The Sun.

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25, 1904.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second-Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Why Not Let Ireland Go?

The best thing that England could do to-day would be to set Ireland at liberty. There is nothing else that would so much conduce to English happiness, prosperity and security.

Give Ireland, not Home Rule, but complete separation and liberty. Let her be a race, a people and a nation apart. Tie no string to her freedom, impose no restriction but the sea between, and let her go free as the air, like a bird from its prison.

There is no way, and there never will be any way, of turning Irishmen into Welshmen or Scotchmen. They are impossible of absorption. To govern them is vain. They might be all shot or they might be all drowned, but they can never be domesticated while Ireland remains an island.

Since England became civilized—about a century agone—all her attempts at governing instead of murdering Ireland have been the derision of attentive nations. Her injustice has been hard to bear, but her conciliation has been more intolerable yet. The more she placates, the more she bears gifts with both hands, the more exasperating and utterly without hope the situation becomes.

There was once a man that did languish seventeen dreadful years in a darksome dungeon foul, when a bright thought struck him and he opened the window and got out! There is the very idea. Put away the futility of ages, open the window and let Ireland go.

Capt. MAHAN, who is really an Irishman in a heavy disguise, says that England cannot afford to set Ireland free because of the fatal weakness that would then be hers when she went to war with one of the Powers, by reason of having a hostile nation, however small, in her rear. We do not believe a word of it.

Ireland, given her liberty without condition, agreement, treaty or stipulation, could never be an enemy in the rear. The Irish are not built that way. To make such a thing possible, Ireland would have to be removed to the furthest spot on the globe. Contiguity, for an Irishman, other things being equal, is fatal to hostility. If Ireland were set free as an act of spontaneous nobility, generosity and justice, and the Continent of Europe were to set upon England, the Irish would swim across the Channel, if they couldn't get boats, to be in the fight from the start.

No matter what the row was about, the Irish would have to be in it; and nowhere else in the whole world would they fight so congenially, heartily and naturally as on the side of the Sassenach for the cause of Albion, Albion perfidious never more. Human nature is more potent than all the ties that statesmen can fashion or impose, and human nature is much the same all over the world, but nowhere else is it of a warmer quality than it is in Ireland.

What would the whole world say if England were to proclaim to-day: "Next Christmas Day as ever is the soil of Ireland and all the people that inhabit Ireland shall be quit of Britain forever. On that gracious and hallowed day it shall be theirs, without let, hint or hindrance, to shape Fate to their own liking; and may a beneficent Deity smile upon the time!"

It would take a year to withdraw all the paraphernalia, whitewash the Pigeon House, get the Castle fit for a gentleman to live in, prepare the Bank of Ireland for the Senate and the House, and otherwise get everything ready.

What would the world say? The world would say that England had not done so good or so grand a thing since her people took her rulers by the neck and extorted from them the Great Charter. The world would say, too, and truly, that never at all had England done an act so wise.

The Democratic Leader.

The Hon. JOHN ROLL MCLEAN of the Democratic national committee and the *Cincinnati Enquirer* has issued a declaration of independence. With perfect good humor Mr. MCLEAN bids farewell to Mr. BRYAN and his friends and wishes them good luck "in their personal affairs." But in politics he will never more be officer of theirs:

> "No more Bryan leadership, no more dilution of Democracy with Populism repudiation and heresy; no more restraint on the flight of the American eagle, and no more tugging at the holding back strap for yours truly."

Mr. MCLEAN has not always been averse to "repudiation," and he is a good deal of a heretic. When he was the Democratic candidate for Governor of Ohio he didn't warn Mr. BRYAN off the premises. In the cutthroat politics of the Democratic Buckeyes his knife has always been well honed. The Hon. TOM JOHNSON and the Bryan Democrats are just as fond of him as he is of them. He fights for his own hand; nothing is new in his good-by to Col. BRYAN, nor will the Colonel mourn his loss.

One passage in the farewell address, however, has a queer look:

> "Why should there be an obstinate standing out against three popular verdicts—the last one almost the strongest in the history of our Union?"

It was not Mr. BRYAN who nominated Judge PARKER. When Mr. MCLEAN classes himself in "the proud company of Democrats numbering in the millions who refused at the last election to be delivered," he classes himself among those Bryan Democrats who, in spite of the precept and example of their leader, couldn't be dragged up to the polls and PARKER.

Senator NEWLANDS of Nevada, speaking of Col. BRYAN as "the acknowledged leader of the Democratic party," was the innocent cause of Mr. MCLEAN'S amusing manifesto. Well, if Mr. BRYAN is not the leader of the Democrats, who is? Has any other Democrat anything like as many followers? How is it in Mr. MCLEAN'S own State? Are not BRYAN and Bryanism still popular among the Ohio Democrats? If the Ohio Democracy is conservative, how was TOM JOHNSON able to run away with it?

It makes little difference who is the Democratic leader so long as there is nothing in particular for him to lead, but our reticent old friend in Lincoln still seems to be the man.

The Season of Rejoicing.

Americans have good reason for happiness this Christmas.

Our flag stands for more in the world than ever it stood for before.

