The Sun.

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The Disabilities of William J.

Yours, Mr. BRYAN, is not the prerogative of Genius. You are an excellent gentleman, a person most prepossessing. Forty is the Old Age of Youth; fifty is the Youth of Old Age. You, Mr. BRYAN, are just betwixt and between. It is the period that Philosophy esteems the best. There may be a certain relaxation of the tissues; a matter of indifferent concern. In your case, Mr. BRYAN, it is betrayed by a tendency to an agreeable rotundity and by a greater susceptibility to repose. Never mind. It will agree with you famously, and the nymph, Contemplation, whom heretofore you have slighted, will reveal to you all her benignant charms. Then will speech and action spring from sources more mature and so the more commend themselves to the judgment of the world. It is only Genius, Mr. BRYAN, that is exempt from every law and that can enjoy the plaudits of the multitude in every extremity that it assails.

It is conceded, sir, that you and Mr. HEARST are two of the greatest men that the country has produced. By whatever diverse methods each of you has reached this exalted plane, it is beyond dispute that you are there. You fill the eye, in the measure of your respective gifts, as none others of your time may attempt. But, Mr. BRYAN, to neither of you have accrued the attributes or the appanages of Genius. In whatsoever degree the turbulent surges of your respective ambitions may urge you to action, you will both be of the supremest discretion if you reflect that neither of you enjoys the prerogatives adverted to.

Unless a man shall have carefully and definitely assured himself that his rights as a Genius are indisputable he will prudently defer and procrastinate respecting the assertion of such rights. The most trivial and inconsequential of instances should suffice to demonstrate the incontrovertibility of this proposition. For example, suppose that Mr. HEARST in his quality as a philologist, or you, Mr. BRYAN, in your quality as a philanthropist, were to order a radical and tumultuous change in the orthoepy of the nation, inverting contemporary literature upon its own dismembered remains, do you for one moment imagine that you could do it and escape the consequences—much less have your act receive the approbation of the nation and the nation's scholars? Not much—if you will pardon the abruptness of the phrase. You would have visions, especially would Mr. HEARST, to whom the vitiation of the English tongue is a vicarious pastime—you would both have visions, justifiable visions, of greasy nooses dangling from inconvenient lamp posts.

An Awful Menace.

"In the last analicis the hol futur ov the Stat dependz upon the averaj sitizen háving in his natur the mixtur ov strength and onesti wich mak in thar sum wat we kal gud sitizenship, tu the making up ov wich go meni kwalitiz, but thre abuv al. In the furst plas, the kwaliti ov onesti—we hav got tu hav that furst. I am uzing it in itc brawdest cents—onesti, inkluding desensi in privit lif, klenlines ov word, klenlines ov spech az wel az ov lif, desensi tord the Stat, inkluding onesti, wich, if it iz reäll pozest, standz at the bacis ov patriotism itcelf: that iz indicpencibl."

Nothing could well be less prepossessing than the aspect of the foregoing passage. Every line of it repels and offends the cultivated and sensitive eye. The words look like misdemeanants, like things perverse and misbegotten, the products of a mind disarrayed and distort.

And yet it is as noble a passage as one may find in any anthology, breathing sentiments of exalted benignity and the loftiest inspiration. Few orators and fewer writers have equalled its insistent appeal to the moralities. None has encompassed in such simple and effective words ideas so striking, so satisfying and so coercive.

The menace to our higher literature is so sinister that we confess to a sense of profound discouragement. Nay, we are dismayed!

Will Mr. Bryan Try to Hedge?

When, on the evening of August 30, WILLIAM J. BRYAN rose to address his fellow Democrats assembled in Madison Square Garden, he seemed to personify the stanchest element of a great political party, because he was believed to have the support of the thirteen Southern States which two years ago gave Judge PARKER their electoral votes. When he sat down it was plain to every intelligent hearer that the support of the Democratic South had been seriously imperilled, if not irreparably lost. Mr. BRYAN himself seems not to have foreseen the shattering effect of his advocacy of Federal ownership of trunk railways on his political fortunes. It is even doubtful whether he has yet awakened definitely to the consequences of his unfortunate proposal. But he himself must have recognized as he sat down that the temperature of the auditorium had undergone a startling change. The genial warmth and sympathetic fervor with which the Nebraskan had been welcomed had been succeeded by a "frost."

