The Sun.

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The President and the Bar.

Perhaps the members of the several associations of lawyers of the American bar may deem it worth while to look carefully into the allegations respecting their conduct, or the conduct of some of them, which President ROOSEVELT made in the presence of the Harvard alumni. The speaker, the audience and the occasion seem to justify, if they do not require, rather careful heed to the President's utterances, either by way of commendation or criticism.

The cry is a long one from slugging in a college football game to the conduct of "the most influential and most highly remunerated members of the bar in every center of wealth" in our country, but the President attempted it with more or less continuity of thought. It is as difficult to conceive of a culpable and leading participant in a brutal and unskilful college football game rising to the highest rank in the practise of the profession of law, where the toil is indoors and sedentary, as to think of the late Mr. O'CONOR or Mr. EVARTS as captain of a baseball team or a university boat crew. But such phenomena may yet be, and therefore the timeliness of President ROOSEVELT'S warning to Harvard and the bar associations.

It was nevertheless very startling to be told by him of facts which he said "we all know," and among them that:

> "As things actually are, many of the most influential and most highly remunerated members of the bar in every center of wealth make it their especial task to work out bold and ingenious schemes by which their very wealthy clients, individual or corporate, can evade the laws which are made to regulate in the interest of the public the use of great wealth. Now, the great lawyer who employs his talent and his learning in the highly remunerative task of enabling a very wealthy client to override or circumvent the law is doing all that in him lies to encourage the growth in this country of a spirit of dumb anger against all laws and of disbelief in their efficacy."

Every good citizen will certainly hope and pray that the bar associations of the land will be able to convince the President and the public that he has been misinformed and misled, and that his intercourse with lawyers has been unfortunate.

We prefer to think, and do believe, that our really "great" lawyers are as competent to advise, and do advise, their clients as wisely regarding what a gentleman can and cannot honorably do in the matters referred to by the President as in regard to the requirements of the prevailing statute law and common law. The code of the several bar associations should require, and probably does require, each member to throw back at a client's head a retainer offered to induce the doing, or attempting, of the things described by the President.

The President will, we are quite confident, on further reflection modify his utterances to the Harvard alumni regarding "the most influential and most highly remunerated members of the bar in every center of wealth."

All for the Grocery.

Tammany is to have none of the hundred new jobs created by the Legislature this year in the Bureau of the State Superintendent of Elections. All are to go to the chairwarmers who gather daily around the Grocery. Tammany acts as though it felt that in decency some of the new sinecures should be allotted to it. But Tammany does not understand the situation.

Even the most prosperous of Groceries cannot forever exist if all the profits are eaten up by the chairwarmers. Their society is delightful, but unremunerative. Their hands are ever in the cracker barrel. They slice the cheese generously. The dried currant box shows the effect of their hunger. The supply of prunes dwindles under their attacks. Reluctantly the Grocery sees that if profits are to be kept up incomes must be provided for the chairwarmers. Here comes in the handy taxpayer, the good natured, long suffering public.

"Put the chairwarmers on the public's payroll, and thus preserve the profits of the Grocery to its Proprietor!" that genial citizen exclaims. On the payroll they go, and the Grocery is relieved of a burden. But why should the Grocery furnish crumbs to Tammany? Tammany is not a Grocery chairwarmer. It does not pilfer from the Grocery's stock. Its hand is not in the cracker barrel. It does not slice off the Grocery's cheese.

The new jobs under the State Superintendent of Elections were created for the relief of the Grocery. Under these circumstances it is manifestly unfair that Tammany should ask for any of them. Besides, for Tammany to ask for them is foolish. The Grocery intends to keep all of them.

The Progress of China.

KANG YU WEI, the Chinese reformer, says that all the educated men of his country are reading many Western books of learning that have been translated into their language. Perhaps no one has been so influential in bringing about the encouraging innovation as this man who had to flee for his life on account of his progressive ideas.

He had been an exile for more than two years when the Chinese Board of National Administration, just organized in 1901, wrote of "the rebellion of KANG YU WEI"; yet this same board, in the same paper, used such expressions as these, which were approved by the Chinese Government:

> "To combine Chinese and Western ideas and harmonize them will be very proper.
>
> "The administration of the law should be thoroughly reformed and restored to its early condition. What is lacking in the Chinese law should be supplied by an admixture of Western law, so that in time we may gradually become wealthy and strong.
>
> "In every matter we should, with attentive minds, make careful inquiry. All Chinese books on Government matters together with the various kinds of Western books that have been translated at Shanghai should be kept for reference and study in the office of this board.
>
> "Japan's change of methods is quite recent and she has attained to strength and prosperity. We may derive instruction from it. The Chinese Minister to Japan should be instructed to report to us all changes in Government methods that have been adopted and have proved advantageous.
>
> "All Chinese Ministers to the various countries should be instructed to report for our consideration the financial measures and commercial and industrial legislation that prevail abroad.
>
> "The hearts of the Chinese must first be rectified, and then they may imitate the excellent methods of the West."

