazine explains, "to-bacco, sugar, rice, fruits and vegetables are all money crops." So great is the prosperity that "the banks of the South are plenteous with money; thousands of farmers have money loaned out on interest, and there is less indebtedness among them than ever before."

International Thirst Quenchers.

"American drinks" have obtained a considerable vogue in England; English drinks are without permanent popularity in this country, where the admiration and appreciation of whatever good thing is "made in England"—in clothing, furniture, hats, shoes, mural decorations, landscape designs, athletic sports and coaching customs—has never been lacking. "All and 'alf" has never gained much of a foothold here, and "brandy and soda" (almost a universal drink in England) is without extensive popularity. One English drink which attained some popularity at one time, until completely overcome by the superiority of American beer, was porter, which first came into use as a drink in England a century ago. Previous to its introduction, the chief malt drinks in England had been ale, beer, and "tuppenny" or "small beer"; and it was customary to call for a pint, or tankard, of "half and half" and half "tuppenny," or half beer and half "tuppenny." In time it became the practice of patrons to ask publicans in Eng-

locally. He thinks that Jamaica might supply 1,600 to 2,000 laborers. He doubts American approval of the importation of Chinese coolies, and points to the unsatisfactory experience of the old canal company with this class. He reaches the conclusion that, "weighing all the circumstances and viewing all the conditions, it seems that the best solution of the labor problem is to procure the labor in the United States." The element of population from which he would draw is the Southern negro.

As a theory, this proposition is doubtless entirely sound. But it involves two important considerations. Frequent complaint is made of a shortage of labor in our Southern States. Can the Southern industrial field stand the drain of so large a number of workers without a very serious injury to the interests of that section? The South has an over-supply of negroes of a class variously known as "lazy, shiftless and trifling." These could well be spared, but they are not wanted on the work at Panama. Could a sufficient number of industrious workers be induced to leave their homes and their present prosperity to face the dangers and the discomforts which are inevitable at the Isthmus?

Gen. HAINES'S suggestion of the adoption of military system in the army of workmen is wise. Only by this method can any aggregation of irresponsible and semi-responsible humanity be so controlled that the health of all can be duly safeguarded. To such a system the Southern negro would be more responsive than any other class of labor that could be obtained. Properly handled, he is obedient and amenable to discipline. That has been demonstrated by the experience of the negro soldier, and there is little doubt that if such labor could be had without undue injury to Southern industry, no better solution of the Panama labor question could be reached.

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THE attempt of Russian officials and newspapers to gain the sympathy of Europe and the United States by depicting their country as a bulwark against the "Yellow Peril" not only has failed throughout the European Continent west of Russian Poland—with the doubtful exception of France—but it is nowhere repelled with more derision than by the Poles, who acclaim the victories of the Japanese with undisguised jubilation. It seems to us, however, that Mr. KARL BLIND, the well known agitator and writer on political subjects, went too far when he tried to demonstrate in the June number of the North American Review that the Russians do not even deserve to be classed among Aryan peoples.

It should be noted that the question whether a given nation is of the ethnic stock which we are wont to call Aryan, and the question whether it exemplifies what we term Aryan civilization, are distinct. The invaders of northern India, whose achievements are registered in the oldest Sanscrit literature, were doubtless Aryans. So were the first known denizens of the Persian highlands, who emerge into history as conquerors under CYRUS the Great, and some of whose records are extant in the rock inscriptions of Persepolis. It is, nevertheless, as certain that the civilization of northern India reveals not a few Dravidian elements as it is that the civilization of modern Persia bears witness to the potent influence of a Semitic factor. So, in the case of Russia, the question whether that country can be said to have assimilated western European civilization, or even to have accepted such assimilation as a paramount aim, must be distinguished from the inquiry whether all, or most, of the inhabitants of European Russia can ethnically be described as Aryans.

