The Sun.

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If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned, they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

A Spectacle.

The process of purgation will be simplified considerably if Mr. BENJAMIN B. ODELL, Jr., continues his furious denunciations of President ROOSEVELT, Governor HIGGINS, THE SUN and everybody whom he regards as having contributed to his downfall.

The end will not come in the form of the disaster and defeat which he threatens to wreak upon the Republican party in this State in next year's election.

Long before he has that opportunity to exhibit his powerlessness against honest and decent Republican sentiment, his family is likely to have intervened with physicians and a commission *de lunatico inquirendo.*

The Great Railroad Crime.

The Hon. ERNEST E. WOOD, a Democratic member of the House of Representatives from St. Louis, tells that body solemnly that "the greatest question before the American public to-day is, in my opinion, that in reference to the regulation of interstate railroad and interstate terminal rates."

Mr. WOOD speaks from a heart bowed down by recollections of the outrage done him by an insolent and avaricious railroad corporation. He speaks as a victim and a martyr. This is his own carefully measured and restrained history of a great crime:

"Last summer I ordered from the stationery room of the House of Representatives 10,000 envelopes with the frank of my office printed thereon, and ordered them sent to me by freight at St. Louis. The clerk of the folding room wrote my name and address in St. Louis on the box and shipped it by the Pennsylvania Railroad. But they did not come to St. Louis, instead they went to East St. Louis and were there sidetracked. Eventually, after I had waited weeks for my envelopes, I wrote to the clerk of the stationery room, Mr. ELEHARTY, and received a letter in reply that he had sent them weeks before. Then I had to have them reshipped from East St. Louis across the river into St. Louis, and it cost me nearly as much to get that box of envelopes across the bridge as it did to send it all the way from Washington to East St. Louis. You see I was not a favored shipper of this company. If I had been a very big shipper, one of those whose trade they wished to foster and assist, undoubtedly my freight would have been shipped promptly across the river. But I was not so fortunate as to be on their favored list, and consequently my freight was sidetracked, and the excuse given was the congested condition of the terminals."

Even the mole eyed parasites of monopoly must see the sinister meaning of that sidetracking. It was the deliberate purpose of the railroad monopolists to suppress a tribune of the people, to prevent him from pouring his opinions about railroad regulation into ten thousand bosoms, at the expense of the United States.

The House of Representatives should investigate this foul and contemptible crime. It is far more than a personal insult to a tribune of the people. It is far more even than an attempt to violate the sanctity and diminish the influence of the franking privilege, that sheet anchor of our institutions. It is a blow at freedom of opinion. It is an attack on the dignity of the House.

Positive legislation should give franked envelopes the precedence over all other sorts of freight. For what avail the plough or sail, or land or life, if franking fail?

The Growth of National Self-Respect in China.

Since the termination of the Far Eastern contest, in which the Japanese proved themselves superior to their Russian opponents in respect of mastery of the scientific, sanitary and humane methods of modern warfare, a desire to follow Japan's example has taken deep root among intelligent Chinese, and with it a determination no longer to permit their country to be treated by the West as a barbarian and feeble Power.

The first recent symptom of an awakening of patriotism and national self-respect in China was the organized boycott of American products, which was intended to secure, and has secured, from our Federal Government a promise that hereafter our Exclusion act shall be applied to laborers only, and shall not subject merchants, students, travellers and even diplomatists to indignities. Upon what grounds, the Chinese have begun to ask, except that Japan is strong and China weak, is a sharp line of demarcation drawn by the United States between the Japanese and ourselves as regards the privilege of residing and working in the American republic?

Nor is this the only discrimination of which the Chinese, aroused to a sense of what is due their country, deem themselves justified in complaining. In Japan the Western Powers no longer arrogate the right of maintaining at treaty ports the régime of ex-territoriality, but recognize that the jurisdiction of Japanese tribunals extends over foreigners as well as natives. From this point of view no distinction is now drawn between Japan and the most enlightened nation on earth; whereas China, which imparted to Japan all the civilization which that country ever possessed before the overthrow of the Shogunate, is herself treated by Western Powers as a half civilized land, whose courts are incapable, it is assumed, of administering impartial justice.

The rioting in Shanghai the other day was, like the earlier outbreak, an outcome of anti-foreign sentiment, but it was not directed against American citizens, but British subjects. The latest disturbers of public order in that treaty port were exasperated, not by the contumelious handling to which Chinese travellers have been exposed at the hands of the American officials charged with the enforcement of the Exclusion act, but by the fact that a foreign settlement in a Chinese treaty port constitutes an *imperium in imperio*, all Chinese residents therein being subject to the jurisdiction, not of native tribunals, but of "mixed consular courts," organized in pursuance of the ex-territoriality principle. At Shanghai the French have a mixed court of their own, which controls their own precinct. The British, German and American precincts are united for judicial purposes, having a mixed court constituted as follows: By the side of a Chinese magistrate, who sits every week day, a representative of the British Consulate sits as assessor two days of the week, a German official on two other days, and an American official on the two remaining days. Among other things, this court has jurisdiction over all licenses and taxes payable by Chinese residents in the British, German and American settlements, and the recent disturbance is said to have been caused by the alleged exorbitance of the license fee exacted by the British assessor. So serious was the uprising that the mixed court had to be closed; but order was soon restored by the naval forces of the Western Powers, and the mixed tribunal will doubtless be reopened presently, in pursuance of instructions sent from Pekin.