The reformers of 1898, led by KANG YU WEI, were not so conservative as the men who included the words we have quoted in the regulations for the conduct of their office, but the reformers kindled the desire, now evident all over China, to study the methods of the West and adopt those that are likely to add strength to the State.

The Portentous News From Russia.

In spite of persistent attempts on the part of the Russian officials to conceal the truth, we now know that the mutiny on the Russian battleship Kniaz Potemkin has not been suppressed, but that, on the contrary, the crew of the Georgei Pobiedonosets, the most powerful of the remaining vessels in Admiral KRUGER'S squadron, which was despatched from Sebastopol to Odessa, joined the rebels. Moreover, the Admiral, despairing of being able to put down the insurrection with the untrustworthy material at his disposal, has ordered the rest of his warships to be dismantled, and has left the Black Sea littoral at the mercy of the mutineers.

It is possible, according to censored telegrams, upon which little reliance can be placed, that the crew of the Georgei Pobiedonosets, not alive to the impotence of the naval commander-in-chief, may surrender to the military authorities at Odessa, but the Kniaz Potemkin, having obtained the supplies for which she went to a Rumanian port, will, with her attendant torpedo boats, be master of every unfortified harbor on the southern coast of Russia. The startling outcome of the mutiny will, of course, be interpreted throughout the Czar's dominions as a triumph for the revolutionists, and it is significant that on Friday, June 30, the mutineers landed men with a telegram addressed to the Emperor, in which the immediate concession of a constitution was demanded under the threat of a bombardment of the city. That the revolt was engineered by revolutionists is further indicated by the proclamation which was attached to the dead body of the sailor sent ashore at Odessa and which ended with the slogan of the party: "One for all, and all for one." It remains to be seen whether the propaganda so successfully conducted in the Black Sea fleet may not have been prosecuted with equal efficiency in the army.

There are signs, indeed, that simultaneous uprisings were planned, for the mutiny on the Kniaz Potemkin was quickly followed by a formidable outbreak among the sailors at Libau, on the Baltic, in which naval station thousands have been for some time quartered. Since then we have had reports of similar movements at Reval, also an important Baltic seaport, and even at Cronstadt, which naval fortress, we need not say, may almost be described as a suburb of St. Petersburg. If any one of the Baltic ports could be held under the guns of mutinous battleships the insurrectionists would have a base for military operations in close proximity to the capital. For that reason the proof that the spirit of disaffection has spread to the remnant of the Baltic fleet must be even more alarming to the Czar's reactionist advisers than the news from Odessa. According to a recent telegram, the War Office has suspended the execution of the order calling out the reserves in the districts of St. Petersburg and Moscow. Evidently the Grand Ducal coterie dreads the effect which the naval mutiny may have upon their minds, and deems it inexpedient to put arms in their hands at this conjuncture. Whether, if any large body of reserves should raise the revolutionary flag, any of the regiments belonging to the standing army, except the Cossacks, could be relied upon to fire upon them is a question on the answer to which may depend the fate of the revolution. It was generally believed at the time, and the belief is shared by many historians, that in France the *ancien régime* might have been saved if the military authorities had put down the first signs of revolt with promptitude and rigor. That was the conviction expressed by NAPOLEON BONAPARTE when, a young and obscure officer, he watched the massacre of the Swiss at the gate of the Tuileries, and he acted on the principle when, some years later, he was called upon to put down the uprising of the Paris Sections.

The leaders of the revolution doubtless know whether they have been as successful in infusing an insurrectionary spirit in the army as they evidently have been in the navy. It will be remembered that the other day at Lodz one regiment refused to fire upon the people. That its example would be widely followed must seemingly be taken for granted in Liberal circles at St. Petersburg and Moscow; otherwise the zemstvoists of those cities would scarcely have ventured to commit the defiant acts made known by a Russian correspondent to the readers of THE SUN. We refer to the manifesto in which Prince TROUBETSKOI and other Liberal members of the recent deputation to Peterhof made known to their constituents that the Czar's answer to their petition for reforms was unsatisfactory and equivocal. This announcement is said by our correspondent to have been followed forthwith by a declaration on the part of the zemstvos in the cities named that unless the reforms demanded are put in effect by July 15 they will, on that day, proceed to organize constitutional governments within their districts. This is equivalent to a warning that a revolution is at hand, and can be averted only by quick and large concessions.

There is no reason to suppose that the counselors who have the ear of NICHOLAS II. will prove more sagacious and farsighted than were those of LOUIS XVI. The former may call upon M. WITTE, as the latter called upon NECKER; but the chances are that he will call too late.

A Subject Which Interests Many of Our Correspondents.

We continue to receive letters on the subject of "true love." They are uniformly well written and in general they are elevated in tone. Out of the whole number not more than two are at all sympathetic with the woman lawyer whose case we were obliged to treat somewhat drastically.

The subject, however, is rather darkened than elucidated by the attempts of our correspondents to give expression to views on it which will serve the general good. That sentiment defies any exact definition, and philosophy is wasted on it. Temperament has very much to do with it. Propinquity usually furnishes the stimulus for it. At this season when young people are crowded in seaside and mountain hotels and are together in outdoor sports it is most irresistible. Probably the great majority of the reciprocal confessions which produce "engagements" are of summer provocation.