Our American Panama Canal will soon be under way, and in a few years the Stars and Stripes, flying at the Atlantic and Pacific ends of the canal, will be saluted by the flags of all other nations owning ships.

Our American Pacific cable enables a whisper in Manila to be almost immediately heard in Washington.

Our government in the Philippines, Porto Rico and Hawaii is increasingly successful.

Our schoolhouses and colleges at home and abroad are crowded with nearly 20,000,000 eager and happy pupils and students. As the Mosely Education Commission from England pointed out with some surprise, the American schoolboy is distinguished by his liking to go to school.

Our exports exceed those of any other country in the world.

Our national Treasury holds more actual gold than does the treasury of any other nation, and more than any other, ancient or modern, has ever held.

Our natural resources, relatively inexhaustible, assure work and wealth to our people for centuries to come.

The present is happy, and our outlook for the future was never brighter.

Our New York Transportation Problem.

The excessive concentration of industry, of population and of travel in New York is regarded generally as a result of the peculiar conformation of Manhattan Island. On the strength of this assumption it is argued that the crowding will soon disappear in consequence of the increased transportation facilities that are being provided.

The combined capacity of the railways crossing Brooklyn Bridge and of the ferries to Brooklyn is about 65,000 passengers an hour. The Williamsburg Bridge, the Manhattan Bridge and the rapid transit tunnel to Brooklyn will add a capacity of 175,000 passengers an hour. The hourly travel which the north and south lines in Manhattan were capable of handling before the opening of the subway was only about 145,000 passengers.

The new transportation to Brooklyn alone, therefore, exceeds the traffic facilities offered by the Manhattan lines two months ago. The improvement of the railway service in that direction is being duplicated in every other. An equally noteworthy enlargement is being made in the means of travel to Queens, to The Bronx, to the suburbs on the Sound and on the Hudson River, and to New Jersey. Within five or six years our traffic facilities between Manhattan and its neighborhood will be multiplied many times, and the water barriers interposed by the North and East rivers will be practically removed.

If these barriers were the sole cause of the past concentration of industries and population in Manhattan, we should be justified in looking forward to prompt and radical relief; but they have not been the sole cause. Indeed, it may be doubted whether they have been even the chief cause. For a number of years past the crowding in Manhattan has been due to economic rather than to geographic influences. No doubt, the economic factor at first merely reenforced the effect of topography; but it has come to be the more important element of the two, so that the provision of new transportation without reference to economic conditions will hardly introduce the expected era of decentralization.

The main cause of excessive concentration is to be found in the nature of the industries which prevail in this city. For a variety of reasons, including the absence of nearby sources of raw products comparable with those of the West, New York has ceased to be a centre of rough manufactures and bulky commerce. On the other hand, its unrivalled advantages as a distributing point have caused the convergence here of an increasing proportion of the country's light manufacturing, general commerce and trade in luxuries.

Fashion counts for more in the luxuries than in the necessaries of life, and New York outranks all other American cities in attracting trade in highly finished goods. It leads in banking, in stock broking, in commerce, except bulky wares, and in light manufacturing. The tendency of financial institutions and of mercantile houses to congregate in special districts is well known. Of even greater importance in producing crowding of population is the similar tendency of the city's chief labor employing factory industries as a result of the changes from bulky to light work. The principal manufacturing industries of New York at the present time are of dry goods, printing and publishing, foundry work and the production of light machinery, the brewing of malt liquors, the preparation of tobacco, coupled with cigar and cigarette making.

Light manufacturing requires comparatively little space, and the economies incident to having salesroom and manufacturing plant under one roof counterbalance the saving in rents that might be effected by maintaining separate establishments. Each distinct trade, notably dry goods—the largest in the world, equalling that of London and Manchester combined—is collected in long narrow districts along Broadway, Sixth avenue or Fifth avenue, because of the necessity of convenience for buyers from a distance; and the factories follow from motives of economy. Consequently clerks and operatives are under the necessity of finding homes near the heart of the town.

The only transportation lines that can distribute this great working population quickly and cheaply throughout the trade districts are those running north and south. Comparatively few people deposited on the river fronts by bridge cars and ferries can reach their places of employment without an additional ride and an additional fare.

The wages of factory hands average between $8.15 and $20 a week in the working seasons, which are separated by periods of enforced idleness. The earnings of sweatshop workers are still less. Most of the operatives live within walking distance of their work. Those who are compelled to ride do so on a 5-cent fare, or a 10-cent round trip. A large majority of those who ride live within half an hour of their places of employment, that is, in Manhattan and The Bronx. Outside of these boroughs they pass from a 10-cent circuit between house and work to a 20-cent circuit.

Of 462,000 operatives enumerated by the Federal Census of 1900 in some half a dozen of this city's principal manufacturing industries, all but 100,000 were employed in Manhattan. The enumeration covered only a part of the city's working population and does not reveal the full extent of the crowding in the central borough. Because of long hours of work and small earnings, the great bulk of the operatives are limited in the choice of transportation to lines offering a 10-cent round trip and not consuming much more than an hour a day. Only a small part of the new transportation facilities promised in the near future meets these conditions; and until these are complied with there can be no important relief of overcrowding and high rents for the people who are now the chief sufferers. The articulation of travel in such a way as to meet the requirements of the working masses is, of course, rendered difficult by the separate ownership of the principal transit systems. It is, however, the essential core of the transportation problem.

