The Sun.

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Some Official Spelling Reforms.

The late Emperor CLAUDIUS of unhallowed memory, whatever his moral deficiencies and deplorable domestic relations, was a man of learning. He had the backing of the philologists of his day when by an imperial edict he added three letters to the alphabet of the Roman Empire: Yet neither the authority of science nor autocratic power made any impression on the language.

In the flush of a great national victory the late Kaiser WILHELM I. decreed an improved spelling for the new Germany, by the advice of his philologians. It was inculcated officially and officiously, and was spread through the newly aroused patriotic sentiment. Some books, no doubt, are now printed in it, for Germans are persistent; but the great majority of German books is not, nor are the newspapers, nor is the spelling found in the speeches and decrees of the great Kaiser's imperial grandson.

France, too, is dissatisfied with her spelling, with reason, as all who have had to learn French will admit. At the instigation of the most eminent philologists successive Ministers of Education in recent years have tinkered with the spelling and the grammar and issued edicts that their improvements should be taught and used officially. This has made a lot of trouble for unfortunate school teachers and has muddled poor little children, but we have not noticed that the French of newspapers and books has changed.

Our own delightful English offers a fruitful field for the reformer. There was Dr. NOAH WEBSTER with his numerous suggestions, some of them sensible and some of them not. It is nearly eighty years since his dictionary appeared, and yet not even the simplest of his improvements, like center for centre, and theater, has been accepted generally. Thirty years ago the greatest American philologists, including FRANCIS A. MARCH, FRANCIS JAMES CHILD and WILLIAM D. WHITNEY, spoke out for reformed spelling and agreed to enforce it, and English scholars like Dr. W. W. SKEAT joined in the crusade. Have they succeeded in forcing a single simplified form into common use?

Of the 300 words that Mr. CARNEGIE has taken under his wing a good many were adopted in America long before the reformers arose. It is rather late in the day to warn any one but an Anglophobe not to write labour or candour, though we fancy enough people still read their Bibles to make anything but Saviour look strange. There are plenty of words in it of such restricted use that nobody cares much how they are spelled, and it is a long time since a final e appeared on dactyl or deposit. Here in New York we distinguish between controller and the Comptroller.

The effective power of President ROOSEVELT's ukase will have to be measured from a much more limited number of words. Will frequent perusal of his messages lead to the adoption of adz, carest, decalog, crusht, gazel, kist, whipt, tho, thru, cust and damd? If it does he may boast that he is greater than CLAUDIUS and the philologists.

Hands Off Cuba!

Whether the insurrection in Cuba is gaining momentum or is on the point of extinction is a question not easily answered, because the reports from the island are conflicting and there is reason to believe that the Palma Government is maintaining a strict censorship in Havana. According to one report, General PINO GUERRA, the commander of the largest insurgent force in the field, has gained an important victory in the Province of Pinar del Rio, while according to another he has suffered a defeat. There again, Cuban newspapers favorable to the Palma Administration assert that there are no signs of a serious uprising anywhere, except in the extreme west of the republic; but if this were true why should the Government suppress inquiries addressed by telegraph to points east of the capital? Among those conversant with the magnitude and wide distribution of the so-called Liberal party, and with the exasperation of its leaders at the Government's method of conducting the recent election, there is a strong and growing suspicion that the present movement is a formidable one and may end in the overthrow of the Palma régime.

If the Palma Government, which has at its disposal the money accumulated in the Cuban treasury, together with all the fiscal resources of the island except those of the districts actually occupied by the insurgents, shall fail to quell the uprising promptly, no unbiassed onlooker will doubt that it lacks the sympathy of a majority of the island's population. For the outside world, of course, the Palma Administration is not only the Government *de facto*, but also, as the outcome of an election ostensibly regular, the Government *de jure*. But we are no more bound to uphold it against the violent protest of the party apparently defeated at the ballot box than we were to support the existing régime in Guatemala when it was threatened the other day by an insurrection. Had the insurrection in Guatemala proved successful, and a new government *de facto* been established, we should undoubtedly have recognized it, in pursuance of the course invariably followed by us in dealing with Latin American republics. Now, the right of Cuba to manage her own affairs, and to upset a Government whenever in the opinion of the whole or a part of the people it no longer deserves to exist, is just as unchallengeable and unqualified as is that of any of her sister commonwealths, except so far as that right is specifically limited by the Platt Amendment to the Cuban Constitution. For two reasons it behooves us to construe that limitation with the utmost strictness; first, because the exaction of the Platt Amendment, plausible as were the grounds on which it was demanded, was not easily reconcilable with our solemn promise when we began the war with Spain to give Cuba independence in the true meaning of the word; secondly, because at a time when we have sent our Secretary of State to reassure the South American republics as to the disinterestedness of our motives in profiting by the secession of Panama and in collecting and distributing the customs revenue of Santo Domingo we should stultify ourselves by intervening in Cuba between the outs and the ins, except upon cumulative and conclusive proof that the lives or property of American citizens or of other foreigners whom we pledged ourselves by the Treaty of Paris to protect were gravely endangered by the acts of the opponents of the Palma régime. No mere apprehension of injury would justify our interposition in the intestine troubles of a free and independent people. The injury actually inflicted would have to be serious, the intention to inflict it deliberate, and the refusal of redress stubborn and provocative.