Many of our correspondents seem to be agitated with fears that the irregular notions put forth by the woman lawyer will lead young people astray; but their alarm is needless. The sentiment of the great body of the public on the subject of which she wrote so anarchically is sound and irreversible by any argument which eccentric morbidity can put forth. If usually normal people go wild in that matter they know very well that they are wrong and they do not appeal to sophistries to make a defense for them. They know, or they soon find out, that they must pay a painful penalty for departing from the social order. That penalty, cruel and inexorable, is always before the eyes of civilization.

The conservatism of society is one of its most obvious manifestations and the institution of marriage is its most conservative feature. Even divorce itself is an indication of respect for the institution as established by civil and ecclesiastical law and by the requirements of social custom. It is a recognition that matrimony imposes an obligation which cannot be thrown off except by public consent, as expressed in laws providing reasons and methods for dissolving the contract.

The prevalence of divorce in this country, as to which so much alarm is expressed from the President downward, is rather an indication of a sense of moral accountability and of regard for the restraints of marriage than a symptom of moral looseness; though, of course, it proves that the sacramental obligation of matrimony, as taught by the Roman Catholic Church, is disregarded. An application for divorce under the civil law expresses respect for marriage conventions rather than defiance of them. It expresses a spirit of lawfulness, not of anarchy, of obedience and not immoral rebellion. So far from suggesting a departure from social conservatism it proves the dominance of that conservatism. It is a tribute to the institution which is held first in veneration by society.

The question as to the social advisability of allowing divorce is another matter. Practically it is settled in the affirmative in every State of this Union, save South Carolina, and by every Church except the Roman Catholic. Whether divorce be legally or ecclesiastically sanctioned for a single cause or for various causes, the principle is the same—matrimony is made dissoluble. And when once made dissoluble there are reasonable arguments in favor of any cause of dissolution which defeats the purpose of the relation and makes it an intolerable hardship; and as a matter of fact the great majority of the divorces granted in this country are to women for other than the prime cause of distinct and flagrant immorality. Desertion, introduced with Protestantism, is the most frequent cause. Between 1867 and 1886, the last period of which the Federal Government obtained the divorce statistics, nearly two-thirds of the divorces were granted to wives, and of these, two-thirds again were for reasons apart from the prime offense against the marriage relation. Except on the theory of the Roman Catholic Church that any departure from the sacramental obligation of matrimony for any cause is a step toward the dissolution of social morals, those statistics cannot be regarded as indicative of moral declension.

That is, unless the Roman Catholic view that matrimony is indissoluble as a religious obligation shall be accepted, the causes of divorce are likely to remain substantially unchanged in the American States, even after the statistics of divorces are brought up from 1886 to the present year, according to the duty now imposed on a Federal bureau. Such statistics, it may be assumed, will show results similar to those obtained in the twenty years before, or that in America the great preponderance of divorces are granted to wives for causes which do not involve defiance of the prime obligation of the personal relation of marriage. They will prove anew the conservatism of society respecting that fundamental institution. Under the theory of the woman lawyer no divorce would be necessary; "true love" would be left to pursue its vagaries unchecked by public sentiment.

The Devil in Maine.

Boyd Lake, Me., is having a religious revival. Six of its leading citizens are under bail because they disapproved of the revivalists. One girl, 15 years old, has died, her family believe, on account of the religious excitement she experienced. Another young girl is very ill. The revival presents all the phenomena usually observed under similar conditions—the hysterical men and women, the abandonment of family, friends and property by its victims; and while its promoter disclaims any connection with SANFORD, the Shilohite, his methods are similar to that interesting man's.

What manner of man is it that can turn a community of hardheaded down-easters upside down? The *Portland Press* describes THOMAS R. FRANCIS, the Boyd Lake evangelist, thus:

> "FRANCIS stands about 5 feet 6 inches, weighs a bit over a hundred pounds, and is slender. His hair is dark and his forehead exceedingly low. The hair is matted, worn over the forehead so that it joins the brows, giving him rather an unkempt appearance. His whiskers are thin and straggling. The man says he never shaved in his life."

FRANCIS says he is a native of Westport, Mass., and that his father was a clergyman. He attended a Baptist academy at Northampton, Vt., and while a student he "felt a call to preach." He went to Dartmouth, Mass., and there, according to his own story, "he endeavored in his weak way to spread the Gospel." He has never been ordained as a minister in any Church. In his services he is assisted by a WILLIAM BRADEEN, "a churchless Free Baptist minister." They have gathered a considerable congregation, and the six Boyd Lakers now under indictment with a number of other citizens, alarmed at the spread of the Francis cult among their neighbors, set forth one night to tar and feather FRANCIS, and drive him from town. They did not carry out their purpose, but his adherents had as many of the vigilants as they could identify arrested.

