The Sun.

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As to Rate Legislation.

In his speech at the Denver Chamber of Commerce dinner Monday night Mr. ROOSEVELT reiterated his views as to "the policy of extending the power of the Interstate Commerce Commission and of giving them particularly the power to fix rates and to have the rates that they fix go into effect practically at once." This policy represents in Mr. ROOSEVELT'S mind "part of what should be the general policy of this country, the policy of giving not to the State but to the national Government an increased supervisory and regulatory power over railroads."

For the moment let us confine ourselves to the particular policy, the regulation of railroad rates. Why is Mr. ROOSEVELT so eager to have the power of fixing railroad rates conferred upon the interstate commission? It is admitted that few complaints as to rates have been made by shippers. It is admitted that the real injury lies not in excessive rates, but in discrimination, in the granting of rebates, in the special privileges and allowances to favored shippers, to private car lines, to terminal railroads. Mr. ROOSEVELT declared that the railroad legislation which he seeks "should at the same time deal with the private car, which as regards certain industries offers an even greater menace than is offered by the present system of fixing rates."

As to the private car Mr. ROOSEVELT is dealing with a tangible and conceded means of discrimination and unjust profit. But what is the menace offered by the present—that is, the private and expert—system of fixing rates? Nobody seems to know; whereas the menace of politically fixed rates is tolerably obvious to a good many of us.

The Senate Interstate Commerce Committee has been giving hearings on the railroad rate question since April 17. The testimony has been substantially all on one side. Not only the railroad men, but numbers of shippers have come before the committee to object to giving to the Interstate Commerce Commission the power to fix rates or even to change a discriminating rate. Monday a voice for the Esch-Townsend bill or the principle of it was heard. That was the voice of the Hon. E. P. BACON of Milwaukee, a great maker and nurse of railroad rate regulation bills at the last session of Congress.

The railroads and the shippers on one side. On the other, the professional rate regulator men. Has not Mr. ROOSEVELT been deceived as to the popular demand for governmental rate regulation? Why has not that demand, if it exists, been heard in the appropriate "thunder tones" at the sessions of Mr. ELKINS'S committee?

The Obligations of Directors.

We have received the letter below from a gentleman of large investments in the stocks of corporations:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Referring to comments in THE SUN on the moral and legal obligations of directors of corporations—*malum in se* and *malum prohibitum*—and to the duties of an agent of a seller when dealing with a corporation who is a buyer, and of which corporation the agent of the seller is a director, may I ask your view of the situation revealed in the Equitable company and elsewhere? SHAREOWNER.

"NEW YORK, May 9."

The private interests of those occupying a fiduciary relation to a corporation, by the choice of the owners or the directors, should, we think, make their private gain yield to their duty to the corporation whenever the two conflict. Directors should not acquire an interest adverse to the property of the corporation, nor derive pecuniary gain from such interest without the consent of the corporation.

They are bound to two things—one affirmative and one negative. The first is to give to the corporation their best efforts; the second, not to make a profit out of their offices beyond the regular salary and not to acquire adverse interests.

Of course, directors may buy or sell shares like other shareowners, but they cannot lawfully buy and sell property in behalf of the corporation for their private gain. The ordinary rule of agency applies, which is that one acting in a fiduciary capacity cannot deal with himself as an individual, nor as agent act adversely to his principal without consent of the latter. They are trustees of their principal and should hold such private gain in trust for the corporation. The corporation speaks and acts through them. They are for the time the corporation.

If they do the best they can and act honorably, neither the courts nor shareowners should interfere with them; but if they injure the corporation by bad faith, fraud, gross negligence, or malfeasance, they should be made liable in damages to the corporation and owners of the property injured. They must not manage affairs of the corporation for their selfish advantage and to the injury of the other owners.

From such obvious and commonplace principles of law and ethics our correspondent can probably make a sound inference regarding the conduct of a clique of directors who make secret financial arrangements for the corporation and then manipulate the stock market to the injury of their associate owners who are kept in ignorance of the arrangements. And yet shareowners voted for persons as directors who are known to think such conduct permissible, probably the voters would not have much public sympathy when injured in the stock market.

The Negro at the North and at the South.

We printed the other day a letter from a negro complaining that colored communicants of a chapel of the Episcopal Church in this town had been formally notified by the vicar to go separately from the whites to the chancel rail to receive the communion. At the Episcopal Church Congress now in session in Brooklyn "The Future of the Negro in America" was the subject for discussion last evening.

We put together these two incidents as an introduction to a subject brought to our attention by a colored man of Richmond, Va. It concerns the attitude of the late Gen. FITZHUGH LEE toward the negro race, and, as our correspondent expresses it, "the attitude of the most progressive negroes of the South toward those whites who are liberal in their views and treatment of the negroes." For this purpose he encloses articles from four of the "colored papers" of Richmond on the death of that distinguished representative of the old "slaveholding aristocracy" of the South, as it is called.