Not lightly will the United States forfeit the glory of unselfish intervention for the liberation of Cuba from the yoke of Spain. That act of nobility and honor went far to erase from the Latin American mind the remembrance of our war with Mexico. The bright record must not be clouded by any mean and sordid afterthought. If both parties, indeed, to the present family quarrel in Cuba should join in requesting our Executive to appoint an impartial commission, on which both Moderates and Liberals should be represented, under a disinterested umpire, for the purpose of investigating the purity of the late election or of supervising a new appeal to the electors, the proposal might deserve some consideration, though it should not be accepted hastily or thoughtlessly. It is scarcely conceivable, however, that the Palma Administration would acknowledge even the possibility of its being the outcome of fraud.

The President's Cabinet.

The President's Cabinet is an institution with which we are all familiar in a general way, chiefly because Cabinet officers make annual reports which are laid before Congress by the President, and because "Cabinet help" in political campaigns is now becoming a feature of the unwritten law of the duties of a Cabinet officer.

But few of us are well informed about the origin, creation and evolution of the President's Cabinet. How many persons know that the Attorney-General was not the head of a department until 1870, or that the Attorney-General was not obliged to live in Washington until MADISON's second Administration? EDMUND RANDOLPH, the first Attorney-General, spoke of himself as "a sort of mongrel between the State and the United States; called an officer of some rank under the latter, and yet thrust out to get a livelihood in the former." As no one had made a critical attempt to account for the beginnings of the American President's Cabinet council, Mr. HENRY BARRETT LEARNED assembles the facts in the *Yale Review*.

In Article II., Section 2, of the Constitution it is provided that the President "may require the opinion, in writing, of the principal officer in each of the executive departments, upon any subject relating to the duties of their respective offices"; but it was left to Congress to create executive departments, which it did at the first session in 1789, when it provided for the Departments of Foreign Affairs (afterward called State), War and Treasury, and furnished the President with an Attorney-General. The Departments of the Navy, Post Office, Interior, Agriculture and Commerce and Labor were established as occasion arose. The Navy Department was created in 1798. Upon the organization of the post office system in 1794 the appointment of a Postmaster-General was provided for, but he was assigned to the Treasury Department; not until 1829 was he put at the head of a department of his own. The Department of the Interior was created out of the Department of State in 1849; the Department of Agriculture was established in 1889, and the Department of Commerce and Labor in 1903. The heads of these Departments were to be appointed by the President, and the appointments were to be confirmed by the Senate. "The impossibility," wrote WASHINGTON to Count DE MOUSTIER May 25, 1789, "that one man should be able to perform all the great business of the State, I take to have been the reason for instituting the great departments, and appointing officers therein, to assist the supreme Magistrate in discharging the duties of his trust." Under the Confederation there had been a Secretary of Foreign Affairs, a Superintendent of Finance, a Secretary at War and a Secretary of Marine; but after the resignation of ROBERT MORRIS in 1784 the finances were administered by three commissioners. Previously the departments of Marine and Finance had been merged. As Secretary of Foreign Affairs JOHN JAY "was privileged to appear on the floor of Congress, and occasionally spoke before it in an advisory capacity." By force of intellect and personal magnetism he became the "executive chief of the Confederation."

When the Constitution created the office of President the work of establishing administrative departments and advisory chiefs had to be done *de novo*. But the advisory capacity was to relate to the President and not to Congress. Congress, jealous of its prerogative, has never since the time of JAY allowed the head of a department to intrude upon its deliberations or to offer it advice.

To hold up the hands of the President GOUVERNEUR MORRIS proposed to the Constitutional Convention a Council of State of seven members. The President might solicit its advice, but was to exercise his own judgment. All that survived of the plan was the direction that the President might require opinions in writing from "the principal officer in each of the executive departments." But in the discussions of the convention the word "council" often recurred.

"The laws which provided for the creation of the four officials," says Mr. LEARNED, "took no account of their possible combination into a council of Presidential advisers." It was WASHINGTON who of his own initiative formed them into a "Cabinet." He began by regarding the Senate as an advisory body and the heads of departments as assistants; but a visit which he made to the Senate in the summer of 1789 with KNOX, his Secretary of War, aroused a storm of protest, and he did not repeat it.

There is no evidence of "Cabinet meetings" until 1791, when WASHINGTON, leaving for a tour of the South, wrote to his three Secretaries, JEFFERSON, HAMILTON and KNOX, directing that "if any serious and important cases should arise during my absence" they consult together. There was a meeting on April 11, the Vice-President also being present (WASHINGTON had suggested the expediency of calling him in). In the spring of 1792 WASHINGTON summoned a regular Cabinet meeting at his house. Afterward, during his Administrations there were similar gatherings, but not at regular times, as is the case now. JEFFERSON, writing about these meetings to WILLIAM SHORT June 12, 1807, said: "In these discussions HAMILTON and myself were daily pitted in the Cabinet like cocks."