Descriptions of the proceedings at the Francis meetings have a familiar sound. The *Press* says:

> "Those who attended the meetings said that FRANCIS and BRADEEN would fall upon one another's neck, weep, hug and kiss, cry to the Lord to save them, fall upon the floor and writhe about."

The followers of this prophet "lose all control of themselves, and are completely under the sway of the preacher." They see visions and dream dreams. The Devil is present:

> "At one of the meetings a man rose to testify and said that the night before he was awakened to find the Devil in his room. He described the appearance of the Evil One and said that he exhaled the odor of brimstone and was covered with a bluish light. As he looked he heard the bark of a dog outside the window. Instantly the Devil gave a jump and disappeared through the window, to be seen no more."

The Francisites are prepared to defend themselves against their unconverted neighbors. LYMAN PACKARD, a man of sixty, carries a repeating rifle to the meetings with him, and says to inquirers:

> "It's come to a pretty pass around here that a man can't go to church without carrying a gun to protect himself with."

Other converts bear arms, and if SATAN is really appearing in Boyd Lake, it is evident that he does so at considerable personal risk.

On March 31 last Japan and Corea entered into an agreement by which Japan assumes control of the post and telegraph service of the Corean Government. Hitherto Corea has been losing $150,000 each year in its post and telegraph. A continuance of this loss would bankrupt the limited Corean treasury. Under the agreement the Japanese Government is to prepare accurate statements of profit and loss, and all profits made are to go to the Corean Government. It is provided that when Corea is sufficiently advanced politically and economically to be able to administer the triple service properly and independently its administration shall be handed over to the Corean Government and that all necessary supplies and equipment shall be admitted in Corea free of duty.

This opens the way for American sales and contracts, and the agreement seems another proof of the honesty of Japan's assertion that she is not seeking territorial aggrandizement, but properly equipped and open avenues of commerce. The independence of Corea is not threatened by this agreement.

We did not do as well in completed steam railroad track construction in the first six months of this year as in any other similar period since 1898. The record is 1,284 miles by 122 roads. It is noteworthy that more than half of this new track, 669 miles, was laid in the fourteen Southern States by sixty-seven roads. Texas led with 123 miles, followed by Georgia, 96 miles; Alabama, 72 miles; North Carolina, 65 miles; Mississippi, 64½ miles; Kentucky, 58 miles; Arkansas, 45 miles; West Virginia, 44 miles, and others ranging from 3 to 29 miles. This is a good comparative showing for the South. In the North the track laid was 615 miles. North Dakota led with 98 miles, followed by Oregon, 92 miles; Indian Territory, 65 miles; Arizona, 45 miles; Minnesota, 38 miles, and the rest distributed over seventeen States. In twelve of the Northern States, including all the New England States, there was not a mile of track laid. It will be very different in the coming six months, as the track at present under construction is more than 7,000 miles.

Tipping in Turkey.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The various letters in THE SUN on "tipping" are quite interesting, but the practise in Turkey outdoes all the cases reported.

United States Consul-General Dickinson of Constantinople, Turkey, wrote in March last: "At the present time it requires five days to clear a parcel arriving by parcels post, and the greater the haste of the receiver to avoid loss of time the larger become the tips demanded, which often double, triple and even quadruple the duty."

How New York would howl if that were the practise at the New York Custom House. Your columns would not suffice to print the letters you would get from "Indignant Subscriber," "Anti-Graft," et al. A TIPPER (in moderation).

NEW YORK, July 3.

The Glorious Fourth.

Go ring the bells and fire the guns
And beat the sounding drum:
Hooray! Hooree! Our land is free,
And Johnny's lost his thumb.

Go ring the bells and fire the guns
That wake the early dawn,
From here to Maine and back again,
And Tommy's finger's gone.

Go fire the guns and ring the bells
And raise a merry shout
That tells the world our Flag's unfurled
And Willy's eye is out.

Go fire the guns and ring the bells
This day to patriots dear;
They're here to stay and point the way,
And Freddy's shy an ear.

Go ring the guns and fire the bells,
And though we pay the price
Of liberty, our boys are free
To make the sacrifice.
Hooray for the Glorious Fourth.

W. J. LAMPTON.

UNTIDY SPEECH.

A Brief Exhibit of Whittier's Conspicuous Offenses With "R."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The communications that have appeared from time to time in THE SUN on our untidiness of speech were sometimes edifying, occasionally interesting, frequently amusing. Of all literary personages it was most appropriate that Mr. Henry James, being himself a distinguished example of that whereof he spoke, should have been spiritually moved to lecture us.

True, there is a good deal of it; and not a little of it imported from the mother country, duty free,—whence Mr. Henry James. Much of it, however, is of native growth, provincial with ourselves. Southerners have been reviled because of their Africanized untidiness of speech. Westerners have been ridiculed because of their preposterous, untidy metaphoric exaggerations of our common tongue. Easterners and Northerners have been persistently indicting each other on numerous counts for criminal violations of the laws of our language, amounting to untidiness in its superlative degree.