It would, in our judgment, be easier to prove a negative in the case of the former than in that of the latter question. It is true that Russian rulers since the accession of the House of ROMANOFF have tried repeatedly to Germanize or Gallicize the upper classes, which constitute, however, only an insignificant fraction of their subjects. These efforts have by no means had all the success that was expected. The Western ideas sown broadcast at the court and in the universities, among landowners and bureaucrats, have failed utterly to percolate into the vast stolid mass of agriculturists and rural artisans. What is more surprising, there have been observed at times a violent reaction against Western ideals and a passionate reversion to the thoughts and sentiments characteristic of the primitive stage of civilization represented in the Russian war or commune, the form of social organization which is based on the principle of communal property, and which alone is known to the great body of the Russian people. We would not deny that many examples of this social type have been afforded by Aryan communities at early periods of their evolution, as for instance by the English "tithings," the French "communes" and the German, Dutch and Swiss "marks" or "allmends." At present, however, for equivalents or approximations we are bidden to look exclusively to Turanian peoples; to the forms of possession of land prevailing among the Moslem Turco-Tatars, among the Mongol Buriat shepherds and the Tungus hunters. However this may be, there is no doubt that the apotheosis of native Russian, as distinguished from Western ideals, is to-day personified in M. POBYEDONOSTEFF, Procurator of the Holy Synod, who has behind him a

powerful, if not predominant, section of the Slavophilic party. All this is true enough; but we repeat, what we began with saying, that Mr. KARL BLIND goes too far when he asserts that Russians cannot fairly claim to be ranked among Aryan peoples. The grounds on which he would exclude the Muscovites from the Aryan pale would be valid also to the pretensions, not only of the Finns and the Magyars, but also of large fractions of the inhabitants of Poland (using the term in the sense which it bore before the first partition), of southern France and of Spain—if not also of western Ireland and northern Scotland. Whatever may be said for the Slavonic origin of the natives of the original and relatively small Kingdom of Poland, there is no doubt that they were politically, if not physically, fused with the Letts when their country was united with the Grand Duchy of Lithuania. Almost all ethnologists concur in averring that the Celts who crossed the Rhine and the Pyrenees on the crest of the second wave of the Aryan migration westward found the whole of Gaul and the Iberian peninsula occupied by a people who were ethnologically distinct, and whom the Celtic invaders never managed wholly to assimilate in the region south of the Loire. It is also a conclusion generally accepted that the Celtic conquerors of Ireland and of Scotland neither extirpated nor wholly absorbed the aborigines, but forced many of the latter to concentrate themselves in the western and northern sections of their respective countries.

Now it is doubtless true, as Mr. KARL BLIND maintains, and as the Rusophile Pole, BUCHINSKI, maintained before him, that the Slavonic type exhibited in European Russia is by no means pure. The so-called Great Russians, now computed at some forty-five millions, had to take in Finnish elements; the Little Russians, who now number some twenty millions, underwent an admixture of Turkish blood; while the White Russians, estimated at about five millions, submitted to Lithuanian influences. Minor anthropological features have also been distinguished among the Great and Little Russians, due, seemingly, to admixture with smaller subdivisions of the Ural-Altaians. It is, nevertheless, indisputable that the Russian type is prepotent to an extraordinary degree. The persistency of it from Novgorod to the shores of the Pacific profoundly impresses the attentive observer.

Our conclusion is that the Russians have nearly as good a claim to be ranked ethnically with the Aryans as has any other European people; but when we look at them in the mass, and decline to be dazzled by the thin veneer, we cannot recognize their pretension to stand forward as the champions of Aryan civilization. To that extent we concur with Mr. BLIND.

A New Type in Freight Boats.

THE Iron Age notes the arrival at Duluth of the steamship Augustus B. Wolvin, with 10,900 net tons of coal. The Wolvin marks a new departure in marine construction. The Iron Age refers to it as a "revolutionary method." From the statement and illustration of its plan, the vessel would seem to be best described as a large hole with a steel casing around it. She appears as a flat bottomed, vertical-sided box of 600 feet in length, 56 feet in width and 32 feet in height. Her cargo hold is a "hopper shaped box," unbroken by columns or crossbeams, a free sweep from end to end; 400 feet long, 24 feet high, with a bottom width of 24 feet, and a top width of 43 feet.

The idea of the system of construction is not speed or quantity of cargo. There are many faster ships and many of larger carrying capacity. The object sought is speedy loading and discharge of cargo. Loading is a simple process of spilling bulk cargo into a big hole. It is believed that the clearway of the hold will make possible the use of automatic machinery, which will empty the hold of its 10,000 to 11,000 tons of coal or iron ore in four to five hours. At that rate, a vessel might dock in the morning, discharge 10,000 tons of coal by noon, take on 10,000 tons of iron ore after lunch, and sail away at sunset.