It is uncertain whether he will strive to retreat cautiously from a dangerous position and retract piecemeal what he uttered in block. Speaking at New Haven on August 31, he repeated what he had said on the preceding evening about Federal ownership of railways, but he added: "I believe in many things that I would not put in a platform. We can't make issues. Conditions, not parties, make issues." This was sometime a platitude, but the moment chosen for propounding it gave it an obvious significance. A candidate for the Presidency who professes himself qualified to act as a shepherd of the people could scarcely be expected to avow quickly and roundly that in his effort to differentiate himself from Mr. ROOSEVELT on the one hand and Mr. HEARST on the other he had taken a wrong track and put forward a doctrine which if adopted would be likely to cost his party its stronghold. He went as far as a craving to keep a reputation for consistency would let him when he told his New Haven auditors:

"What I said at New York about Federal ownership of railways you should regard as a counsel of perfection. I don't know whether the country is ripe for it. For the present it is simply my personal opinion. Whether it should be embodied two years hence in the party platform is for you and your delegates to a national convention to determine."

If any Democratic veterans heard him they must have wished that he had shown himself similarly submissive in 1900 at Kansas City, instead of forcing the platform committee to recommit the Democracy to the free silver folly. If still well wishers, however, of the Nebraskan, they must have felt that repentance comes better late than never, and that if Mr. BRYAN were ready to renounce the vanity of consistency there might be some basis for the assertion that his mind has deepened and broadened. The hope seemed to be strengthened by the fact that at Newark and Jersey City on Saturday the candidate made no reference to Federal ownership of railroads. But the hope was dashed on Sunday afternoon, when in reply to a SUN reporter, who had asked whether, in deference to strong Democratic protestations he had decided not to press the railway ownership proposal, Mr. BRYAN said that he had heard no "strong protest," and proceeded to deny categorically that he had dropped the railroad issue.

If Mr. BRYAN has heard no "strong protest" against his advocacy of Federal ownership of trunk railways, he must have kept his ears shut, or else his definition of "strength" differs materially from the current one. If there are two men who merit the name of statesman in the South and who indisputably command the confidence of their party in that section they are JOSEPH W. BAILEY of Texas, who since GORMAN'S death has been the leader of the Democratic minority in the United States Senate, and JOHN SHARP WILLIAMS of Mississippi, who is the leader of the corresponding minority in the House of Representatives. We are able to say, on the best authority, that both of these eminent Democrats repudiate the Federal ownership policy of which Mr. BRYAN has made himself the sponsor, and that both are likely to make a public statement on the subject at an early date. It is no secret that Senator BAILEY has at no time put much trust in the soundness of Mr. BRYAN'S judgment; and it is a matter of record that Mr. WILLIAMS, when he met the Nebraskan not long ago in London, strove earnestly to dissuade him from propounding the Federal ownership of railways as a pivotal issue on his return to the United States. Not until he found Mr. BRYAN obdurate did the Mississippian come to the conclusion that a renomination of the twice beaten candidate would be for the Democracy a fatal blunder. There is scarcely a doubt that Mr. BAILEY and Mr. WILLIAMS, in conjunction with other Democratic leaders of their section, would be able to control more than a third of the delegates to their party's next national convention, and thereby put an extinguisher on the Nebraskan's aspirations.

What some of the Democratic national committeemen and some members of the Democratic Congressional committee think about the effect of the Federal ownership issue in doubtful districts is evident from the fact that Mr. BRYAN, speaking on Sunday to a SUN reporter, would not deny that they had requested him to let the railroad issue slip into abeyance because of the hurt that further urging of it would cause Democratic candidates in the coming Congressional elections. As it is, the effect would be mischievous enough, but it would be absolutely destructive if Mr. BRYAN were already accepted as the Democratic nominee for President.

What the Nebraskan seems unable to recognize is that both political parties are responsible for the railway rate act recently passed, and that the whole country is determined to give Federal regulation of interstate roads a fair trial. Mr. BRYAN strangely fails to perceive that he disqualifies himself in advance for the Democratic nomination by proclaiming and emphasizing his want of faith in a remedy for railway abuses on which the Democratic party has set the stamp of its approval. No man can be trusted to apply with zeal and energy a remedy as to which he confesses at the start his belief that it is doomed to failure. The real reason why Mr. BRYAN was beaten so badly in 1900, although at that time the gold standard had been firmly established by statute, was that his reiteration of adhesion to the free silver heresy made it an act of absurdity to vote for a man certain to miss no opportunity of tampering with that standard. So now the Democratic believers in Federal regulation as distinguished from Federal ownership of railways would stultify themselves if they put the enforcement of the railway rate law in the hands of an Executive who avowedly regards it as futile. The Democratic Representatives who unanimously voted for that law must resent the imputation cast on them by Mr. BRYAN at New Haven when he said: "You can't regulate corporations; they regulate you. You might as well take off the mask and declare that you are for the trusts as to try to regulate the trusts."