The negro editor of the *Planet* says that "the best elements of this State are shocked and mourn the country's loss," for FITZHUGH LEE "represented a type of the old South that is slowly but surely passing away." "We could trust 'FITZ LEE,'" he proceeds. "His name is a common heritage, and the 'hand in ebony' yearns to place a garland on his tomb." "Many a candle in a lonely black man's cabin burned brightly when it was ascertained that his election as Governor was secure."

Similar sentiments are expressed by the *Reformer*, another paper edited by a negro. An organ of the negro Baptists speaks of FITZHUGH LEE as "too great to be owned or claimed solely by any special class of the people"; as "the embodiment of all that is best in the people of to-day":

"While true to the whites, he was nevertheless friendly to the colored people. His Gubernatorial reign in Virginia was marked by his kindness to our people. During these memorable days there was no clashing between the races, no 'Jim Crow' cars, no disfranchisement of the colored voters, but a harmony, tranquillity and freedom which inspired patriotism and devotion in the hearts of all the citizens of our great Commonwealth."

"He was a Virginia gentleman, a white man with a white heart," says the *St. Luke Herald*, and "the negroes of Virginia honored and loved him"; "in the death of FITZHUGH LEE, our former Governor, sympathetic and manly, the negro heart of Virginia swells and pulsates with deep and sympathetic regret."

These are instructive expressions of negro sentiment. They indicate the great respect and affection which the negroes of the South feel for a gentleman who by instinct is considerate of those to whom he is intellectually and socially superior, whether they are white or black. Do they not suggest the true method for the solution of the negro problem?

Can Germany Strengthen Her Position in China?

It may be remembered that some time ago Emperor WILLIAM'S brother-in-law, Prince FREDERICK LEOPOLD of Prussia, was despatched to the Far East, ostensibly for the purpose of acting as a special military envoy at the Russian headquarters. Last month, however, we were informed that the Prince, having arrived in Pekin, presumably on his way to Manchuria, had decided to remain for a considerable period in the Chinese capital. It now appears, according to a telegram from Berlin, that the real aim of his mission is to negotiate a new commercial treaty between Germany and the Middle Kingdom. What does the Berlin Government desire, and what prospect has it of witnessing the fulfilment of its wishes?

We learn from Berlin that the proposed treaty, although nominally contemplating only commercial interests, has also a political end in view. It is intended to assure the execution of the design for which a basis was laid by the seizure of Kiaochau Bay and the adjoining district, a seizure which the Pekin Government felt itself constrained to sanction by the concession of a lease. That design was the gradual absorption of the great province of Shantung, which contains some thirty millions of inhabitants and which has played a memorable part in Chinese history and traditions, having given birth to CONFUCIUS, and being looked upon as the cradle of the civilization which started some five thousand years ago in the valley of the Hoang-Ho. Germany has already acquired certain mining and railway rights in Shantung outside of the district leased, but if the requests now made should be granted she will have taken a long step toward complete ascendency throughout the province.

Prince FREDERICK LEOPOLD is instructed to demand the withdrawal of the Chinese military mandarins and soldiers from the three chief prefectures of Shantung, and their replacement by Chinese police and troops trained by German instructors. He is also to ask for permission to establish exclusively German settlements at Weihsien and Shutsun, ports recently opened in Shantung to international trade, and the appointment of German customs officials in those two places. Then, again, he is to request a concession for the construction of railway lines between Tetshu and Tsinanfu and between Tsinanfu and the coast. Tsinanfu, of course, is the capital of the province. It is obvious that if these privileges are granted Germany will occupy in one of China's most important provinces a position analogous to that which Japan, the victor in two wars, has secured in Corea. In respect, indeed, of wealth and population, of mineral, agricultural and commercial capabilities, and of strategic relations to the Chinese Empire, Corea is of incomparably less value than Shantung.

That is to say, the German Emperor is trying to gain, without firing a shot more than the Mikado has thus far obtained at the cost of tremendous sacrifices in blood and treasure. We should add that, not content with tightening his hold upon Shantung, Emperor WILLIAM declines to recognize what hitherto has been regarded as Great Britain's sphere of influence in China, but has ordered his special envoy to demand that in the Yangtse basin Germany shall be placed on a footing of perfect equality with England.

It may seem at the first glance absurd to put forward such demands at a juncture when the influence of Germany's whilom partners, Russia and France, with whom she combined ten years ago to address an ultimatum to Japan, is at a low ebb in Pekin, and when, on the other hand, the utmost deference is shown in the Chinese capital to the representatives of the Mikado and of his British ally. The Tokio Government has repeatedly announced its determination to maintain intact China's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and it is apparently unreasonable to assume that she would suffer Germany to do in Shantung what she would not let Russia do in Manchuria. To the casual onlooker, moreover, it seems no less prepostorous to suppose that Great Britain, knowing herself and her Japanese ally to be at the present time the strongest Powers in the Far East, would allow Germany not only to acquire exclusive privileges in Shantung, but at the same time to dispute the claim of her British neighbor to corresponding privileges in the Yangtse basin.