New York, pluming itself in this, as in all else, as *sans reproche*, clumsily adopts the Chinese syllabic system, in which the phonetic function of our letter "r" is not to be found. She has, accordingly, eliminated that tip-tonguing guttural from her Manhattanese alphabet. She consequently calls herself "Noo Yawk" and speaks of all outsiders as "countwy bwed customehs with theih fathahs and mothas wecently awived in Noo Yawk to do some shoppin' and sightseein' heah in Bwoadway an' up in Fouhteenth stweet an' awound Union Squah." This, and such as this, is Manhattanese English, pure and undefiled, and for this untidiness Boston holds her in derision and scorn.

Now, untidiness is the antonym of neatness, and is therefore the synonym of slovenliness. And it is this latter manner of speech that New York, retaliating, persistently charges against Boston, as being the common mouthpiece of all New Englanders. And as to them, as long ago as the ear of that caustic cynic yclept Sam Slick, the nose was declared to be the principal organ of speech—"the very porch of the temple," as Mr. Slick proclaimed that prominent facial feature to be. Hence it came to pass that in Boston and all its principal dependencies the nasal sound of "ng" final could be conveniently uttered through that special organ of speech without the use of that final "ng"; and thereupon the "g" final was demitted; hence, to say "shootin'" and "huntin'" and "runnin'" and "swimmin'" and "readin'" and "writin'" and "cipherin'."

Now, it is well known to all the world and the rest of mankind that Boston long ago assumed the superlative literary sobriquet of "The Athens of America." Of course, those American Athenians spoke Greek—pure Bostonese Greek. To accommodate themselves to this they had to make sundry modifications of our American vernacular. And in doing this, whereas New York had repudiated the phonetic functions of our tip-tongued letter "r," Boston chivalrously corrected that New York solecism by putting that repudiated letter back into our language; but put it just where it was not wanted, and where it had never belonged. Thereby, in Bostonian Greek such of our words as saw, became sawr; law, lawr; draw, drawr; and so on.

Unfortunately, this untidiness not only pervaded their common Bostonian speech, but actually infected some of their choicest Athenian literature. Our eminent American poet John G. Whittier, whom we all admire and everybody loves, educated in and writing in the shade of Boston's Cambridge, unguardedly accepted this Bostonian Greek rho ephelkustikon for poetic euphony. Hence it happened that this form of untidiness is unfortunately found repeatedly in some of his poems, generally so remarkable for their beauty of versification. Thus in his "Laus Deo" is found this:

> When the cruel rod of war
> Blossoms white with righteous law—(lawr).

Again, in his "Brussels Convention" this occurs:

> In vain the vision which the Prophets saw—(sawr)
> Skirting with green the fiery face of War.

So, too, in his "Miscellanies" it is written:

> For England's Charter, Alfred's law—(lawr)
> Wage in your name their ancient war.

And in his "Panorama" this appears:

> And held a brute in practise, as in law—(lawr)
> Becomes in fact the thing he's taken for.

Other instances of this untidiness of speech, for which not Whittier but the "American Athens" is to blame, are found in similar perverted use of the phonetic "r" as in "The Merrimack":

> And autumn's rainbow tinted banner
> Hangs lightly o'er the Susquehanna—(banner).

Again, in his "Miscellanies," this is found:

> Dry thy tears for holy Eva—(Ever)
> With the blessed angels leave her.

And this is continued through the refrain of all the seven stanzas of that poem, where "Eva" is so pronounced as to be made to rime with "leave her," "give her," "river," "receive her," "never," "grieve her," "believe her."

I submit that this is not English: it is Bostonian Greek and British Cockney. It is to be regretted that Whittier fell into this lingual heresy. In all else of his 235 poems there is no word we would change, not a line to erase. I. J. ALLEN.

MORRISTOWN, July 1.

POLAND IN TRYING TIMES.

The Observations and Experiences of a Woman Traveler.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A Polish lady of this city, about five days before the recent massacre at Lodz, crossed the Russian frontier on a short visit to her old home. She had passed many times through the frontier town of Alexandrovo, but never, she writes, under such remarkable circumstances. At this place she was the only passenger, excepting a few peasants, on the through train between Berlin and Warsaw. Eastbound passenger traffic into Poland had almost ceased. On the other hand, the westbound trains from Poland were packed with well to do people who were leaving their country for a while.

She was a little surprised at the cheerfulness of Warsaw; for, though the military swarmed everywhere and all knew that the Baltic fleet had been destroyed, the theaters were open, the races were in progress, and hundreds of country gentlemen with their families had come in from their estates to attend them. The hotel where she spent the night was as crowded as usual at that season, and the dining room was brilliant with its throng of pleasure seekers and the orchestra that enlivened the dinner hour.

Still, there were evidences of terrible depression. Scores of factories had been closed and thousands of industrious craftsmen were out of work. Everybody wondered how the poorer classes would weather the critical times upon which the country had fallen. But the most surprising sign was the tone of the press, which was taking the utmost advantage of the increased license given to the newspapers a few months ago. All the Liberal papers were asserting that the misfortunes of the empire were due solely to the stupidity and corruption of a bureaucratic Government, and that a radical change in the system must precede any improvement in the present deplorable conditions.