About 1793 references to the "Cabinet" began to appear in the public prints, but not until 1800 did the term come into vogue.

Unbumbling London.

Without any fuss, but persistently, the new Liberal Administration in England seems determined to uproot long established abuses. It is advancing cautiously, but its efforts so far have been directed at the foundations of things. Even the Conservatives, though growling as politics demand, seem to recognize the need of the reforms and to admit that the Government is on the right track.

Mr. BIRRELL, for instance, in his Education bill, has tried to put the British public school system again on the unsectarian basis from which Mr. BALFOUR was imagined to have removed it. Church of England men and Roman Catholics alike have abused him and his measure to their hearts' content, and are now confounded by a decision of the courts that upsets the legality of Mr. BALFOUR'S State paid religious instruction in the schools.

In the same way the Conservatives have found little to say against the reforms in the War Department that Mr. HALDANE has proposed; and the wind has been taken completely out of their sails by the scathing and amazing report of the Royal Commission on the way the supplies were disposed of after the South African war. The tale of ineptitude and incapability it told, though more than mercifully excluding the idea of corruption, has held up that monument of red tape and stupidity to such contempt that there is already talk of calling Lord KITCHENER from India to cleanse the Augean stable and that Mr. HALDANE is likely to have a free hand in endeavoring to reduce his office to a state of efficiency.

The other Ministers who have had an opportunity to show their hands have also manifested the intention of relieving grievances that both parties acknowledge to have existed too long. Mr. MORLEY, with the swadeshi movement and other troubles on his hands, is interfering in India, and Mr. BRYCE is sure to do something worth while for Ireland.

Meanwhile the London County Council, now a progressive body and sure of support from the Government, has struck a blow at one of those institutions which in England seem immutable and sacred, no matter how much they interfere with the convenience of living men. It intends to remodel the City of London. The business heart of the metropolis, though it returns two members to Parliament, is a little over a square mile in extent and had a resident population of less than 27,000 at the last census. It contains a large number of parishes which have only a historical meaning now, but whose management of many civil affairs through their vestries and officials, such as the poor rates, for instance, still continues. It is proposed to do away with these entirely and to substitute a less cumbersome and more efficient central administration. It is likely, too, that old prerogatives of the city guilds may be taken away, the Lord Mayor and the Sheriffs and Aldermen be reformed, and Gog and Magog shaken from their foundations.

If the reform is put through it is to be hoped that it may be extended to the rest of England. Aside from its ecclesiastical meaning the parish is used in England as a unit for various administrative purposes, and unfortunately its boundaries differ accordingly. It must be a hard task for any man in many districts to know where he is. The difficulty he gets around, after the English fashion, by doing as he used to do, whether in paying his dues for the poor, or the highways, or the land tax, or in getting married or buried. When combined with the many other territorial subdivisions the matter of boundaries becomes hopeless, and it is inconceivable that a business people should have clung to traditional institutions so long.

From the historical and picturesque point of view the change means a loss, no doubt. London without vergers and beadles, and perhaps with no more Lord Mayor's show, will seem dull, and the honest Londoner will grumble at paying a single tax bill instead of the scattered items he has always chased after.

While Mr. BRYAN, attended by silver footed THETIS and sixteen Nereids, floats in his silver chariot over the wine dark sea, discord rends the bosom of the reception committee that awaits him on these shores. Would it not be better to warn him by wireless and ask him to send irenical messages to his warring friends? Unfortunately, he doesn't care for harmony unless it is harmony with himself, and he wears a sceptre and a club and not an olive branch. We sometimes fear that our old friend has fallen; that he, too, is an imperialist, a satrap and a despot.

Why are a few individuals, including an ex-Governor, trying to determine in advance of the convention of their party the result?—*The Hon.* FRANK WAYLAND HIGGINS.

This is like slapping the Boss on the wrist.

Uncle JOE may be the most truthful of men, but he should not fool with history. It has been published, without contradiction from the authentic source, that a distinguished person said to Mr. CANNON, "You, Mr. Speaker, will be the next President," and the fiat is on the Uncle Joe Presidential button to stay there.

The Democratic party in Massachusetts seems to be rising to its opportunity to make a fool of itself.

AMATEUR CHICKEN RAISING.

Some City Folks Think It Fun to Turn Out Incubator Broilers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am a city man with a few country acres among the mountains devoted by our family to summer recreation, fruits and just enough general farming to require the employment of some indigenous brawn and muscle. Last spring we decided to add chickens to our live stock, consisting of a horse and a cow, and so we invested in an incubator, two brooders and 600 eggs of the Buff Rock variety, delivered as occasion required, exactly 50 per cent. of which proved to contain the potentiality of chicken production. In about three months after the incubator lamp was first lighted we had 300 chickens to devour our substance, including grasshoppers, other products of the farm and a substantial quantity of commercial chicken feeds.

We have heard schoolma'ams and other city folk express the hope that some day they may raise chickens for profit and incidentally for amusement. If we may impress them with a sense of the constant watchfulness and care which this diversion requires, the purpose of this letter will be served.