That is to say, all the members of the Democratic minority in the lower house of Congress are informed by the Nebraskan that they are either fools or knaves.

The Mind of Gompers.

The affair of the Allentown boilermakers, of which due record was made in THE SUN of August 26, suggests some very painful thoughts to the friends and admirers of the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS. Of course anything that touches the Hon. SAMUEL strikes chords of ecstasy, or sorrow, as the case may be, in the bosoms of untold thousands of his fellow countrymen. They rejoice in his triumphs; they shed the hot, salt tear into the abysses of his setbacks. All of which moves us to say, though we still hope our affectionate solicitude has betrayed us, that the affair of the Allentown boilermakers seems to warrant some alarm as to the mental, moral or intellectual condition of the president of the American Federation of Labor.

An irreverent person, after studious contemplation of that incident, might offer the sentiment that the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS is, so to speak, losing his grip. The boilermakers in question were loyal adherents of the union. They had come from Allentown to this city, engaged to rivet plates on certain tanks for the East River Gas Company at 138th street, The Bronx. They had come prepared, also, if we may draw conclusions from authenticated history, to exterminate all "scabs" and other villains, horse thieves and traitors to the cause of organized labor. Nevertheless, it appears that they were set upon, ravaged and generally beaten up by thirty local iron workers and some of them are in a critical condition at this moment. Presumably the assailants were union men on a strike, to whom the spectacle of other American citizens at work while the former were idle was an intolerable outrage and provocation. However that may be, the striking union men succumbed to a rising gorge at the sight of other men daring to work while they loafed, and the result, as we have already indicated, must be sought in the hospital and mortuary records of this town.

These are mere details, however, and comparatively unimportant. We have long known, of course with becoming admiration, that the chief purpose of organized labor is to prevent unorganized labor from earning an honest and independent livelihood. Any base wretch who refuses to pay tribute to the "Federation," obey the orders of the council, quit work when ordered, and starve his wife and children in the interests of a tactical demonstration by the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS—any base wretch of that particular brand is by the common consent of really high minded persons denied the sympathies of his kind and offered up as tribute to the deity of the horny handed and the righteous. A "scab" has "no right to live." When he works he "takes the bread from the mouth" of the idle. But for him the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS and his coadjutor band of salaried assistants would be able to arrange the business affairs and regulate the business policies of the men and the corporations that employ labor and pay to workingmen the wages wherewith they feed themselves and their dependents. Nothing, therefore, could be more logical than the thirst for extermination on the part of "the organization." By no other expedient can that honorable and potent trust perpetuate itself.

But the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS cannot afford such blunders as that of the Allentown boilermakers. The latter were not "scabs." They were all ticketed and labelled, all chipping in to the fund from which GOMPERS and his delegates and organizers draw their salaries, their travelling and hotel and carriage expenses, &c. To have another lot of noble and intelligent contributors to the same fund fall foul of them by mistake was an error which turns our marrow into gall. The incident suggests to an anxious mind that the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS is trying to do too much. So long as he devoted himself to the task of eliminating non-union laborers he did fairly well. The casualty record speaks for him with an eloquence which it were feeble to describe as irresistible. But, now that he has bulged in upon the arena of national politics and has engaged himself in the enterprise of making or unmaking Congresses and Governments, he seems to be neglecting those delicate and fine methods which formerly obtained for him the confidence and affection of his following.

We begin to fear that there are limits even in the case of GOMPERS'S giant intellect. Apparently he cannot at the same time direct the destiny of the nation and arrange for a harmonious and thoroughly effective extinction of non-union laborers. But for the impiety of the thought involved, one might say that GOMPERS seems to fumble.

Now that the Post Office Department is attended to, if SAMUEL GOMPERS is the man he says he is he will at once unionize the army on an eight hour basis.

A Democrat vouched for as a man of national reputation says, in regard to the Peerless Leader's government ownership plan: "As a politician Mr. BRYAN is a failure." This seems to involve a misconception of Mr. BRYAN'S rôle. In most of the indorsements of him by Democrats in State convention assembled he is pronounced a statesman. Other men may have the offices and lead to victory, but Mr. BRYAN prefers the leisure, freedom and excitement of abstract and itinerant statesmanship. If he were to be elected to office he might degenerate into a mere politician and be found out.

Government clerks with remarkable unanimity are joining the Cannon campaign clubs and indorsing the Speaker for President. They are a powerful society, of great influence, and their energies for several years have been devoted to an effort to obtain the enactment of a civil pension law.