Murder in the House.

'Twas the Monday before Christmas, and all through the House was heard Dr. JOHN WESLEY GAINES. Dr. GAINES used to describe himself as "the leading exponent of free silver" in the Sixth Tennessee Congress district; and he is still the leading exponent of the rights of tobacco and of man in that district and in all districts. Himself a monument, Dr. GAINES leaped to the defence of the Washington Monument. He poked his Toledo snickersnee into the ribs of the Hon. EDWARD DE VEAUX MORRELL, Representative of the Fifth Pennsylvania district:

> "I am surprised that the gentleman from Pennsylvania, who is so industrious, so patriotic, who is an honor to his State on stated occasions [laughter] with his tight clothes, and his long epaulets, and his shining sword, and his great captivating Napoleonesque hat [laughter], should come here, Mr. Speaker, and propose this outrage, putting this building within the sunshine and the glory of the precincts about that magnificent Monument; of having a lot of shricking, whistling, smoking machinery and greasy men laboring around about that place. [Laughter.]"

Mr. MORRELL has been a Colonel and a Brigadier in the Pennsylvania National Guard. Consequently Dr. GAINES regards him as an imperialist and a militarist. Besides, there is a certain impertinence in holding a commission in the National Guard. Dr. GAINES sympathizes with the simple Jeffersonian doctrine formulated by THE SUN that every male citizen, including Indians of full age, whether taxed or not taxed, is and of right ought to be a General, Colonel, Judge or Professor, according to his choice. No piece of parchment, no inky flourish from a Governor's hand, is needed to confer this sacred and inalienable right. So far, then, we have the happiness of agreeing with Doctor and the Hon. JOHN WESLEY GAINES. We stand by and with him as he waves away intruders from the Washington Monument. If there is to be any shrieking and whistling in the Washington Monument grounds, he is the boy to do it. The heat disengaged by the swiftness of his intellectual convolutions and revolutions will keep his machinery smoking; and his æsthetic sense should be protected from the sight of "greasy" laborers.

Our complaint is not against Dr. GAINES, but against Mr. MORRELL. We snip from the *Congressional Record* this colloquy and obloquy:

> "Mr. MORRELL—Mr. Speaker, I feel that I must at least pay the compliment to the gentleman from Tennessee of thanking him for the charming picture which he paints of me, one which, of course, will go down now to history, having been said by the gentleman upon whom Tennessee relies.
>
> "I remember a verse that appeared not long ago in one of the papers published in the District, which went something like this:
>
> "'John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines,
> Thou of stupendous brains;
> Tennessee on thee relies,
> John Wesley Gaines.'
>
> "[Laughter and applause.]
>
> "Mr. GAINES of Tennessee—Mr. Speaker, I have heard the gentleman from Pennsylvania accused of everything in the world but having 'stupendous brains.' [Laughter.]
>
> "Mr. MORRELL—No: thank God! Never in that vein. [More laughter.]"

"The ancestors of Mr. MORRELL were old time Philadelphians and were prominent in the history of that city," he tells us in the Congressional Directory. He was born in Newport. He is an A. B., A. M. and LL. B. of the University of Pennsylvania. From such a man we have a right to expect some scholarship, a feeling for literature, a respect for its monuments. Yet Mr. MORRELL has marred and mutilated a very beautiful and noble poem, an American classic, a jewel of four lines, dear to every schoolboy and schoolgirl in Tennessee. We restore from the columns of THE SUN, where it first appeared, the strong and tender "tribute" to the foremost citizen of Tennessee:

> "John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines,
> Thou monumental pile of brains!
> Proud Tennessee relies on thee,
> John Wesley Gaines, John Wesley Gaines."

The Hon. EDWARD DE VEAUX MORRELL cannot put the holiday recess to a better use than the study of the masterpieces of American literature.

THE SITUATION IN FALL RIVER.

The Five Months Strike and the Danger of Permanent Destruction.

FALL RIVER, Dec. 24.—In refusing to submit their case to arbitration the Fall River mill owners have acted entirely within their rights, but the attitude is nevertheless impolitic. Arbitration is rather popular at present, and a refusal to accept that method of adjusting differences is construed by many people into an acknowledgment of weakness or wrong on the part of those who decline to submit their case to its processes.

The Fall River strike has now lasted five months. Nearly 30,000 people, only about one-fifth of whom are unionists, have remained idle rather than accept a reduction in wage rates, declared by the employers to be necessary if the mills are to run at all. The sum already lost by wage earners is more than they would have lost in two years of work at the reduced rate. The mill owners are also losers; but it is doubtful if they have lost very much more than they would have lost had they continued operations at the old wage rate, in the present condition of the market. The special sufferers and the heaviest losers are the operatives and the people of the vicinity, merchants and others who are dependent on the purchases of the wage earners. Local trade is paralyzed and heavy demand has been made upon the diminished incomes and depleted purses of the charitable.