The serious question seems to be whether a heavy seaway would not twist the shell out of shape and so render the vessel useless. The experiment is interesting.

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land for spirit, or tankard, of "three-thirds" or "three-tuppenny," a third each of ale, brand and "tuppenny." Thus the tavern keeper was obliged to go to three casks for spirit. In order to avoid this, an English viceroy resolved to make a drink which would partake of the qualities of ale, brand and "tuppenny." He did so, and was drawn entirely from one cask, and was nourishing, it was popular with porters—hence the name "porter."

Climatic conditions are no more favorable in the United States to porter than to brandy and soda, ale or stout; but a profitable market has been made in England for American mixed drinks, confessedly far superior to those of English decoction or brewing. Thus, while there are no places in this country in which the sale of English mixed drinks is advertised, there are many places in London and other large English cities in which American mixed drinks not only are sold, but are the chief advertised attraction of the establishment. Highballs, rickies, fizzes and cocktails (and must be) made in the American style, the excellence of which all connoisseurs acknowledge and there is no one to deny.

Statistical statements are showered upon us from St. Louis, all showing that the attendance at the World's Fair is very much behind that of the Columbian Exposition for a corresponding period. This is Chicago to June 26, including Sundays, 4,720,600. St. Louis to June 25, 2,988,433. St. Louis short of Chicago, 1,732,167. There seems to be an organized effort, with St. Louis as its headquarters, to demonstrate to outsiders the inefficiency of the Fair's management and the failure of the enterprise. How surprising! We should think that every shoulder in St. Louis would be put to the wheel to push the thing along, if it needs pushing.

SCARCITY OF WATER.

Present Conditions and Complications Discussed From Different Points of View. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—After making a survey of the water Commission's office as to the scarcity of water, we were referred to Chief Engineer Hill, who stated that the pressure in the water department was reduced because the Water Department could not get the water from the people. The alleged need of more appropriations to increase our water supply for future use. All our arguments to the effect that it would be unwise to deplete the water supply while the department was trying to impress upon the already overburdened taxpayer that he must submit to further burdens and taxes, were met with the reply that the Chief Engineer admitted the fact of our water shortage, but that he would not agree to raise the water rates until the question was settled in their favor.

Our friends advance the bright idea that it is advisable to lower the pressure because tall buildings, having pumping engines, will be supplied by the city mains with low pressure. It should not require much figuring to show that a large pipe with a diameter of 18 inches, with a pressure of 100 lbs. per sq. in., will deliver more water for the consumers' resident in the city than a 12-inch pipe with a pressure of 100 lbs. per sq. in. Besides, the pressure to health, this scarcity increases the cost of the water, and the rate of the water rates by the insurance companies. It seems unreasonable that while dwelling houses are being supplied with water, the fire department should be obliged to pump water from the street hydrants. The Chief Engineer admitted the fact of our water shortage, but that he would not agree to raise the water rates until the question was settled in their favor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The article in your paper this morning on the street sprinkling ordinance, also a vital matter, is a good illustration of the kind of water, suggest an inquiry which we are getting very often in these days of flushing the streets with the people's water. In fact, the Chief Engineer admitted the fact of our water shortage, but that he would not agree to raise the water rates until the question was settled in their favor.

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REMARKABLE MOUNTAINS IN VENEZUELA. A British naturalist named André plunged, a while ago, into the depths of the tropical forest along the Cauca River, one of the large southern tributaries of the Orinoco. On account of its numerous falls and rapids the upper Cauca is very difficult of ascent, and what André discovered shows how little we know of large areas in South America, and especially of those covered with great forests spreading away between the equatorial rivers.

We had scarcely any idea of the plateau he found ascending by a succession of giant steps. The one nearest the Orinoco rises abruptly from an elevation of 200 feet to 1,000 feet above the sea, the next to 1,500 feet, and the third to 2,000 feet at the foot of the Merovari range, that limits the furthest sources of the Cauca. The best maps before the public give no idea of the nature of the country through which the Cauca flows as André has just described and mapped it in his book, "A Naturalist in the Orinoco." The most interesting feature of his work is the proof he brings that the so-called inaccessible mountains, precipitous and flat-topped, extend far and wide over the southern part of Venezuela. The best known of them is Roraima, on the border between British Guiana and Venezuela. This giant, booke like of earth, far out-topping the Mount Whinington in the Orinoco, is surrounded by other similar masses; but it was not known that these remarkable mountains are scattered far to the west. André discovered a number of them over 250 miles to the west of Roraima. It is evident that there is a whole series of them rising high above the level of the plateau a little north of the water-parting between the Orinoco and Amazon systems.