When General CEBRECO left the palace he met General MIRO, who was the chief disbursing officer of the army of liberation, who, on seeing CEBRECO'S downcast face, said:

"Didn't I tell you that PALMA would not listen, even for the country's sake?"

General CEBRECO answered sadly: "You were right."—*Despatch from Havana.*

General CEBRECO, a well known veteran of the war of independence, had visited the palace to propose arbitration of the differences between the Government and the rebels, but President PALMA firmly declined to entertain the idea. The Cuban republic would not endure long if such a precedent were to be established. The outs would soon want to arbitrate with the ins again, and the notion would take root in the Cuban mind that to get anything out of the Government a man of influence need only take to the bush, burn some gunpowder and propose arbitration.

It is handsome of Brigadier-General J. FRANKLIN BELL to urge that seniority be waived in his case when General CORBIN retires on September 15, and that Brigadier-General JESSE M. LEE, one of the civil war veterans, be promoted to the vacant Major-Generalcy; but it should be understood that seniority carries no right to promotion, although, other things being equal, it should prevail. If General LEE is a better soldier than General BELL the civil war veteran with the excellent record ought to be promoted. Sentiment should not enter into the question. Army officers are supposed to be paid for their efficiency, and if promotion for sentimental reasons becomes the vogue an unexpected war may find the wrong man in command of a brigade or division ordered to the front.

STENSLAND, the Chicago bank wrecker, has been captured in Africa and will be brought home for prosecution. The non-success of his effort to escape must have a most disquieting effect on the nerves of certain eminent financiers in Philadelphia.

WIRELESS AERIAL NAVIGATION.

Mr. Tesla's Experiments Antedating Those of Professor Bell.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am an assiduous reader of THE SUN, but somehow I overlooked a report contained in a recent number, which has just been forwarded to me through the courtesy of the *Electrical Review* and interests me keenly. During the last few days I have run across a number of newspaper comments and was wondering what had called them forth, until the clipping received enabled me to understand and trace to your columns of August 27 the origin of the disturbance.

I refer to an experiment supposed to have been performed by Professor Alexander Graham Bell, the inventor of the telephone, which consisted in propelling an aerial vessel by power transmitted without wire. This could have been practically accomplished only by the use of some of my inventions, and should I have been forestalled in this one of their many applications I shall have the satisfaction of knowing that it is by a man whose name is already linked with an immortal achievement. But if Professor Bell has undertaken this just to satisfy the world that an airship can be operated by power transmitted without wires he has gone to quite unnecessary trouble, for long ago I made a much better and further reaching demonstration. His experiment would only show that such can be done close to the source of electrical energy, but my experiments have established the fact that an aerial vessel or flying machine can be propelled with the same facility and efficiency either near the transmitter or at the antipodes.

The problem of aerial navigation was solved in the most satisfactory manner imaginable when, in the fall of 1899, I produced stationary terrestrial waves and passed a current equivalent to that of several hundred incandescent lamps around the globe. In a carefully prepared statement, which appeared in the *Century Magazine* of June, 1900, I have announced this advance in popular language, but clear and unmistakable. In my patents and technical articles, however, I have fully exposed my methods and appliances and given an account of my experiments; and the transmission of electrical energy without wires is no longer a secret to electricians.

NIKOLA TESLA.

NEW YORK, September 3.

THE SULTAN'S SUCCESSOR.

Mohammed Rasheed Effendi, His Brother, May Be Set Aside.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Much has been published regarding the successor to the Sultan of Turkey in the event of the death of Abdul Hamid, but the matter has not been made quite clear. The Wali Ahd or heir to the throne at the present time is the Sultan's brother, Mohammed Rasheed Effendi, who is two years younger than the Sultan. This position of heir presumptive he has received on the nomination of the Sultan, according to Moslem law, which allows a chieftain or ruler to nominate his successor, subject to the approval of the elders.

With the Osmani dynasty it has been the rule to nominate a brother as heir presumptive, but among the Persians and the Afghans it has been the custom to nominate a son, not necessarily the eldest son. The position of Caliph has always been elective, and consequently it is within the power of the present Sultan to set his brother aside and nominate either his eldest son, Mohammed Selim, who is 35 years of age, or a younger son, who has only recently attained his majority.

The Moslem law and custom regarding succession is a very important element in the future of Turkey at the present time, because if the Sultan's brother is paralyzed it would be contrary to Moslem law to place him on the throne. In the long line of Caliphs many have been set aside on account of physical and mental infirmities. It would seem to be quite within the law and custom of Islam for the present Sultan to consult the great Powers of Europe and the United States as to his successor, and then set his brother aside and select one of his sons. This has frequently been done in Asia and northern Africa in times past. The custom still prevails among all the tribes of central Asia.