We were utterly without experience, but our first attempt at least has been successful. We have raised 90 per cent. of our three hatches, and the chickens have sold at good prices as fast as they reached the broiler stage. The last hatch will not mature in time for the best summer market, but the farmers around have spoken for all the pullets we shall sell and the cockerels will go for what they will bring.

It was in our favor that we knew that ignorance and carelessness in the chicken business are doomed to failure every time. The young member of the family who is the special guardian of the industry assiduously studied all the chicken literature he could find before we bought the incubator. In book learning he might have passed examination at the Cornell poultry school before we heard a chicken peep.

We are very certain now that from the egg to the market constant vigilance is the price of broilers. Humidity and temperature in the incubator must be just right. Ingenious appliances in these hatching machines regulate such matters; but you can't fully trust a machine. You must see that it does its work all the time. Woe to the poulterer who forgets to turn the eggs twice a day! Chickens to be raised cheaply in large numbers are the product of the incubator and the brooding house; but these devices are merely stepmotherly and their chickens require special solicitude. There are sore eyes to be doctored, indigestion to be remedied, parasites to be forestalled, weaklings to be coddled, and an occasional runt that eats its weight every day and won't grow to be mercifully chloroformed. Then there are prowlers of the woods that prefer their chickens raw and must be taught to give a wide berth to the colony houses and chicken runs. These are only a few illustrations of the demands upon the time of our poulterer. We tell him that he works on the eight hour plan: eight hours before breakfast, eight hours before dinner and eight hours before supper.

As near as we can tell now it has cost in cash about 16 cents, including an allowance for deterioration of the plant, to raise a broiler. It has been sold to chicken buyers at our gate, live weight, at an average price of 35 cents. Our plant will be doubled in capacity next season and some economies, such as home production of incubator eggs, will diminish expenses a little, while the cost of caring for 600 rather than 300 chickens will not be proportionally increased. We have enjoyed the experience and are convinced that if anything will dispel all thoughts of sordid city cares it is chickens.

AMATEUR FARMER.

THE CATSKILLS, August 24.

Geography of Good Breeding.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Transplanted Southerner" stands corrected geographically by "Baltimore," and accepts Mason and Dixon's line as the great divide, south of which there are not "legions of men who are thoughtless of women, except when they hunt them up to marry them."

"Baltimore" seems proud that their "names are legion" at the North but it saddens me to have my observations confirmed by my critics.

I do not concede that the heart is the root of the matter under discussion. Circumstances have required the Southern men of my family to work far harder than my husband or my sons do, so there is no question of fatigue. It is a pure question of environment. When a boy sees his father and every man, married or single, whom he admires, thoughtful of women, including the maid servant within his gates, will that boy reserve his manners for the mating season alone, or even for sporadic occasions?

In my own case I never want anybody's chair, which contributes to nullify my precepts on the subject, but if the spirit of pride in the acknowledged absence of courtesy is really a prevailing sentiment at the North, the best of hearts will not furnish that charming adornment of the true gentleman, and that seems more than ever a pity to

TRANSPLANTED SOUTHERNER.

WEST ORANGE, August 25.

Observations of a Visitor.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am not a constant resident of New York, but I have been here long enough to become more or less thoroughly acquainted with the chief glories and curiosities of your wonderful town. To summarize my impressions, I find that New York possesses:

One of the most disheartening political vagaries in American history, the Hearst boom.

One of the oddest public officials in Christendom, Mr. Bird S. Coler.

One of the finest illustrations of practical Christianity in the country, your system of charities.

One of the toughest obstacles that ever stood in the path of chivalry, your elevated train crowds.

One of the best natured multitudes in the world, everybody.

One of the biggest cry babies in America, almost any member of the "World's Champions."

NEW YORK, August 25. ROBERT LEFRANC.

Money Wanted in the Mental Centre of the Universe.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Money is wanted to pay able and skilled men to properly pave and repair streets in Boston—the mental centre of the universe.

Government has power and used it to establish a price on the product of gold miners' gold. Equality and a square deal would be achieved by the United States establishing a fair or just price for products equally to all the workers.

Americans should awake to the money problem and solve it right. Gold has its price; other metals should have prices set on them. A. F. HILL.

BOSTON, August 25.

How Many Perfect Eyes?

From the Jewelers' Circular Weekly.

Various attempts have been made to estimate the proportion existing between normal and abnormal eyes. Orlin shows that in 299 cases tested while under the influence of atropine, no case of absolute emmetropia was detected. Hansen found in 1,610 cases only 26 that were emmetropic. Duer found 30 emmetropic out of 414 cases. Randall examined 1,834 school children and infants and found only about 180 emmetropic.

Thus in 4,157 cases only 186 emmetropes were found, which average shows that in every 100 cases four or five may be expected to have normal eyes.

No Slaves of Lemons.

From the Cripple Creek Times.

It is not believed the recent rise in the price of lemons will seriously affect the situation in Cripple Creek. Lemonade is looked upon with considerable suspicion in a city where really good drinks may be obtained cheap.

THE DUMA'S FAILURE.

Dominated by Fanatics, It Would Not Meet the Cabinet Half Way.

