The Sun.

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True, if Neither Terse Nor Beautiful.

We acknowledge with proper humility the publicly expressed opinion of Senator TILLMAN of South Carolina that the editorial columns of THE SUN "are almost a liberal education to one who will read them, because of the beautiful and terse English in which they are couched." This leads us to believe that the distinguished gentleman will pursue his education to the extent of perusing and pondering what we now wish to say to him. It shall possess at least one characteristic quite as important as either of the two qualities which he admires.

No more unfortunate thing could have happened for Mr. TILLMAN, and perhaps no more fortunate thing for the subject of his remarks in the Senate on Wednesday last, than the sudden relapse of the South Carolina statesman into his early bad manner. For years now we have been observing with sincere gratification the steady progress of an uncommonly able man in the graces of civilized oratory, the refinements of attack, the tolerant humor of tone and attitude. He has certainly lost nothing of his native forcefulness by becoming more gracious. He has certainly lost nothing in the esteem of his colleagues by the cultivation of amenity. His effectiveness as a critic of men or as a debater of measures has not suffered by the gradual dissociation of his style from the rhetoric of hoodlumism. The growth, the broadening and the sweetening of Mr. TILLMAN have given us daily pleasure when the Senate has been in session.

All at once the Tillmanometer upon our desk indicates a precipitate fall from figures only a little under the round hundred denoting perfectly admirable statesmanship to the depths of the tube—must we say it?—in the neighborhood of the lower thirties. The report of the sensitive instrument is quickly confirmed by the arrival of the *Record* containing the speech in which the Senator compliments a newspaper which has long been his well wisher. It is not an undiluted joy to be complimented, even incidentally, in the course of a speech so vulgar, so crude, so fiercely and nakedly vituperative in its treatment of the President of the United States. Ashamed should we be if we were obliged to regard this as the result of a "liberal education" pursued by a study of THE SUN'S methods of expression; but it is the better TILLMAN of yesterday, not the fallen TILLMAN of to-day, that we recognize as our disciple.

Much is being said throughout the country for and against the theory that Mr. ROOSEVELT'S popularity has culminated and is now decreasing. We regard the discussion as of the smallest possible interest, because the reporters of the alleged waning are generally those to whom a waning would be for one reason or another a welcome spectacle. We have not discerned the faintest sign that in the esteem of the great mass of the American people—in the quarters where Mr. ROOSEVELT has always been strongest and which must always be the main source of his political influence—he stands now in midwinter one millimeter below where he stood in midsummer last.

But if the President's popularity were in fact on the wane, and Senator TILLMAN were his best friend, anxious to restore it to full orb and pristine splendor, Mr. TILLMAN in his most Machiavellian moment could have devised no expedient better calculated to promote that result than an attack from the floor of the Senate as coarse and as viciously unfair as that which he delivered on Wednesday.

The Liberal Tide Still Rising in Great Britain.

Although Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN succeeded in retaining the seven seats of Birmingham for his wing of the Unionist party, and proved in fact that his hold upon his fellow citizens is firmer than ever, the drift of opinion in favor of the Liberals, which has been so strong in urban districts, seems to be scarcely less marked in the county divisions, from which, however, the returns come in more slowly. At the hour when we write 384 seats out of a total of 670 have been filled, and the Liberals, by winning 202, have secured a majority of 20 over Unionists, Irish Nationalists and Laborites combined.

Such a combination is improbable. It is quite conceivable, indeed, that the Laborites may form a coalition with the Irish Nationalists, as most of the former would be willing to grant Home Rule to Ireland, while the latter would gladly cooperate in procuring the payment of members of the House of Commons. But how the two parties just mentioned could be brought to act with the Unionists it is hard to imagine. The Unionists are inflexibly opposed to the payment of members, which they think would irreparably lower the tone of the "best club in London," as they are to any substantial concessions to Irish autonomy. It must, however, be admitted that Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN is an expert in political tactics, and it is perhaps not beyond his powers to devise some temporary basis of agreement on which elements so incongruous as the three that we have named might unite for the purpose of upsetting the Bannerman Cabinet. Mr. GLADSTONE in 1880 obtained a majority of about a hundred over all opponents combined, yet in the spring of 1885 the Conservatives managed to beat him with the help of the Parnellites, who, as the event was to prove, had everything to hope for from the defeated Premier. The Liberal party which recognizes Sir H. CAMPBELL-BANNERMAN as its chief is much less compact and homogeneous than that which overthrew Lord BEACONSFIELD. To say nothing of the Laborites, who hitherto have been looked upon as allies but who now seem likely to take a line of their own, it may prove difficult if not impossible for Sir HENRY to hold his Anglican and Nonconformist followers together on such questions as the repeal or drastic alteration of the last Education act or the disestablishment of the Church of England in Wales.

At the opening of the new Parliament no doubt every Nationalist and Laborite as well as Liberal member will range himself on the Ministerial side, and the Unionists by comparison will seem pitiably few. Thus far they have gained but three seats at the expense of their opponents, and they have lost so many of those which they formerly occupied that they can claim but 87 of the 384 members known to have been elected up to Friday morning. There will be some discord, moreover, in their shrunken ranks, for a fraction of them are Free Traders. It is probably safe to assume, however, that Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN, by virtue of his triumph at Birmingham, will be accepted by a majority of the Unionist party as its real commander, although the empty honor of ostensible leadership will naturally fall to ex-Premier BALFOUR, who, although he was beaten in Manchester, will of course be provided with a seat by some other constituency. Yet it would surprise nobody if Mr. BALFOUR, in view of the ludicrous failure of his attempt to find a *via media* between Protection and Free Trade, should prefer to retire from the House of Commons. In the Upper Chamber he would have more leisure for the practice of philosophic doubt.