The issue concerns wages only. The key to it appears in the brief question, Can the mills afford to pay the old wage rate and continue business? The most reliable evidence obtainable, evidence which I gather from entirely competent local sources having no direct interest in either side, points conclusively to an answer in the negative. The Fall River mills are business concerns and not eleemosynary institutions. Their proprietors are as generally liberal and broad minded as is the average employer, at least, but they cannot and should not be expected to run their mills at a loss in order to keep their hands busy at wages which the employees regard as adequate and proper. They have offered to demonstrate this by submitting their balance sheets to a committee from the strikers, but the strikers have appeared to be indifferent to that feature of the situation. I believe that it would have been both wise and politic for them if they had consented to the proposed arbitration, resting their case and their claims on the intelligent judgment of a board of competent arbitrators.

The whole matter is neither local nor temporary. It involves a broad consideration. The present must be weighed in the scales of the past, and Fall River must adjust itself to new conditions or go out of business. There is only too much ground for a belief that Fall River has become commercially fossilized. The time has been when she stood supreme in cotton markets. This is no longer the case. She is no longer in a position to dictate terms. The enormous increase in the number of cotton mills during the last fifteen or twenty years has taken trade from her and has forced her almost exclusively into production of cottons and prints of the finer grades.

The new and up to date machinery of the Southern mills outclasses the older appliances widely used in Fall River. The Northrop loom calls for one weaver for every eighteen or twenty machines. In Fall River mills the requirement is one weaver for from eight to twelve machines. In addition to this, wage rates and cost of living are less in the South than in the North. The installation of the newest devices and a full modern equipment would involve an enormous expense, probably greater than would be justified. The alternatives appear to lie in abandonment of the entire enterprise or a wage scale which will enable the mills to run at a reasonable profit, although it might convert Fall River into an American Lancashire, the home of poorly paid, badly housed and underfed operatives. Either of these would be lamentable.

Another possible solution appears, however. This lies in the possible extension of market by which, although wages might be low, permanent and steady employment would yield an annual income to wage earners averaging as high as that of past years. America now secures an utterly insignificant share of the world's market for cotton goods, yet our present annual export of $30,000,000 worth of such wares is a fair proof of our competing ability and a fair assurance that the exercise of an aggressive trade energy would multiply that sum by two, five or even ten.

Still another opportunity appears in the same direction, that of possible market extension. During the fiscal year 1903 the United States imported $52,462,755 worth of manufactured cotton goods. This included $9,000,000 worth of cotton cloth, $6,000,000 worth of knit goods, principally stockings and underwear; $5,000,000 worth of thread (not on spools), yarn, warps and warp yarn, and $25,000,000 worth of lace curtains, trimmings, tuckings, ruchings, rufflings and other things known to and used by American femininity. The genuine absurdity of American export of the raw material for these wares, and its reimportation in manufactured forms on which a high duty is paid, ought to be as clear as daylight to everybody.

Fall River will do wisely to organize a ways and means committee for a careful consideration and a thorough investigation of possible channels for the maintenance of her industry other than those of wage reduction.

Clipping Horses.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Many people here in the backwoods clip off the animal's winter coat because it "looks better," because it "prevents sweating" and thus taking cold. Others clip the legs only, on the sole but honest plea that the cold mud is easier to clean off.

It would seem that nature provided the heavy winter coat to keep the beast warm, and that cutting it off causes cold and suffering in and out of the stable, much as if a man were to wear pajamas outdoors in winter. Would the man be more comfortable and healthy? If not, why is the horse so?

MIDDLETOWN, N. J., Dec. 23. JERSEYMAN.

The Danger From Illiteracy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* While superintendent of the city schools of Aberdeen, Wash., I noticed that the children of illiterates leave school early. For three years I studied the question in Chicago while taking care of charity patients in hospitals, dispensaries and private homes. Of illiterates are made the dregs of society; and, especially in larger places, these birds flock together, forming large foreign colonies. I believe that the question does not receive the attention it deserves. JOHN JACKOLA.

HANCOCK, Mich., Dec. 21.

Why This Difference?

From the Crown.

If the temperature of the church be a little low people will raise a big fuss. Yet many of those same people will sit in the open air, with practically no protection, for hours, in a chill November day, watching a game of football, and think nothing of it—nay, pay a dollar or two for the privilege.

First in the *Century Magazine* for January comes an account of the new London with good pictures in tint. Other illustrated descriptive articles deal with New York pawnbrokers' shops, with ichthyosaurs, with Christmas in the Philippines and with the Spanish painter Zuloaga. Andrew D. White continues his very interesting reminiscences, and Miss Helen Keller contributes an article. Fiction is represented by seven short stories and Mrs. Alice Hegan Rice's serial, and there are seven pieces of verse.

DOUBLING EARTH'S CAPACITY.

Engineering Possibilities of Irrigation and Drainage.

Prof. N. S. Shaler of Harvard College in the International Quarterly.

The conditions of the lands which are now open to the increase in population which has to be expected within two or three centuries may be taken approximately to show that, at most, there is enough to admit of something like a doubling of the present numbers; that without any considerable engineering work in lands not now available for tillage a total of about four thousand million can be supported in tolerable comfort.