ST. PETERSBURG, August 9.—The Duma! what a tragic disappointment it has been, this first parliament of ours! So many hopes, such passionate longing for practical help, to culminate in two and a half months of talk, in a protracted duel with the Cabinet, an exciting Minister-baiting sport, underhand revolutionary machinations, and at last open inciting to revolt! The end might have been foreseen from that unfortunate meeting of June 26, when the members declared their determination not to work with the men of the Emperor's choice, thus frustrating at the very outset the one object for which they were called together. The Government has had superhuman patience with them, in the hope that when they had given vent to the accumulated bitterness of years, nay (historically) centuries of misrule and oppression, they would come to their senses and take to calm and intelligent work.

Certainly it was the Government that brought Russia to the "No Thoroughfare" pass where the last war left her; but not this Government. This Cabinet meant well, and would have met the Duma half way. Members of the Cabinet have repeatedly said so in private conversation. That they should be awkward and make mistakes and not at once strike the right tone was to be expected; the same was to be expected of the Duma, and mutual tolerance, mutual allowances were in order. It did not need genius on the part of the representatives, but only practical sense, honest purpose and patriotism to find the right way, after some groping, which was: to do the best that was possible at the moment with imperfect tools, to attend to the most urgent immediate needs, above all to pour oil on the turbulent waves and put an end to the manhunting sport, the bomb throwing and depredations; and, at the same time, gradually and cautiously, but firmly and unswervingly, to take in hand the work of general reorganization, beginning from below. There is no doubt that such a Parliament, wise and moderate, would have educated a Government that was by no means stubbornly disposed, would have obtained changes in the personnel of the Cabinet, and after a while even a revision of the fundamental laws. But practical sense, honest purpose and patriotism were the very qualities that were wanting in the men who formed the majority in the Duma and bullied into silence or ignored all those who held different views. The immediate relief of the people was the least of their cares; and as for pacification, there was nothing they dreaded so much. In the first period, when they clamored so persistently for a universal unconditional amnesty, the immediate abolition of capital punishment and the removal everywhere of troops and all exceptional measures, their press admitted, with a candor that might better be called by another name, that all these things were absolutely needed "to untie the hands of the Revolution" with a capital R. Their "work" was divided into two sets of talk: recrimination and invective, and constructing impossible reforms.

What they were after was not relief for pressing needs, but the most destructive of social revolutions and the immediate putting into practice of the extremest socialistic theories, untried as yet in any part of the world. This could be achieved only by intensifying class hatred to frenzy. This they proceeded to do, within the parliament walls, by dangling before an already exasperated peasantry the lure of easy gain, and outside by a steady flow of incendiary letters to their communities and by machinations, the whole extent of which is only now coming to light, abusing to the utmost the facilities which their personal inviolability gave them. When the address of the fourteen deputies passed by with impunity they felt they could go any length, and decided to send out in a body a proclamation to the people at large, declaring (which was absolutely untrue) that the Government had absolutely refused to do anything to help them, and it was time for the people to take things into their own hands. Once again, when the text of this proclamation was being discussed, a warning voice was raised, begging that a clause should be added deprecating the daily murders, robberies, the rural depredations and outrages against peaceful land owners, the burning and looting of country places. And again the request was refused.

The proclamation, by its silence on the subject, would once again have sanctioned the daily increasing bloodthirsty lawlessness. But it did not come to that. The Emperor made use of the right which the law gives him and every constitutional monarch, and dissolved the Duma. There was nothing else to be done. It was in no way a coup d'état, as most of the German papers would have their readers believe. There was about the act neither force nor violence, neither ruthlessness nor illegality, as the English papers had it. Many of the more sensible and sober minded members quietly left for home; among these were several peasant members. They went away very heavy at heart, very doubtful as to what reception awaited them, and bitterly complaining to city friends of the treatment they had met at the hands of their obstreperous colleagues. "They bullied us so," they said, "we never had a chance to say a word." This silent group had been noticed by observers, who gathered from their mien and unconscious movements that they were not of one mind with their comrades of the labor group.

What the bulk of the dissolved body did, you know. They went to Finland, and there, from that hotel in Viborg, they issued that incredible document which they termed a manifesto: calling on the people to rise up in arms, promising that they, "their chosen ones, would be with them through all"; bidding them "not to pay a cent of taxes, not to give one soldier, and not to obey the authorities." Had I not seen it in black and white, I should not have believed it even of this body of men. The "Cadets" once more gave a brilliant proof of their timidity and double dealing; the greater part of them disapproved—and signed! Thinking of the next elections perhaps? That such a man as Prof. Meiromtsef (the ex-Speaker) should have signed such a document was a wonder to everybody, even to his associates. To some one who afterward asked him about it he said he did not really know how he came to do it, and he was not even yet clear as to the probable consequences of the act. Yet it does not, truly, require a prophet to foresee them.