One thing is already certain, namely, that London drawing rooms hereafter will have much less to do with legislation and Government appointments than they have had for the last twenty years. The day has gone by when great ladies could make or mar a young English politician. Not long will the Right Hon. JOHN BURNS, president of the Board of Trade, be the only workingman in Cabinet office. The men who labor with their hands have at last made up their minds to use the vast power which the Franchise act and Seats act of 1884-85 put in their hands. They have begun to enter on their heritage, and the day may not be distant when the House of Commons will resemble rather a Trade Union Congress than a gentleman's club.

Poison, Horse and Ham.

The Hon. JOHN COIT SPOONER, whose Socratic questionings of previous Pure Food bills have always been fruitful reading for the student of dialectics, says that the present Pure Food bill is an improvement on its predecessor, but that few Senators have yet had time to study it. Now, it repays study. It is interesting. At times it is ingenuous. Tuesday the Senate in committee of the whole was considering it. In the interest of salt fish and other sacred Bay State articles Mr. LODGE had proposed this amendment:

"That when in the preparation of food products for shipment they are preserved by an external application applied in such manner that the preservative is necessarily removed mechanically or by maceration in water or otherwise, the provisions of this act shall be construed as applying only when said products are ready for consumption."

Mr. MCCUMBER of North Dakota insisted that this amendment already existed in sufficient form in the body of the bill:

"That goods intended for export shall not be deemed misbranded or adulterated when prepared and packed in accordance with specifications of the foreign purchaser, provided no substance is used that is in conflict with the laws of the country to which the goods are to be shipped, when such country, having laws upon the subject, does not prohibit such process of preparation."

You see, most exported American hams go to Brother BULL. He has no objection to packing meats in borax. In fact, when he orders American hams he usually directs that they be packed in borax to preserve them from seasickness in transit. Is borax deleterious? Mr. MCCUMBER avers that this "would be a question for the courts to decide should the bill become a law." Exactly. This is a great pure food principle. WILEY says so-and-so. Congress says so-and-so to oblige WILEY and all the excellent and glorious company of pure fooders, female and male. If so-and-so is something else, why, the courts will find it out. Meanwhile, if Brother BULL wants to injure and adulterate himself, let him. Besides, mere packing in borax doesn't make the article injurious. Of course, it may be so saturated with borax as to be injurious.

Is the importation into this country of food stuffs packed in borax permitted under the existing or the proposed law? asks the Badger SOCRATES. Mr. MCCUMBER doesn't know of any foods of that sort. Well, hams. Mr. MCCUMBER, a singular innocent, doesn't "know of any imported hams." A Jersey epicurean, the Hon. JOHN KEAN, *dulces reminiscitur Argos*, won't go back on Hoboken, and observes that "Westphalia hams are imported."

Mr. MCCUMBER turns from this genial immigrant to show genuine sample orders from Liverpool for hams in borax. Mr. HEYBURN of Idaho reenforces the North Dakota herald of health with some moral reflections which would have given great happiness to Mr. DICKENS:

"The provisions of the bill are sufficiently drastic and specific to prohibit the transportation from State to State of this class of articles that come within the exception as to the export trade. Then we were met with the proposition that we should not attempt to enforce upon other countries the same morals in this business that we thought sufficient for our own, provided that they themselves did not think these restrictions were necessary. So, having prohibited interstate commerce in this class of articles among our own States, for which we are responsible, we made the exception that if a foreign country entertained different views in regard to the desirability of this class of packing we would not run counter to them and shut out the export trade from doing business with them simply because they ought not to be compelled to comply with restrictions necessarily adopted for our own country. That was the reason for this exceptional provision. * * * We are protecting our own people, and then we are protecting the people of other countries from imposition at the hands of our own people only to the limit that they demand such protection."

"Very altruistic," says Mr. SPOONER, and not much calculated to build up American commerce. Especially if this subdivision in which the proviso occurs should be published:

"Fourth, if it contain any added poisonous or other ingredient, which may render such article injurious to human health, *provided* that goods intended for export shall not be deemed misbranded, &c."

That is, in effect, injure or poison the blasted foreigner as much as you like. Export adulteration. Export poison. Mr. HEYBURN explains that this proviso doesn't go back of line 17 of page 7 of the bill. Applies only to adulteration of foods. "Tolerably abominable," at that, says Mr. SPOONER.

Oh, business is business; and particularly the packing business; and if foreigners don't want to be adulterated and poisoned, let 'em come over here. But tastes differ, as Mr. HEYBURN reminds us in a brief reference to hippophagy:

"We ship from this country vast quantities of horse meat to be used in certain foreign countries. We do not use it at home at all. A dealer in the State of Oregon told me, having been in the business, as he said, five years, that not one single pound of that commodity had been used or consumed in this country, but that he found a market for it in the countries of Europe. Now, if those people want that kind of a commodity, if they are presumed to be intelligent enough to determine what they want and what is conducive to their health or destructive of it, and are convinced that they have no objection to that class of commerce or commodity, there is no reason why we should constitute ourselves the guardian of their health. It is not for us to say—except it would not be permitted to go beyond a certain line, and neither do we in this bill—that those people shall not, in the exercise of their judgment, consume a certain class of articles."

