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No strike.

The radicals at Saranton who condemned the decision not to strike as a defeat for the organized miners were wrong.

JOHN MITCHELL never showed more worthy leadership than when he brought Secretary-Treasurer Wilson to Saranton to speak to the convention from the text: "Remember the union and what it has done for you."

An accepted definition of a trade union is "a continuous association of wage-earners for the purpose of maintaining or improving the conditions of their employment."

By accepting the operators' proposal to continue in effect the award of the Anthracite strike Commission for three years more the federated mine workers would maintain the conditions of their employment. That was all they could expect to do. JOHN MITCHELL was wise enough to see it. The miners' trade union was not for a day, but for all time.

A strike that failed when wages were higher than ever before, and when the miners as a whole were satisfied with the terms of their employment, might have wrecked the organization. In the light of the result achieved at Saranton we can see that JOHN MITCHELL's reference to the collision at Mount Carmel expressed a regret that it occurred at the psychological moment when he was working for peace. The importation of WILSON, the orator, leaves no room for doubt on that score.

There is one great organization that would have deplored a strike ill begun and destined to fail—the American Federation of Labor, which has just gone into national politics to mould Congress to its will. A disastrous coal strike would have pricked the bubble of its pretensions, and as a holding organization its authority and influence would have been seriously undermined. The voice of SAMUEL GOMPERS must have been for the peace that maintains existing conditions of employment.

The Unsettled Relations of Church and State in France.

The law abolishing the Concordat has been for some time on the statute book, but it is a mistake to suppose that the provisions are yet operative by which church buildings and other ecclesiastical property were to be turned over to lay Catholic associations and stipends were to be paid by the Government to existing bishops and priests. As a matter of fact, Pope PIUS X. has not yet authorized compliance with the statutory requirements, and the result is that the French clergy are, for the moment, dependent on the contributions of laymen for financial support, a support which in some quarters is rendered grudgingly. This is one of the reasons why the outcome of the approaching general election will be watched with anxiety. In the improbable event of the opponents of the present Ministry securing a majority of the new Chamber of Deputies the Vatican would count on an early repeal or drastic modification of the Separation law, while if the Sarzine Cabinet is upheld at the ballot box it is expected that the Holy See will make the best of an unwelcome situation and authorize Catholics to accept the arrangements proposed by the State.

These arrangements were, it may be remembered, first, that lay associations must be formed, with the Government authorization, in every diocese and parish, in order to take title to church buildings and other ecclesiastical property, which otherwise would be confiscated; secondly, that allowances of money should be made to the present members of the episcopate and priesthood, but only in case they should have conformed to the regulations of the Separation law in every particular. It is computed that, for the present, and until the number of the existing clergy shall have been reduced materially by death, the payment of stipends would cost the Government about \$8,000,000 a year. Now the bishops and priests cannot accept money from the State without the Pope's consent, which is equally indispensable for the creation of the lay associations, which, according to the Separation law, must hold church property. Thus far PIUS X. has withheld his assent to the formation of such lay associations for the reason that under the canon law laymen cannot hold church property independently of control by the ecclesiastical authorities.

This difficulty was no doubt foreseen by the framers of the Separation law, who are accused of deliberately planning to place the Church in a predicament from which escape would be scarcely possible without straining the relations between the Catholic clergy and laity. The canon law can be changed or suspended, however, and we may take for granted that the Vatican will take some means of gaining possession of church property if convinced by the result of the election now close at hand that the abolition of the Concordat is final.

The truth is that Pope PIUS X. has already acquiesced in the Separation law so far as the acceptance of stipends from the Government is concerned. He has authorized applications to the State on the part of bishops and priests for the temporary allowance for which the

law provides. It appears that thousands of such applications have been received, but we presume that none will be granted until the statute has been complied with the prescribed formation of lay associations to take over church property. Meanwhile the inability or unwillingness of parishioners to contribute to the support of the priests has caused, we are told, the closing of churches in several parishes and seems to justify the apprehensions expressed by many French prelates when they were requested by a Catholic newspaper some time ago to state their opinions concerning the consequences of the Separation law. A few optimistic bishops declared themselves confident that the Church, divorced from the State, would flourish in France as it flourishes in the United States. Others, who know the French peasant well, shook their heads dependently.