All of these mountains are of the same type, and the only important difference between them seems to be that they vary in size. Roraima has been known for many years as presenting unknown problems for geographers. In appearance it is most unusual; for it is practically a cube of rock, standing apart, rising to a height of nearly 2,000 feet, the upper 2,000 feet is apparently precipice which was thought to be impossible of ascent. But Mr. Im Thurn found a way up the mountain in 1874, and three men have since reached the summit, two of them spending the night on the surface of the lofty plateau.

These mountains, scattered far more widely than was formerly supposed, are remarkable for the local abundance of the power of water in erosion as our Colorado Cañon. They are all that is left of a very high sandstone plateau that, countless ages ago, covered the whole of this region so that its surface was much higher above the sea than it is to-day. The many streams have cut away nearly all of the plateau, leaving only these strange mountains as monuments of the locally dissected past. In every case the upper part of the walls are sheer precipices, or nearly so; but the talus piled against the foot has made slopes by which the eminences may be partly ascended. Only the top of Roraima has been reached. André spent days in the vain endeavor to get to the summits of Aneha; and it is doubtful if better success would have rewarded him on the flanks of Arichi or Arava. None of the lofty peaks of the Colombian Andes, he says, inspired him with such a sense of awe and helplessness as when he looked up at these mighty and unscalable walls.

Curiosity as to what would be found at the top has been gratified by the ascent of Roraima. The whole appearance of this rocky square mile of surface is weird and fantastic. Oblong stones appear mounted like cannon; others on short stems of rock have the appearance of umbrellas; still others resemble miniature castles or the ruins of churches. Small pools are scattered here and there; but most of the precipitation is soon carried over the sides in splendid waterfalls. There are a few butterflies and other insects, but the vegetation is scanty and insignificant. This is a bit of nature that has had a chance to be modified by very few of the forms of animal life.

The Italian and Southern Farming. From the Southern Manufacturers Record. I can only reply that he goes to work at the crack of dawn, quits with the darkest shades of evening, and if the moon shines he works a few hours at night. He is a good farmer, his land is steady and frugal, the Frenchman impulsive and active, the Irishman everything that goes to human trouble, and the Englishman a bit of nature and conservative; but from the point of view of the day's work to waste two or three hundred gallons of water washing the wheels with a little dirt, water? This happens every day, and the Lord only knows how many of these little wastes there are. I have written to the Mayor's office before about this waste, but as to that, I am only one of the many who are nothing more. NEW YORK, June 30. F. S.

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THE South and the Race Issue Plank in the Republican Platform. From the Atlantic Constitution. Now we have the long threatened gauntlet of Southern Congressional reapportionment thrown down to us, with all its bloody-ship planks that the issue implies. The Democratic party will not hesitate to meet the issue, for it is one certain to make the party voters wherever they are the more intelligent by discussion. The people will come to know that the regulation of suffrage is a local prerogative and that its validity under the post-bellum amendments to the Constitution is a matter for the Federal courts and not for a partisan Congress to decide. The position of the South in this respect is impregnable, supported as it is by decisions of the United States Supreme Court in suffrage cases; and it is entirely consistent with pure government and capable of honest defence.

All the cunning of the political enemy cannot make it so that the negro is disfranchised by any Southern States. It is a plain case of "race, color or previous condition of servitude," for it is self-evident that those of his race who are the question of his rights are voted through the disfranchisement laws. The whole question of suffrage restrictions will be thrown over, and when that is done it will be shown that more male adults are denied the privilege of the ballot in the State of Massachusetts than in any other State of Georgia, and for much the same reason. There is not a State of the Union that will not be disposed to resent proposed "red" laws that would take away the right of suffrage within constitutional limitations, and the courts have yet to decide that any State of the South has transcended its constitutional rights in this respect.

The fact remains, however, that Congressional representation is constitutionally based on population and not on suffrage statistics. For this reason any attempt on the part of a section of the Union to exclude another section of the Union from full representation in that body would be revolutionary in the highest degree. Whether this threat is serious or not, the Democratic party is not to be intimidated; it eagerly in the present campaign, for at bottom the American people possess intelligent discrimination in the so called negro question and are actuated by a high sense of justice and fair play.