If they want horse, that is "a horse on them." They are downtrodden people; and if they like horse, horse is what they like; and, anyway, canned horse has a picture of a horse on the cans. Americans, we infer, are not intelligent enough to choose what they shall eat and drink. Congress does that for them.

A moment for Mr. LODGE'S maceration amendment. Admitting, says Mr. MCCUMBER, that maceration in water or otherwise takes out the boracic acid, and the ham is shipped. There is no law to make the grocer macerate ham. Unmacerated it will go to the consumer. Regrettable frivolity on the part of the Nahant statesman:

"Mr. LODGE—Will the Senator allow me to ask him a question?

"Mr. MCCUMBER—Certainly.

"Mr. LODGE—Then, do I understand that the consumer eats the ham without cooking it?

"Mr. MCCUMBER—I did not say that.

"Mr. LODGE—I ask the Senator, does not the consumer soak the ham and cook it before he eats it, or does he eat it just as it comes from the grocer? I supposed hams were almost always soaked and cooked before being eaten; but that may be the result of my ignorance.

"Mr. MCCUMBER—The consumer does not know anything about the ham containing borax.

"Mr. LODGE—Hams, as I understand, are always soaked and cooked before being eaten.

"Mr. HEYBURN—Ninety per cent. of the consumers take the hams as they come from the grocer and cook them."

Mr. LODGE had supposed on what he thought was good authority that "submersion in water was a necessary part of cooking or preparing ham for the table." He had known of smoked hams being soaked for forty-eight hours and improved thereby. Mr. MCCUMBER traverses the fact of maceration:

"I do not myself pretend to be a cook, and I do not know what information of a specialized character the Senator from Massachusetts may have upon the subject, but I do know that if you take the ordinary smoked ham, or the sugar cured ham, or whatever you may call it, as it comes from the manufacturer, it is boiled without being first soaked; certainly is not first soaked in water, whether it is fried or otherwise. There may be cases in which it may be soaked to take out the extra amount of saltpetre or salt that is in it, but not as it is used in the ordinary household. There is no occasion for it, unless they think that there is something in it that is improper. I say that the public has not got that knowledge generally."

Thus the food, stomachs, lives of American citizens are at the mercy of Senators who don't know whether ham should be soaked or not before cooking. Call on the ladies' auxiliaries. Impanel a jury of housewives. Appoint a commission of hired girls. Establish a Bureau of the Preparation of Hams. Submit to a national referendum this question of the maceration or nonmaceration of smoked ham.

Weak Spot in the Liquor Law.

Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE'S decision that under certain circumstances a saloon keeper may supply liquor to a minor without violating the liquor tax law discloses a weakness in the statute that the Legislature should be quick to mend. In the case before the court a girl of 10 was sent by her adult brother-in-law to buy beer, the brother-in-law having previously informed the saloon keeper to expect the child acting as his messenger. Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE says in his opinion that "the transaction cannot be said to be a sale of spirituous liquors to a minor within the meaning of the statute, as the beer was sold not to or for the minor, but to and for the brother-in-law," and he cites the decision of the Court of Appeals in a somewhat similar case under Section 290 of the Penal Code prohibiting the sale of tobacco to minors under 16 in support of the principle upheld by him.

In fact, the cases are dissimilar, because the section of the liquor tax law affecting minors was designed not only to prevent the sale of liquor to them for their own consumption, but also to keep them away from places where liquor is sold, on the theory that such establishments are improper and dangerous for young persons to visit. It is not contended that a tobacconist's shop has of necessity an unwholesome or demoralizing effect upon children, but it is held that a saloon exerts a most pernicious effect on youths of both sexes, regardless of whether they can obtain liquor for their own consumption in it or not.

It is obvious that if the law allows minors to frequent liquor shops and receive therein liquors as the agents of adults, an important purpose of the legislators who enacted the prohibitory statute will be frustrated. The design of the lawmakers was to keep minors out of saloons and prevent all sales of liquors to them. The prohibition is one difficult to enforce at its best, and the task will be well nigh impossible under this decision. He would be a poor and friendless dramseller indeed who could not find some adult to pose as the employer of a minor to whom liquor had been sold.

In obedience to a strong public sentiment the State for years has sought to prevent the sale of liquors under any pretext to minors and the frequenting of liquor shops by children. Its policy in this matter has the approval of a great majority of its citizens. The amendment of the law to meet the conditions brought to light by Mr. Justice GILDERSLEEVE'S decision should be considered by the Legislature.

No More Room?

Whether his conclusions are right or wrong, the views and opinions of Mr. JAMES J. HILL are always interesting and usually suggestive in an extraordinary degree. In a recent address before the Commercial Club of St. Paul Mr. HILL discussed a subject concerning which the American people are lamentably indifferent, that is, the habitual wastefulness of our treatment of the nation's resources. Upon that matter there is little or no opportunity for disagreement.