The question arises as to the additional food giving capacity of the earth which may be won by means of engineering and other scientific work, as in irrigating arid fields or draining those which are excessively watered, or by improving the methods of fertilizing soils now in use.

It is impossible, with the present lack of information, to determine accurately how extensive is the field which may be won to tillage by the work of the engineer: this winning from the excessively arid lands will be done by irrigation, and from the morasses, the fresh water swamps and the marine marshes by drainage. In Europe the larger part of the land thus winnable has long been brought to use; it is not likely that an increase of 10 per cent. in the food giving capacity of its soils can, by any known means, be realized. In the less developed continents the gain is likely to be much greater.

Thus within the limits of the United States the writer has estimated that the fields improvable by drainage in the manner already applied in Holland would add to the tillable ground of the country an area somewhat exceeding 100,000 square miles in extent, with a food giving value about four times that of the State of Illinois, wherein the soil would be far more enduring than that of any upland district. The complementary process, that of irrigation, promises to afford yet larger gains, including the area of the South and the Middle West, where the system would greatly increase the food giving value of the soil; we may reckon the possible enlargement from it would be even greater than that afforded by a complete drainage of the morasses. Taking the continent of North America as a whole, it seems probable that the existing capacity of its soils for feeding men may be doubled by the work of the engineer through his skill in watering and unwatering its deserts and morasses.

On the other continents the opportunities for winning good land from arid deserts are probably less than in North America, yet the possible gain is such that we may reckon that when his great work is done the engineer will have recovered land enough to feed the existing population of the earth. In Africa there is the magnificent problem of the Nile, a river which wastes to the sea in its annual floods water enough to fertilize tenfold the desert that it now makes fertile. There is the valley of the Twin Rivers of Asia, where a realm once fertile has become a waste by the loss of its irrigation works. There are in all the great lands vast areas of lakes, swamps and marshes awaiting the skilful labor which has won Holland from the sea. The largest opportunity of profit is in such brave combats with the incomplete work of nature.

The problem of how we are to maintain the fertility of the soil when the earth is taxed by a population thrice as great as it now supports depends upon our ability to restrain the excessive rapidity with which tilled soils pass to the sea and our ability to restore to the land the materials which the cultivated plants remove. We shall find that both these needs are fairly to be met by the resources of modern science; the first by a proper control of the movements of water from where it falls upon the land to its station in the ocean, and the second by a resort to the ocean and the under earth for the materials to renew the fertility of the ground when it is exhausted by cropping. There is much to do in order to make the earth fit to bear the life to come, but there is every reason to believe that our science is ready for the task and that within two centuries of peaceful endeavor we may prepare the place for it.

Cuban Sanitation.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to recent articles in THE SUN in regard to the question of sanitation in Cuba and the efforts of the authorities of that island to maintain the standard of the United States in this direction, it may be of interest to you to know that in addition to the appropriations now being made by the Cuban Congress for the cities outside of Havana, appropriations have been made for water works in the several larger cities where the supply is insufficient at the present time.

The first of these to assume definite shape is that of Santiago. The Cuban Congress appropriated $200,000 for water works in that city, and an additional appropriation of $250,000 is now pending before it. This contemplates the construction of a large dam across the Purgatorio River, about four miles from Santiago, with the collateral pipe line to the interior distribution reservoir in the city of Santiago.

The writer has just returned from Cuba, having been the successful bidder for the construction of this work, which will proceed immediately.

It is expected that undoubtedly the appropriation necessary to complete this work will be made during the present session of Congress, the result of which will be that Santiago will be supplied with a first class water system, modelled after one of the finest plants in the United States. This is a very important step toward the permanent sanitation of that city, which has been looked on as a possible storm centre of the yellow fever.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. FREDERICK SNARE.

College Boys Defended

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Does not "Business Man" in to-day's issue of THE SUN somewhat harshly condemn all college boys in his comments upon the recent disturbances among Columbia men? What does he mean by calling them all "charity boys"? Has he ever been responsible for the expense incident to a college education? If he has, where can he find the charity element? It usually costs a pretty penny and the boy's natural guardian pays the bills in most cases gladly.

The "college boys" sometimes carry sport too far, so that the sport often becomes very serious, but not intentionally.

They observe the traditions of the institution with which they are connected, and in a measure those traditions are known before they enter.

In the heat of a fracas, always begun in fun, sometimes they are carried away by stubborn resistance and push the thing a little beyond the bounds of prudence, but I emphatically deny the charge that the young men who are to-day attending the colleges of this country are bullies or ungentlemanly.

I have had the pleasure to be with the students of more than one of our colleges during the past few years, and take great pleasure in testifying to the fact that I was treated with the utmost courtesy in every instance.

Any men looking for coarse or ungentlemanly treatment would be much more successful in his quest if he searched among the "business men" than among the "college boys." PHYSICIAN.

PAWLET, Vt., Dec 23.

Dr. Abbott's "Energy."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was forced twenty years ago to quit the Congregational Church for uttering the very sentiments that to day Dr. Abbott is uttering with impunity. Either that Church is now utterly honeycombed with so called infidelity and scepticism or Dr. Abbott's social position is so strong that the Church dares not depose him.