It may be of interest to state that the present Sultan is thirty-seventh in succession from Osman or Othman, the founder of the Turkish dynasty, and he is ninety-third in direct succession from the prophet of Arabia. These Caliphs include the first five Caliphs, who reigned at Mecca; the fourteen Caliphs of the Umaiyah dynasty, who reigned at Damascus; the thirty-seven Abbassides Caliphs, who reigned at Bagdad, and the thirty-seven Sultans of the Osmani dynasty, who reigned at Constantinople.

The Shahs of Persia, on the other hand, believe that Ali, the prophet's son-in-law, should have been the first Caliph, and not Abu Bakr. The Persians acknowledge only twelve lawful Caliphs, the last of whom was the Mahdi, who disappeared for a time, and who will, it is said, appear again in the last days. The kings of Persia have never claimed to be in any sense the successors of the prophet.

In addition to these dynasties in direct line with the Sultan of Turkey, there have been fourteen Fatahmide Caliphs, who reigned over Egypt, and fifty-seven Caliphs of Cordova and Granada, who reigned over Spain for the long period of more than 700 years.

THE AUTHOR OF THE DICTIONARY OF ISLAM.

NEW YORK, September 1.

Prosperity of the Wicked.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A letter in this morning's issue by "D. A. L." headed "Why Do the Wicked Prosper?" is one to which I say a hearty amen.

It seems absolutely impossible to get the attention of any one with capital for a business enterprise where everything is above board and nothing concealed, whereas people are duped every day and promoters, so called, get rich.

If advertisements are inserted in the daily papers answers are received only by those who stand ready to gobble up the few dollars that are left, and if you answer the many alluring advertisements which appear under various guises you either hear nothing at all in response or get a reply from some of the many fakers with whom lower New York is well filled.

I wish you could answer the question of "D. A. L." and tell us why it is that these things are so.

NEW YORK, September 3. W. J. S.

San Francisco's City Records a Heap of Ashes.

From the San Francisco Call.

Chief Assistant Clerk John Ryan of the Board of Supervisors and Head Janitor Joseph Belletti opened the vault in the office of the board at the City Hall yesterday. All the records were found to be a heap of ashes. It is the opinion that the fire did not get into the vault, but the contents were baked by the intense heat.

The ashes stood a foot deep in the vault. All the original franchises, deeds and leases were destroyed and there is no way of reproducing them. Among the books destroyed were those containing the minutes of the board since the year 1860.

HERCULANEUM.

From the Spectator.

Most people imagine that Herculaneum, buried by the eruption of Vesuvius in 79 A. D., has been as carefully and completely excavated as its neighbor, Pompeii, but this is not so. It lies nearer to Naples, and its site was the sooner covered with houses. Two or more villages now stand above it, or rather above the hardened mud seventy feet below which sleeps the little Græco-Samnite town. When the curiosity of the eighteenth century started to explore and to dig through this mud houses were already in existence above the trenches and tunnels then cut, and the excavators had to go with caution, and eventually to be contented with a very partial execution of their task. Indeed, one corner merely of the city was dug out, and then the matter was left for want of funds and for fear of trouble with the owners of the soil above. Little was done in the nineteenth century; and while excavation has been busy in other parts of the classical lands, and its neighbor, more happily situated for the explorer, has been revealed in its entirety, nothing has been added to the knowledge of Herculaneum.

Herculaneum was not so much smothered as overflowed by wave on wave of mud that preserved things by covering them up before cinders and *scoriæ* had time to set anything alight. The town itself was inhabited, there is reason to believe, by a more cultivated class of people than the pleasure seekers of Pompeii, whose one anxiety, as their inscriptions prove, was that gladiators might be many and sport good. The paintings and sculptures that have been recovered from Herculaneum are of greater artistic value; and, to put the matter beyond question, while Pompeii has not yielded a single manuscript, the one house in Herculaneum that has been thoroughly explored contained numerous rolls of papyri. Unfortunately, the house belonged to a man who specialized in Epicurean philosophy, for the rolls were all works by philosophers of this school. But the houses in Herculaneum are numerous, and it is against all reason to suppose that they were all inhabited by students of Epicurus and his doctrines.