Mr. HILL went further and said:

"Our public domain is all gone, and the nation cannot longer boast that it has homes for all. Where are the immigrants rushing to our shores to end up? Not on the land. We have no more to offer them. They must crowd into the cities."

Mr. HILL'S apprehensions will not be shared by everybody. It is not clear how he arrives at the conclusion that there is no more land in the United States to offer to settlers. Land now lying idle in this country is capable of supporting millions of people. The Reclamation Service is converting the wilderness into homes for millions more. The intelligent cultivation of comparatively small tracts instead of the present wasteful cultivation of large areas would leave millions of acres available for settlement. The last of these three factors in the situation is unquestionably the most important. In the way of illustration, consider our cotton crop, which may be regarded for the present purpose as typical of all our agricultural products, with the possible exception of wheat.

Statistics of production show that our cotton yield averages about four-tenths of a bale to the acre. We plant about 30,000,000 acres. In an article in the January number of the *World's Work* there is mention of a Georgia planter who by intelligent cultivation secured twenty-six bales from thirteen acres, or two bales to the acre. Other planters, by business methods, obtain a bale from an acre. Yet the average of all is the pitiful four-tenths of a bale. At ten cents a pound, this yields the planter only $20 an acre. He cultivates two and a half acres to secure the crop which he should obtain from a single acre.

The same general rule holds good with regard to nearly all the products of our soil. Better cultivation of smaller areas would release millions of acres for settlement by newcomers. More than ever before farmers are working in the direction of intensive and more businesslike methods on the farm. But it is probable that the great majority will be indifferent about these methods until compelled to adopt them by the severe pressure of economic conditions.

We believe that there is room and a good living in the United States for two or three times the present population.

The Hon. BLACKBURN BARRETT DOVENER of West Virginia now moves to extend the pension list so as to include all army teamsters.

Who will be first to urge the righteous claims of the army mule?

Persistence of Schenectady's Revival.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your editorial of Sunday last, deprecating religious controversy as such, you say: "Correspondents have reported to us that the consequence of these somewhat artificial methods of stimulation [revivals] has been a very remarkable revival of religious faith. How long this will last after the excitement of revival has passed away is yet to be demonstrated."

Permit me to say in this connection that as far as Schenectady is concerned, and speaking from personal observation and experience, the religious stimulation of last winter's revival here has not passed away by any means. On the contrary, it has grown and is still growing. How else can you account for the fact that a few lines in the local papers brought 700 men and young men, none under 16, to the Opera House last Sunday afternoon to hear a Y. M. C. A. man talk of right living and to join in singing the marching songs of Christ's army on earth?

It was not a revival meeting, as such, but the regular Sunday afternoon meeting. Prior to the Luna-Sanford meetings of last winter it was hard, very hard, to get a corporal's guard at these Sunday afternoon meetings. Since then they have been well attended, not always by 700, but with audiences ranging from 100 to 900. Bear in mind, too, that these results are one year later than the exciting revival meetings referred to, and without any brass bands, fireworks or sensational claptrap of any kind. OLD DORP.

SCHENECTADY, Jan. 17.

How to Avoid Mental Senility.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Several communications within as many months from the pen of the distinguished Judge Roger A. Pryor seem to indicate that he is a confirmed "Sunite," and the habit has unquestionably contributed in a measure to the illumination of his faculties.

I remember him away back over thirty years ago, and then he was remarkable for his physical aspect and carriage, and thereby attracted considerable attention. He was then living in Brooklyn, and crossed by the Wall Street ferry. He always bought three morning papers. Two of them he turned to quickly, at certain pages, for apparently some specific information. A glance sufficed, and they were cast aside to the seat beside him and not recovered.

THE SUN was next unfolded for serious consideration, and on the arrival of the boat in the slip was put in his pocket for further delectation.

No man who habitually reads THE SUN can grow mentally old. SUNITE.

NEW YORK, Jan. 18.

Old Time Minstrels.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* My recollection is that I witnessed the performance of "Shoo Fly, Don't Bother Me," at Mechanics' Hall, Broadway. The performers were Dan Bryant and Dave Reed.

After the death of Jerry Bryant, Dave Reed, who resembled Jerry somewhat in action and speech, occupied Jerry's old place on the end as bones. I believe he was the original "Sally Come Up," and was popular as a wench dancer. VETERAN.

RED BANK, Jan. 18.

In Space.

First Martian—What was that thing that just whizzed by?

Second Martian—That's the football Harvard kicked out.

GEODETIC OBSERVATIONS AT POZZUOLI.

The Italian *Geographical Review* says that the Geodetic Survey of that country has just connected the site of the so-called temple of Serapis, near Pozzuoli, on the Gulf of Naples, with the general network of the precise levelling of Italy that the survey is making. This work will thus afford a means for the exact determination of the amount of future fluctuation of level at this classical spot.

Many writers of physical geography have mentioned these marble columns as a beautiful illustration of the up and down oscillations of the earth's crust, for the markings seem to prove conclusively that the ground on which they stand sank with them about twenty feet below the level of the sea and that after long centuries it was lifted again by a reverse movement of the swaying shore, whether or not of volcanic origin.

The fine marble is honeycombed with holes drilled deep by the hundreds into the round surface of the columns.