It will not do, however, to credit Emperor WILLIAM with a lack of common sense. On the contrary, a little reflection will show that even in this mission of Prince FREDERICK LEOPOLD he is evincing remarkable astuteness. He sees that while he may not succeed in winning all he asks for in Pekin to-day, he is at least likely to get much more than he could hope to gain after the war should the Japanese prove triumphant, as they are almost certain to do. For the moment the controlling desire of both Japan and Great Britain is to localize the contest, to prevent a transformation of it from a duel into a world convulsing struggle. For the moment, therefore, neither the Mikado's advisers nor British Ministers can wish to see a rebuff administered to Germany at Pekin. They would be loath to give Emperor WILLIAM a pretext for trying to extend the area of conflict, or even for insisting upon taking part in the ultimate settlement of the war, on the plea that his own interests in China might be materially affected by a disturbance of the balance of power in the Far East.

Under the circumstances we shall not be surprised if the representatives of Japan and Great Britain at Pekin are instructed to offer no obstruction to moderate concessions on China's part to Germany. It is probably well understood in Tokio that if the Mikado should be victorious in the present war he can easily take back to-morrow what he might reluctantly yield to-day.

All Immigration Records Broken.

Immigration continues to pour into the port of New York in far greater volume than in any past year. From the first of January up to the end of April the total number of arrivals was 289,152, or 164,424 more than in the same months of 1904. Since the beginning of May this number has been greatly increased, all previous records having been broken. Last Sunday alone the arrivals were more than twelve thousand.

The total immigration to this country in 1905 is expected to exceed a million, of which about 80 per cent. will arrive at this port. The arrivals so far this year are chiefly of Italians and Polish and Russian Hebrews, and the great majority of the immigration expected during the rest of the year will be of those races.

Of course, so great a volume of immigration indicates prosperous conditions in this country. Of the two races, this is the case more especially as concerns the Italian immigrants. They come hither invited by the opportunities of employment at high prices for the sort of labor they supply, or the rudest manual labor. Thousands of these Southern Italian peasants and common laborers are landed weekly, yet they are speedily absorbed by the existing demand for their labor. They are wanted in all parts of the Union, and the South especially is beginning to be desirous of making the experiment of employing them. A very great part of them, however, remain in New York, which now has a larger Italian population than any city of Italy, unless it be Naples.

As to the immigration of the Jews, its causes are somewhat different, though the incentive of American prosperity is one of them. It is a continuation of the Jewish exodus, chiefly from Poland, Russia and Rumania, which began in 1881 and up to this time must have amounted to about a million.

We referred the other day to the bill before the British Parliament for the restriction of immigration to England. The purpose of that measure is, more particularly, to keep out Polish and Russian Jews, though relatively the number of them immigrating to England is small, only about 2,500 annually. More Jews landed in New York last Sunday alone. Yet last year only three of the ten Jewish members of Parliament ranged themselves against an even more drastic form of immigration restriction than that of the present bill, though five abstained from voting.

Besides the preponderant Italians and Jews among the more than three hundred thousand immigrants who have landed at this port since the beginning of the year, there are representatives of nearly every European nationality.

For many years J. S. T. STRANAHAN was called the "First Citizen of Brooklyn." His fellow citizen HENRY W. SLOCUM was more widely known, however, both in that community and throughout the Union. A graduate of West Point, a Major-General of Volunteers in the civil war, Gen. SLOCUM was also for several terms a member of Congress and conspicuous at many conventions as a prospective nominee of his party for Mayor, Governor and even President. His memory is to be honored by a statue, and the sum of $2,000 has been appropriated by the city to be applied, as the ordinance reads, "to defraying the expenses incident to the contemplated public observances on the occasion of the unveiling of the monument." This statue is to be unveiled at Eastern Parkway and Bedford avenue on Decoration Day, and the commemorative minute adopted by the Board of Aldermen fitly describes Gen. SLOCUM as an "honored soldier and citizen to whom our country must ever be a debtor."

The prediction made by Dr. WALTER LAIDLAW yesterday, that "before 1920 New York will be the largest city on earth," is of much more value than the usual boasts of bigness, for he is distinguished as an expert in the matter of statistics of the population of this town. Another of his predictions can be accepted without question. It is that if the present Italian immigration keeps up, within two years there will be more Italians in New York than in any city of Italy.

THE CENTRAL PARK.