Under the mud waves there may lie the lyric poets of Greece, whose loss makes, perhaps, the worst gap in all ancient literature. Sappho, Alcæus, Simonides—the critics speak of them, but they are hardly more than names. There also may be the lost writers of tragedy, such as Phrynichus, whose songs, so Aristophanes tells us, the veterans of Marathon hummed as they went through the streets at night, and of the Old Comedy, the rivals of Aristophanes himself, Cratinus and Ameipsias. There, too, may lie the writers of the New Comedy, whose loss the ancient critics would have accounted as the worst we have to suffer.

Nor are the poets the only writers men would wish to recover. The historian of Greece and Rome, because of his scant material, has to piece together much of his story from inscriptions and later authorities. He has the "impenetrable stupidity" of Diodorus and the anecdotes of Plutarch, but he would prefer something more contemporary. He would like to read the rise of Athens as recorded by Hellanicus, and the story of Sicily as told by the "pusillus Thucydides," Philistus, who took part in his own subject matter and was the contemporary of Dionysus. Not least, he would wish to see Alexander and his successors as they appeared to those with whom they lived. If his interests were more with Latin literature, he might then hope to find in Herculaneum the lost "Civil Wars" of Sallust and the lost "Decades" of Livy. Something, too, might be found that would give new knowledge, if not of early Christianity, yet perhaps of the early Christians.

To test these speculations one chief thing is wanting—money. The assistance of the Italian Parliament would be needed. Even then the sum required would be large, perhaps a quarter of a million, perhaps more. Want of money, and that alone, has prevented the attempt being made; but the money should be found somehow. Here is the greatest romance of excavation and discovery waiting.

A WORKING WOMAN'S THANKS.

She Has Found the Men in Her Occupation Helpful and Chivalrous.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Having read with some faint degree of amusement the tirades of "Mere Man" and other letters pertaining to the subject he treats, and being a woman who earns her bread in the sweat of her brow I feel impelled also to take my pen in hand, not in defence of myself nor in criticism of my men coworkers, but in grateful appreciation of what they have done and are doing for me.

Previous to the death of my husband I gained a business experience through working with and helping him which enabled me to engage in a line of work which few women undertake. In my daily employment I am thrown in contact with different classes and conditions of men; indeed, I am dependent on their help and cooperation to a certain extent. Words fail me when I try to express my deep appreciation of their thoughtful consideration, their quick sympathy, their delicate chivalry, their disposition to remove all stumbling blocks from the rough way a working woman's feet must always tread. Their general disposition to "give me a lift" whenever possible brings lumps into my throat and moisture to my eyes.

In fairness to them I must confess I can lay no claims to either youth or beauty, having reached the age which bars me out of a certain working woman's hotel and having more than a few gray hairs.

I write this partly for fear "Mere Man" may give your readers who are interested a wrong impression of our American men—God bless them!—and partly because I wish to show our men coworkers that one of us at least appreciates and is grateful for the help they are always so ready to give.

BUSINESS WOMAN.

NEW YORK, September 3.

Opinions of an Experienced "Fan."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Inasmuch as the Giants have had a pretty severe dose of hard luck this season and the Highlanders have been short of the services of the "scrappy" Elberfeld, is it not about time for New Yorkers to make allowances for the position in which the teams find themselves? The Giants won the championship twice in their own league, and they certainly beat the Athletics last year to a standstill. Have the so-called Yankees crossed the wire hands down or are they likely to do so?

I have often seen the rival New York teams play ball and have been a student of the game from the time of Kelly, Williamson, Ewing, Denney, Nash, Ferguson and Keefe, not to mention "Baby" Anson, and old Dan Brouthers, and my belief is that if Mathewson, Ames, Donlin and Brown had not been so long out of the game the Cubs would not have had a look in for the flag.

Please give us a rest on the Highlanders, for every one ought to know that barring disabling of players the Clevelands could play rings around them in their own league, and in my humble opinion so could the Cubs, the Pirates and the Giants.

Both of our New York teams have played lots of dirty ball this season, but professional ball is not like lawn tennis; still, it compares favorably with the amateur game now erroneously called football, as exemplified by gentlemen of our most cultured universities.

B. B. RUSH.

NEW YORK, September 3.

The Concomitant of Genius.

From the Atlantic Monthly.

With the greatest human spirits—Napoleon, Gladstone, Richard Wagner—the world has grown accustomed to taking profound egotism as a proper concomitant of genius. On lower planes of genius, and even in ranks of talent and mere cleverness, it is common experience that success is won by the self-confident egotist.

Absit Cattus!

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Persons of asthmatic tendencies should keep away from cats.

NEW YORK, August 31. B.

TIPPELSKIRCH'S GOOD THING.

Germany's Graft Scandal—War, Colonial and Foreign Offices Involved.

From the London Daily Chronicle.