This is not by any means the first time that the irritation provoked by the mixed tribunals has found vent in riot, but the present incident is invested with unusual importance because it is one of many indications that Chinese pride, which long seemed dormant, is becoming sensitive to the insult implied in the system of ex-territoriality, an insult which Japan has refused to brook, and which there is no longer any fear that a Western Power would dare to offer her. The humiliation which any high spirited country ought to feel at being subjected to the ex-territoriality régime, but of which the Chinese until recently seemed hardly conscious, has been driven home to them by their recognition of the dignified position which Japan has been able to attain.

That neighbors of kindred stock, who for centuries before 1894-5 were despised and reviled in the Middle Kingdom, should have constrained Western Powers to place them on a footing of absolute equality, while Chinese courts are pronounced unfit to try a European, may well seem intolerably galling to a people which could fairly boast of being civilized when Germany, Gaul, Britain and the Mississippi Valley were occupied by half clad savages.

The Louisiana "Kid."

In spite of the Hon. JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS'S remarks about "kid" members, the Hon. JOHN T. WATKINS, a Louisiana freshman, spoke in public on the stage in the House Tuesday, and the judges gave him a good mark. "We all know," he said, "that it is the nature of a kid to butt in." The Louisiana kid even showed a certain sharpness in his budding horns. He butted at Mr. WILLIAMS and Democratic unity:

"Mr. Chairman, the leader of this side of the House gave an illustration only a few days ago to show why it is best on some occasions that the mouths of members should not open. But if we are to be consigned to the tomb or denominated likenesses of corpses because we remain silent, I prefer, at least, to open my mouth upon this occasion. It is said that a few years ago, before the manufacturing enterprises had attained the magnitude to which they have now come in the State of Alabama, where there was an abundance of coal and of iron and of limestone with which to flux the metal, and an abundance of forests, on one occasion an enterprising man from the North attended a funeral. He was inquisitive to know from what section of the country the beautiful horses came which were drawing the hearse to the grave. He was told the horses came from Kentucky, that the harness came from Cincinnati, that the hearse came from Chicago, that the coffin came from Pittsburg, and that the case in which the metallic casket was contained came from Maine. He was struck with astonishment that with all the facilities for making iron and steel and leather and wooden material none of these materials should come from the State of Alabama. Expressing his astonishment he asked 'What is it that the people of Alabama contribute on this occasion?' He was answered that they contributed the corpse and the hole in the ground. Mr. Chairman, I am afraid that unless we on this side of the House succeed better in agreeing upon the various propositions which have been discussed we may also be called upon to contribute in the future the corpse and the hole in the ground."

From these funeral similes the young Pelican turned to brighter things:

"Or we may be in the position that the young lady was placed in when she was not prepared to see the young gentleman who was visiting her. She sent down word by the green servant girl that at present she could not come in; that she was negligée. The servant did not correctly pronounce the expression which she had gotten from her mistress, and I am afraid that if we do not try to agree upon the various propositions that have been presented when we go back to give an account of our stewardship we will find ourselves as 'naked as a jay.'"

The mention of "jays" naturally steered the flight of the young statesman to the subject of life insurance. Valuable as are his remarks thereon, we much prefer to transcribe his eloquent and poesy dripping peroration:

"Now, Mr. Chairman, I have taken the authority of saying something with reference to what a new member has observed after a short stay in the capital. I do believe that the feeling, the inspiration, of patriotism is implanted in the hearts of every member of this national body. We are here to make the laws for the whole United States. We are here representing the people of this entire Government. We have a great and glorious country, one worthy of all love, all respect, of every emotion of patriotism. The oppressed of all lands and climes find here a harbinger of peace and plenty. Italy's balmy zephyrs kiss our Southern skies and Russia's congealing vapors envelop our Northern homes in robes of purest white. The prow of ocean's monster directs her course from America's beach and gladdens the hearts of an amazing world with products of her native home. With our network of railroads, telegraph and telephone lines, a home free to each of the adult citizens of our country, with our coffers groaning under the weight of our precious treasure, we defy the world to refute our claim that America is the most propitious land upon which a benignant sun doth shine to day. We are patriots. We love our country. We have a country worthy of our love. From the most remote antiquity man, whose soul ever stirred with patriotic emotions, has gone forth at his country's call and has staked his life and his sacred honor in his devotion to her cause. The war songs of every age and nation have awakened the strongest passions and have stirred the deepest emotions of her warriors. In the glorious achievements of those who have suffered in humanity's cause the bard has awakened the slumbering chord of his noble lyre and called forth the beatific strains which still float upon the tide of time. The grandest monument which can commemorate the deeds of men is that which the patriot erects in the affections of his countrymen."