Mr. Robert B. Roosevelt Explains His Prejudice Against Stone Walls.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* You say that I am "eccentric" because I do not think a stone wall beautiful. And yet I should hesitate to ask you what was uglier than a stone wall, because I am afraid you would turn the laugh on me by answering, "Two." If you were to retaliate with the same question, however, and ask me what was uglier than two stone walls I could answer: "Four." Well, you have four around the park, and anything uglier I cannot imagine. Perhaps I am wrong and you are right, however. I admit to a prejudice against stone walls. When I was a boy I used to go shooting a great deal in Connecticut, and in the matter of stone walls that country cannot be beaten. Even you would have satisfaction there. The fields were small and every one was surrounded by four walls, each six feet high, and many's the time that in climbing over them I, dog and gun and wall have come down together.

But now, my dear Mr. Editor, let us be serious, don't call me "eccentric." Don't "chuck odium" about rich and poor, for that is claptrap. Let us sit down and reason together. Do you really think a stone wall is appropriate as a boundary of the handsomest avenue in the city? Remember, we are talking to a commission which was especially appointed to beautify the city. There is no crime in being rich; in fact, the Central Park is the playground of the rich: the children of fashion and Fifth avenue go there. Take away the carriages, and it would lose half of its attraction. If you really consider a stone wall an exemplification of the beautiful in architecture, let us run a few across the park and see if the public would agree with you.

As for automobiles, which are still unpopular, my idea was to get them out of the park as much as possible and to make them innocuous while in it by giving them a roadway so broad that they would have abundant room. But I think you will agree with me that the carriageway on the east side of the park is overcrowded, and is not appropriate as a show drive from its being badly located, as well as from its being too narrow. There is only one stone wall in the world which is sacred, and that is the Chinese Wall, and it would be a pity if THE SUN should be so afraid of its own judgment of beauty as to be stricken with the paralysis of the Chinese nation. When other changes are proposed we can discuss them, but do not condemn a person as "eccentric" because he does not like stone walls alongside of handsome city streets.

ROBERT B. ROOSEVELT.

NEW YORK, May 9.

Tea and Coffee.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your editorial of Saturday under the heading "Adulterating the Truth" is instructive for the reason that it informs your readers of the existence of Mr. Nisus and his views of adulterated foods in America.

I am not qualified to write with authority regarding all his statements, but I do emphatically refute his accusation concerning tea and coffee. So far as tea is concerned, allow me to inform Mr. Nisus that all teas imported into the United States must pass through the hands of the Customs Appraisers and should any prove to be adulterated or below the standard of quality designated by a Government committee the tea would be rejected; and as for "all kinds of leaves" being treated here with coloring matter and passed as tea, the statement is too ridiculous for a moment's consideration. The low cost of tea prohibits the need or possibility of such foolish substitution. Any tea importer or retailer can vouch for this.

As for the statement that our coffees consist chiefly of ground cocoanut shells and pulverized hog liver, here again Mr. Nisus betrays his shallow knowledge of facts. It is safe to say that 99 per cent. of the coffees handled by grocers is purchased in the bean—not ground. This should settle at one stroke so silly an imputation.

For the information of Mr. Nisus and the readers of the German publication *Export* which he represents, may I suggest his applying to Washington for Circular 23, concerning "Food Impurations," from which he will learn that Dr. Wiley is determined at least to forbid the dumping into America of foreign adulterated foods. Conditions may be bad enough in America concerning some foods, but not in regard to tea or coffee.

TROY, May 8. ELDDEW.

The Grateful Parisian Flea.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A man may become acquainted with strange bedfellows without being introduced to them by misfortune. Once, after a restless night in Paris, I discovered between the sheets a flea. What would others have done in such a case? Destroyed it instantly?

I did nothing of the kind. Remembering Uncle Toby's treatment of the bluebottle fly, "Thou hast bitten me to thy heart's content," I said; "survive to bite my successors here. Men patiently bear the stings that others feel. Thou art so quick and agile, 'tis a pity to kill thee. The world is wide enough for thee and me; and may the next occupant of this luxurious bed treat thee with equal magnanimity!"

That act of kindness had its reward. A year later, being in the same bed, at the same hotel, I was awakened by a gentle irritation. The room was filled with smoke—the house was on fire!

Who shall say that the acme of insect acuteness, the royalty of reciprocity, is not attained by the flea?

The teachability of fleas is well known, but their gratitude and memory have never been fully exploited. WALTER BEVERLEY CRANE.

NEW YORK, May 9.

President Haines Hears from John H. Passmore.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having read in the April issue of *Our Animal Friends*, in John P. Haines's article under the heading of "Slanderous Fakes," my letter published in THE SUN of Jan. 11 regarding "Stock Yard Brutality," I desire to corroborate my statement of that date, and add that the letter was not a fake, nor was THE SUN imposed upon.

It was not my intention to hide my identity in any way, and I have to-day written Mr. Haines to that effect and will be pleased to call on him if he desires to see me.

I thank you for the space in the interest of dumb animals. JOHN H. PASSMORE.