No animal that lives in the air or burrows in the soil made these borings, for no such animal exists. But in the surrounding waters lives a species of shell fish which biologists call lithodomus or lithophagus, which has a special genius for boring. Naturalists say that this little bivalve was surely the agent that made these deep pittings in the marble.

As the ground sank the sea water crept up along the columns and the marine borer left on them these hundreds of proofs of his industry. In the course of ages the ground began to rise again, the work of the borers came gradually into view, and to-day it is fully exposed, for the soil on which the pillars stand is raised a little above the sea level.

This, at least, is the explanation of scientific men. There are some prosaic persons who assert that the ruins were not a temple, but merely an ancient market hall, and that the pitted columns may have been a part of a fish tank, which received the markings in some unexplained manner.

For a generation or two the land on which these columns stand is said to have been sinking again at the rate of two or three inches in a century. The connection just made with the network of levelling lines will show, in a comparatively few years, whether this is a fact. There is no doubt, however, that this part of the Italian coast has been subject to important oscillations of level, and it is well that means have now been provided for recording the future history of these movements.

POE AGAIN.

Theory as to the Reasons for His Exclusion From the Hall of Fame.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is a curious thing that in the many newspaper discussions of the exclusion of Poe from the Hall of Fame the real reason has not been observed. We are told that the committee were asses, which is true enough; but the real animus of their assiness has not been made to appear. Edgar Allan Poe, incomparably the greatest of our poets, was left out simply because he was a Southerner. Not only this, but he was a rancorous, fire eating kind of a Southerner, who delighted in abusing abolitionism and the abolitionists, in season and out. His essays contain some of the bitterest attacks on the New England poets ever penned. He was uncompromising in his hatred and contempt of the "elderly ladies" of the *North American*, that is, the critics; he excoriated the poetasters whom they extolled; and though he admired Longfellow, he said, and what was worse, proved that the latter was a plagiarist. His criticism was of the most scathing, scalding, vitriolic nature. "If Mr. Lord is not the worst poet in the whole world it is because there could not possibly be a worse one than Mr. Channing"—I quote from memory; but that is a fair specimen of his method.

Now, this may have been wrong; but that does not alter the facts. Poe was no respecter of persons, and he hated a Yankee; and therein lies the explanation of the otherwise unaccountable exclusion of his name from the Hall of Fame. No wonder Mr. MacCracken and the others failed to make the matter clear. They did not dare.

Verily, a prophet is not without honor save in his own country. Your correspondent, though a lover of French literature, has never seen a reference to Lowell as a poet in a French book, nor to Whittier, and seldom to Longfellow; but Poe is a classic throughout all Europe, and it is safe to say that he is the only writer we have produced who has made a deep and lasting impression on the European world of letters. He is our only world-writer, in fact, and everybody outside of America knows it. Emerson, the patron saint of long haired men and short haired women, imported his much discussed mysticism from Germany; Longfellow, though a graceful poet, was after all unoriginal and effeminate; Lowell was a concocter of rhymed sermons, which no true lover of poetry can abide; but Poe has written a few things, just a few, which rank and deserve to rank with the best and greatest that the English language can show. He was unfortunate, he was bitter, he pronounced American literature to be a vast humbug; he was not a double haloed saint of the kind so dear to the New England conscience and to the heart of the Boston splinster; but he was a man and a poet. That, at any rate, is what the facts about his life as gathered by truthful biographers seem to indicate.

And isn't it the funniest thing in the world that there are people so densely foolish, so hopelessly silly, as to lug the alleged bad character of Poe into a consideration of his genius? Surely no country but our own could have produced such critickins as this. Do the English refuse to recognize Byron because his morals were shady? And how about Goethe, with his numerous loves and mistresses? And Heine, and Shelley, and—and—why, a list of the poets who would not have been allowed to teach in Sunday school would take in at least half of them, perhaps two-thirds. And yet poor Poe is cast out into the cold because he was fond of "booze." That is good enough for a Gilbert opera.

Now, in conclusion, let your correspondent explain that he is not saying all this because he is sectionally prejudiced, as Poe was. As a matter of fact, he is of foreign birth. But some time ago he chanced to be left alone for several days with a collected edition of the poet's works of all kinds. He read them all through, and then formed the opinion here recorded. SYDNEY C. HALEY.

EUSTIS, Fla., Jan. 18.

Good Training in Graft.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Some of us may have confessed to not a little anxiety, in view of late resignations, sickness and deaths among life insurance directors and presidents, lest the supply might fail. I should like to state the following facts, which may allay anxiety as to the matter:

There is a boys' school in the city at which a gold medal has been promised this year to the boy who shall be neither absent nor late during the year. One of the ambitious pupils is at present under the power of chickenpox and cannot attend. But he is driven in a closed carriage every morning to the door, and the principal of the school comes out to the carriage and verifies the fact that he is there, and then notes on her record that he is present.

I think that in the future there will be no difficulty as to his accepting a salary for nominal duties. We may be sure that the life insurance director will not fail us. X. Y. Z.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.

Article and Actress.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Will THE SUN illuminate my mind as to why an actress like Margaret Woffington is called most frequently in the pages of her biography, by J. Fitzgerald Molloy, "the Woffington"? Rarely is she mentioned as Miss Woffington, sometimes as Mrs. Woffington, although she seems not to have been entitled to the latter rank except by brevet.