Hooray! Let the eagle scream! Let the kid bleat!

Trade Relations With Germany.

Secretary ROOT'S solicitude in the matter of our trade relations with Germany is natural. His earnest effort to discover some method by which any injury to our trade may be prevented is precisely what we should expect of him. That he is casting about for possible alternatives is well known. But we do not like to credit the rumors that he is considering an expedient so irregular as that of playing hanky-panky with Treasury regulations in the custom house. That something of the kind may have been discussed with Secretary SHAW and others is possible. That such a course would be adopted seems most improbable.

It does not seem that the issue is sufficiently serious to justify the adoption of plans or policies debatable in themselves and most dangerous as precedents. The question of our trade relations with Germany is not new. It has not been sprung upon us suddenly. Germany's new tariff was adopted three years ago, although it was not given immediate effect. Last February, under its provisions, treaties were made with other European nations, and soon after that there was warning of an early denouncement of the present treaty with the United States. Although it was known that the new schedule would become operative at some early date, no attention was paid to the matter during the last session of Congress. We are now paying the penalty of our lack of foresight and our failure to give due attention to an important issue which stood immediately before us.

Germany is not at all anxious to engage in a trade duel with us. She will yield everything possible to avoid such a struggle. Whatever the outcome, a far heavier loss would fall on her than on us. Only the smaller portion of our exports would be affected, and the larger part of even those consists of foodstuffs, which Germany needs and for which we could undoubtedly find a market elsewhere. The exclusion of our breadstuffs and animal products, the lines in which our trade is most seriously menaced, would, through limiting competition, inevitably result in an increased cost of living to the German people, even now complaining of their burdens.

If nothing is done, some injury to our trade with Germany would follow. But with other markets open to us as they are, it seems improbable that the net loss to our commerce would be great enough to warrant the adoption of any debatable expedient for its aversion. If we prefer a loss of Chinese trade to a liberalization of our immigration laws, we must accept the consequences. If we have failed in prevision in our trade relations with Germany, it would be better to take our medicine, even if it be a little bitter, than to adopt any makeshift policy which might lead us at any time into deep water with other countries.

It is useless to attempt to blink the fact that sooner or later the tariff question must be faced. All of the important countries of Europe have adopted a new system. England is considering a change in her fiscal policy. Canada, Australia and South Africa are considering readjustment of their tariffs. Japan, looking forward, sees in her tariff an important factor in her industrial development. Some of our Latin American neighbors are discussing systems and schedules. We who boast of our commercial greatness are the laggards in adjusting our interests to the world movement. A little burning of our fingers in the German matter may waken us to the importance of getting a little nearer to the head of the procession.

Mr. ROOT can find a way to escape the immediate danger if anybody can. In avoiding Scylla we should keep a careful watch for Charybdis.

Exit Mr. Fitzsimmons.

It is highly improbable that Mr. ROBERT FITZSIMMONS will ever engage in another important ring fight. His collapse after the thirteenth round of his encounter with O'BRIEN was not caused by the punishment he received. It was the result of Nature's refusal to respond to the calls made upon her. FITZSIMMONS is too old to fight. He has the courage, the skill, the science—everything except the youth. He is 42, and that is an old age in the prize ring.

Since FITZSIMMONS won the heavyweight championship from CORBETT in 1897 he has been a popular fighter. His behavior has been better than that of many others in his calling.

He has been able to hold the confidence of his public. He has always given the best that was in him. FITZSIMMONS'S fights were never crooked. He gave a square deal in the squared circle.

The fate of Lanky BOB is the more instructive because he was not knocked out. He says he "can't account for that fainting fit." He does not want to account for it, for in doing so he must admit to himself that he is too old for the work that has made him famous and filled his purse.

The freckled, red "pug" from the Land of the Laughing Jackass is a pretty thoroughly acclimated American. In his long career he has met many game champions and beaten them. Among them there has not been a better man than ROBERT FITZSIMMONS, who retired from the prize ring December 20, 1905.

At Cornell there is a student organization known as the Cosmopolitan Club. Under the auspices of this club a series of "national evenings" has been arranged. The first of these, on December 15, was given by the Chinese members of the club. At this entertainment Chinese music was rendered, the refreshments were Chinese, and addresses were made by the Chinese students. Mr. Z. F. LIN, a graduate of Yale, who has had considerable experience of railroad construction in his native country, spoke on "Railroads in China"; L. C. LUN and K. T. TSAI discoursed on Chinese music; Y. H. LONG described Chinese social life, and C. H. KUAN was down on the programme for a "Chinese musical specialty."