In spite of some signs of friction between the Government and organized labor, we see no reason to modify our former conclusion that the Sarzine Ministry will be successful at the general election, which begins on Sunday, May 6, and ends with a second balloting two weeks later. The Socialists may gain a million seats, and so may the Reactionists; but the Bloc, or coalition which supports the present Ministry, may be expected to retain a large majority. Then, probably, we shall see the formation of lay associations to hold ecclesiastical property authorized by the head of the Church.

The Museum in the Central Park.

A comfortable assurance of efficiency in the current management of the Metropolitan Museum of Art is to be found in the actual anticipation of certain admirable projects outlined in the latest annual report of the trustees. Only a year has passed since the present director came to take a preliminary survey of the collections in his charge; hardly four months since the assistant director was appointed; not three since the arrival of the new curator of paintings. Yet even the careless visitor a notable improvement must already be apparent.

The conditions encountered by the new executive staff were in many ways perplexing. Here was a museum strangely incongruous in composition; manifestly barren and neglected in some parts, rank and overgrown in others; in all more or less accidental and disordered. This state of affairs was largely a consequence of its early poverty. For the first thirty years the museum had to depend mainly upon charity; there was no money to make up for deficiencies; it was hardly possible to reject superfluous gifts, when offered, as many were, with a reasonably attractive bait. Many a museum, much richer than the Metropolitan in those days, has taken a great deal that it did not want for the sake of something it dared not refuse. And in the case of the Metropolitan Museum a certain patience in dealing with unwelcome givers did in time bring welcome gifts, which raised it ultimately to a strong and independent position. It can now afford to be a chooser.

But this development of strength solved only a few of the problems of reform. It was not as if the new staff had been set free in a new building with a good allowance and perfect liberty to make the most of it. That would have been a comparatively simple task. Besides new opportunities there were old imperfections to reckon with, and not a few of these were practically incurable. On coming into its manhood the museum found itself, not indeed too late to acquire distinction among the great museums of the world, but a little behind in the race. Moreover, with all its brilliant prospects, it had many present difficulties to face: errors of growth to be dealt with, deformities to be corrected. The chaotic state of the various collections, the excess of undesirable things in all of them, and above all certain rigorous conditions accepted of necessity in the old days—these were some of the troubles beside which the task of filling gaps was small.

Much has already been done toward overcoming the numerous difficulties. There has been weeding where weeding was possible; where it was not possible discreet rearrangement has reduced unworthy examples to comparative obscurity and exalted many admirable things formerly ignored. It begins to be possible for the casual visitor to distinguish between treasures and refuse; it begins to be evident that human intelligence and knowledge have been brought to bear in the several departments. The museum has ceased to be a mere storehouse; it is becoming what its makers wished it to be, a means of encouraging and developing the study of the fine arts and the application of arts to manufactures and practical life, and of advancing the general knowledge of kindred subjects. In the realization of this ideal, pedantry and an undesirable didacticism have been avoided. The new management has hit upon a reasonable compromise, acceptable alike to scholar and amateur; it is making the best of its opportunities, and under its enlightened direction we need have no fears for the future of the Metropolitan Museum.

Central Detention Prisons.

However startling General BINGHAM's estimate of \$5,500,000 net as the sum needed for building new police stations may be, no one ought to flinch at it if it is the minimum price of humanity and decency. The station houses of New York or a majority of them, are a disgrace to the city, and reform of them would be cheap at any price.

There seems, however, to be a much more economical solution of the situation than the Police Commissioner's plan of rebuilding fifty-seven police stations upon cleared sites. The suggestion has been made that at least in the thickly settled portions of New York and Brooklyn all prisoners should be taken direct from the scene of their arrest to central houses of detention attached to the City Magistrate's courts. This idea has attracted considerable attention, and many arguments besides that of economy have been urged in favor of it. It is certainly deserving of more study than seems to

have been given it as yet by those in authority.

From the humane and administrative points of view, the fact that only a single journey through the streets is required to place the prisoner before the Magistrate is an obvious advantage. There is a saving of the feelings of the accused and there is plainly a saving of time of the men and equipment of the police department, while no conceivable hardship is involved to complainants or witnesses. The prisoners now landed in the detention houses, the advantages are even greater. There is a consolidation and economy of economy of clerical work. Medical attention of real efficiency can be guaranteed for those who need it, whereas the police station tragedies so common in the news today show that with the best rules and the best intentions the system is unworkable. The supervision of the prisoners can also be rendered much more minute and rigid at small expense than there is any hope of becoming in the station houses, where the doorman alternately performs the duty of turnkey, janitor and messenger.