The Octobrists, of course, took no part in the proceedings. Count Heyden was there, to see what was doing and to enter their protest. A couple of days later there appeared in the papers an open letter, signed by him, Prince Lvof and Stakhovitch, very noble and dignified, announcing that they were forming a new group, to be called the Party of Peaceful Renovation. This party has great chances of success, and will most probably absorb the Octobrist party, which has been so signally wanting in energy. One of the main objects of this new party is to organize active and effective electioneering work, so that the very large portion of the nation which has been so cleverly and unscrupulously shouldered aside may be duly and worthily represented in the new Duma. What is wanted now is earnestness, organization, activity and a little of the quality which you call "push," and money for purposes of propaganda. It is not to the credit of the moderate constitutional parties that they have as yet no organ in the press, that they do not scatter broadcast pamphlets and leaflets, arrange lectures and send out emissaries—all things which the others do on a large scale, though they have to steal and beg the money.

A little trait, to show that the "Reds" are not wanting in knowledge of the finer springs of human nature. When the Viborg manifesto was ready for signature it was announced that there should be no compulsion (moral, of course), that everybody was perfectly free to sign or not. Of course those who signed would incur heavy penalties. But for this little casual remark there probably would not have been half so many signatures. It was clever, was it not? As it happened, there were no penalties at all. Orders were given not to molest the ex-Deputies for any past action, but to hold them responsible for future actions only. The propagation of the document is to be prevented, and the copies are to be confiscated and destroyed wherever found.

Altogether this revolution of ours is far more a daughter of the Paris commune of 1871 than of the great revolution. The daily more numerous church robberies and the proletariat's sacrilegious tendencies seem copied from the outrages of that most plebeian and senseless outbreak. An alarming symptom of which you will probably hear little or not at all is the fact that peasants have in many places taken to treating their own brother peasants as they do the noble landlords, if they own more land than the average quantum of the village. They will demand of the owner that he share his land with the rest, and on his refusal burn his house and barns and take away his stock. Several telegrams of the kind have already been received, and in two or three cases there has been bloodshed. Z. R.

WORKING WOMEN.

Their Way Is No Primrose Path and They Have to Compete With Men.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter in THE SUN with the headline "Sad Lot of Business Women" strikes a true and a just note. I am not a woman worker; on the contrary I am a man, an old stenographer, and I have suffered to some extent from the invasion of that craft by women. At the same time I hope I shall always be too philosophical and too just to blame these women for entering into a fair competition for an honest livelihood.

The shifting condition so forcibly illustrated by a mere glance at the great preponderance of women clerks over men in almost any large office or store in New York is a disquieting, even portentous, social phenomenon. Let us hope, however, that it is one which will right itself in some way before irretrievable harm has been done to our social fabric. The cruel injustice to women in the treatment of the subject by some of your correspondents consists in the assumption that they are in some way to blame for this state of affairs. One would suppose that the primrose path was ten hours a day before a typewriter or behind a counter, and that the commendable sacrifices of life consisted in taxing a father or brother for support in idleness; that the woman entered into business not because she had to in order to support herself or help an aged parent, but with about the same motives and spirit that impel her to attend a matinée or participate in a candy pulling; that her most serious purpose in the enterprise was to obtain funds for ribbons and ice cream.

I can remember the time when, outside of domestic service, a few strictly feminine occupations, such as dressmaking and millinery, and a limited field of employment as school teachers, there was scarcely any resource for the ordinary young woman save to lead a life of dependence—a dependence involving often hardship to others and mortification to herself. She might, and perhaps did, seek escape in matrimony; marrying possibly some worthless fellow for whom she had neither love nor respect. Certainly something can be said for present conditions, which, while they may lower men's earnings, do relieve them from burdens which formerly often pressed heavily upon old age.

It is hard to please everybody. A rich man is scorned by a certain cult if he is not a "producer." If he does enter into the competitive field he is "taking the bread out of poor men's mouths." Our women friends are in a worse plight. If they cannot marry and do not work, they are denounced as social parasites. If they do work, they are selfish interlopers in a field where they do not belong, and with no one to blame but themselves for not being mistresses of happy homes. Let us try to think straight about this subject, and above all seek to be just to all. MERE COMMON SENSE.

BROOKLYN, August 25.

Cigars Worse Than Toothpicks.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is surprising that those who have so earnestly discussed in your columns the objectionable toothpicking habit should appear oblivious to something that is more common, more disgusting and vastly more inexcusable and vulgar.

One of the worst things about the tobacco habit is its growing aggressiveness. The slaves of the weed have long since ceased to acknowledge that others have any rights which they are bound to respect. The sign "No Smoking" might as well be turned to the wall wherever it has been displayed. In our surface cars "Smoking on four rear seats" is sufficiently conspicuous. But who pays any attention to it? I frequently see men smoking on the other seats and I have yet to see a conductor make any attempt to enforce the rule. Perhaps the superintendent has instructed them not to do so lest a few nickels should be lost. Look at a line of persons waiting their turn at a ticket office, several of them women. Right overhead is the legend "No Smoking," but in the line are two or three louts puffing away at their pipes or cigars as if that were their conception of the highest compliment they could pay to the ladies.

Recently there has been complaint of men for occupying the women's cabin in our ferryboats; but no one appears to have mentioned the explanation, though it is obvious. The users of tobacco make the men's cabin so filthy that no tidy man is willing to sit in it. Forbid smoking everywhere on the boats and enforce the rule and there will be no more complaint that the women are deprived of seats in their own cabin.