The extent to which foreign lands are represented at Cornell is shown by the schedule of entertainments similar to that of December 15 arranged by the Cosmopolitan Club for the remainder of this college year, including Peru and Ecuador, the Argentine Republic, Holland and South America, India, France, Jamaica and Nicaragua, British Empire, Brazil, Russia and Rumania, Germany and Sweden.

Who will be more delighted than President ROOSEVELT to know that his recent Thanksgiving Day proclamation struck the *Figaro* of Paris as an extraordinary act of courage? The *Figaro* renders the proclamation into elegant French and proceeds to comment upon its significance. We borrow the *New York Times's* translation:

"These words, noble, simple and patriarchal, are spoken by the most modern President alive, by a man of audacious ideas, to that vast energy which in him American democracy is so exactly incarnated. This man has the courage to think and say that once a year it is necessary for his people to have a day of prayer and render thanks to Him who overwhelms them with benefits."

It is true that even so cautious and conservative a Chief Magistrate as GEORGE WASHINGTON issued a similar proclamation in 1789, but he had behind him a joint committee of the Senate and the House, who specially requested that the thing be done.

We observe that even while the fate of Watchman JOSEPH BUCKLIN BISHOP is trembling in the balance at Washington that servant of the normal is away down East in Boston lecturing for the canal with an energy and a fidelity that command our sincere admiration.

The rumor from Tahiti that the United States is to acquire from France sovereignty over that group of Pacific islands probably represents more the desire of the intelligent Tahitians and colonists than any purpose on the part of this country to acquire the islands.

Ever since the settlement between the Powers of the worrisome affairs of central Polynesia in 1899, by which Tutuila and its inimitable harbor of Pagopago fell to America, the French have been desirous of withdrawing from eastern Oceanica and of concentrating their efforts upon New Caledonia, the Loyalties and their settlements in the Loyalty group. The French possessions in the East comprise Tahiti and the Society Islands, which include it, the Low Archipelago, known also as the Paumotus or Tuamotus, and the Marquesas. Such a transfer would have no commercial and only the most remote strategic value to this country. But there would be a little touch of sentiment in linking our new growth with that of the past. The Marquesas were the first territory annexed to the United States. This act was performed with all due solemnity by Commodore DAVID PORTER in his heroic dash into the Pacific in the War of 1812, when the little Essex became a fleet by arming its prizes.

The new acquisition was then named the Madison Islands, and for a short period the government of the territory was vested in Midshipman DAVID GLASGOW FARRAGUT. The remains of PORTER'S fort and the tabernacle of the pole on which he hoisted the American flag have not yet been entirely effaced.

In the Cod Liver Oil Market

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* There has been a huge yield of cod liver oil this year in Norway and it would seem as if every Christmas tree might be adorned with a bottle or two. The quotations of this product vary in an interesting manner, owing to the great fluctuations in supply.

It appears that the smallest yield on record was in 1903. In that year only 2,800 hectolitres of oil were produced, for which 48,000,000 fish were sacrificed. The opening quotation in Norway was an equivalent of $53@$55 per barrel f. o. b. Later on came an invasion of seals from northern Russia which frightened away the Norwegian fish and prices kept advancing until $140 per barrel was the mark for the best standard brands. This was the limit, and quotations have since reacted to $40, $36, $32, and finally $16 a barrel.

This year there has been a reported catch of 45,000,000 fish, and the yield of oil has amounted to 42,000 hectolitres of 100 quarts of medicinal oil each. There is a great difference from one season to another in the amount of oil obtained from the same number of fish. Sometimes 14,000,000 fish will yield 9,000 hectolitres, while another season only 600 hectolitres will be obtained from the same aggregate. This is simply owing to the "fat" or the "lean" livers of the fish.

Sometimes this difference is so great that ten barrels of livers are needed to make one barrel of medicinal oil, while in other seasons five or even three barrels of livers will produce the same amount of oil. R. A. DIX.

NEW YORK, Dec. 19.

The Split Ticket at the Theatre.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Last Saturday evening two men of us went to the Grand Opera House, Twenty third street and Eighth avenue, where we asked for a pair of aisle seats. The box office man said they hadn't two together in the house and we would have to occupy separate seats. We knew there was a big crowd and accepted what was offered, feeling kindly disposed toward the management and willing to put up with some inconvenience. Going to our seats we found them on opposite sides of the aisle. We also found that all the aisles had the first seats held for singles. We got ourselves a little more conveniently located by trading with the men in front of us. They had been separated by the aisle as we were, and were quite willing to get closer together. Now, what in thunder is the object of that sort of splitting? Is it to give the ushers a chance to graft a bit in arranging the seats, or is it to hold aisle seats at an extra price? I don't see how it can be that, but the other is more apparent. It is an entirely new wrinkle in theatre seating, and I am curious to know what the management means by it. Perhaps THE SUN can perspicate and enlighten. SETTEK.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

Temperament of Divine Sarah.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A morning paper, criticising Sarah Bernhardt's representation of *Magda*, says that "her Gallic temperament is her stumbling block in Sudermann's play."