Sarah Bernhardt is sometimes called "the Bernhardt," but David Garrick is never called "the Garrick," nor is Edwin Booth written "the Booth." INQUIRER.

CONCORD, N. H., Jan. 19.

Da Musica Man.

From the Catholic Standard and Times.

You knowa Giovanni, da musica man?
He playa da harpa, he playa plan',
For maka da mona wherevra he can.
Da stylisha peopla dey geeve heem da chance
For maka da music for helpa dem dance.
He playa da music so gooda, so gran',
He tal me, da ladies dey calla heem "sweet"
An' geeve heem da playnta good fooda for eat.
I like be Giovanni, da musica man.

Giovanni, da musica man, he ees fat,
An' sleepy an' lazy so lika da cat,
So moocha da dreenkin' an' eatin' he gat.
I gaita da music eensida my heart;
I weesh I have also da musical art
For mak' eet com' outa my heart like he can,
An' fila my stomach weeth fooda for eat.
I digga da trench; I work hard on da street—
I like be Giovanni, da musica man.

MATURITY OF CHANCES.

Remarkable Series of Sevens Thrown With Two Dice.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondent "R. F. F." in THE SUN of January 18, in a letter entitled "Poker Mathematics," calls attention to the fallacy of the theory of the maturity of the chances as applied to poker. The famous Steinmetz exposes this fallacy as applied to the throwing of dice. He cites the following instance:

In 1813 a Mr. Ogden, an Englishman, wagered 1,000 guineas to one that "seven" would not be thrown with a pair of dice ten successive times. The wager was accepted—though it was egregiously unfair—and, strange to say, his opponent threw seven nine times running. At this point Mr. Ogden offered 470 guineas to be off the bet. His opponent declined, although the price offered was far beyond the real value of his chance. He cast once more and threw nine, so that Mr. Ogden won his guinea.

Here we have an instance of a most remarkable series of throws, the like of which has never been recorded before or since. Before these casts had been made it might have been asserted that the throwing of nine successive sevens with a pair of dice was a circumstance which chance could never bring about; for experience was as much against such an event as it would seem to be against the turning up of a certain number ten successive times at roulette. Yet experience now shows that the thing is possible, and if we are to limit the action of chance we must assert that the throwing of seven ten times in succession is an event which will never happen. Yet such a conclusion rests obviously on as unstable a basis as the former, of which experience has disposed. Observe, however, how the two gamblers viewed this eventuality. Nine successive sevens had been thrown, and if there were any truth in the theory that the power of chance was limited it might have been regarded as all but certain that the next throw would not be seven. But a run of bad fortune had so shaken Mr. Ogden's faith in his luck, as well as in the theory of the maturity of the chances, that he was ready to pay 470 guineas—nearly thrice the mathematical value of his opponent's chance—in order to save his endangered thousand. So confident was his opponent that the run of luck would continue—through the matured chance—that he declined the very favorable offer.

Experience had in fact shown both players that although sevens could not be thrown forever, yet there was no telling when the throw would change. Both reasoned probably that as an eighth throw had followed seven successive throws of seven—a wonderful chance—and as a ninth had followed eight successive throws, a tenth might well follow the ninth—though such a series of throws had never been heard of. They were forced, as it were, by the run of events to reason justly as to the possibility of a tenth throw of seven, even to exaggerate that possibility into probability. This strange series of throws quite checked the betting propensities of the bystanders. Not one had the courage to lay the wager, which, according to gambling ethics, would have been a plausibly safe one, that the tenth throw would not give seven.

Now as to the unfairness of the original wager. How much should have been wagered against a single guinea that ten sevens would not be thrown? With a pair of dice there are thirty-six possible throws. Six of these gave seven as the total. Thus the chance of throwing seven is one-sixth and the chance of throwing seven ten times running is obtained by multiplying six into itself ten times and placing the resulting number under unity to represent the minute fractional chance required. It will be found that the number obtained is 60,466,176. Instead of 1,000 guineas to one, fairness required that 60,466,175 guineas should be wagered against one guinea.

This represents the enormous chances against the occurrence of ten successive throws of seven with a pair of dice. Even against nine successive throws the fair odds would have been 10,077,595 to one, or about 40,000 guineas to a farthing. When the nine throws of seven had been made, the chance of a tenth throw of seven was simply one-sixth, as at the first trial. If there were any truth in the theory of the maturity of the chance, the chance of such a throw would of course be greatly diminished. G. F.

WELLESLEY, Mass., Jan. 19.

The Progress of California.

Extracted from the San Francisco Chronicle.

California's manufactures in 1905 aggregated $325,000,000. California still has an annual gold production of $20,000,000; also a petroleum production of 30,000,000 barrels in 1904, worth $19,000,000 at tidewater. The 1905 production was even larger.

California leads all the States in the production of borax, and is the only State in which bituminous rock is found.

The United States mint in San Francisco is the largest in the world, and coins more gold than any other.

California has forty-two shipbuilding plants and stands third among the States in that industry.

The wool crop of California during 1905 aggregated 22,000,000 pounds.

San Francisco broke her building record in 1905, the record being $20,788,773 for the first eleven months of the year.