In all probability the expenditure of a million and a half on the court prisons of New York and Brooklyn would render them adequate for the new demand upon their accommodations, and it seems likely that a readjustment of the police force to meet the new conditions would carry with it enough saving in desk sergeants' and doormen's pay to meet the interest on that amount. It is hard to see why it shouldn't. Of course, however, this way of disposing of the prisoners would not entirely solve the station house problem. There are many houses in which the sleeping and waiting rooms for the men are poor, and a few in which they are abominable. It is pretty certain, however, that the remedy of these evils would call for no such sum of money as General BINGHAM is now asking of the taxpayers.

In the first place, the elimination of the cell feature would so simplify the needs of the station house that, even where rebuilding was necessary, the cost would not exceed in any case the \$150,000 which the Commissioner proposes to spend as a minimum on his buildings of severe aspect surrounding courtyards into which the patrol wagon might drive. The probability is that, with the prisoners transferred to court detention houses, the entire work of bringing the station houses up to a high standard could be performed for a couple of million dollars. Thus every public need would be supplied at less than one-third of the gross expenditure or less than one-half of the net amount with which the Commissioner is now appaling the Board of Estimate.

Ellen Terry.

It must be nearly twenty-three years since Miss ELLEN TERRY made her first American appearance. The eye of memory still sees the ear of memory still hears fondly her *Portia*, her *Beatrice* and many another part played then or in her subsequent visits. What was that gift or charm of hers that made her audiences her friends and makes them remember her with a constant pleasure and kindness, with that curious but real affection which one feels for certain rare players?

It is fifty years since this admirable artist came upon the boards. The English, ever faithful to their favorite actors, and especially when fortune has been adverse to these, are raising a fund, in sums of one shilling and upward, to be invested for Miss TERRY's benefit. Her American friends and admirers will also be glad to express in this material form their gratitude for a long series of intellectual pleasures and their regard for the giver. In her debt they must always be.

Mr. CHOATE is chairman of the American committee. Contributions should be sent to CHARLES FAIRCHILD, Treasurer, 29 Wall street.

Platform Sitters in Hartford.

In every community will be found representatives of the great tribe of platform sitters—harmless, respectable, frock-coated, high hatted "distinguished fellow citizens" who are to be seen at every public meeting, seated behind the speakers' table, exuding solemnity and wisdom, and forming a background for oratory and resolutions. In most towns the citizens cherish and revere their platform sitters, who attend tiresome meetings under an implied pledge to stay to the bitter end, never go out for a drink while a bore is talking, and give the cue to the audience for applause. It is surprising to learn that in Hartford these useful institutions are objects of envy, and stir the hearts of some to rage and thoughts of revolution. Such is the unhappy case.

Recently Hartford had a mass meeting to express its sympathy for San Francisco. The usual number of devoted platform sitters were present, the usual seventy-five vice-presidents were named, and the usual speakers spoke. A normal, dull, conventional mass meeting it was, and yet the *Springfield Republican* correspondent found it "rather chilling" because the details of the evening were arranged in advance, and the "list of speakers was made up with reference to dignity in the church or to official prominence of some kind." He alleges also that platform sitting is hereditary in Hartford. This should be investigated by competent sociologists. Why is Hartford so oppressed by platform sitters? Perhaps this is the explanation:

"In a way this is all a part of the old village tendency to leave places of honor as distinguished from places of profit, in the possession of certain leading families. It has persisted to a rather undue degree in Hartford during its growth from a village to a city, and as a remnant of the days of special privilege is a cause of bitter complaint to ambitious young men who lack the social inheritance or quality which makes admission to the group easy. It is, in short, essentially an aristocratic rather than a democratic system, and has been judged according to one's sympathy with one or the other. Of course it is generally approved by one group of citizens and condemned by another."

Ambitious men may, by long and diligent exertion, make themselves platform sitters, but "inherited title to such

positions still counts for more than the right won by individual effort." This is not unimportant. Blood will tell, and the offering of a line of hardened platform sitters is likely to perform the duties of that office better than one with no parental training or tendency. In Hartford it is feared, however, "that a rather vaguely defined social status counts for more than it should in a democratic republic, which this is assumed to be." The *Republican* says:

"It is easy to follow the subject far, but this is enough. It is all meant to show how an inherited disposition to receive training comes early to maturity, and that the individual, usually absent from one so qualified or familiar association with them, and how this tendency becomes at last a cause of irritation among those who do not already hold one of the places of honor to which they do not have a better title than those who occupy them."