Dr. Abbott errs, in my opinion, in seeking his God inside the universe. The universe has no inside or outside. The universe is infinite. Infinity has no circumference or boundary. God is everywhere, because the universe is everywhere. God and the universe are one. God is the principle of logical sequence between the infinite phenomena of nature. God is not, therefore, a thing, a person, or an entity. God is a process, a principle, a power. God is not energy. God is the operative principle of energy. In short, God is law.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. HENRY FRANK.

The Complaint of a Jew.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am of the Jewish faith, and therefore, as you know, do not believe in Christ as God. One of my children had to study a little poem given him by the teacher, how "Christ our Lord" was born.

This teacher knew very well of what faith my boy is, and what her idea was in giving him the poem I don't know. My youngest boy was asked who discovered America. Jesus, was what he said. That is a sample of what they learn in school.

NEW YORK, Dec. 23. F. E. L.

Tips.

A tip to him, a tip to her!
A tip to my stenographer!
A tip to the boy who shines my shoes!
A tip to the barber I can't refuse.
A tip to the janitor—that *must* be!
A tip to the waiter—that means a "V"!
A tip to the bellboy and messenger!
A tip to my clerk at three dollars per!
A tip to the usher when I go to the show!
A tip to every one that I know!
A tip to myself—and this is no joke!
A tip to myself that I am broke!

LA TOUCHE HANCOCK.

AN APPEAL TO THE CHRISTIAN CLERGY.

A Distinguished Jewish Rabbi Exhorts Them to Cry Out Against the Eastern War.

Christmas is here. With every fibre of your being pulsating with sincerity you have spoken of love, peace and good will. With true hearts you have voiced faith, hope and charity. These thoughts are our thoughts, these ideals are our ideals. Can we not unite to weave them into the web of human conduct?

The Jews are temporarily deprived of separate national existence. We therefore have no word in the councils of nations. But you are Christians. And the greatest, the strongest and the most civilized nations of to-day are Christian. Where the national conscience is to be quickened for the attainments of high ideals it is the glorious privilege of the pulpit to speak the word that shall set in motion its potent forces. Every day that the Christian nations permit to pass without ending the cruel Eastern war is an insult to Christianity. For that war is a denial of love; it gives the lie to peace; it mocks good will. In its presence faith, whether faith in God or faith in man's idealism, flies weeping from the earth. Hope hides her face and the spirit of charity is crushed.

Shall you wring your hands in powerless anguish and say "What can be done?" "What can we do?" Enough that we ought to do something in the name of religion, in the name of righteousness. This alone should be sufficient to spur us on to make the attempt. To attempt to achieve the right in such a case makes success more possible in the future.

I would leave to you the mode of action in the present crisis. I say crisis, for it is a crisis in the history of Christianity, now called upon to declare whether or not its stand for "peace and good will" is phrase or fact.

My own thought is that every congregation throughout the land should protest against this cruel war in the name of the heroes who are fighting, in the name of the wounded who are suffering, in the name of the widows who are weeping, in the name of the orphans who are mourning. That protest should be forwarded to our Government. The hearts of our kith and kin across the sea beat as do our hearts. The same emotions stir them. The same ideals thrill them. Who knows but that, therefore, other nations would clothe with words the public opinion which would inspire their Governments to unite with ours not only to stop the present outrageous war but to prevent any wars in the future.

War is an anachronism. It can never be justified any more than two civilized men can be justified in resorting to force instead of resorting to courts of law. Can you do anything? Ought you not to try?

H. PEREIRA MENDES,
President of the Union of Orthodox Jewish Congregations, United States and Canada.
NEW YORK, Dec. 24.

The Question as to Unconsciousness.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to the question: "When or why does memory desert?" as propounded by Mr. James H. Beale in THE SUN, is it not possible that the answer lies in this further query: "Does some unseen, unknown spirit come to the rescue when death is imminent?"

From the natural viewpoint the answer would be that the rush of sensations (fright, &c.) causes a too rapid engorgement of the blood vessels of the sensorium, the pressure bringing on temporary paralysis of that organ, so that no outward objects can possibly make an impression through the retina on the brain.

But one of the world's greatest philosophers and seers has stated that shortly before death certain angels (or departed spirits) consociate themselves with the human soul to separate it from its material integument and introduce it into the spiritual world; and it seems quite possible that, if this is true, these spirits would at once take possession of the soul (or spirit) of any person in such great danger as those in the cases Mr. Beale cites.

Taking this for granted, is it not possible also that from the instant the soul (or spirit) of the person thus in danger is taken out of its body or partially removed and brought into relation with the spiritual realm, where, of course, it could not perform the function of giving life and impressionableness to the natural body or brain, so that ordinary phenomena of fixing outward objects or impressions on the brain cannot take place?

This would seem a rather plausible solution of the mystery, and would not necessarily preclude the possibility of the partially (or entirely) removed soul being returned by these attending spirits to its natural habitation as soon as it became apparent that this had not received a mortal hurt.

The period of coma, or non-consciousness, might vary according to the intimacy of the relationship of such a person's soul with the spiritual realm—that is, as to how he stood spiritually; one who was spiritually minded might draw to himself such spiritual aid more quickly, and vice versa.

EMILE PICKHARDT.