San Francisco's exports by sea in 1905 reached $65,000,000, the largest year's exports in the history of the city, and an increase of $12,000,000 over 1904; her bank clearings also broke the record with $1,805,902,000; she has built twenty warships for the United States navy in the past fifteen years; her manufactures in 1905 amounted to $200,000,000; the population within her banking radius is 700,000; has the largest land locked harbor in the world, with a thousand miles of shore line; has thirty-five commercial banks with resources of $125,000,000, and savings banks with deposits of $177,000,000; has eighty-three public schools outside of private and parochial schools; had, in 1905, 9,384 sales of real estate for a total consideration of $70,000,000; made two thirds of the finest mining machinery now in use in South Africa; shipped, in 1905, nine cargoes to the Orient, each of the value of $1,000,000 and over (one was $1,987,000); had an import trade of $45,000,000 in 1905; her harvesting machinery is now in use in the wheat fields of Australia, the Argentine and southern Russia.

California has the largest ferryboat in the world, transporting trains between Benicia and Porta Costa; has produced $1,450,000,000 worth of gold since '49; produces more oranges and lemons than any other State in the Union; makes annually 30,000,000 pounds of butter, worth $7,000,000, besides 5,000,000 pounds of cheese; produces fifty-two different kinds of minerals, probably a world leading record; has a larger per capita wealth than any other State in the Union; leads all the States in barley production, and supplies one-fourth of the Union's output; except one mine in Oregon, produces all the quicksilver of the United States; has nitre beds near Death Valley which promise to outrank those of Chile and Bolivia in production; had a total mineral production during the past nineteen years of $507,000,000, more than half of which was from minerals other than gold; is the only place in the world where salt is harvested by ploughing, while the deposit is inexhaustible.

These records are worthy of the United States, while California is as yet only on the threshold of her development. All Asia, all the Orient, with their boundless possibilities, are before her.

When Uncle Sam's Paper Money Was at a Discount.

From the Brookfield Gazette.

We were paid half in gold and half in paper, which, by the way, was the only time in my experience as a soldier that gold figured in such payment. One doubting Thomas, who expressed the opinion that the paper wasn't worth much, was promptly offered gold for his paper by one of the comrades, provided he would discount the amount $2 or $3, which offer was promptly accepted and the exchange made. This, however, did not end the transaction, as the buyer of the United States paper money went promptly to the paymaster, who was still engaged in paying off the men of other companies, and asked him if he would not exchange gold for the paper. That official, who possibly mistrusted that there had been some discussion in regard to the value of Uncle Sam's promises to pay, promptly answered yes, raked in the paper and handed out the gold. The laugh was on the "doubting Thomas." Later that kind of an exchange became an impossibility, for the time came, as we older people remember, when it took about $2.80 of greenbacks to buy a dollar in gold.

Timed.

Stern Parent—What time did that young man leave?

Pretty Daughter—Just when you got home from the lodge. Ma returned from her bridge party, and Bridget came back from her night out.

Marshall Field's Distinction.

From the Chicago Tribune.

Marshall Field was not the richest man in the United States. He was merely the heaviest taxpayer.

Remarkable snapshots of tarpon in *Country Life in America* for January, now united with the *Country Calendar*, are followed by five portraits of Boston terriers. There are illustrated articles on winter flowers, on rhododendrons, on white leghorns, on mushrooms and pineapples, on rug making and on building and furnishing country homes. A double page picture illustrates the beginning of a series of "Songs of Nature" selected by the Rev. Prof. Henry Van Dyke. Mr. W. J. Travis criticises golf links.

CHINA AND THE WESTERN WORLD.

Asia for the Asiatics the Predicted Outcome of Eastern Unity and European Division.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The new treaty between China and Japan, by which the trade marts of all Manchuria south of the Russian territories east of Lake Baikal have been thrown open to foreign trade, is the commercial complement of the moral and military humiliation of the great Western colossus at the hands of a despised Eastern pygmy.

The opening of all the trade centres from Hailar to Ninguta on the portion of the Manchurian railway between the Russo-Manchurian frontier on the Argun River and Vladivostok, which by the Russo-Japanese peace treaty is to be policed by the Russians, and of Aigun on the south bank of the Amur, opposite Blagovestchensk, was a shrewd move on the part of the Chino-Japanese negotiators, as it reenforces the influences at work for the elimination of Russia as a political and military factor in the affairs of eastern Asia. An immensely wealthy region, inhabited by an active and hard working population, has been in form opened to the commerce of the world by the Japanese, aided by a certain foreign sentiment for exploitation by—the Japanese. If there are any who entertain the belief that there was any altruistic impulse behind the late war and this last treaty they will, if I am not much mistaken, be disillusionized when China feels strong enough to denounce its present customs treaties with foreign Powers and make an independent tariff convention with Japan or, what is not impossible, enter into a commercial union with her.

That some very radical change is coming ere long in the relations between China and all Western countries should be apparent to every one. The assiduity with which the Chinese Government and the provincial authorities are working to organize a national army, while they leave to the Japanese the creation of the vanguard of an Asiatic navy, indicates the line of thought behind their actions. A very short time now will see the Chinese Government in possession of a formidable army, if the reports of the quality of the troops already organized by the foreign military observers present at the recent manœuvres are to be trusted; and in a couple of years more Japan will have what will be practically a new navy, formidable in the numbers, size and armament of its ships and commanded and manned by men experienced in naval warfare and with the prestige of victory.

Such a combination would be redoubtable even if all the Western Powers were united; but when, as they would be sure to be under the new conditions, they will be more or less divided, it will be irresistible; and Asia for the Asiatics will be an accomplished fact. That some of the European Powers are realizing the change in the situation in the Far East and are acting in harmony with it is quite plain. They have already reduced the strength of their squadrons, and all are about to withdraw their troops from China except the legation guards. Russia, yielding to the inevitable, has already recalled from Eastern waters all her ships that were left afloat at the conclusion of peace, so that as she stands to-day with regard to the European Powers Japan is the mistress of the eastern Pacific; and when the military organization of China has attained a sufficient degree of efficiency the two combined will control all eastern Asia and the adjacent waters.

The attitude of the two toward the rest of the world in every phase of racial and international relationship will then depend on the conduct of other Governments and countries toward them; and as war is being found incompatible with civilized progress and social contentment among nations, the chances appear to be that the civilized peoples of the world will see to it that their Governments do not give the great Asiatic combination occasion to put forth its strength.

As to this country, all its interests require that it should remain on friendly terms with the great Power that is rising in the Far East, no matter who may be its enemy. F.

NEW YORK, Jan. 19.

New Devil Loose in West Virginia.

Southern Pines correspondence Charlotte Observer.

The colored population of Southern Pines is excited. A startling rumor has come to this section saying that a new devil has been born in West Virginia. The story goes that the new devil was a monster, fit for any kind of mischief, and although every effort was made to do away with him immediately after it was discovered to be a devil the creature escaped when a few days old and has been rambling over the country at its own will ever since.

The situation would be funny if it was not so annoying in the inconvenience it causes. The colored folks who have heard the story are scared out of their senses. Naturally superstitious and timid, they are infinitely worse now. The house servant who has heard of the new devil is afraid to go to the chicken house alone. She refuses to go around the dark side of the house after dark. She will not go near a vacant house in daylight for fear the new devil will jump out and catch her, and, taking it all around, the absurd story is making a lot of inconvenience.

Several letters of inquiry have been written by the hopeful ones to friends in Ohio and West Virginia, and it is to be hoped that information will be received to set at rest some of the fears, but no amount of assurance will remove the scare entirely, for a frightened darky always shies again at the same place.

No Waiting at Door to See Girls in Zion City.

From the Chicago Inter Ocean.

An order was issued by Overseer Speicher at Zion City yesterday that hereafter young men shall not be permitted to "hang around the doors of the tabernacle waiting to see the girls home from choir rehearsals."

The poetry story of how

We boys around the vestry waited
To see the girls come tripping past
Like snow birds, willing to be mated,

may be all right between the covers of a volume of verse, but practical application of the doorstep sentiment will not be tolerated in the little city on the Lake shore.

Addressing an audience in the tabernacle Mr. Speicher declared the death rate in Zion was as high in the past year as it had been in the year before, and he attributed this to the fact that the men and women were permitting their minds to wander from spiritual things, including the lingering about the tabernacle door in the list of unspiritual things to be avoided.

Not Guilty, but Fled.

From the North Carolina Industrial News.

The jury this morning in the case of State vs. Sidney Grimes and others for gambling, returned a verdict of not guilty, and when the defendants were called into court it was found that Sidney had taken leave. His conscience evidently anticipated that the jury would return a verdict of guilty, and he is not to be found to be informed of his acquittal.

This case recalls to many a case several years ago in which a white man was being tried for stealing a sheep. The jury, after being out some time, brought in a verdict of not guilty. Investigation revealed the fact that the accused had run away.

His Honor turned to the jury and remarked dryly: "Gentlemen of the jury, the defendant evidently knows more about who stole the sheep than you do."

The defendant was captured in a swamp, where he had taken refuge, and was informed of his innocence.

A Nevada Prison.

Bullfrog correspondence Sacramento Bee.

For two days Billy Sanderson, a miner who tried to escape from this district without paying his board bill of $90, remained chained to a heavy freight wagon, there being no jail in which to confine him. Finally several of his friends came to his rescue and upon their pledges he was released. They put him to work in a mine, and he is paying his debts at the rate of $4.50 a day, miner's wages.

After arresting Sanderson at Gold Center the officer was at a loss about holding his prisoner. There is no jail there and finally he chained the fellow to a wagon. That night he took him to his tent and the next day he was tied to the wagon again, where he was compelled to endure the gibes of about a hundred of his friends, who called to inquire after his health. Finally they took pity on him and effected his release.

Prisoner Forges Order for a Shave.

From the Columbus Dispatch.

Fred Bowlus, serving seven years in the penitentiary for horse stealing from Wood county, forged an order Saturday, signing the names of two guards, the order being for a —— shave.

This is the forged order submitted on the report of Guard Dauford:

Pris. F. D 1-12. To guard Jackson

Dear Sir, Will you please let pass Bowlus 34,309 to new hall to get shave and

Oblige

guard Leitner

Bowlus will not forge any more checks or orders. In prison court he was sentenced to one day in solitary confinement.

Progression in Russia.

From the Washington Star.

"What do you think will come next?" asked one Russian official

"I don't know," answered the other. "My vocabulary is about exhausted. We've had a strike, a riot, an insurrection and a revolution. What comes after a revolution?"