The German "colonial scandals," involving as they do the question of the integrity of many high officials and even of the Minister of Agriculture, General von Podbielski, form an interesting parallel to our own war stores scandal. We are so accustomed to look to Germany for thoroughness that the following history of the firm of Tippelskirch & Co., which holds a monopoly of the contracts given out by the German Colonial Office, will come as a surprise to many.

So inexperienced was Germany till recently in colonial affairs that everything appertaining to colonial warfare or administration, the outfit of troops for colonial service and the personal outfit of their officers had to be bought in England. When the late Major von Wissmann, in 1887-88, went out to German East Africa as Imperial Commissioner to crush the revolt of the Arabs, the equipment of his force was obtained in England; only a part of the Major's personal outfit was ordered from the Offiziers-Verein.

The Offiziers-Verein was originally a sort of military cooperative society intended to provide officers with their necessary outfit at a cheap price. It is now a general trading concern. The execution of Wissmann's order was intrusted to Herr von Tippelskirch, then a clerk of the society. The gentlemen of Wissmann's staff following his example, more of such orders came in and were all seen to by Tippelskirch. Later on, a special export department being formed, Tippelskirch became its manager.

In this position he found opportunity, and availed himself of it, of getting into personal touch with officers and officials of the colonial service, who supplied him with practical hints as to African requirements. Even tents, folding beds, tables and chairs had still to be bought in England, and it was not until 1892 that German manufacturers were able to supply these articles. But they were not allowed to deal directly with the Government, but had to sell to the export department of the Offiziers-Verein, which was sole purveyor to the Government.

Later on the same society contracted for the transport of troops and war material to Africa, these transports having become necessary through the first rising of Hereros and Witbois in Southwest Africa and the development of German East Africa. Press and Reichstag began to demur to this extension of the business scope of the Offiziers-Verein, originally, as said above, a cooperative society for the equipment of officers.

The export department had to go overboard. Tippelskirch saw his chance. He offered to buy the business as a going concern, and his offer was accepted. Herr von Podbielski, then an unemployed General and a member of the Reichstag, who had taken part in the discussions anent the Offiziers-Verein, backed Tippelskirch financially while those negotiations were going on and became a partner of the firm of Tippelskirch & Co.

The Colonial Office (as is well known, only a department of the German Foreign Office) transferred its orders to the new firm. The orders increased with the forming of special "Schutz-Truppen" in all German-African possessions. Not satisfied with their practical monopoly—in itself a strange thing, considering that they were mere brokers, and that a number of quite efficient manufacturing concerns for the tropics had sprung up—Tippelskirch & Co. also obtained a formal monopoly; the Colonial Office, by agreement, undertook to order from Tippelskirch & Co. all their requirements for the tropics and the firm undertook to execute all these orders. This agreement was twice renewed, the last time in 1903.

At the end of 1897 Herr von Podbielski became Postmaster-General; he left the firm, transferring his share to his wife. In 1899 the firm underwent a change: Tippelskirch and Herr Reichelt—like himself, a former clerk of the Offiziers-Verein—became partners, backed by a number of influential persons, among them Major von Wissmann, Dr. Bumiller, Herr (or Frau) von Podbielski, &c. That Dr. Bumiller was mixed up with Tippelskirch has caused in Germany an almost more painful sensation than Herr von Podbielski's partnership. Dr. Bumiller, a pupil of Major von Wissmann's, holds a high post in the Foreign Office and formerly was Colonial Attaché in Paris, a post that had been specially created for him.

The backing of these influential persons alone would not suffice to explain the predominant position of Tippelskirch & Co. There is another reason, and that is the ingrained unconstitutional habits of the Colonial Office and the German Government as a whole—their desire to do without the Reichstag's control, to place their acts, as it were, before the Reichstag as *faits accomplis*, which no amount of grumbling could undo. One of the pet schemes of the German officials is the creation of a colonial army as distinct from the German army and composed of professional soldiers. There is no chance of the Reichstag's ever acceding to such a scheme, should it be brought forward in a constitutional manner. Hence the necessity of working underground, as it were.

The last agreement with Tippelskirch & Co. provided that the firm, in its own buildings in Berlin and at its own expense and own insurance risk, should warehouse and maintain in a state of efficiency the "Kriegslager" (war stores) formed by the Government (and bought from the firm) for eventual use in the colonies; also that the firm, in Southwest Africa, should manage the "Kammer" (clothing magazines) of the German troops there. Another significant point of the agreement is that two-thirds of the orders for each colony must be executed during each year and stored by the firm, and the accounts not be sent in till after the end of the financial year. The aim underlying this arrangement was the gradual collection, free from parliamentary control, of sufficient stores for a colonial army.