ISLINGTON, Mass., Dec. 23.

The Simple and the Complex Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter from one of your correspondents on "The Simple Life" makes it evident that the writer never went any further than the cover of "The Simple Life," or he would not have said in his letter, "but to toil on with unshaken faith—is there no merit in that?"

Mr. Wagner has to say on the subject of progress: "Honest poverty risks passing for shame and even unclean money has little difficulty in passing for merit. 'Then,' some one objects, 'you condemn modern progress by wholesale, and you would lead us to the good old times, to asceticism, perhaps?' Not at all. It is the most sterile and dangerous of Utopias to wish to resuscitate the past, and the art of right living does not consist in withdrawing oneself from life. But we are seeking to bring to light, with the aim of finding a remedy for it, one of those errors which weigh heaviest on social progress, and that is, that man becomes happier and better by increase of his outward well being. Nothing is falser than this pretended social axiom."

In another place he says that "no class has the sole privilege of simplicity. No costume, however humble it may appear, is its assured badge." "Simplicity is a state of mind. It dwells in the main intention that animates us. A man is simple when his highest desire consists in wishing to be that which he should be: that is to say, a true and honest man." "Let a flower be a flower, a swallow a swallow, a rock a rock, and a man a man, and not a fox, a hare, a bird of prey or a pig. All is summed up in that." A. M. M.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the extremely simple life we lose the advantage of mastery over material things; in the extremely complex life we are enslaved by them. Our aim should be what Horace Traubel has chanted as "the sufficient life." A. C. PLEYDELL.

NEW YORK, Dec. 24.

The Soul of the Tailor.

From the Sartorial Art Journal.

The soul of the craftsman can express itself more fully and clearly in tailoring than in any other trade. If the tailor's thoughts are poetic he can issue pastorals in colors that are charmingly suggestive of hillside or meadow, foliage or waving grain; he can make his overcoats speak of bleak December, his dress suits of frolic and festivities, his frock coats of dignity and wealth, his cutaways of self-content, and his sacks of strenuousness, and he can make his waistcoats jingle like limericks, his trousers sing of sunshine or of rain and mud, his spring suits chortle of hope and joy, and his summer suits prattle of flowers. If he is an artist he can make overcoat, undercoat, waistcoat or trousers seem a sensuous haze, a reverie in color, a riot of action, or a vigorous portrayal of conflicting emotions in a decimated field of desolation; and if he is a musician he can impart to his sartorial creations an expression that suggests the bleating of a lamb, the clashing of cymbals, the rat-tat of a drum, the ragtime movement of a cakewalk, the wail of despair, the shout of triumph, the roar of a lion or the bray of an ass.

Grapes in Oregon in December.

From the Jacksonville Sentinel.

On the first day of December C. H. Sampson picked from a fifteen-year-old vine on his place north of town ten crates of grapes holding twenty-five pounds. Up to this time there had been no frost and the fruit was in perfect condition.

An Absentminded Kansas Girl.

From the Emporia Gazette.

An Emporia girl went upstairs immediately after supper the other night to change her dress, and before she realized what she was doing had her nightie on ready to go to bed.

Reward of a Faithful Democrat.

From the New York Times.

The Hon. George Raines, author of the odious vice compelling law which bears his name, declares that if it is to be amended the work must be done by its friends.

XMAS SWAMPS POST OFFICE.

Clerks and Carriers, Some of Them Working Double Time.

Never in the history of the local Post Office has there been such a mass of holiday mail as this year, and it is more than doubtful if the entire force of clerks and carriers working, some of them double time, will get it distributed by to-night. Delivery of domestic mail has been hampered and delayed by an extraordinary number of Christmas cards and packages. To add to the woes of the tired clerks they have had 7,340 sacks of foreign mail to sort and distribute in the last three days.

The Deutschland on Thursday brought in 1,568 bags of mail, the Baltic 3,000 bags and the Campania, in yesterday, 1,649 bags. Late yesterday afternoon Acting Postmaster Morgan was asked to arrange for the handling of 667 sacks, then on La Savoie at Quarantine, and 456 bags that are being brought in by the St. Louis.

Thousands and thousands of small packages that in past years have been expressed are this year being transmitted through the mails.

One consolation the hard working clerks have is the fact that Monday will be a holiday for them. A notice to this effect was received from Washington yesterday and the Post Office will be closed from 10 A. M. to-day until Tuesday.

Cause of the Great Water Shortage.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A few mornings ago I started out of my house and walked down Sixth avenue. The streets were very dirty and were filled with snow and ice. To my astonishment I saw a great flood of water in the street. I remarked to the person with me that there must be a water pipe broken. When I reached Fifty-fifth or Fifty-fourth street I found that the hydrant cap was off and thousands of gallons of water were pouring out. I said to the man at the hydrant, "What are you wasting water like that for? During my seventy years residence in this city, I never have seen anything like it." I did not receive an encouraging reply.

This morning while walking down the avenue, I came upon a greater flood at about the same place. I said to the man, "Why are you wasting the water in this fashion, when there is danger of our being short of water?" His reply was, "Go to hell!" I said, "I don't purpose to do anything of the kind because you tell me to. I am a taxpayer and I have a right to ask why my money is being wasted."