1611 AMSTERDAM AV., NEW YORK, May 6.

Jiu-Jitsu and Wrestling.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* W. J. Dooley's suggestion, urging a match between the "Russian Lion," now recognized world's heavyweight champion, and a Japanese jiu jitsu expert, seems to be of immense interest. I hope such a match can be arranged some way.

A fighter like the "Russian Lion" is just the man Prof. Higashi has been looking for. Count him as an opponent to the "Russian Lion." These two men would represent Russia and Japan, now fighting in the East. K. NAKAMURA.

NEW YORK, May 8.

"Scroonch."

From the Charlotte Observer.

Please add to your new dictionary the word "scroonch." "Scroonch up clos' to yo' mammy, honey, an' go to sleep."

'Twas Ever Thus.

He studied the form of the horse, he did,
The favor of fortune to court
Its dam and its sire,
Its work on the mire,
And matters of equal import.

His wife went along to the track, she did,
And picked out a winner to beat;
She chose a long shot
Right there on the spot,
Because its name sounded so sweet.

They both of them wagered a wad, they did,
And harked to the cry of "They're off!"
Now sickly his smile,
His wife has a pile;
At odds he's likely to scoff.

REVIVAL OF WESTERN KANSAS.

A few years ago our Geological Survey discovered that a large part of the high plain of western Kansas is underlaid with vast quantities of sweet pure water. This is the very region where thousands of farmers settled about twenty-five years ago, attracted by the fact that for two or three years the rainfall had been sufficient to grow crops. They were ruined by successive droughts, for a good crop year comes only once in four or five seasons.

They pulled up stakes and went back East. The crumbling heaps of their sod houses and the markings of the corn rows where they planted their last crop are still reminders of their ruined hopes. They little dreamed that there were quantities of water within easy reach and that the strong and steady winds would turn windmills, lift the water into irrigation ditches and transform the thirsty plain into a garden.

This water is from ten to two hundred feet below the surface, and investigation thus far seems to show that the quantity is practically unlimited. Mr. Haworth's report, printed by the survey eight years ago, said that the amount of ground water in the southwest part of the State seemed sufficient to meet any demands, even if manufacturing industries should arise to consume it. He said the greatest need of western Kansas was better methods of raising water and utilizing it.

This view has been confirmed by later studies. The soil of most of western Kansas is as rich as that of the wheat and corn fields that extend for 300 miles through the eastern part of the State. Rainfall seldom fails in those eastern fields; and it is believed that the underground supply will never fail the western fields that were abandoned by their despairing owners.

The conditions that Mr. Haworth found south of the Arkansas River in the southwest part of the State are now known to exist far to the north of the river, and much of the present development of irrigated farming lands is in Sherman, Thomas and other counties in the extreme northwest part of Kansas. Here settlers have been flocking with money to buy land, and real estate is having a boom.

Tracts of 160 acres that went begging at $100 a few years ago are now selling at $1,600. A party of Swedes from Minnesota last month paid $10 an acre for three sections, or 1,920 acres, of prairie. From the car windows scores of steam plows and mule teams are seen turning up the soil and getting ready for a wheat crop. Many little reservoirs have been sunk on the tops of the prairie undulations, and windmills are everywhere pumping from the wells into the reservoirs which feed the irrigation ditches. Many newcomers are living in sod houses, others are putting up substantial cottages, and market towns are rising. This spring 13,000 fruit trees have been delivered at the towns of Colby and Goodman to be planted on the prairies of the northwest tier of counties. The intensive farming that irrigation always brings is supplanting the meager stock raising that followed the bitter failure of twenty-five years ago.

Will the water really hold out? Geologists think so, and many believe that it may come all the way from the Rocky Mountains along the impermeable cretaceous rocks that keep it up within reach and seem to slope ever eastward in that region. We know that the Arkansas draws the water in its channel from those same mountains. At any rate, the new farmers in the extreme western counties feel the stimulus of enthusiasm and confidence and believe they are going to keep Kansas in the van of the wheat States, a proud position she has occupied several times of late years.

Religious Statistics of the Last Ten Years.

From the Christian Intelligencer.

In "Social Progress," a year book and encyclopedia of economic, industrial, social and religious statistics for 1905, edited by Dr. Josiah Strong, we find data from which to estimate the condition of the Protestant denominations of the country, and their progress in the ten years from 1894 to 1904.

The statistics gathered from the latest year books and the minutes of general conferences, assemblies and synods, are of eight denominations, selected as representative of all, and which furnish the necessary data with satisfactory fulness. These denominations are the regular Baptist, Congregational, Methodist Episcopal, Presbyterian, Protestant Episcopal, Reformed (Dutch), United Brethren and United Presbyterian.