"Bitterness" aroused by platform sitters, those modest of men! It seems incredible. The number of persons they relieve from the necessity of attending public meetings is immense. They are public benefactors. They are martyrs to public welfare. They never get drunk and fall out of their chairs. They never interrupt the speaker, whistle on their fingers, or howl catcalls. They applaud at the right moment, shift their feet only while the orator is halted by applause. They never sneeze during a speech or snore loud enough to be heard by their neighbors. They do not laugh at the wrong place, as many unskilled auditors do, and they wear perpetually an expression of profound intelligence and deep interest that no 'prentice at the trade could counterfeit. No one has ever seen a full fledged platform sitter yawn during a speech on the tariff. Such wonderful self-control is not the common heritage of men.

Platform sitters are an important and useful as stamper.

No Politics in It for the Democrats.

The politics in rate legislation came to the surface when Senator BAILEY of Texas was moved to confess that it had been his hope that the Republican Senators "would remain divided and give the Democratic Senators an opportunity to do the country a service by standing out for an effective law."

But that hope has been extinguished, and unless all signs fall there will be a law as effective as compromise can make it, and the Democratic stamp will not be on it. The amended Hepburn bill will pass the House if the President approves it, for the concern of the House is to find out what the President wants and follow him without giving much time to the why and wherefore. That may fairly be inferred from the work of the present session.

Regarded from the vote as recorded, the rate bill will be a non-partisan measure. The Democrats may protest that the Republicans have stolen their thunder or made off with their clothes while they were swimming in Salt Creek; but as the Republicans have a great majority in both houses of Congress it would be a waste of breath and printer's ink to make a campaign issue out of it; which may explain why JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS has brought the tariff to the front with such a flourish.

The net result of Democratic effort in the Senate as regards the rate bill has been the enhancement of Mr. BAILEY's reputation as an orator and the indifference of Mr. TILLMAN to his opportunity to take advantage of the honor thrust upon him by his Republican colleagues.

A Plague of Caterpillars.

It was a bad hour for Massachusetts when Professor LEOPOLD TROUVELOTTE, a French man of science, came to live in Medford, where they make or use to make the worldwide rum. Our Dry friends may think there is nothing worse than rum. They don't know the gypsy moth. Nobody knew it in 1893, when the professor was experimenting with it. He was going to introduce a new silkworm. Innocently he introduced the gypsy moth. The wind blew down a netting over some specimens of this bug. A way they were in. The professor warned the authorities, but nothing seems to have been done. The gypsy moth went gypsying undisturbed for twenty years. Ever since 1890 the Massachusetts Legislature has been spending money vainly on the job of putting this devil out of business. Results, nothing. The rascal occupies 2,224 square miles of Bay State territory, has spread to Rhode Island, New Hampshire and Connecticut, and is probably now on the road to New York, by way of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad. According to the Hon. ERNEST W. ROBERTS, a Massachusetts Representative in Congress, this winged Hun eats "everything that grows in the State of Massachusetts" except the onion; eats also tobacco plants, cotton plants. The gypsy moth caterpillar has done enormous damage in Russia, Poland and Italy and elsewhere. In some cases folks have been driven from their homes. Indeed, much Massachusetts real estate has depreciated in value. These caterpillars are not agreeable comrades.

The Agricultural Appropriation bill carries an appropriation of \$65,000 for the establishing of a quarantine against Professor TROUVELOTTE'S truants. One citizen of Medford has spent \$70,000 in fighting them.

A very practical and sturdy fellowship is that of the business men of the road, the good fellows in whom American commercial enterprise is personified. The practical side of this fraternity is represented by organizations like the Commercial Travelers' Mutual Accident Association, with its present membership of more than 44,000. Beginning in 1888 with 515 members, the society has grown steadily. By five year periods the progression has been: 1888, 8,827; 1893, 12,996; 1898, 19,258; 1903, 26,726; and at the close of last year, 42,311. Keeping pace with this growth, the amount paid annually for indemnity claims has advanced from \$774.78 in the first year to \$281,814.30 in 1904-05. The total of payments has been nearly \$2,900,000, or an average of about \$500 a year. Average annual dividend has been only \$7.64, and a drummer whose membership is coextensive with the association's existence, has had his in-

come for the entire twenty-two years for \$100. The society's present reserve fund is \$900,000.