Walk through any part of Broadway at any time of day and observe the number of men that are smoking in that crowded street without asking anybody's leave. They seem to be utterly unconscious of their own vulgarity. Many of them smoke in elevator cars, with a prohibitory sign staring them in the face. And the elevator boy is usually afraid even to call their attention to it.

If I were the superintendent of schools I would instruct the teachers to say emphatically to the boys every term: If you become smokers, do your smoking at home. "It is utterly vulgar and inexcusable to smoke in any public place." R. J.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Inspiration Not in Question.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The gentleman who expressed his anxiety about the disastrous results bound to follow the publication of the decisions—if decisions they can be called—of the Biblical commission will certainly find out, after perusal of the coming numbers of the leading reviews of the Church, that no such thing as a partial lack of inspiration has been predicated of any of the sacred books. From the very words he has quoted in his letter to THE SUN one would conclude to the non-Mosaic authorship of some small passages of the Pentateuch rather than to their non-inspiration.

Again one should remember that historicity is not synonymous with inspiration, and that consequently the sacred author may have been inspired by God to relate in his writings such legends of antiquity as are calculated to convey a religious meaning and a striking moral lesson. What are the parables of our Lord if not mere allegories intended to teach by way of illustrations, accessible and agreeable to the popular mind, the great lessons of kindness, mercy and charity? The inspiration of the Holy Scriptures is not, nor will ever be, put in question in the Catholic Church, any more than the existence of God or the divinity of our Redeemer. The nature and extent of inspiration may be, and are being, more explicitly elucidated every day, but this fact does not alter the uncompromising stand of the Church on the general question of inspiration. D. VINCENT.

BROOKLYN, August 25.

False Seeming.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

New revelations make me grieve,
I sorrow while I read the *Lancet*.
They prove that all things but deceive,
And hence no trust in them should man set.
I think I'm shod with leather—nay!
There's nothing now, I know, like leather,
And in good sooth all things to-day
Are things quite different altogether.

Is it the flesh of ox they can?
Ah, no! the knowledge more and more racks;
In Illinois it may be man,
And over here it will be borax.
Shame on this lambkin's base deceit!
It claims it frisked once in this free land,
Nor hints now at its cold retreat
In that long voyage from New Zealand.

With cloying raptures nought can mar
How oft, fair Kent, your fruits will fill us.
Yet show no sign to tell they are
The favorite home of each bacillus.
To truth no more my eyes are shut,
I know that, though I set you choking,
Tobacco may be poison—but
It's not tobacco I am smoking.

I know, too, all that jam may be
Is still from all except the few hid,
And this which looks like milk to me
Is anything but lacteal fluid.
Ah! fled are all my hopes, like dreams,
And I can but in anguish mutter,
Whate'er my bread and butter seems,
I know it isn't bread and butter.

REFORMED SPELLING.

Effect of Mr. Roosevelt's Acceptance of the Matthews-Carnegie Amendment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The American novelist has, I understand, yet to be found. The language, however, of the country is now quite safe. I was afraid Esperanto would be adopted. Anything is better than that, even this mongrel Chaucer, which, by the way, isn't half so amusing as Artemus Ward's spelling. How will the change affect the poets? What will the magazine editors think about it? Does any one suppose that this noble 300 will come out of the onslaught unscathed? Won't it be a godsend to the so-called comic papers? Do you imagine it will improve American spelling? If this last hoped for consummation is brought about few will kick.

But principally about the poets. When I look at the myriads of verses that I have written, some of which a philanthropic publisher wishes to place before the public at an expense—which he assures me will be a mere bagatelle—to myself, the task of changing the spelling seems scarcely worth the while. The verses, I am sure, don't deserve it; a dubious assertion, which you can take either way. Would the following pass muster? The paragraphic answers are made by a despairing poetical lover driven to incipient insanity by President Roosevelt's proclamation. What bard would write "luv" and "duv," "kis" and "blis," to say nothing of "tru" and "blu"? Why, even Mr. Alfred Austin wouldn't be capable of it. This is my first, and will be my last, effort at simple spelling:

The sun is setting in the golden west,
(Quite probablee!)
The little children now hav gon tu rest,
(Yes, sum, maybe!)
The stars are twinklin in the summer ski,
(They alway du!)
An to their nests the birdies homeward fli,
(Tu-wit! Tu-wu!)
Whil in the glomin sid by sid we sit,
(Well, that's quit rite!)
Our glowing i's with luv's sweet sunshine lit,
(You sed 'twas nite!)
We brethe our vows and swear we will be tru,
(The same old bluf!)
Nort in this wurld kan kum between us two,
(Oh, that's enuf!)

Excuse the spelling! I learned better.

NEW YORK, August 25. PUZZLED POET.

Hra!

Now every word reformer
Feels a patriotic throb:
Right spelling now is certain
With Rozvit on the job.
RODMAN GILDER.

He Has Just Bought a Dictionary.