In the country, where she joined her friends, the lady writes that she could scarcely believe the evidence of her senses. Instruction is being given in the schools in the Polish language for the first time in more than a generation. The Roman Catholic clergy are making the most of their newly granted privileges, and, without tact or discretion, are organizing processions, zealously proselyting, and making a great noise that may injure their cause; at least this is the opinion of the writer, who is herself a Catholic.

On the whole, the feeling among the educated Polanders is hopeful. They believe that the doom of bureaucracy is sealed, that the coming influences will be stimulating instead of repressive, and that, in the better days they look for, Russia will prosper as never before. If hopes are expressed for the reestablishment of Russian Poland as an independent nation, the writer did not mention them. OBSERVER.

NEW YORK, July 3.

The Biggest American Flag.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your issue of June 26 I find a news item in reference to "the biggest American flag" in the world, at Denver, Col. If the dimensions have been correctly stated, 115 feet by 55 feet, that flag is not the largest American flag in the world, to my certain knowledge, because there is one in the American Club in Mexico City that is 150 feet long and, I think, 60 or 70 feet wide. G. R. P.

NEW YORK, July 3.

In the Courts.

Prisoner—Do you think I will be acquitted?

Lawyer—I'm afraid not. The report is that three jurors dropped a pile in Wall Street, three picked losers on the track and one saw a straight flush.

The Glorious Day.

The usual division
Dame Freedom's day will show,
For Johnny gets the cracker,
The doctor gets the dough.

THE BLACK SEA MUTINY.

Its Probable Outcome and Consequences to the Russian Government.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The appearance of the mutinous Russian battleship at Kustendje, on the coast of Rumania, was to be expected after the failure of her crew to obtain provisions at Odessa. It was natural that they should seek the nearest foreign port, and unless they have sufficient coal on board to prolong their cruise until they receive some assurance of pardon or amnesty it is not likely that they will again enter a Russian harbor. The radius of action of the Kniaz Potemkin at ten knots is about 4,000 miles, so that unless she can replenish her bunkers in some way her career is destined to a speedy end.

By entering a foreign port a question of international importance has been raised, and it will be of much interest to see how it will be treated, there being no navy with ships of sufficient force in the Black Sea to compel submission, now that the Russian squadron in those waters is practically out of commission; and without the consent of Turkey and the European Powers no other ships can enter from the Mediterranean to repeat the operation of the British squadron against the revolted Spanish ships at Barcelona, at the time of the proclamation of the abortive Spanish republic years ago.

As, apart from the doubtful temper of the rest of the Russian Black Sea squadron, the Russian Government must wish to avoid the destruction of any of the few remaining ships of its navy, the Potemkin will probably be allowed to wander at large until it has reached the end of its resources, when the crew will drop anchor in some port on the Bulgarian or Rumanian coast and abandon the ship. The fact that the leaders of the mutiny have demanded a Constitution connects them with the revolutionary organization, which is to a certain extent a guarantee that they are patriots, although in revolt against the autocracy, and will not willingly destroy the nation's property. If they act in this spirit it will be wise on the part of the Russian Government to hesitate before proclaiming the men outlaws, if only to avert a greater revolt of the whole of its navy, and perhaps of the army, in sympathy with the outlawed mutineers.

The conditions all around are so peculiar that the authorities on the spot at Odessa and the Government at St. Petersburg may well be described as paralyzed. Compared with the situation in European Russia at this actual moment that in Manchuria becomes of small account, so that the issue of what is going on in Southern Russia becomes of vital importance to the dynasty and the bureaucracy. It would be of surpassing interest to know what is passing just now in the Ukraine, at Kieff and other places where the old spirit of independence has never entirely died out, and that have furnished Russia with so much of its intelligence. The situation in the Caucasus, where Prince Louis Napoleon is trying to master the disorders so wantonly provoked by the Galitzin administration and its successor, must be seriously affected by this mutiny in the Black Sea squadron, and would be more so by further defection in the land forces. Self-preservation, if nothing else, therefore, dictates to the Czar the immediate granting of most liberal political concessions all over the empire and clemency in dealing with disaffection, in order to place himself and his Government on solid ground in dealing with Russia's external troubles.

Failing that, with menacing reports from Sweden and threatening trouble in Hungary, all eastern Europe promises to be the scene of very grave events before the autumn. F.

NEW YORK, July 3.

MARRIAGE WITH THE UNBAPTIZED.

A Notable Decision by the Roman Propaganda Ratified by the Pope.

From the Tablet.

The American papers have recently been very full of a famous marriage case which has been before the ecclesiastical tribunals of Rome for a considerable time; last week they announced that it had been settled at last by a decision in favor of the validity of the second marriage of the Princess X. They were quite wrong, however, for the decision had been given the other way only a few days ago.

The facts are these: Some years ago a Catholic girl of the diocese of Baltimore became engaged to a Mr. Y. He was supposed to be a baptized Protestant, and a dispensation from the impediment "mixtæ religionis" was of course necessary. Mr. Y. willingly agreed that the children of the marriage should be brought up Catholics, a dispensation was applied for and obtained and the wedding took place with great splendor in Washington.