LEONARD BERNARD's article on the training of children in the current number of the *Century* is almost as confusing to the parent as the thousands of volumes on simple methods in penitence are to the amateur in the hen business. "Balanced food," says the hen writer, and that's just what Leonard Bernard advises for the child, but neither tells what it is. Mr. Bernard says that a mother with his grating tooth and in putting pollen where it never was before than as a writer.

BRITAIN'S ULTIMATUM.

Protector of the Sultan's Political Consequences in the West of Asia.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The presentation by the British Ambassador at Constantinople of the ultimatum of what is said to amount to an ultimatum giving the Sultan ten days to withdraw his troops from Tabah and other points on the Asiatic peninsula pending the definition of the frontier related upon by the British Government by a commission brings the dispute between the British and Turkish governments to a decisive point. It will be decisive of other things than the boundary between the British and Turkish frontiers, which is withdrawn peacefully or driven out forcibly. It means practically the termination of the Sultan's territorial sovereignty and political supremacy over Egypt.

What is the situation in which the Sultan has been left by the action of the German Government has been accentuated by the support which it is said is given to the British contention by the Russian and French Ambassadors at Constantinople. Their action is highly significant, for next to Great Britain, which controls politically most Mussulman subjects than the Caliph himself, France and Russia are the important Mussulman controlling countries. Their adhesion, therefore, to the British side in the dispute with the Turkish Government means that in the event of a war the Mussulmans within their territory will be permitted to respond to any appeal either of a religious or political nature that may be made them by the Sultan in his capacity of Caliph. In other words, a Jihad, or holy war, would be limited to the Sultan's subjects and the Mussulmans under the British Crown who might be induced to rise in rebellion against it. Indirectly, therefore, Russia and France become the allies of Great Britain.

The question now is, will all this have weight with the Sultan to induce him to recede before the display of force which the British Government is reported about to make; or may it not have the opposite effect? What will amount practically to the final expulsion of the Turk and his authority from Egypt and from all the territory claimed as his by the British Government, there must inevitably, for various reasons, come up the question of the reorganization of Palestine and Syria, probably under international auspices, in which this country could hardly fail to be concerned. Then would come the critical moment for the Sultan in his capacity of Caliph, for the inclusion in an international protectorate of the territory through which his new railway from Damascus to the Red Sea passes would cut him off actually from the holy places of Islam by land as he can be by sea, and *de facto* and *de jure* his tenure of the Caliphate would terminate.

In this aspect of the matter that may make the events of the next fortnight of great historic interest and open up a new chapter in the politics of western Asia, and bring about a complete change in the relations of the British Empire and the East to the rest of the world, but particularly toward their immediate neighbors. P. A. HALL.

NEW YORK, May 5.

The Republican Party, Not Republic, Urged.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I am to put down on paper a few of my statements I daily hear from Republicans. Lumped, they are to the effect that Republicans in Washington and elsewhere know full well that for years the political managers of the party have received millions in campaign contributions from the corporations they have so persistently smashed into during the past three years.

And the political managers, contributions to come? Of the Republican managers, it strikes me, it may be asked: "What sort of a skunk is it who sets fire to his own house in order to show the inefficiency of the fire department, and incidentally destroys his neighbor's property in the operation?"

Some of the politicians are pretty well tired of "object lessons." They leave a bitter taste in the mouths of thousands of American citizens.

If you could see the despair of Republican United States Senators, Congressmen and all "rich" who are to come up for reelection this fall you'd grin.

Or the industries still "unrevised" to be called upon to furnish campaign funds for this year and 1907? REPUBLICAN.

WASHINGTON, May 5.