From the Nashville American. If the right of every citizen of the United States to vote is denied in violation of the Constitution, the Republican party does not propose to restore to him that right. It does not propose to restore to him in his right as a citizen of the United States. It proposes to leave him helpless and without remedy. It merely proposes, not in the interest of the citizen that is deprived of his rights, but in the interest of the majority, an advantage, to reduce the representation of the States in which such citizens live. It would concede the white citizens in such States the right to vote, and to be represented according to their numbers. It would offer no relief to the citizens deprived of the "right" to vote. It would leave them to their fate. And it would be glad to do so. Not a syllable of the negro's rights, or interest in his rights, but a desire to see a majority advantage, is the motive which actuates it. There is not much comfort for the negro in this attitude of the Republican party, which plainly declares that it has no objection to the disfranchisement of the negro, provided he is not included in the basis of representation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In an editorial headed "Christianity," published in your paper of last Sunday, you assert that "the Episcopal Church clergyman, Bishop Doane, has a distinction practically give up the dogma of the incarnation as stated in the Apostles' Creed." I do not quarrel with the accuracy of your statement, but I do quarrel with the statement that Bishop Doane has given up the dogma of the incarnation. I venture to say that you give the names of the Bishops and clergymen referred to. W. W. GARDNER, Conn., June 28.

We refer our correspondent to a series of articles on the subject of the "New Church," published last year in the "Church Eclectic," an Episcopal magazine, by the Rev. E. P. Hurley, LL. B., from which these are extracted. The Virgin birth is now denied and the men who do so daily use the Creeds, Gospels, Canticles and Collects which positively assert it. Cerebral correspondents in the London Times, and in this matter, after the Church, are constantly telling us that they do not believe in the supernatural statements in St. John's Gospel; that the writers of the Old and New Testaments alike were allowed to group the dark legends of Christ as he has advanced by legends and fabrications; that Christ himself was very fallible and that the Church at Pistoecus was raised on a foundation of falsehood.

We are told that Moses was not an individual, but a clan; that Paul was a manufactured hero and Christ's life was a power of the Holy Ghost was a veritable imposture. The statements of Matthew and Luke, therefore, concerning the miraculous conception of our Blessed Lord, not to mention the Gospel of John, are all dismissed as "pious frauds," says the Bishop of Ripon, "that he was wonderfully born and miraculously raised does not evoke, as any sane man would require and satisfactory response; even if it could be considered valid it would not create a worthy or acceptable faith."

Secrecy of Rabbis in Jewish Church. From the Louisville Herald. Last night several of the rabbis who are here attending the Central Conference of American Rabbis were discussing the great scarcity of Jewish ministers of the Gospel. "It seems a very strange thing," said one of the most prominent of them, "that there are more positions than there are preachers in the Jewish Church. This is not true of other religions, and from our own country it is not true that there is just the reverse condition would be true." "In the first place Jewish preachers are paid better than those of any other denomination. Even the youngest preacher gets a salary which is considered a very high one for a young man. It is not usually so arduous in nature of conducting services as that of the Christian minister. The services are not so frequent nor so long. Furthermore, they are always conducted in a quiet and dignified manner." "In spite of this there are hundreds of places of considerable size in this country which are hungering for a rabbi. When the students of the Hebrew University College in Jerusalem are graduated they always have six or seven fine positions offered to them." "Possibly the solution of this is that the bright young Jewish men take more readily to the professions, where the emolument is greater and into which they can enter quicker."

The Guillotine in Sweden. From the London Daily Chronicle. Who would have supposed during the Reign of Terror, writes the London paper, that a day would come when the guillotine would be used for a laudable purpose? Yet this has just happened in Sweden for a guillotine has been erected in the market place at Gothenburg, where it is used daily for the purpose of decapitating chickens, ducks, and other domestic animals. The local Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals is responsible for this novel step.

Matrimonial Reform in Afghanistan. From the Lahore Tribune. It is stated by a correspondent from the Province of the Amir that he has ordered that the people of that State should have no more than four wives, and this to be strictly carried out by the Afghan Sardars. It is stated that when the guillotine was used for a laudable purpose, and that under this the Afghan Sardars should have four wives, and that under this the Afghan Sardars should have four wives.