Some years later the domestic life of Mr. and Mrs. Y. was shattered; an appeal was made to the civil courts for a divorce, and a decree was issued dissolving the marriage and giving both parties liberty to contract a new marriage. Mrs. Y., being a Catholic, very properly regarded herself as still bound in the bond of wedlock until she learned one day that Mr. Y. had never been really baptized. She hunted up the evidence of this, and the evidence was conclusive. She then proceeded to argue that as she had been married to Mr. Y. on the supposition that he was a baptized Protestant, and as the dispensation from the impediment "mixtæ religionis," supposed to have been granted on this hypothesis, did not and could not cover her marriage with an unbaptized person the marriage must have been null from the beginning. Apparently she took counsel on the subject and was assured that she was free to marry again.

Shortly after she made the acquaintance of Prince X. and an attachment sprang up between them. The Prince was duly informed of the tangled situation, but, to make a long story short, Prince X. and Mrs. Y. were married. Everything seems to have gone smoothly until the birth of an heir to the Prince, and then his next of kin declared that they would dispute the legitimacy of the offspring on the ground that the Prince's marriage with a divorcée during the lifetime of her husband was invalid in Italy in the eyes of the State as well as of the Church.

The Prince and the Princess determined to put their case before Propaganda with full assurance that the Sacred Congregation would recognize the nullity of the first marriage. But the investigations of Propaganda led to an important discovery, to wit, that the dispensation granted for the first marriage was not from the impediment "mixtæ religionis," but from that of "disparitas cultus." The former, it may be explained, means that the persons contemplating marriage are both baptized Christians; the latter applies to a marriage between a Catholic and a person who has not been baptized, but it includes also the case of two baptized persons. Both before and after the marriage of Mr. and Mrs. Y. it was the custom in the Baltimore archdiocese to apply for the dispensation from the impediment "disparitas cultus" when one of the parties to a marriage was not a Catholic. Propaganda therefore answered the appeal of the Prince and Princess by the sentence: "Non constat de nullitate," that is to say, "The nullity of the Y. marriage has not been proven."

The Prince and Princess did not accept the verdict. They sought out fresh evidence and presented their case once more to the judgment of the Cardinals. The case came up at the last meeting of Propaganda, with the same result as before. This time, however, the decision as well as the entire controversy, was laid before the Holy Father, who not only ratified the judgment of Propaganda but gave orders that the matter should not be reopened. The decision is likely to cause a great sensation both in Rome and in America.

Respect for the Chinese.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Has not the time come for American newspapers and the American people to speak more respectfully of the Chinese? We have no more right to call them "Chinks" than they to call us "Yanks."

We are getting good Chinese trade and we want more of it. Persistent disrespect will not help our getting it, handicapped as we are with the Chinese exclusion act, and particularly with the rough, if not brutal, way in which that act is enforced by some American officials, who are both self-sufficient and ignorant—about the worst possible combination.

Of course the disrespect we show the Chinese here is repeated to China and creates prejudice there against Americans and American goods. We must respect the Chinese.

By the same rule we ought to stop calling the Japanese "Japs." WALTER J. BALLARD.

SCHENECTADY, July 2.

The Attache and the Czar.

From the Saturday Review.

We were pleased with an instance we came across the other day of the readiness of an attaché at the British Embassy in St. Petersburg. At dinner at the Palace he had the misfortune to upset his glass of claret. "Fait on cela en Angleterre?" asked the Czar from the other end of the table. "Oh, yes," was the answer, "but in England on ne le remarque pas."

Time Flies.

That little job no more delay
Nor "put off" to your sorrow,
But just remember that To-day
Was Yesterday's To-morrow.

JAPANESE USE OF TELEPHONES.

How They Laid Lines and Established Communication Between Parts of Army.

The rapidity with which the Japanese established telephone communication was remarkable, says the *Electrical Review*. Lines were laid well in advance of the main body of troops, even when the army was advancing by forced marches, and perfect connection was maintained at all times between the different divisions.

Wherever conditions permitted the reels of wire and the instruments were carried in wagons. The line was laid on the ground as rapidly as horse-drawn vehicles could advance. If the line so laid was to become permanent a detail followed the wagon at leisure and attached the wire to trees or hastily erected supports.

For "flying lines," or lines within the zone of action, which connected the commander's headquarters with the various divisions on the firing line, the detail following the reel wagon merely laid the wire in protected places on the ground where it was least likely to be disturbed. These lines were taken up, moved, or abandoned as occasion demanded. Where the nature of the country or other conditions rendered the advance of a wagon impossible or inexpedient, the line was advanced by men carrying coils of wire on their shoulders.

Each division was kept in touch with and under the supervision of the general staff by means of telephonic communication. From the subdivisions of each portion of the army telephone lines were run to a portable switchboard, and from the various switchboards trunk lines were run to headquarters several miles to the rear. Thus the parts of each portion of the army were made to correspond with the subscribers of a telephone sub-station in a large city, the headquarters being analogous to the central station to which all of the subsidiary stations are connected by trunk lines.