Considering that she is a full blooded Jewess, one of whose parents was born in Holland and the other in Germany, and that she has not a drop of French blood in her veins, it is difficult to see where she got her "Gallic temperament," unless the mere fact of a residence in France has changed the hereditary instincts of her race and in some mysterious manner infused French blood into her veins.

JAMAICA, N. Y., Dec. 21. LEON HERMANT.

Renaming Seventh Avenue.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Most of the names suggested for upper Seventh avenue are too long, and if adopted would be shortened by the public when they used them, and the abbreviated name might be undignified.

Why not adopt the name Harlem Parkway? The street runs through Harlem up to the Harlem River, and it seems to me that the name would be most applicable. W. D. U.

NEW YORK, Dec. 20.

Bachelor, Widows and Hogs.

From the Oxford Public Ledger.

Mr. J. K. Daniel, a thrifty bachelor of Walnut Grove township, will do to tie to, and would provide a sumptuous living for a good wife. He has just killed two pigs 14 months old that weighed 429 and 490. Wonder if there is another bachelor in the county that can beat him?

We must say hurrah for the widows as well as the bachelors in raising big porkers. Mrs. Adeline Cash of Duchville township killed four pigs that made her 1,410 pounds of meat, and her neighbor, Mrs. Elizabeth Walker, also killed four that tipped the beam at 1,450.

What the Sick Teacher Had.

From the Salem Journal.

Miss Clark, one of the high school teachers, has been sick, and was compelled to give up teaching during the first part of the week. She has the history department.

Proof.

Mrs. Knicker—I dreamed I was at the opera.

Knicker—I knew it; you were talking in your sleep.

THE ANTI-TOBACCO LAW.

The Court of Appeals of this State has just reversed a conviction under Section 290 of the Penal Code. The section makes it a misdemeanor to sell, pay for or furnish cigars, cigarettes or tobacco in any form to any child actually or apparently under sixteen years of age.

It appeared from the facts of the case as admitted that the boy was 12 years of age, had never smoked in his life, and procured cigars from the defendant for another purpose. It further appeared that he resided with his mother, who kept a boarding house, and that he had on repeated occasions, as in the present instance, obtained the cigars on behalf of various boarders. The boarders supplied him with the money to pay for cigars, and the boy informed the defendant that they were for a certain boarder.

Judge O'Brien, writing the unanimous opinion of the Court of Appeals, reverses the conviction for the following reasons:

It cannot be possible that this statute makes it a criminal offence for a person to hand to a boy such a sealed package of cigars when the boy is sent to procure them by his parents or other person. The defendant in fact and in law sold the cigars not to the boy but to Samuels, the boy acting merely as his agent. The construction placed upon this statute by the Court below, if carried out to its logical sequence, would involve conclusions quite absurd and ridiculous. It is, I assume, a fact that in hotels, restaurants and clubs in the larger cities boys of this age are employed as waiters, and if a boy, having been sent by a guest to procure for him a package of cigars, performs the errand, the person delivering them to him in a sealed package is guilty of a misdemeanor.

Clearly the Legislature could not have intended any such results when enacting this statute. The purpose was to prohibit dealers from selling the boys cigars, cigarettes or tobacco for their own use. It was to protect young boys against their own vices. The habit of using cigarettes by young boys had become so common and so harmful in its effects that it was thought that the dealer should be punished for aiding and encouraging the practice. But the transaction in question, as disclosed by the evidence, would seem to be entirely innocent. The boy's mother had sent him on this errand for the accommodation of one of her boarders. He simply obeyed his parent, telling the dealer just what the errand was and the purpose for which he desired the cigars.

Of course, one should not overlook the statement of Judge O'Brien that "we are not dealing with a case where the agency was colorable only and so understood by both parties." From this statement the inference is strong that the Court of Appeals would deal with a different sort of agency in a different manner.

SUBWAY AND ELEVATED.

A Harlem Citizen's Comparative Observations and Positive Conclusions.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Though transportation facilities have been greatly improved since the opening of the subway it is a very hard proposition to get from Harlem to City Hall in the morning, when the people are going to work, in "fifteen minutes" on the subway. I am a resident of Harlem and find it takes more time for a person to travel from Manhattan street to City Hall on the Broadway branch of the subway than it does to go from 125th street on a Ninth avenue elevated express train to the Warren street station.