He finally said that the Board of Health had ordered the streets flushed in that manner. I cannot repeat all that was said, as it would take too much space, but I got no satisfaction, and the water continued to pour out and flood the streets.

Now I understand that the engineers for the Water Commissioner have been reporting for some time back that there was danger of a shortage of water, and we would have to be very careful not to waste it. If the Street Cleaning Department is allowed to waste the great amount of water that is being wasted daily in flushing the streets, we will soon find our supply short, and the poor will be the ones to suffer most. As I said to the man at the hydrant, I can buy all the water I need, but the poor will suffer. The time to take notice of a matter of this kind is before we get into trouble on account of it.

In this connection I would like to ask when the pipes laid in the streets for the salt water will be ready to be used for fire and street cleaning purposes. And I would also like to inquire about the Jerome Park Reservoir; when will that ever be finished? Doesn't it look like a job to have it hang on so?

NEW YORK, Dec. 24. HENRY DEXTER.

Babu Political Prose.

From New India.

When at eve the sun sinks below the horizon, even the murky clouds floating piecemeal over the deep blue are fringed over with scarlet lining. And a child may gaze on the spectacle and rejoice in the approach of what it imagines to be a glorious morning. But alas, slowly and one by one, the floating clouds put off the gorgeous trappings, and before long the evening gloom spreads itself stealthily all over the sky and night stands on the threshold, begemmed with stars.

If India still cherishes the beguiling thought that her present contact with the West that appeared, only before her, as the conqueror, will slowly lead in the normal course of time to an awakening of her people from the slumber of ages she will be undeceived when it is too late and when grim darkness will have encompassed her on all sides. The flush of crimson light that flooded her horizon as if to announce the approach of dawn since the days of Rajah Rammohan Roy, is slowly fading away; the clouds are giving up their transient glories, and everywhere lingers the dull uniformity of a pale yellow.

But still the lingering hope nestles within our hearts that forgotten nature may at last work a miracle and usher in, amid all this dulness of the approaching doom, the meridian glory of a new day and dispel the gathering gloom that is ominous of death.

Thought and Disease.

From Suggestion.

Thousands of people actually think themselves to death every year by allowing their minds to dwell on morbid subjects.

The idea that one has some incipient disease in one's system, the thought of financial ruin, that one is getting on in life without improving prospects—any of these or a thousand similar thoughts may carry a healthy man to a premature grave. A melancholy thought that fixes itself upon one's mind needs as much doctoring as physical disease. It needs to be eradicated from the mind or it will have just the same result as a neglected disease would have.

Every melancholy thought, every morbid notion and every nagging worry should be resisted to the utmost, and the patient should be protected by cheerful thoughts, of which there is a bountiful store in every one's possession. Bright companions are cheaper than drugs and plasters.

The morbid condition of mind produces a morbid condition of body, and if the disease does happen to be in the system it receives every encouragement to develop. We need more mental therapy.

An Antitoxin Against Fatigue.

From the Medical Record.

Should the development of the study of toxins and antitoxins render possible the production of an anti-body capable of neutralizing the results of muscular fatigue, the consequences could hardly be predicted. Yet a German investigator seriously claims to have taken more than one step in this direction already, and publishes results that are at least surprising.

Weichardt (*Munchener Medizinische Wochenschrift*, Nov. 29, 1904) says he has obtained a stable antitoxin, which, when taken by the mouth in moderate doses, permits the output of an increased amount of muscular energy without fatigue, and when taken continuously causes a sense of general *bien être* and augments the capacity for work. He commends his preparation to clinicians as a promising analeptic for convalescents, neurasthenics, &c. This fatigue antitoxin is obtained from horses by injecting them with fatigue toxin produced in the muscles of animals that been have subjected to extreme muscular exhaustion.

The Only Authority in Morals.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Manifestly there can never be any agreement as to Christian dogmas. Would it be possible, then, to agree on any standard of morals binding alike upon agnostics, Jews and Christians?

For surely there must be some voice of authority—a standard by which we may unerringly measure moral questions.

Now, to me as one who does not believe in a supernatural religion, it seems evident that the moral law came to perfection only with Jesus and the New Testament, and that, whether we will or not, that is the standard and voice of authority.

Otherwise, where can it be found? Of course, such is the Christian belief; but it must inevitably be the standard for all unless there should be some other formulated system of morals to challenge it.

BROOKLYN, Dec. 23. C. B. CARTER.

Cow Produces Weight in Milk Every Month

Prof. L. H. Bailey in Country Life in America.

There is a cow who is now 11 years old. Last year her record was 17,400 pounds of milk, with a maximum daily yield of 77¾ pounds. This year she has given as high as 88 pounds a day, and she will probably exceed her former record. In other words, here is a cow that every month produces her own weight in milk.

Browning and Geese.

From Feathered Life.

The largest goose club held in London will beat all previous records this year. Last year there were 3,030 members; this year there are nearly 5,000. The club is organized at the Robert Browning Settlement, Walworth.

Southern Preference for Negro Laborers.

From the Florida Times-Union.

There is no doubt that the Southern farmer prefers negro labor to white and will make the substitution with reluctance.