Mysteries and Humors of the Transfer.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: Since the new street car transfer that a transfer agent for the fare is paid I have not once omitted to ask for a transfer, though rarely need one. Sometimes they float listlessly from my hand, once I gave one to a passenger who had none to ask for; several times in going north on Madison avenue with my hand extended to receive the transfer the conductor has inquired of me: "Fifty-nine cents, is it?" "Yes," I have replied. "On the sidewalk." To which my reply: "Then Eighty-six cents." Sometimes the passengers see the joke of this. On one of these occasions I thought the conductor perceived that I was being deceived. "What is the matter with you? I had insisted on receiving an Eighty-six cent transfer, and I got off at Fifty-sixth street. Several times in my run I have to me what the conductor for a transfer he inquired: "Where for?" In my ignorance of the route I have been obliged to reply: "Wherever you give them for." I always get one. The transfer agent, who is extracted with my fare with them. Once when I had to use one (and the old one rarely) I accidentally gave the conductor an old date a week back, and he pointed on me with an extracted smile as I stepped into the turntable cut of my overcoat sleeve seven transfers of various dates, and we finally found one of the proper date. C. R.

NEW YORK, May 5.

Remedy for the Subway Rush.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: I believe that all New Yorkers who travel regularly through the subway and take trains at Fourteenth street or similarly crowded stations during the rush hour will agree that the present conditions are both dangerous and dangerous, and there seems to be no improvement in sight.

From careful observation it does seem to me that if a rule was adopted by which passengers should be required to leave each car at its front and enter at the rear, very much of the present trouble would be obviated after a fair trial of this method.

Why not give this a test at the Fourteenth street station? A. G. BURNBELL.

NEW YORK, May 5.

The Guard With the Heart of Gold.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: In these days of many complaints against the subway guards, it is permitted to have a few lines in *THE SUN* in defense of one of these Ishmaels!

On account of an accident I am compelled to wear a plaster of Paris shield over my face, and consequently go about with my eyes shut. A subway guard, noticing my frantic efforts to keep the heedless passengers from falling over me, escorted me to the platform, fixed up his seat and let me upon it and asked the standees to be careful not to jostle me. Nothing could have exceeded his courtesy. F. A. PARK.

NEW BRITAIN, Staten Island, May 5.

Two Celebrated Cases.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: The case of Guard against Risk is reported in 11 Indiana. It is not an insurance case (stander). My impression is that Cote vs. Paniz is a Kentucky case. E. C.

NEW YORK, May 5.

Concerning Education.

Young Graduate—You can't teach an old dog new tricks.

THE MIRACULOUS CURE AT LOURDES.

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN.—Sir: A copy of "Les Grands Miracles de Lourdes" has been very kindly sent me by an upholder of the miracle, whose courtesy I welcome as a proof that we may differ without hostility. The work is elegant, and even sumptuous, giving full accounts of the cases, with photographs of the patients. Such a work is itself a tremendous piece of accuracy on the part of those by whom it is put before the world. For what disaster could befall their Church greater than conviction of a series of false miracles?

"Of cases of disease I am no judge but what strikes me is that there are all cases of disease, and therefore at least open to medical investigation. Why has there been no raising of the dead? If you have three or four cases of a disease, would not the Almighty have thought fit to interpose by miracle, would not the miracle have been of a character past doubt?"

I am not sceptical by nature, nor do I put limits to omnipotence. Let me see or be assured that medical experts have seen a raising to life or an amputated it restored and I shall be convinced.

Of the miracles of Lourdes I am not a votary, and even if I were, I should not belong to the neurotic type, affording room, as I suppose, for the play of diseased fancy. Lourdes, we are here told, "offers a vast field for the study of nervous maladies." It is well known to what lengths diseased fancy will go. A lady of a nervous temperament in a neighborhood where I once lived was possessed with the belief that she was being smothered by the neurotic type, affording room, as I suppose, for the play of diseased fancy. Lourdes, we are here told, "offers a vast field for the study of nervous maladies." It is well known to what lengths diseased fancy will go. A lady of a nervous temperament in a neighborhood where I once lived was possessed with the belief that she was being smothered by the neurotic type, affording room, as I suppose, for the play of diseased fancy. Lourdes, we are here told, "offers a vast field for the study of nervous maladies." It is well known to what lengths diseased fancy will go. A lady of a nervous temperament in a neighborhood where I once lived was possessed with the belief that she was being smothered by the neurotic type, affording room, as I suppose, for the play of diseased fancy.

Of telepathic stories the retroactive imagination, dressing up the incident, seems to play a great part. May it not do the same in stories of miraculous cure? The cure of a mortal disease by dipping in the waters of Lourdes would no doubt be as real a miracle as a raising from the dead or the restoration of a limb, but can we be sure that the disease was really mortal and that it had not been invented with that character by the delight and piety of the person cured?