On the elevated road the running time for that distance is about twenty minutes, and it is seldom that it takes longer, most mornings the distance being covered in quicker time. On the subway, Manhattan street to City Hall, a similar distance, the running time is said to be about nineteen or twenty minutes. I have occasion to use the subway in the morning very often, and always find that it takes me from twenty-seven to forty minutes to cover the distance, sometimes longer.

The trouble, as I find it, is between the 103d street and Ninety-sixth street stations. Almost every Broadway express train is held up after leaving the 103d street station. The reason for this is on account of the Lenox avenue trains switching on to the main line at this point. Generally there is a Lenox avenue train standing on the Lenox avenue tracks, which at this point are parallel with the Broadway line. In most cases, however, the Broadway trains are held up for four or more minutes when there is no Lenox avenue train in sight. Then a Lenox avenue express will come speeding along and pull in on the express track ahead of the Broadway express. The Broadway train has to trail along behind the Lenox avenue express and stop between the express stations on account of the Lenox avenue train. This causes more delay, and often a Broadway local which comes out of the terminal after the Broadway express makes better time than the latter.

This is a condition which I believe can be remedied if the subway officials would but arrange the schedule of the express service so that the Lenox avenue and Broadway express trains would not conflict as they do now.

Though some people consider the elevated road ancient I believe it is more healthful, trains are always on time and are more reliable. R. A. Y.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.

Was Europe Born in Asia or in Africa?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The archæological finds of the Dark Continent have been very meagre, Egypt excepted, because the attention of scholars has been drawn elsewhere. Now comes the following report, published in a news despatch to THE SUN from Cape Town:

"Four hundred acres of prehistoric fossil remains have been discovered near Danger Point, about a hundred miles from Cape Town."

If after these years it is now discovered that South Africa is rich in prehistoric remains, perhaps, after all, South African archæology may drive us back to the contention of Bleek and Rae, that in Polynesia or Africa may be found the true solution of the "Aryan question" instead of looking for it on the high table lands of Persia.

We can no more prove that the prehistoric races and languages of Europe sprang from Irania than we can construct an equilateral triangle without a base or an apex. J. M. B.

TROY, N. Y., Dec. 19.

But the despatch does not say that the four hundred acres of fossils have any relation to the human race.

Wisdom of Crawlers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* This is the morning of the winter solstice. The sun is on his way back to us. But the common earthworm is unwilling to admit that winter is here.

This morning I found a belated "crawler" on the stone pavement, dead, of course. He had gone astray and perished by coming in contact with the cold stone. No castings of the worm have been made for several days, but he has not gone into winter quarters.

A week ago I drove my stick into a small mound of fresh castings and turned out two two year old worms. What does it all mean? It means that the worm knows a lot. His place at this time of the year is two feet under ground, in a little cell he has prepared for himself, and whither he goes to escape the frost. He refuses to go now because no serious winter is in sight.

In the winter of 1877-78 dandelions bloomed every month in New Jersey. Does the worm predict a similar season? C. D. L.

CRANFORD, N. J., Dec. 21.

Breezes From El Dorado

From the Chico Post.

If the Red Bluff *Bugle* or *Liberty* and the Oroville *Mimptome* would follow in the footsteps of THE SUN and give credit where it is due, we would have little kick coming. But when we see our bursts of song and gems of wit lifted bodily by our brother scissorites it makes us sore. THE SUN, a bright little Eastern paper, published in New York city, which place it will be remembered was visited by our fellow townsman, Gilly Barham, a few months ago, copies in toto an article published in the *Post* on November 24, headed, "Done in Open Court." Many thanks. We hope that we will be able to return the gentle compliment at some future time. We shall put THE SUN on our exchange list.

The Lavish Donor.

From the Washington Star.

The Congressman is waiting
In a most considerate way
Until our old friend Santa Claus
Has had his little say.
He's courteously restraining
His philanthropic zeal
Until the dear old Christmas saint
His powers may reveal.

But after the vacation
Once more on hand he'll be,
To scatter mental treasures
With great and generous glee.
He'll give us glorious speeches,
And as his gifts we scan
We'll have to own that Santa Claus
Can't beat the Congressman.

THE PARTY, OR THE WOLF?

From an interview with Congressman J. Sloat Fassett.

As I look at it, the whole situation may be summed up in this sentence: It is a struggle between the continuation of the present grip of former Governor Odell on the State organization and the continuation in power of the Republican party. Both cannot endure together.

From the Rochester Post-Express.

The Republicans must throw Odell overboard, and they must make a creditable record in the next Legislature, or the party will go down to humiliating defeat next year.

From the Binghamton Press.

All this must of necessity be accepted as meaning that the reign of Mr. Benjamin B. Odell, Jr., or of Mr. E. H. Harriman, as may seem preferable, is at an end, and that New York Republicanism will for the future look to a new force in leadership. We are told that this turn of affairs is chargeable to the combined thought and wisdom of the President and Gov. Higgins; but whoever is entitled to the thanks of the public, there is no question that thanks are due somewhere, if truth pervades this outline of the possibilities affecting the government of the State of New York.