The gain in members and in additions by confession of faith in the past ten years has scarcely kept pace with the increase of population. Population has gained 21.6 per cent., while in the eight denominations whose statistics are given the percentage of increase has been but 21.2. In gains the Episcopal Church leads with 34.6 per cent., the Baptist next, with 28.9 per cent.; then the Presbyterian, with 24.8 per cent., and the remaining five bodies show only 16 and a fraction per cent.

If the eight denominations whose statistics have been analyzed are fairly representative of all, it would seem, as Dr. Strong remarks, "that the churches of the United States are less vital and less benevolent than they were ten years ago."

Free Advertisement for a Peanut Poet.

Sent to THE SUN with the compliments of the Peanut Man of Nantucket Island.

Poet's Corner is the most attractive spot on the island. Centrally located between the dead horse valley and two cemeteries. Splendid view, healthy air, quiet neighborhood, nothing to molest or make afraid. From the top of the house is a grand ocean view. Our county jail and Cross Rip lightship can be plainly seen, and in the distance are Woods Hole, Philadelphia and Port Arthur.

Admission to the house and on top, 10 cents. Also for sale fresh roasted Peanuts, Tonics, home-made candies, &c., &c.

"O Breeze that fans your throbbing brow,
O birds that speed with noiseless flight,
Speak, speak and whisper to them now these words:
'Poet's Corner is all right.'"

I roast for all.

ELISHA POPE FEARING GARDNER.

The American Napoleon.

From Leslie's Weekly.

Although Prince Victor Napoleon has for years been posing as the Bonapartist pretender to the throne of France, his claim to that empty distinction is now disputed in behalf of an American. Many Bonapartists have of late come to regard young Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte of Baltimore as the rightful chief of the Bonaparte family. This scion of the famous house lately sailed to Europe to visit ex-Empress Eugénie at her residence in the Riviera. It was through Eugénie's influence, when she was still a sovereign, that the French council of state decreed as valid the marriage of King Jerome Bonaparte to Miss Elizabeth Patterson of Baltimore and proclaimed as legitimate the son born to that union. As tracing descent from this first marriage, Jerome Napoleon Bonaparte takes precedence over Princes Victor and Louis, who are descended from King Jerome and his second wife.

Polite South Carolina Judge.

From the Anderson Mail.

South Carolina members of the Daughters of the American Revolution, the national convention of which was held in Washington last week, are very much pleased that a lady from this State, Mrs. Nicholls of Spartanburg, was elected as a vice-president-general of the society. The ladies were so immensely pleased that they sent the following telegram to Judge Nicholls of Spartanburg:

"You are now the husband of a vice-president-general. SOUTH CAROLINA DELEGATION."

Judge Nicholls was quick to respond, and this was his telegram:

"I appreciate the honor South Carolina has been instrumental in conferring on Mrs. Nicholls. For my part, I accept the reflected honor and promise implicit obedience to her excellency the vice-president-general. MRS. NICHOLLS'S HUSBAND."

We Have Seen Her.

Stella—What is she like?

Bella—Well, she is a woman with a past before her.

Very.

Father—Didn't that young man kiss you last night?

Daughter—Er—that's—a ticklish question.

THE SENTIMENT OF THE SOUTH.

A Reply by a South Carolinian to the Letter of Gen. Roger A. Pryor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was surprised, as were, I suppose, many Southerners, by the letter of Gen. Roger A. Pryor in THE SUN of May 2. To the republication of his excellent letter of Oct. 5, 1867, there can be no objection, and that letter, barring his hope "in a quiet way to repair the evil I contributed to bring upon the South," would be heartily approved by any Southern man of sense.

It is to the following paragraph of his letter to the editor of THE SUN that I would like to call attention. He says:

Dr. James Ford Rhodes and other writers of repute impute to me a conspicuous instrumentality in the assault upon Fort Sumter, universally recognized as the immediate occasion of the war of secession. From the blame thus urged against me I shall attempt no exculpation; but you will allow me, I trust, to shew in extenuation that for the wrong I committed I endeavored to make all possible reparation by a prompt avowal of devotion to the integrity of the reestablished Union.

Confederate Generals have accepted the arbitrament of the sword, or what some call "the logic of events," after Appomattox, in various ways. The list of those who thought they thought it their duty to join the Republican party included Generals James Longstreet of Georgia; Mahone, Wickham and Walker of Virginia; James H. Chalmers and P. B. Starke of Mississippi; George Maney of Tennessee, and W. H. Parsons of Texas. Among officers of a lower rank who joined the Republican party were Col. J. S. Mosby of Virginia and Col. James L. Orr of South Carolina.

Then there was another class of Confederate generals who appeared to be more than pleased with the result of the struggle, such as Gen. R. E. Colston of Virginia, who, I believe, expressed his surprise, if not gratitude, at the magnanimity of the Federal Government in not hanging or shooting the Confederate leaders after the war; and the venerable Gen. E. P. Alexander, Longstreet's chief of artillery, who in his eloquent speech at West Point, about two years ago, intimated that had the Confederacy succeeded the new Government would have resembled many South American republics and would soon have had internal revolutions and split into fragments, a view universally accepted in this section of the Union.