To medical evidence, which is given in some cases, I should of course defer if I were assured that the medical man was unbiased, and that his opinion was confirmed by the profession. This seems not too much to ask when we are called upon to believe a miracle.

I of course cannot with justice deny that I am biased against belief in miracles, which, if genuine, would confirm a religious faith at variance with my own convictions, and in the form from which I most recoil, that of ultramontaniam, with its Syllabus claim for the Church temporal as well as spiritual power; asserting her right to the use of force, that is, of persecution, and launching defiance against the leading principles of modern civilization.

Bernadette, an ignorant peasant girl of fourteen, had, as she said, no doubt believed, a vision of the Virgin Mary, who, in a series of interviews, inspired her with beliefs of the Church temporal as well as spiritual power; asserting her right to the use of force, that is, of persecution, and launching defiance against the leading principles of modern civilization.

If the female figure which Bernadette saw and with which she conversed was not the Mother of God, Lourdes falls, and great will be the fall thereof. GOLDWIN SMITH.

CAUSE OF KEARSARGE DISASTER.

No One, Living or Dead, is Blamed by the Court of Inquiry.

WASHINGTON, May 5.—The report of the court of inquiry appointed to investigate the accident on the battleship Kearsarge near Guantanamo on April 13, which resulted in the death of nine, including two officers, was made public today by the Navy Department. No one, living or dead, is blamed for the disaster, which was purely accidental. As has been before made public, the cause of the disaster was an accidental contact of a shell-extracting tong with an exposed electric switch, causing a short circuit, which resulted in molten metal dripping from the switch, and causing explosion, and the deaths were caused by the intense heat and fumes from the burning powder.

Another Alpine Tunnel.

Consul Kane writes from Geneva that the Simplon tunnel is about to be opened to traffic, and the subject of the lines of the new international railroad is being constantly discussed in Switzerland. Besides the "Fanelle" line through the Jungfrau range, there is a new tunnel through the Bernese Alps, between the canton of Bern and the canton of Valais, from which the Simplon line will be cut. The ultra-temporal as well as the directors of the company having the matter in charge have approved the plans submitted by Chief Engineer M. Zollinger for a line to pierce the mountains under the Lötschberg. Electrical traction will be used, and the new tunnel will be eight and two-fifths miles long. The total cost is put at \$16,984,000 at the outside. A Franco-Swiss syndicate of bankers and engineers, headed by J. L'Hoste & Co. of Paris, will make a formal contract for the work within two months.

Sermons and Hopes of Clafrock.

Clafrock Correspondence Fayetteville Observer.

I am sorry to say that Mrs. A. P. Hall is still on the sick list.

The wedding bells are yet ringing. Mr. A. L. Nuttrey and Miss Iza Vinson was happily married last Sunday afternoon at 4 o'clock. We hope for them a long and happy life.

We are sorry to report the illness of Mr. Jas. Vinson.

Mr. W. Q. You has bought a new house, so there will be more music now.

We are glad to note that Mr. Yats Hourne is able to be out again.

Mr. Tom Rich and Miss Carrie Home went up to Fayetteville last Friday. We expect to hear the news of their return.

Yessis, C. C. McLaurin and John Holmes took a pleasure trip Sunday to the convict camp.

Mr. Jim McLaurin called at Miss Maud Murrhey's Sunday night.

Look out young boy, for mad dogs are still ranging.

I am sorry to report that Mr. M. R. Vinson was badly hurt by a mule throwing him down and jumping on him. We hope he will soon recover.

Wanted Servant Girl Without Appendix.

Font du Lac correspondence M. D. Walker Sentinel.

"WANTED"—Girl for general household. One who has had appendix removed. J. L. Bradley, 215 Linden street.

The above advertisement appeared in a local paper this morning. The reason for it is that Mr. Bradley, who is a mail carrier, has been unfortunate enough to have two servants, girls, who have had appendicitis, which seems to have become epidemic in Fond du Lac. He is now determined to take no more of the kind, and he is willing to give the best method for operations; but wants one who has undergone an operation and is willing to work for him.

The Universal Grant.

First Farmer—Get your free seeds!

Second Farmer—Yes! I'm waiting for the Government to send me free soldiers to plant 'em for me.