From the Buffalo Evening News.

What is called organized politics has been carried to such length that the only relief from dictation at the hands of an irresponsible Boss is an appeal to the Governor to check the arrogant usurpation of control of the Legislature by a man who is not in any way connected with the State Government and does not represent the people or heed their wishes.

From the Elmira Daily Advertiser.

The fight will be made and won for Republicanism as opposed to Odellism. The issue throughout the State is party decency and party success. No self-seeker shall be permitted to wreck the Republican party. Out with Odell and Odellism, now and forever. Keep up the house cleaning.

RED RUSSIA.

Blind Rulers and Ignorant Masses Facing a Fate Beyond Control.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Russian revolutionary movement is running the course that is always to be expected where violence is relied on as a means of social reform. Reaction is bound sooner or later to ensue, and in a degree in proportion to the extreme of the present course. What that is cannot be very well estimated without full and accurate knowledge of the circumstances prevailing all over Russia and an exact idea of the relations between the agrarian and urban sections of the revolutionists. One thing is very apparent, that however well organized the risings and strikes may have been, either through want of means or improvidence the commissariat of the revolution is defective or has been neglected, and this must always be the case as the mechanical part of civilization becomes more developed.

The movements in Russia could not have assumed the magnitude they have had the social system and the mechanical developments been as advanced as, say, in Germany; nor could they have lasted so long. For the same reason the Russian Government at the outset is less able to cope with the situation than would be the German under similar conditions, but when the revolutionary violence that has been going on for so long a time has exhausted itself after destroying its own means of subsistence, the form of government, not necessarily that of the Czar, will come, and matters will settle back into the channel of evolution from which, but for the blindness of the rulers and the ignorance of the masses of Russia, they would never have departed.

The question is whether the direction given by what is occurring in Russia to the evolution that must follow will be quite the same as it might have been had the revolutionary leaders been more patient and exercised more restraint over themselves and their followers. The reply must be that it is very doubtful, and so far as the present Russian Government is concerned, almost everything may now be said to depend on the fidelity of the army. A short time must decide that question, for whenever the Government believes or finds that the violence of the revolution has exhausted itself, it will inevitably put its military power in motion. If the Government, such as it now is, finds that the army is likely not to respond to its call, then all is lost, and the end of the autocracy and of its attempts to save itself by a proffer of limited constitutional rights to its lately obedient subjects has come.

The recently reported sending of gold out of Russia may mean that this point has been reached, but it cannot be determined until it is known whether that gold is part of the private imperial treasure sent out to provide for the future, or is bank money being transferred abroad for safe keeping until the storm has blown over. But whichever it is, it is a sign that the possibility of a complete upturning of everything in Russia is being faced by those in a position to know what is going on, and with much to lose if the possibility is realized.

What concerns Russia's neighbors, and in fact the rest of the world, in the event of the revolution gaining the upper hand, is whether it will take on a conservative or more radical direction. A great deal depends upon that. A correspondent in London, whose name is well known in connection with financial affairs, wrote me in a letter received two days ago: "I should not be surprised, however, if the course of events in Russia should turn out to be the main influence in putting an end to a state of affairs which is cruel to mankind, artificial beyond anything the world has ever witnessed before, and saturated with the spirit of the brigand." Should the revolution in Russia take a radical direction, then every Government in Europe will have to set to work to put its house in order. The only Government or ruler, so far, that appears to understand the situation is the Austrian and the old Emperor Francis Joseph. By his determination to grant universal suffrage to his Hungarian and Austrian subjects, he has loosened the safety valve, and put himself and his Government in a position to weather the storm, when a few years ago, to all appearances, the existence of the Austrian empire seemed so precarious that its disappearance was considered only a question of the lifetime of its now proved sagacious ruler.

But everything everywhere in Europe depends on whether red reaction or red revolution triumph in the present conflict in Russia; and then it is difficult to predict which would produce the worse results. The best hope is in the exhaustion of the revolution and the ending of the autocracy, and a return to the safer path of evolution. F.

NEW YORK, Dec. 21.

"All In!"