The Japanese General thus had complete control of his entire army and could work his forces to the best advantage at all times and under all circumstances; the movements so directed were at the same time quick and accurate. Moreover, for these reasons it was possible to use a much thinner line than ever handled previously, and also to reverse the usual order of procedure, namely, to extend and strengthen the flanks of the army at the expense of the center instead of depending, as heretofore, upon the center to help out the flanks in cases of emergency. He was able at all times to strike a blow at any weak spot that developed itself in the Russian line on account of the fact that he was instantly informed of such weakness by telephone, and because by the same means he could immediately give orders for the necessary attack.

FEATS OF WOMEN SPIES.

How Secrets of Nihilists Were Made Known to Russian Secret Police.

From Tit-Bits.

Russian history during the last twenty or thirty years would not have been what it has been if there had been no Vera Sassulitch, of whom nothing is heard in these days. When the famous Gen. Trepoff was only at the beginning of his career she was his invaluable assistant.

Trepoff was the detested enemy of the Nihilists, and he was very anxious to obtain inside information as to their doings and their plans. Suddenly, one day in 1878, he was fired at while driving through the streets of St. Petersburg by no other than Vera Sassulitch. She was at once seized by the soldiery and was charged with the attempted murder of Trepoff, being tried in the ordinary manner, but to the amazement of the public she was acquitted.

On her release the Nihilists gathered about her, desiring to admit such a friend of the people to their closest acquaintance. In this way she was admitted to all their private circles and was made acquainted with their secrets. These she at once communicated to the Russian Government. The truth was that the whole business, including the attempt on his life, was faked by Trepoff himself, and it was simply a clever ruse to get from the Nihilists what could not be got in any other way. Thereafter Vera Sassulitch played the part of Government spy on innumerable occasions.

There succeeded her as the Czar's chief spy one Emma Bellomo, who became the Countess della Torre. She was a woman of great mental ability and boundless ambition, and when her husband died she offered her services as special secret agent to the Czar and soon became indispensable to the Russian court. Whenever a document had to be secured she secured it, and she allowed nothing, not even a life, to stand in her way. By one remarkable and dramatic coup early in her career she obtained the unbounded confidence of the Czar. Information had been received by the Russian secret police that a plot against the monarch was being hatched conjointly in Rome and Paris. It was suspected that the plot was to be carried out through the instrumentality of a high official of the Czar's household, but all efforts to identify him failed.

Thereupon this woman spy was put on the scent, and she at once went to Rome, where she ingratiated herself with the Nihilists, and at last found out the name she wanted. She returned in haste to St. Petersburg and informed the Czar of what she had discovered, but he refused to believe her, as the man named was one of his closest attendants and most intimate friends. "Then," exclaimed the Countess, "I must prove to your Majesty that what I tell you is true. In half an hour I must crave permission to see you again."

When she left the Czar she at once sought out the officer in question and handed over to him a package of papers, impressing upon him that on no account must he allow them to leave his person. "Keep them with you," she said. "On your noble person they are safe; in my hiding place they may be found." Her fascinations were too much for the officer and he agreed. She then returned to the Czar and at once said to him: "I beg that your Majesty will now at once summon this gentleman to your presence, and that you observe closely the Count's deportment and features when he sees me at your side." A few minutes later the officer entered the apartment, and when he saw the Countess with the Czar he realized the state of affairs and turned pale with terror.

"It is as I informed your Majesty," said the Countess. "If you will search him you will find the proof." It was found in one of his riding boots. The Czar ordered that he should be exiled to Siberia for life, but there was a general impression that he was murdered in his cell.

Strange Rewards for Lifesavers.

From the Philadelphia Bulletin.

"I have seen a good many drowning accidents," said an old sea captain, "and I have seen a good many queer rewards. Once a young man rescued a young widow's little son from the sea. The widow, in her gratitude, asked for the young man's photograph. He sent it to her and two months later he received a magnificent painting, by Smith, that showed the scene of the rescue accurately, with the little boy and him, both perfect likenesses, struggling like mad in the water.

"A farmer, one of the Pinkertons told me, came from the West to meet a gold brick man. As the farmer and the swindler crossed on the ferry, the swindler fell overboard, and the farmer rescued him. He was so grateful that he gave the farmer a brick of solid silver.

"I saved a pretty girl from drowning in my youth," the captain ended. "She gave me a present that weighed 130 pounds. She gave me herself, and I've still got her. She may not be in as good condition now as she was then, but in my eyes, somehow, she is as sweet and pretty as she ever was."

The A B C of War.

Have you heard of the dark Japan EE
Who inhabit an isle 'cross the CC?
How they've now come to B
Most distinguished you C.
Well—for something beside raising TT!

For the Japan EE strategy YY
Proved a terror to Czar Nic two II.
Have they not at their EE,
In the language of PP,
Shelled and split him before the World's II?

L. G. WOODBERRY.