There was still another class, to which nearly all the Confederate leaders belonged. They were, and the few survivors are, entirely loyal to the restored Union; and they were glad and willing, like Fitzhugh Lee and Wheeler and M. C. Butler, to fight for "Old Glory" as gallantly as they had fought against it; yet they were not willing to "extenuate" or "make all possible reparation" for "the wrong they had committed," for they denied, and the survivors still deny, having committed any "wrong" in fighting for constitutional liberty and States Rights and against "the lust for power and territorial domination." The views and principles of these gentlemen were perhaps best expressed in the statement of Gen. Robert E. Lee to Gen. Wade Hampton, after the war, "that under similar conditions he would act again precisely as he had done in the war for Southern independence." I may not quote the exact words, but I am certain that was the gist of the statement I heard from Gen. Hampton. Here is his address to the United Confederate Veterans at Richmond some years ago. It was to this last class that I supposed Gen. Pryor to belong until he expressed in THE SUN last Tuesday his desire to make all possible reparation for the wrong he had committed.

In his declining years, surrounded by "all the old man's blessings, love, honor, obedience, troops of friends," there is something pathetic to me in this apology by Gen. Pryor for his participation in the bombardment and capture of Fort Sumter. Does he reflect that the verdict of history as to the tremendous issues involved in that bombardment has not yet been made up; that the world may not accept the conclusions of Goldwin Smith, Rhodes, Burgess, Schouler, McMaster, Rosaiter Johnson and the European writers who believe as they do; that his (Gen. Pryor's) grandchildren may see no grounds for any apology or extenuation of his acts at the opening scene of that stupendous tragedy, the war between the States?

William Henry Trescot of South Carolina said that "history may declare another verdict than ours; * * * the firing of the first gun on Fort Sumter may, in after days, be regarded as the first rash act of a wild and fatal delusion." That appears to be Gen. Pryor's view, as well as that of all the Northern historians and some professors of history even in Southern colleges, such as Prof. Dodd of Randolph Macon, Prof. J. S. Bassett of Trinity and, possibly, of Prof. Houston of the University of Texas.

But who can say that the speculation of Mr. Trescot will certainly be realized? May not the oratorical flight of Gen. John S. Preston of Virginia have a significance in after times that few of us now expect? Gen. Preston said: "The day will come when every ship from every land which sails on toward the shores of Carolina will trail its flag and toll its bell, and men of every nation will stand uncovered as they pass the ruins of Fort Sumter."

None of Gen. Pryor's compatriots at Fort Sumter of whom I have heard ever made such an apology for his acts. Certainly no such explanation or extenuation was ever heard from Generals Beauregard, Ripley Elliott, Wigfall, or Porcher Miles, or from the still surviving Generals, Stephen D. Lee or Samuel W. Ferguson.

In closing let me commend, with all respect, to Gen. Pryor the words of a brother Virginian, the late Virginius Dabney, who lived in New York for many years, and filled here a Federal office of trust:

"When a stepmother is installed in the house, you may think her vastly superior, if you will, with her velvets and her lace and her diamonds, to her that bore you, and you may perhaps win fame as an original thinker by saying so to the world; but there is a certain instinct of manhood that would seal the lips of most men. And I, for my part, know many very, very manly Northern men; and not one of them seems to wish to have me grovel in the dust and cry *recocci*. Would it not have been a disgrace to them to have spent, with all their resources and odds, four years in subduing a race of strivers? No; let us say to the end: you were right in fighting for your country, we equally right in battling for ours. The North will, the North does respect us all the more for it."

NEW YORK, May 7. CHARLESTONIAN.

Notes of Foreign Enterprise.

The German Over-Sea Bank is establishing branches at La Paz and Oruro in Bolivia.

The Deutsche Bank is placing a $40,000,000 4 per cent. Mexican gold loan upon the Berlin market.

In Berlin the 5 per cent. gold loan of the Sao Paulo Railway, Brazil, has been issued at 96 and amounts to $3,000,000.

Queensland, the great northern state of the Commonwealth of Australia, has an unfathomable wealth of mineral deposits, besides large forests of valuable timber. It can furnish vast quantities of frozen meat, tallow, hides and pastoral products. Its possibilities in the production of sugar, cotton, tobacco, coffee and a host of tropical products can scarcely be gaged. Factories are springing up for making butter (twenty-five now running) and other things. There is an influx of land buyers. At present good land can be had for from $3.25 to $5 an acre. All that Queensland needs is people and money to work out its great resources.