TO THE EDYTUR UV THE SUN—*Sur:* How abowt that noo dickshunary that I hav just bot? Iz that to be put out uv comishun by the Prezzerdunt's order? And if it iz, hoo iz goin to pa me for it? I can't uford to blo in my muny for a noo dickshunary evry da, and evn if I could, evn if I wuz mayd uv muny, whare wood I git the dickshunarys? I shood think it mite taik kwite sum time, evn wurking nite and da, to git up a noo dickshunary. And in the mentime whare wood we be? Woodn't we hav in this fare land uv ours the gratest wurd riut ever wuz? Woodn't pepul in general awl looz thare heds, more or les? And prewfreders, in partikulur, awl go plum starin krazi?

For until we gut our noo dickshunarys owt woodn't evrybudy be speling in hiz own swete wa? And woodn't that, in a mity short time, git us awl so bawled up that we woodn't no whare we wuz?

Woodn't wun man spel wun wa and anuthr man anuthr, and evry man stik to hiz own wa? And woadn't that mak divishuns betwene frends, and brake up familiz, and maybe bring down upon us the most komplikated civil war in awl historee?

And if it didn't do that, if we ezkaped war, whare wood owr much vaunted ded leter offis be in such an emerjencee? Woodn't it taik about a milyun pepul to help thare, insted uv a fu hunhred, helping to desifer the adresez on leters? And woodn't we finuly hav to awl giv up the iun and stele biznis, and the grane and korn biznis, and awl manufacktchuing and traid, and wun haf uv the popperlashun be emploid inturpurting bookz and noozpaperz and things, bak into the orijernul English, so that pepul kood rede them, until we gut those noo dickshunariz?

I think our Prezzerdunt menes well, but this time I think he slipt a kog.

I hav just bot a noo dickshunary.

NOO YAWK, Orgust 25. ANKSHUS MAN.

A Conservative Kicker.

TO THE EDETUR OF THE SUN—*Sur:* I wud suggest a nu stachu for the White Hows grounds: "Theodor Rozefelt handin Noa Webster a lemmun." S. F. P.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Jeering Brander Matthews.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Pleas whot does President Rozefelt mene bi fonetic speling?

NEW YORK, August 25. W. T. P.

Standing Pat on the Alphabet.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let us let the President know that it is an easier job to simplify the tariff. We Democrats are going to stand pat on the alphabet; at least until he shows a willingness to aid in reforming the schedules of duties on imports which have made the wealth of such men as Mr. Carnegie at the expense of the public. Mr. Roosevelt cannot at this time force upon us a freak issue, nor can he induce us to abandon our cry for Jeffersonian simplicity and Jeffersonian ideals by sliming the path of real progress with the red herrings of Josh Billings's cacographic madness.

NEW YORK, August 25. J. M'S.

Despair of a Hunker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* This is worse than the meat packing scandal!

A DEPRESSED PATRIOT.

NEW YORK, August 25.

Turkish Island in Hungary.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

An interesting incident has just occurred on the island of Ada-Katch, known by some as Uj-Orsova. Those at all familiar with the Danube in this direction cannot fail to have been fascinated by the Oriental spirit which prevails there. Here, in Hungarian territory, is a Turkish colony, for the inhabitants of this island in the Danube are exclusively Turks; they pay no taxes, and are exempt from military service. They live by the cultivation of tobacco, wine and roses, as well as by fishing. In 1718 this island was taken from the Turks by the Austrians, who, on fortifying it, made it the strongest strategic point on the lower Danube. Twenty-two years later, after a four months siege, it again came under Turkish rule, remaining so until 1878, when, according to the terms of the Berlin treaty, Austro-Hungarian troops took possession.

The inhabitants have never failed to recognize the sovereignty of the Sultan, and justice has always been administered according to Turkish laws. The entire spirit of the place is Mohammedan, the customs and manner of living remaining so until this day. Though this colony has existed so long it never entered into the fray of disturbed nationalities, the Turks asked for nothing, hence their political status has never been settled.

Now the largest batch on record of emigrants has left for their native land. It was due to the intervention of Omer Lufti Bey, who appealed to the Sultan for aid, consequently a large sum of money was sent from Constantinople for emigration purposes, and sixteen poor families, representing eighty persons, left by boat for Galatz, where they will be met by the Turkish Consul, who will transport them still further. They are going to settle down at Brussa, across the Bosporus, where the Sultan has placed a large tract of land at their disposal, and has provided one pair of oxen and one plough, together with freedom from taxation for seven years to each head of a family.

Result of Wearing High Collars.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

That high collars tend to produce nervous headaches among both men and women is the most recent discovery of a well known Viennese physician. Quite accidentally the doctor's attention was directed to the very high and very tight style of collar worn by a patient who was always complaining of headaches and giddiness. The collar was laid aside, thus removing the compression of the neck, and the patient's headaches and giddiness disappeared. Struck by this result the doctor paid particular attention to the kind of collars worn by his "headache patients," and in very many instances the change to lower and easier fitting collars brought immediate relief. In the case of women wearing high stiff neckbands it was found that doing away with these had a similarly beneficial result. The doctor declares that nobody with any tendency to headache should wear high collars.