"I'm all in!" *Bob Fitzsimmons.*

Not on your life, Bob; not on your life!
The Muse salutes you!
And if there still be virtue left in catgut,
In brass or wood, she'll sound a stave that's worthy
The squarest, hardest hitting slugger that ever
pawed the sawdust!
The man with the wallop!
"All in!"
Not on your life!
Your place is with the veteran heroes, with the
elder statesmen.
Another may wear your laurels, but cannot blur
your record!
Hero of thirty score hard fought battles,
An in-fighter who gave and took with a joyous
ferocity!
Who fought manfully and as manfully lost!
Move up there, you Immortals!
Make room for a gladiator—not for a grafter!
Here is a tall fellow of his hands—whose hands are
clean!
A rough jointed, red headed, slant browed troglodyte!
Such a one as might have wielded the cestus
Before applauding Rome!
Make room, I say!
While we who have roared and catcalled by the
ringside
Whooped, yelled, howled and trampled on our hats
As he grinned back at us in his hour of triumph—
A freckled, fierce, loose lipped satyr—
Take off our hats to add state to his exit.
"All in!"
Not on your life, Bob!
You have fought your last battle,
But it was the last of many,
And though lost, was not without glory.
Step up to your place with the Immortals
And live long to awe the youngsters
With the tales of your prowess.

P. MCARTHUR

HOPPER DECIDES TO GET OUT.

Doesn't Want to Superintend Building Unless He Can Be Boss.

Isaac A. Hopper, Superintendent of the Bureau of Buildings for Manhattan, handed his resignation yesterday to Borough President Ahearn, to take effect at the convenience of the latter. In giving his reasons for resigning Mr. Hopper said:

"The position of Superintendent of Buildings I consider is second in importance to no other public official's duties in the city. * * * The assumption is that as all the responsibility rests with the Superintendent he should be free to exercise his knowledge for the benefit and successful operation of this office to the best of his ability. As I have been denied this right, I feel that, having served out my term, I do not care to longer continue in the work, with the possibility of being at any time or by anybody interfered with in the intelligent discharge of those duties."

Mr. Ahearn seemed to be surprised at Hopper's resignation.

"What are you giving me this for?" he asked the Building Superintendent.

"Well," replied Mr. Hopper, "I thought of getting out last spring, but the newspapers were criticising me, and I determined not to retire under fire. Then the campaign came along and I made up my mind to wait until after election."

President Ahearn said afterward that he had never interfered in Mr. Hopper's department except in cases where builders and plumbers had complained about certain restrictions imposed by the Superintendent. One was where Mr. Hopper had ordered that only a particular kind of flange should be used. Another had to do with an elevator clutch which the bureau had insisted upon. Still another concerned a test for plumbing which the bureau favored to the exclusion of others. As soon as these matters were brought to the attention of the Borough President he went over Mr. Hopper's head and rescinded his orders.

Hopper is one of the best known builders in New York and he is a rich man. He is the Tammany leader of the Thirty-first Assembly district, and he and Ahearn had long been close personal friends. Last spring, while Hopper was down in Florida looking after his orange groves, several new flat houses which had been erected in the dead of a very severe winter tumbled down when a sudden thaw came. He was severely criticised at the time, and Ahearn appointed a non-partizan commission to investigate the matter. Upon their report the inspectors in whose district the flimsy work was done were dismissed from the department.

SALVATION ARMY PLANS.

Will Feed 25,000 on Christmas Day—To Open New Settlement.

The Salvation Army plans to feed 25,000 poor people in New York city alone on Christmas day, and throughout the country 500,000. In the morning baskets containing chickens, apples, potatoes, soup, and occasionally tickets for clothes will be distributed. In the evening 5,000 will sit down at the tables in the Grand Central Palace.

Throughout the city the army is maintaining fifty-five industrial institutions, where they find employment for hundreds of men and women. Here waste material is made over into some degree of usefulness, and is sold from the stores connected with the institutions at low prices. One instance was cited of a newly married couple who started in housekeeping on $25 by purchasing their goods at these stores.

Soon after New Year's the Army will open a new settlement house at Cherry and Oliver streets. The building is a five story brick structure. The basement is given over to a laundry, where the women can come and do their own washing or that of other people. On the ground floor is a hall where the women can congregate and talk and listen to the singing. The second floor is one giant sewing room, provided with machines and all necessary articles. On the floor above is a nursery where the women can leave their children in competent hands while they are washing, sewing or gossiping.

The top floor is divided into hall bedrooms where girls can secure lodgings for 15 cents a night or $1 a week. A matron will be in charge. The whole idea of the building is that women can come there and do work which it would be impossible for them to do elsewhere.

The building cost $80,000, and now Commander Booth of the Salvation Army is "looking around New York for some gentlemen who want to pay for it."

FERRYBOATS ALL RUNNING.

N. J. Central and Lackawanna Borrow Slips at 23d Street—Rebuilding Plans.

Both the Lackawanna Railroad and the Central of New Jersey resumed ferry service at Twenty-third street yesterday. The Central is using one of the unfinished slips of the Erie station. A temporary sidewalk and entrance have been built between the Erie and the Pennsylvania. It is going to be impossible to handle wagons at this temporary station, however. Foot passengers are to have a covered waiting room and ticket office in a day or two. The regular twenty minute service was maintained yesterday morning after 7 o'clock.

The Lackawanna has cleared the north slip in the burned station. The southern