Money is easy in France. The French allotment of shares in the Central Mining and Investment Corporation (the new South African trust) were applied for nearly ninety times over. Subscribers get only about 1¼ per cent. of their applications. Already the shares are at 13 per cent. premium. That reads a good deal like the days of John Law and the first days of the French Panama Canal.

Argentina is piling up gold received for its excess exports. The conversion office now holds $69,000,000 gold—the most it ever held—partly against the republic's paper money. So much money lying unproductive is causing anxiety to the Government. Part of it may be sent to England and used.

Buenos Ayres has a building boom, notwithstanding strikes and high priced materials, old buildings being replaced by mansions and shops with big plate glass windows. Electric tramways are extending in all directions. Rents keep up because the demand continually increases. Ten thousand immigrants arrive monthly, but far too many stop in the city.

Brazil's exports increased $12,500,000 gold in 1904. Of this $4,400,000 was for coffee. The coffee planters got about $10,000,000 more for their crops than in 1903. American capitalists are scouring Brazil for profitable investments. They are buying tramways and other properties freely, besides securing large slices of Brazil's vast land area. In the province of Patagonia settlement and agriculture are developing fast.

Lancashire exported 1,520,000,000 yards of cotton goods in the three months ended March, 1905. That is 153,000,000 yards more than the first three months of 1903. Of that increase China took 83,000,000 yards.

The Optimist.

Your butcher sends you steak that's tough,
And yet his bills attest,
There's no disputing it at all,
He means it for the best.

NEW THINGS AT ART MUSEUM.

Annual Report Announces Change—American Paintings Added.

The trustees of the Metropolitan Museum of Art in their thirty-fifth annual report announce several gifts and additions to the collections which will be opened to the public next week. Edwin Lord Weeks's "Last Voyage" and John S. Sargent's portrait of William M. Chase have been placed on the second floor in Gallery 13, which has been given over entirely to the work of American painters.

The Gold Room has received a valuable addition in the Adams Vase, presented to Edward Dean Adams by the American Cotton Oil Company, and given in turn by Mr. Adams to the museum. The vase is of pure gold and the decoration portrays the growth and development of the cotton plant. It is the work of Paulding Farnum, and the artist's principal assistants as well as every piece of material are distinctly American.

A change has been made in the arrangement of the galleries by which the metal reproductions, from the imperial, church and private collections of Russia, were transferred from Gallery 24 to Gallery 9 on the second floor.

Large additions have been made to the collections of Egyptian antiquities, the Graeco-Etruscan bronzes and the Morgan collection of Chinese porcelains. The Crosby-Brown collection of musical instruments has received a reproduction of an ancient Egyptian lyre from the Cairo Museum and specimens of the instruments used by the natives of the Bering Straits.

MAYOR FAVORS OLD STUDY PLAN.

Writes to Tifft Protesting Against Abolishing Last Year Electives.

Mayor McClellan has taken a stand against the abolition of the last year course of elective studies in the public schools, as proposed in a recent resolution introduced in the Board of Education. In a letter which he recently wrote to President Tifft of the board he said:

"I am sure that you appreciate as I do the value of a proper study of French and German, and that the opportunity should not be denied to any pupil who desires to equip himself with either of these languages."

The Mayor's letter was written after he had received a protest from Herman Ridder against cutting out, not only French and German, but Latin and stenography.

In his reply Mr. Tifft told the Mayor that the resolution calling for the elimination of elective studies had not passed the board, but was now being considered by the committee on studies and textbooks. The present course of studies has been in effect somewhat less than two years, he said, but sufficient time has doubtless elapsed to determine its usefulness and value. He promised that the subject would be canvassed most thoroughly by the committee, in the light of all information obtainable.

LEATHER MEDAL FOR JEROME.

Looks as if Maybe It Came From the Poolroom Patriots.

The first real medal that Mr. Jerome has received since he became District Attorney came to him yesterday. It got to the District Attorney's office in the first morning mail. It was of leather, attached to the safety pin of commerce by a piece of elastic suspender. On the medal was this inscription:

"Presented to William Travers Jerome by the Benevolent Order of Racetrack Gamblers for his zealous persecution of common criminals and his heroic efforts to punish all who would interfere with our order in the pursuit of pelf and pleasure."

Mr. Jerome was very much amused at the gift and tacked it to his desk, where every one who enters his office can see it.

TEACHING PHILANTHROPY.

Paid and Unpaid Places to Which Graduates of the School May Aspire.

Edward T. Devine of Columbia, who is director of the School of Philanthropy, endowed with $250,000 last fall by John S. Kennedy, has formulated plans for an expansion of the school's curriculum. The plans will become operative at the opening of the school year of 1905-06.

Mr. Kennedy's gift will be used to found the Kennedy lectures. S. N. Patton, professor of political economy in the University of Pennsylvania, will deliver a series of lectures on the "New Basis of Civilization." Fifty other lecturers have been engaged for the year's work. Mr. Devine said yesterday: