The Sun.

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The People and the Railroads.

The debt of the people to the promoters, builders and managers of the railway system of the United States was once set forth in the following language by a Democrat of higher political distinction and deeper insight into the philosophy of the world's affairs than even the Hon. BOURKE COCKRAN of the Twelfth district:

"I do not think there is any just ground for the jealousy which appears to be felt in some quarters toward the railway system of the country. It certainly has served the public with great efficiency and incalculable utility. A new mode of intercommunication, whereby the products of different soils and climates and capacities of supplying human wants are more rapidly or cheaply interchanged, adds as much to the productiveness of human industry as increased geniality of the climate or increased fertility of the soil.

"The convention of 1846, by provisions which it fell to my lot to report, provided, first, in favor of a system of incorporation under general [State] laws; and, secondly, for a supervisory legislative control over the chartered power and privileges of all corporate bodies.

"In my judgment, those two provisions were and are perfectly adequate to secure every public object, however freely we may grant to private enterprise all the powers necessary to enable it to create these great machines of travel and transportation and to the management of them by corporate bodies, which can serve the public with more skill and economy than the State can. The authority thus reserved to the State is doubtless capable of being perverted by it to private injury and oppression; but it seemed to be necessary to the public safety and is a trust to be exercised with wisdom and justice.

"Sir, experience has shown that the tendency thus far has been not to overcharge the public, but, rather, through excessive competition among themselves, to serve it more cheaply than they could afford. Their economies and their skill have been at the service of the public, and have been eminently successful in working out the grand results which are the object of their creation."

To-day happens to be the anniversary of the birth of SAMUEL J. TILDEN, the author of the foregoing sentiments on railway regulation, uttered nearly forty years ago. Possibly there is no better way of celebrating the occasion than to put this Democrat's judicious thinking and temperate habit of expression into evidence and into contrast.

The Vote in the House.

This morning the Hepburn bill for rate regulation stands exactly at that point on the path of legislative progress which the Esch-Townsend bill reached one year ago to-day. Last year's measure passed the House on February 9, 1905, by a vote of 326 to 17, six of the seventeen being Democrats. Yesterday the Hepburn bill passed the House by the greater majority of 346 to 7, there being among the seven not a single Democrat.

As an indication of the ultimate fate of the measure the overwhelming vote in the House in its favor possesses precisely the same significance, or lack of significance, as the vote of last year had with regard to its predecessor's destiny in the Senate. The outlook for the enactment of the present bill may be better, but, if so, that is for other reasons than the size of yesterday's majority. The personal triumph of the President is enhanced by the reduction of the contrary vote in the House and by the disappearance of all Democratic opposition this year, but the critical and decisive stage of his vigorously and persistently conducted enterprise is now, as it was then, only beginning.

One incident of the chapter just closed is perhaps worth noting.

Who of those that were wondering nearly four years ago whether the primacy in the movement for further Federal control of corporations would be held eventually by the Hon. THEODORE ROOSEVELT or by the Hon. CHARLES EDGAR LITTLEFIELD of Maine ever dreamed that in such a vote as that of yesterday Mr. LITTLEFIELD would be one of seven Republicans saying No?

Is Party Government Breaking Up in England?

According to the latest telegrams from London ex-Premier BALFOUR, should he be returned to the House of Commons by the city of London, will remain the leader of those Conservatives who are opposed to a protectionist policy, while the tariff reformers, on their part, will form a separate political organization, of which Mr. JOSEPH CHAMBERLAIN will be the real, though very likely on account of his age not the nominal, head. Would such a rupture of the Unionists, viewed in connection with some other incidents, mean that we may soon see in Great Britain a collapse of the system of government by parties, which with some brief intermissions has prevailed for 200 years?

It is of course no new thing for the House of Commons to possess three or four political organizations. In the later '40s, after the abolition of the Corn laws by Sir ROBERT PEEL and his subsequent defeat at the hands of a coalition in which the Protectionist Conservatives formed an important factor, there existed for some time in the House four distinct parties, each equipped with machinery of its own. These parties were the Whig, the Conservative, the Peelite and the Irish party, which last had been created by DANIEL O'CONNELL. A number of years were to elapse before the separate Peelite organization was abandoned, though gradually most of its leaders coalesced with the Whigs, under the joint name of Liberals. Again, in the later '60s, when Lord RUSSELL brought forward his new Reform bill, there again existed for a while four parties in the House of Commons, namely, the Liberals, the Conservatives, the Irish Home Rulers and the Adullamites, a name given to the seceders from the Liberal camp, with whose aid Lord DERBY and Mr. DISRAELI were enabled to form a short lived Government. Once more, during the Gladstone Administration of 1880-85, when some of the younger Conservatives regarded Sir STAFFORD NORTHCOTE's leadership of the Opposition as inefficient, a small "fourth party" was formed, of which Lord RANDOLPH CHURCHILL was the chief and Mr. A. J. BALFOUR his principal lieutenant. When Lord SALISBURY, however, formed a Government in the spring of 1885 the "fourth party" was reunited with the Conservatives.

There has been, then, no lack of precedents for party dislocation in British political history since the first Reform act became operative in 1832. It now looks, however, as if the process of disintegration would be carried further and would have more durable effects. It is not four parties but five which we may now expect to witness; for, besides the Balfourite, Chamberlainite, Liberal and Nationalist combinations, the Laborites are to have an organization of their own. It is by no means certain either that the Liberals proper may not be split in twain on such a question as the repeal of the last Education act. Hereafter, therefore, if not immediately, British statesmen who desire to form and maintain a Government may need to exhibit the same accommodating spirit and tactical dexterity which has long been imperatively required in Germany, France and Italy.

Only for a short time after the creation of the North German Confederation, which presently was expanded into the German Empire, were the National Liberals strong enough to command a majority of the Reichstag. They were soon irreparably weakened by the secession of the Progressists, who in their turn have been rent into two factions. The Conservatives, on their side, are arrayed in two separate camps, so that with the Centrists, the Socialists and a small body of so-called Agrarians there are now no fewer than eight distinct factions in the popular branch of the German Parliament. In Italy for a number of years after the death of CAVOUR the Italian Chamber of Deputies was pretty evenly divided between Conservatives and Liberals, the former of whom were generally headed by MINGHETTI and the latter by DEPRETIS. Gradually, however, the Conservatives dwindled, and the seats on the Left, originally held by Liberals, came to be occupied by Radicals and Socialists. For about a quarter of a century Italian statesmen have found it possible to govern only by an adroit and ephemeral conjunction of factions. In France, under the Third Republic, the system of government by parties may be said to have existed during the Presidency of MACMAHON. Especially was this true of 1877, when all the Deputies friendly to a republican form of government were mustered by GAMBETTA, while all of those openly or secretly favorable to a monarchical system supported the Broglie-Fourtou Cabinet. From the installation of President GRÉVY the disintegration of the Republican party has gone on, until now it comprises three or four distinct organizations, to say nothing of the Socialists, the avowed Monarchists and the so-called "Rallied Republicans."

It seems on the whole improbable, in view of the split in the Unionist ranks and the emergence of a distinct Labor organization, that the system of government by parties, as distinguished from the transient cooperation of factions, will last much longer in Great Britain.

Mr. Heflin at Flood.

The Hon. JAMES THOMAS HEFLIN of Alabama is aroused, as usual. His speech on the Railroad Rate bill in the House of Representatives was a masterly effort. Duly franked, it will cause many an honest shudder in Coosa and Tallapoosa. Mr. HEFLIN doesn't mince words in speaking of JACOB's cunning in chousing ESAU. The House reverberated with "great applause" when he said that since that crooked deal about the birthright "it had been necessary to put metes and bounds about human conduct." We had not supposed that either law or commercialism was so recent. A few words about NABOTH's vineyard would have been relished on the Democratic side, but NABOTH belongs by courtesy and prescription to the Datto of Lincoln. In compensation Mr. HEFLIN exhibited PLATO, ARISTOTLE, BURKE, the vitals of the republic and the kings of ill gotten gain. ABSALOM appeared as the young man "driven to the wall or forced to take his place * * * in a niche of the great combination." How does anybody make a living in the United States? The man of 45 finds himself considered a venerable duffer and cumberer. He is thrust out by the young man. Mr. HEFLIN says the young man is driven to the wall by the trusts. Evidently this is a bitter world; and Congress can't do much to set it right by statute.

One phrase in Mr. HEFLIN's "tribute" to Old Hickory is interesting:

"Clad in the simple costume of Democracy."

What's that? Is it a bit simpler than Uncle JOE CANNON'S full homespun suit, crowned with a wool hat and based upon rawhide boots?

Being aroused himself, Mr. HEFLIN is sure that the people are. He sees "the petitions coming here just literally flooding this House, petitions coming from nearly everybody except those that the railroads can control." Well, let us see the flood. Mr. HEFLIN'S speech adorns the *Congressional Record* of February 2. Nearly two pages and a half of that issue are covered with petitions presented in the House. Of these hundreds of petitions exactly one refers to the Railroad Rate bill. Petitions offered in the Senate on the same day occupy more than a page of the *Record*. The Manufacturers' Association of Jamestown, N. Y., prays for the enactment of legislation to prohibit rebates. West Branch Grange, No. 1149, Patrons of Husbandry, of Germania, Pa., prays for the passage of the Railroad Rate bill. Pure food, liquor prohibition, immigration, regulation of the Hon. REED SMOOT, are present in greater flood. Two petitions about railroads; one petition about the duty on basic-slag meal. Still, there was a flood, a happy, irresistible flood, the Hon. JAMES THOMAS HEFLIN pouring out peroration. His face is full of sunshine, his mouth of poetry. Hear him:

"Land of our fathers, through thy length and breadth a tremor passes. Look! The dark is done, and on thy proud form shall shine the splendor of the sun. Thine own children with heads erect and light on all their faces are happy in the triumph of Democracy's creed!"

We like to see Mr. HEFLIN's countenance illuminated, but what Democracy's creed is nobody knows.

Another Scheme to License Business.

There is nothing that appeals to some lawmakers more strongly than a legislative plan to license and register their fellow citizens. Barbers, plumbers, newsboys, a dozen other trades and callings have their commissions, their fees and their inspectors. Now CHARLES F. MURPHY, Assemblyman from the Tenth Kings county district, appears with a plan, described in a bill he has introduced at Albany, for "the regulation of the business of real estate brokers in cities of the first and second class," under which the men who buy, sell, lease and manage real estate would have the privileges of paying an annual fee for permission to do business and of filing a bond to guarantee their honesty.

Any person feeling aggrieved in his dealings with a real estate broker could join the sureties on this bond as defendants in a legal action. The license might be revoked by the officer granting it, and a person losing his license would not be again "qualified to hold or obtain a license in the same city," or "to serve therein as a clerk, solicitor or employee of any other person" in the real estate brokerage business.

It is true that the term "real estate" covers a multitude of occupations in the city directory, and that some real estate agents engage in shady business. This is not the reason for the introduction of the Murphy bill, however. It has its origin in the desire to make men pay license fees, appear on some record or other, be tabulated and counted. The craze for the creation of commissions and bureaus for the control, regulation and muddling other people's business has raged for years, not more virulently in New York than in other States throughout the entire country. The appetite for interference seems to grow with what it feeds on, and there is danger that if the common run of citizens do not look to their interests they will wake up some morning and find that every voluntary and involuntary act from the cradle to the grave is a misdemeanor unless it is performed under a license for which a fee has been paid to some public functionary.

Lieutenant-Generals.

In an army no larger than that of the United States the grade of Lieutenant-General is superfluous. Hitherto it has been used in recognition of distinguished military service rather than as a useful or necessary rank in the army. Up to 1900 only six men in the American service had held rank above that of Major-General. WASHINGTON, GRANT, SHERIDAN and SHERMAN were made full Generals, and SCOTT and SCHOFIELD were Lieutenant-Generals.

Since 1900 four officers have been raised to the rank of Lieutenant-General; two more are slated for promotion this year. In the list immediately after CORBIN and MACARTHUR are WOOD, GRANT, FUNSTON, CARTER, BLISS and MILLS, all hoping to attain an honor to which their military services give them no claim. If the grade is for them or for any of them, it must also be for many others.

An amendment to the Army Appropriation bill reads as follows:

"*Provided*, further, That when the office of Lieutenant-General shall become vacant, it shall not thereafter be filled, but said office shall cease and determine."

There is one thing to be said of this provision. It could not and probably would not be final. A later Congress could restore the grade, and nothing would have been accomplished except a possible injustice to officers whose terms expired during the interim.

The proper solution of the question seems to rest entirely with the appointing power. The office may be left unfilled, and public sentiment should make it impossible for any President to fill it on any other ground whatever than that of eminently distinguished service in actual warfare.

The rank of Lieutenant-General of the United States Army should be a reward for special distinction in actual military service. It need not be abolished, but it should be kept sacredly, by Presidents and by people, as a mark of special honor.

A certain melodramatic fervor and tang is apparent in many of the speeches in favor of the Railroad Rate bill. You seem to hear Oppressed Virtue snorting: "The time will come!" Thus, the Hon. CHARLES L. BARTLETT of Georgia:

"I fear that it may meet the fate that many bills of this House for the relief of the people have met—to be buried in the tomb of the Senate committee or the Senate chamber. But this I do believe, that there will some day be an end to this defeat of the will of the people. I believe that the 'Waters of truth will rise gradually and slowly, but surely, and then look out for the overflowing scourge.'

"Balked in its just demands for remedial legislation and to be relieved from oppression and injustice, this mighty and puissant nation will yet rouse itself up, like a strong man after sleep, and shake her invincible locks in a fashion you little think of now. Retribution will come in due time. While justice travels with a leaden heel, it is sure to strike with an iron hand. While the mills of the gods grind slowly, they grind exceedingly fine. The wrath of the people will yet lift the flood gates, and a full head of waters will come rushing on. If we wait until that time we will see fine grinding then."

The Hon. JOHN C. FLOYD of Arkansas sees "financial brigands, those marauding chiefs of high finance, who with the stride of a colossus stalk up and down the continent, unrestrained by law, and with the iron heel of tyranny trample under foot the rights of the people." Whether an iron heel is an advantage to a striding colossus may be questioned, but no doubt it was a colossus that originated the financial term "straddle." The people have more than iron heels to complain of. Their livers suffer:

"No gentle words will rend the shackles of him who is chained like PROMETHEUS to the rock."

The Hon. GORDON RUSSELL of Texas actually said something pleasant about the railroads:

"They have touched with their iron fingers the deserts in the West and made them to blossom as the rose. The gleaming eyes of their locomotives have gazed into the face of savagery, and churches and schools and contented people now inhabit the places where the red man hunted the buffalo; but, sir, while the railroads have benefited the people, the people have benefited the railroads."

The red men hunted the buffalo. The white man hunts the railroads. These may be a public necessity, as Dr. GAINES of Tennessee admits. Still, let us remember with Mr. FLOYD that "notwithstanding the bright lights, the gilded finishings and the velvet furnishings of its palace cars * * * the railroad in its functions and purposes is a common carrier." So we have heard; and if the Government sets out to keep these common carriers in better order, it should not forget the plush and velvet furnishings. There are greater evils, but few greater atrocities.

The Hon. ROBERT BAKER has now devoted his genius to both the legislative and the administrative departments of public usefulness with about equal success and notoriety. It remains for him only to demonstrate his fitness for the judiciary.

The Hon. JAMES BRECK PERKINS of Rochester has written history well and read history to advantage. He does not look for any quick demand for ascension robes in consequence of the Railroad Rate bill, nor does he believe that it will cause wide-winged disaster to the railroads should it become a law.

One criticism of his of the workings of the Circumlocution Office as compared with the prompt and natural regulation of private business is worth repeating:

"For such questions as arise as to differentials, for the questions that arise in any new business development, what is most required is infinite flexibility, the ability to change, the ability to modify, the ability to meet the situation. Is there anybody who does not know that in every Government department, in every branch of the Government, fixity, fixed rules, the inability to change is found from the smallest clerk up to the highest official? This is sure to be in Government action controlled by Government laws."

This rigid, clumsy Chinese system is a great consumer of stationery. It helps clerks feel that they earn their money. But compared with private initiative and supervision it is as death to life.

PORTO RICO'S PLEA.

A Forgotten People's Appeal for Justice from America.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Porto Rico is fighting over again in 1906 under the flag of the United States the political battle fought and won under the reactionary sovereignty of Spain prior to the felicitous advent of the American troops on the soil of the island. In other words, Porto Rico is endeavoring at the present moment to wrest, with the help of the American people, from the Federal Congress, purporting to be the highest representation of human freedom, what she got from one of the most retrograde aggregations shown by the annals of monarchical deliberative bodies—the Spanish Cortes.

What an eloquent inversion of the natural order of things the inexplicable procrastination on the part of the Washington Congress to bestow upon the Porto Ricans the reforms recommended by the President in his annual message when compared to the ready acquiescence of the Madrid legislative bodies to condescend in 1898 to our island's wishes! As in that year, when a junta of Porto Rican patriots successfully besought from the Spanish Government the home rule concessions instituted on the island, so now there is a group of Porto Rico's well wishers knocking at our doors and imploring from Congress the restitution of the old privileges. History repeats itself.

One cannot help enlisting his sympathy for a people which asks in such a masterful manner as the memorial just adopted by the Porto Rican House of Delegates, and which I translate here:

We are not speaking in the name of a political party; we are speaking in the name of a patriotic people.

We are one million souls and we live in an island created by God in the very heart of America.

Through the will of God and the efforts of the United States the flag of the Stars and Stripes is floating over the island to-day.

We have a right to ask God and the American Government for our liberty.

When the treaty of Paris was agreed to our Government was constituted by two chambers based on the electoral suffrage, by a council of Porto Rican secretaries forming the insular Government, by sixty-three municipal councils, which administered the government and city affairs; by a Governor-General, who was the only representative of the sovereignty of the former metropolis. We had, in addition, sixteen Deputies and three Senators in the legislative bodies of the nation. In a word, a Porto Rican home rule government in working order in Porto Rico.

We must be honest and sincere; we know that we were then protected by the proximity of the United States and the knowledge that its banner might some day be over us. It is an open secret that the Spanish colonial policy was influenced in its last days by the policy of the United States of America. This was already an implicit promise that there would come a day of redemption.

Gen. Miles, when he took possession of our island in the name of the United States, expressed, wrote down and made public that promise. And Porto Rico received the new sovereign with loud acclaim. We had the utmost confidence that a free people would be necessarily a liberating people. The time has come at last for the promise to be fulfilled.

Rather than have a government of our own we have applied for American citizenship. If you grant us citizenship as we hope you will, then you must grant us immediately home rule.

There cannot be in the world American citizens who have no right to designate their own lawmakers, and who have nothing to say about the directing and administering of their own interests.

The law which was promulgated by your supreme authority for the island of Porto Rico on April 12, 1900, is not inspired by the system of equable division of powers inherent in the Constitution of the United States.

It is not inspired in the grand principle of popular suffrage for the formation of law making bodies.

We wish and we ask that you reform it so it may be in harmony with genuine American principles.

We are not engineering to get lucrative positions in the country's administration. Give us the places that mean toil and sacrifice. We are obliged to serve our native land with no other compensation than the glory of serving her. We ask:

The abolition of the Executive Council, the creation of a senate and upper chamber, composed of fourteen members, elected, as Congress may prescribe, by the seven districts into which the island is divided, with two Senators allotted to each district; the permanency of the House of Delegates as now organized; the retention of the six departments of the Executive, their chiefs to be nominated by the Governor of Porto Rico, with the approbation of the Senate or upper house.

This is just and is our right. In you we place our hope for the triumph of our right, resting in the appeal to your justice.

And through your mediation we send the American people the brotherly greeting of the Porto Rican people.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8. D. COLLAZO.

True Words About "Success."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The most successful man is he who has succeeded in making the most people happy.

A man who has lived without making all he could happy is a dismal failure, even though he be a billionaire. E. H. J.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.

Numerical Advancement.

My father's father was named John Smith,
And father was John Smith, too,
And that made me called John Smith three,
For no name but John would do.

I shovelled dirt with a railroad gang
From Genoa and from Cork,
And I was always Number Nine
When I got my pay for my work.

I rapidly rose in politics,
And proudly then I heard
Myself throughout the district hailed
As boss of the Umpty-third.

And now I am on Easy street,
With perfectos in my mouth,
And my telephone call is fifteen-
Fifteen-fourteen-W-South.

FIRST SIGHT OF A WHITE FACE.

A few thousands of the human race have kept themselves so aloof that they still live in complete isolation, dreading strangers more than they do beasts of prey. One tribe of the dwarf Negritos in the Malay Peninsula, whose stamping ground is the mountains of northern Malacca and southern Siam, is numbered among these shy and retiring peoples. The people ask only to be let alone. They live apart because they are afraid.

A German botanist named Albert Grubauer while on a collecting tour a few months ago went hunting for these timid folk as he might for game, excepting that he had no murderous purpose and merely wished to study them. He knew that the only way to get near them was to come upon them unawares. They would run if they had a half chance; so the German and his two or three native servants stole up among the mountains very quietly and crept along the paths leading through jungle and underbrush, expecting, if they aroused no suspicion, to meet a party out hunting or surprise a village before its inmates could take to the woods.

It was rather tedious work, but patience was at length rewarded. As Grubauer renewed his search one morning he heard a noise on the path before him. He and his men sprang to one side just as a number of the little men came along. They had been collecting rattan and had loads of it on their backs. They saw the white man, dropped their loads in the path and sprang into the brush.

The German and his men knew exactly what they were to do in such a case. They were not to go an inch in pursuit. No weapon was to be shown. One of the men who could speak a little of the native dialect aired his accomplishment in the gentlest way. The white man was their good friend and had come to see them. And what wonderful presents he had brought for his friends! The white man and his servants extended their arms, which were loaded with bright cottons, strings of beads, many colored necklaces, tobacco and other tempting articles whose merits were extolled by the spokesman with all the eloquence he could command.

They knew the natives were behind the bushes looking at the tempting sight and listening to the exhortation. Then the visitors sat down, still holding out the beautiful presents. Finally, an old man, the leader of the party, stuck his head out of the bush. He broke off a green twig and held it up. It was a sign of peace and the white man nodded to him. The ice was broken. The Negrito approached the European, they shook hands, some of the presents were distributed and the visitors became the guests of the little mountaineers. They were passed on from one group to another till Grubauer, after a considerable time, had completed his studies.

One of the most scientific journals in Germany has thought it worth while to print the long account which Grubauer has written about these people. There they have lived for many generations almost within sight of the world's shipping as it passes up and down through Malacca Strait, the gateway between the West and the East. They have been in the world but hardly of it, and their existence was scarcely known; but a persistent white man, full of tact and kindliness, finally won their friendship and they told him all they knew about themselves.

Grubauer found them very human. He says their family life is more developed than among many tribes of low culture, and family affection is very noticeable among them. They are also forging a link that is binding them to the rest of the world. They no longer produce fire in the good old way, for something new and marvellous has passed from tribe to tribe till it has reached them. They have become addicted to the Swedish match.

CITY SALARIES.

More Work and Less Pay Suggested as a Cure for Municipal Ills.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Is it not time to reduce the salaries and increase the working hours of the police and other city employees? The police should receive $1,000 yearly for eight hours work. When this is done the police force can be increased about 25 per cent. Plenty of good men can be had for $1,000.

The salaries paid to city employees are ridiculously exorbitant. If all employees who now receive more than $1,200 were reduced, except professional men, and their hours of labor were lengthened from 8:30 o'clock to 5:30 o'clock and 4 o'clock on Saturdays, there would be very few anxious to enter the employ of the city. City employees now actually work about six months in the year as compared to men who work a full year in mercantile houses.

If the Mayor would go over the payroll of every city department and lop off the exorbitant salaries he would be a very popular man. These men voted against him for selfish reasons, and he is under no obligations to them. On account of their short hours, little work and exorbitant salaries there will always be a great temptation to the officeholders to do a lot of crooked work at elections, and if conditions were the same as in mercantile houses there would be no reason for men scheming and planning to destroy popular government by resorting to bribery, repeating, false registration and other disreputable methods that disgrace politics.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7. [illegible] LEON LAESSER.

Gentiles and the Educational Alliance.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Member" asks in to-day's SUN, Who will help the Educational Alliance? That no Hebrew charity better deserves Gentile support will probably be admitted by any one who has made himself familiar with the objects and results of the alliance's work. I attended two of the performances of the Ben Greet players at the alliance auditorium last year, and I doubt whether Shakespeare ever had more attentive and appreciative audiences. I became convinced that no institution is doing more to cultivate the taste and improve the condition of the East Side than the Educational Alliance.

Some time ago a call was made through THE SUN for subscriptions to the relief fund for Russian Jews. It was objected that the Jews should help themselves, an objection which drew forth an editorial reply.

A glance at the annual reports of the great Jewish charities will convince any unprejudiced person that the wealthy Jews give most liberally, and many of the poorer Jews to the extent of their ability, to the support of these institutions. This subscription fund is naturally limited. There has been an unusual drain upon it for the relief of distressed and persecuted Jews abroad.

Shem rarely asks Japheth for bread. Shall he be given a stone? GENTILE.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.

A Triumph of Neutral Journalism.

From the Almond Gleaner.

In spite of our announcements that the *Gleaner* would remain neutral in the heated local campaign just passed, some of our readers feel that we have taken sides, as is evidenced by letters recently received. The best proof that we can have that the *Gleaner* was really neutral is that both sides protest. Had these complainants taken notice they would have known that not one word was written either for or against license by the editor or any one connected with the *Gleaner*, and no article from either side has been refused publication. It is not to our liking to publish a newspaper and not have the right to express our opinions, but as the community is small and we cannot well afford to lose the good will of either side, the only course left us is a neutral one on all questions.

A Dissembler.

From the Boston Transcript.

Boss Murphy is now trying to make it appear that he wanted Jerome all the while. It was unfortunate for him that he so successfully dissembled his love.

What Happened to Gail Haas.

Westminster correspondence Hutchinson News.

Gail Haas got kicked by a mule Saturday.

A Title.

Stella—She says she can read the Count like a book.

Bella—Well, he is one of the six best sellers.

KNEW NOT JOSEPH.

Tar Heelers' Neglect of the Old North State's Loveliest Son.

From the Charleston News and Courier.

Why will THE SUN lend its great influence to the perpetuation of a historical blunder? In speaking of "the decoration of Uncle Joe"—the same being an account of the various contributions which have been made recently to his wardrobe—THE SUN said: "Tarheel and Palmetto have vied with one another in the amiable task." That is not true. The Tarheels have had nothing to do with it. They never would have thought of it, but they will claim the credit of it just the same, as they have always claimed the credit for Andrew Jackson and the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence. The gifts which have been made to Mr. Cannon included a suit of jeans made of wool that was grown on a South Carolina sheep's back, woven on a South Carolina loom by a South Carolina woman and presented to the Speaker by a South Carolina Representative. The galluses were knitted of South Carolina wool by a South Carolina woman, and the wool hat—the last of the gifts made to Mr. Cannon—was sent to him by a South Carolinian; yet THE SUN is trying to give North Carolina credit for making some effort to do honor to the distinguished statesman from Illinois. We protest against such misrepresentation of the facts in this case, and trust our contemporary will make immediate correction of the misstatements for which it is responsible.

We are told by THE SUN that Mr. Cannon "needs a pair of boots, good old fashioned American statesman boots. The Hon. William L. Douglas will be glad to make him a pair, but Mr. Cannon would never consent to take even the smallest favor from a man of Mr. Douglas's views on hides."

And Mr. Cannon is right. The boots will be forthcoming, and they will be made of South Carolina leather by a South Carolina shoemaker in true statesmanlike pattern, and they will go with the hat and the jeans and the galluses and the socks. We would suggest that the boots be made for Mr. Cannon by popular subscription, in order that he may appreciate in what esteem he is held in South Carolina. To this end the *News and Courier* will receive penny subscriptions from the people of this State, so that every one who would like to take part in this testimonial may have an opportunity of getting in on the ground floor. We should say that a good pair of South Carolina boots would cost about $17, and this would limit the subscriptions to 1,700 pennies, or about the usual Republican vote of the State. Subscriptions in the amount named may be sent to the *News and Courier* until the lists are closed.

LEST ENGLISH DIE.

A Philadelphian's Plea for an Academy, Uniformity and Union.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have watched for many years the progress of the English language, not studiously, but as one of the Anglo-Saxon race naturally much interested in preserving our mother tongue. Our language has shown its usefulness and stability for full five hundred years, and it seems a good time to take measures to perpetuate it. It is apparent that individual efforts have failed to mould our speech into a lasting shape, and I suggest that an effort be made to establish the language on a fixed basis. If we could get uniform spelling, pronunciation and meaning of all words in the Anglo-Saxon's vocabulary the race would outlast the centuries and have every opportunity to accomplish whatever good our character is capable of.

There are many sound reasons for concern about this. May our English not die out and join the company of the dead languages of dead races? Is it not generally admitted as a foregone conclusion that the Germans, Chinese, Japanese and Russians will all become great peoples if they continue jealously to guard their respective languages?

Again, there is no law or tradition to require us to hold our language where it now is, and every new lexicographer but adds to our confusion as to what is right in our speech. There is no admitted high authority in English. Without it may not the genius of our tongue be lost? How can a universal authority be established? This could be readily done if the English speaking universities were to agree to follow a dictionary to be issued, say, by the standing committee of the "British Academy for the Promotion of Historical, Philosophical and Philological Studies." This would insure uniformity and enduring English for all time.

After a few generations of culture on such a basis the English speaking peoples would be an all-powerful, sympathetic unit and our posterity, doubtless, would thank this generation for universal peace, and its emblem either the Union Jack or the Stars and Stripes—or both! B. F.

PHILADELPHIA, Feb 8.

Goldwin Smith's Summing Up.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Your correspondents in THE SUN of yesterday, "S." and "Francis C. Moore," hold widely different views as to Goldwin Smith's "summing up." Mr. Moore says that every friend of Goldwin Smith must regret his recent utterances.

"Must" is a strong word, even from one who is not in authority. I do not regret them and am in full accord with the sentiments expressed by "S.," but I do regret that a well disposed, would-be defender of the faith has so little faith as to fear that his "enjoyment of it" can be shaken by any man, even by one of such strong and righteous convictions as those of Goldwin Smith.

WILLIAM C. GILMAN.

NORWICH, Conn., Feb. 7.

Origin of New York Street Names.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* New York has recently reduced the number of streets bearing names derived from the forest by the official changing of Elm street to Lafayette, and thus passes a very old designation for a city thoroughfare. Few persons know the origin of the name Elm street.

The territory between Chambers and Canal streets, the Bowery and Broadway which included the Collect Pond, was for many years public property, and under public authority the road which intersected it and which branched off from the Bowery road was planted with elms. The Bowery road extended north from Chambers street to the present junction of the Bowery and Seventh street. The road of elms ran from Chambers street to Bleecker street. When streets were laid out the elm road became Elm street, and it continued such until very recently.

Pine, Spruce, Cedar and Chestnut streets all derived their names from the forest. Cherry street was known for many years as "the road by the cherry trees," as Elm street was the road by the elms. ANTIQUARY.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.

The Non-Preventive Prevention Society.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let me add my mite of experience as to the practical spirit of the S. P. C. A. Coming down William street one morning on my way to business I noticed a cat caught between the bars of a basement grating. A small group of persons stood looking on. Having reached my office I telephoned the society, suggesting that they send some one to release the cat. The answer came back in an indignant voice: "Why didn't you take the cat out yourself?"

After recovering from the shock of this I explained as well as I could over the phone that I was not in the P. C. A. business and was not equipped for a struggle with a frightened cat, even if I had been able to take time for that purpose when on my way to business. I was then told—rather gruffly—that some one would be sent.

I confess that I was a little upset by the occurrence, as I had been weak enough to plume myself a bit on taking the time and trouble to telephone them, and to find that I was deemed a culprit for not doing their work myself did certainly jar me. However, this was two or three years ago. Perhaps they have more sense now. ZYX.

BROOKLYN, Feb. 7.

Saratoga's Normal Temperature.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have kept a diary for years about the weather in Saratoga, being long a resident of that place, and I find in my diary under date of 1857 the following:

"Very cold weather in Saratoga county. Record through the county for five days was as follows: January 22, 40 degrees below zero; January 23 40 degrees below zero; January 24, 35 degrees below zero; January 25, 21 degrees below zero; January 26, 20 degrees below zero.

The fact is that the normal temperature of Saratoga in winter is zero. Often we have it for a day at 40 degrees below zero; and what is a singular fact, when the temperature at Saratoga is 40 degrees below, the same is experienced in Utica. This fact has often been commented upon.

MOUNT VERNON, Feb. 7. WILLIAM L. STONE.

Study of Languages in Corea.

From the Korean Daily News.

Two incidents have been brought to our notice which are, as indications of the present attitude of Coreans, worthy of attention.

After the recent "treaty" was put through the attendance at the English language school rapidly dwindled to next to nothing. Investigations as to the reason of this elicited the statement that as Great Britain had betrayed Corea to Japan the Coreans had no longer any desire to study the English language.

We also learn that on account of the total absence of students the Japanese language school had to be temporarily closed.

EUTHANASIA.

Sentimentalism Which Finds Little Encouragement From Doctors.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Napoleon, under escort of Baron Larrey, strode through the lazarette containing that awful remnant of the Egyptian campaign dying from black plague. The rounds ended, Napoleon peremptorily, characteristically commanded opium and death for them all. The great nobleman, outraged, indignantly refused, declaring his duty was to save, not take life.

Baron Larrey but emphasized the invariable, the undeviating attitude of his profession toward euthanasia. Euthanasia is and can be no true medical theme or motive. It is but a hideous atavistic visitation from a primitive ancestry, who not only murdered but ate their aged or suffering superfluity.

The medical profession is no baby. Older than Cheops, older than Hamarubi, it has known all about this chat about euthanasia all the while, but has had too much good sense and propriety to give it thematic development or practice. Physicians from time immemorial have bestowed proper and judicious easement with venerable vintage of poppy or yeast. The practice is now no better, no worse—the same as thousands of years ago. Medicine has no need whatever of the "Black Bottle." To ease long lingering pain whiskey and opium may never be improved upon.

Over all Christendom spreads the talk of euthanasia. European papers reek with this homicidal and still more suicidal rot. Hysteria shrieks, "Dissolution in groans is like amputation without ether." "Give us Nirvana, nepenthe, the smile of Buddha." In fact, the more outcry the less injury.

There is truly great danger of the abominations of euthanasia settling and scumming down into a slime of popular philosophy—of suicide and murder. There is only too great danger of this, since the doctrine and practice already exist as a not too submerged atavistic instinct. Euthanasia is but another name for the worst sloughs of degradation humanity ever knew.

Again, the medical profession is in no mood to receive upstart instruction about this ancient nonsense. Those seeking a delicious death must look elsewhere. Most of the cry for euthanasia comes not from cancer of the body, but from cancer of the soul, for which pain, pain strong and enduring, is a remedy.

AMON JENKINS, M. D.

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.

SENATOR SAXE'S BILL.

A Non-Resident Who Finds It Cause for Great Mirth.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I note that our old friend the Saxe bill has made its annual appearance rather earlier than customary, probably owing to the unusually mild season. This measure is a pet scheme of Senator Saxe to tax property found in New York belonging to non-residents, and is objectionable to the said non-residents because it puts them to the inconvenience of moving their taxable securities to the commodious safe deposit vaults in Jersey City and their bank accounts to the excellent banks and trust companies of Jersey City, Newark, Philadelphia, &c.

I commend to Senator Saxe the appropriateness of entitling his measure "A bill for the benefit of safe deposit companies, banks and trust companies outside of the State of New York," and also that he amend it so that the unhappy resident may be accorded the same right to protect himself by removing his taxable property to convenient and safe havens. Otherwise an injustice is perpetrated which I fear will lead to many accessions to the ranks of the non-residents, facetiously (?) designated as "tax dodgers."

It is hardly possible to write seriously regarding this clumsy, blundering and unscientific attempt to increase the gross wrong and injustice of the personal tax system of New York—a method so iniquitous that, while in instances the poor widow is obliged to pay from 25 to 37½ per cent. of her entire income on her personal tax assessment, the payments by the wealthy are such as to make "a horse laugh"—in one case actually only on one-sixtieth part (or less) of his absolutely taxable property as paid by one eminent citizen.

The Saxe bill "is to laugh" (by the non-resident, however), and if enacted will only make the obnoxious personal tax system even more obnoxious and inoperative than ever and immediately recruit the ranks of the TAX DODGER.

NEW YORK, Feb. 7.

Pending "Judicial Review."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At a time when laymen as well as experts are discussing the question of railway rate regulation, may I contribute the following suggestion?

The central point of dispute in the agitation seems to be the want of equity in compelling the railroads to do business at a reduced rate when such is ordered by the commission, pending judicial action upon the reasonableness or unreasonableness of the commission's figures. The point is made that if the court reverses the commission's figures as unreasonably low and reestablishes the railroad's figures, the railroad will be out the money which it would have taken in during the period when the question was before the court.

The remedy for this difficulty seems simple. While it would be impossible for the railroads to collect from the public, it would be easy enough for the shippers to get rebates from the railroads. Let the railroads, therefore, when a reduced rate is ordered by the commission, have the option of complying with it or not, pending the court's decision. A railroad which was satisfied of the justice of its rate would contest the commission's ruling and stick to its figures until they were upheld by the court. A railroad which feared that the court's decision would be against it would comply with the commission's figures. In the case of a railroad which upheld its own figures and was defeated in the judicial proceedings, it could rebate the difference to the shippers and in addition pay such penalties as would tend to discourage this form of obstinacy.

There are doubtless many intricate questions of detail involved in the execution of this plan, but they could be solved if the general principle were found satisfactory.

GEORGE GARR H[illegible]

NEW YORK, Feb. 8.

School Savings Banks.

In 1885 Mr. J. H. Thiry, school commissioner of Long Island City, began the system of school savings banks by starting one in that town. Though a new thing in the United States the system had been in operation in France for fifty years. According to Mr. Thiry's twentieth annual report just out, there are now 1,089 school savings banks in operation in 109 cities of 22 States of the Union. In the twenty years 101,000 children have become depositors, putting in $2,782,012, and taking out $2,165,073, leaving to their credit $616,939.

Some instances of cities, with their school enrolment and number of depositors, are interesting:

City.	School Enrolment.	Bank Depositors.
Pittsburg, Pa	35,000	[illegible]
Kansas City, Mo	29,783	[illegible]
Toledo, Ohio	21,000	[illegible]
Pasadena, Cal	3,651	[illegible]
Morristown, Pa	2,950	[illegible]
West Chester, Pa	1,626	[illegible]
West Liberty, Pa	240	[illegible]

West Liberty, Pa., is therefore the banner school savings bank city in the United States, every school child being a bank depositor.

Some children draw out as readily as they deposit, while others draw very little, taking a natural pride in seeing their bank balance grow.

Note some of the deposit and withdrawal figures by cities:

City.	Deposited.	Withdrawn.
Toledo, Ohio	$181,000	[illegible]
Pittsburg, Pa	167,000	[illegible]
Buffalo, N. Y	78,000	[illegible]
Grand Rapids, Mich	60,000	[illegible]
Williamsport, Pa	50,000	[illegible]
Spokane, Wash	28,000	[illegible]
Campello, Mass	17,000	[illegible]
Milton, Mass	2,510	[illegible]
Lee, Mass	2,300	[illegible]

Hallowell, Me.; West Liberty, Pa.; Wenatchee, Wash.; Ypsilanti, Mich., and some other cities have not drawn a dollar of their deposits. Pennsylvania schools have the highest individual balances, and Massachusetts schools the lowest.

All kinds of people are helping the children to save their money. Members of school boards, superintendents, teachers, principals, bank officials, Congressmen, clergymen, women's clubs, merchants, members of the W. C. T. U. and secretaries of Associated Charities are helping along the good work. "Think of Miss Marian Messemer of New York, who has had charge of $1,100,000 of the little people's money! And most of it came in pennies."

The success of this good work in the past twenty years justifies the expectation of its wide expansion in the future.

Franklin Amended.

For want of a nail the shoe was lost.
For want of a shoe the horse was lost.
For want of a horse the rider bought an automobile.