With regard to Major Fischer, who is now in prison for the alleged acceptance of bribes, the following might be of interest: Fischer, an old friend of Tippelskirch and Bumiller, was Captain when he came to deal officially with the firm. He had been commissioned to take charge of the "Bekleidungsamt," Wilhelmshaven, where uniforms and other equipment are taken over from the contractors and stored. There he made the acquaintance of Herr Jordan, a weaving manufacturer, who was interested in the manufacture of khaki drill, hitherto exclusively made in England. Jordan had obtained in England information concerning this manufacturing process. He was brought into communication with Tippelskirch, who himself had started in a small way to turn out khaki. He and Jordan came to terms and since then German soldiers wear khaki made in Germany.

NEW ENGLAND RIVERS.

An Admirer Claims for Them a Charm That Baffles the Artist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* One who is fond of bigness and size will smile at any panegyric of the rivers of the Green Mountain State, but artists delight in them and the summer tourist feels their charm.

The quality of this charm may be found in a certain degree in the upper reaches of the Hudson, near Albany, and to a marked extent in the Connecticut River between Middletown and Hartford.

It is the English river of Devonshire and Kent, without the patchwork field crops and the mechanical looking hedges. It is the perfection of the natural pastoral. Description is impossible in this case. The literary art retreats from the attempt, and the painter's brush can only partially reproduce the scenery; the drawing of the majestic and grandly impressive is not so difficult to the expert, although the management of light and masses may offer serious difficulty; but his must be a supreme attainment who can reproduce the entire effect, in midsummer, of the winding, willow margined streams of Vermont and Connecticut. X. X. X.

PLATTSBURG, September 3.

"Scaldeens."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Hoot, Mon," writing from Highland Falls, N. Y., wants to know if "scaldeens," applied to young birds before they have shot their pin feathers, is a good word or merely a "localism." Orange county *patois*.

When I was a young savage in the town of Galway, Ireland, twenty years ago, many a time a confederate up a tree after inspection of a nest would shout back: "Arrah, they're only scaldeens. We'll have to wait." The word was applied to crows, jackdaws and all the young birds ungodly hands could get at.

It is fine old word, worthy of a place in any dictionary, and, like all good things, came from Ireland.

NEW YORK, September 3. SUN-RE.

England's Old Guns.

From the London Daily Mail.

One might almost have armed a fifth rate Power with the seventeen guns which were sold by auction at Woolwich Arsenal yesterday at old metal prices. However, before the sale the War Office authorities took the precaution of "spiking" the muzzle loading guns and of removing the breechblocks and fittings of the breech loaders. Five of the guns were sixty-four pounders (muzzle loaders and rifled), each weighing about three tons, and these realized together £83. A fortypounder breech loader went a bargain at £3 10s., while a seven-inch Krupp only fetched £7, in spite of its three and one-half tons. Two eight inch howitzers, weighing together seven tons, were also cheap at £14 10s., and two sixteen pounders brought only £1 5s. 3d. each.

RURAL CRIMES.

Lack of Adequate Police Responsible for Them.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The volume of crime that has been committed of late in the districts outside the city limits by these so-called yeggmen and village loafers can easily be traced to the inadequate protection afforded by the authorities. The law says that you may elect a constable, and then goes on to prescribe the fees he receives in certain cases. In the part of town where I reside, which is less than twenty-five miles from Forty-second street, there are 250 houses scattered over an area of eighteen square miles. The office of constable goes begging because the fees are so small that a man elected to this position must of necessity have other employment, and he is consequently very often not around when wanted. The constables are not called upon to earn these fees until after a crime has been committed, a complaint made and a warrant issued by a justice of the peace. I have experience enough to state that all towns or hamlets outside of incorporated villages are in the same condition.

If a crime is committed at one end of the town the criminal has plenty of time to make good his escape by the time the complainant has reached the justice and sworn out a warrant. May I, without taking up too much of your valuable space, give an illustration? Our railroad station was crowded with would-be passengers one night last week; along came a couple of rowdies and in a few moments a fight started. A woman had her nose broken, a baby in its father's arms was struck and the father's eyes were blackened. A young man ran over to the nearest telephone and informed the justice of the peace. By the time the justice had his constable on the scene the train came along and the rowdies skipped for parts unknown.

What the State authorities should do is to pay a constable a certain fixed salary a year, have two or more of them, according to the number of inhabitants, on day and night, assessing each property holder so benefited by this protection his pro rata share. If, we will say, these 250 houses in my town are assessed at $1,000 each this would make an assessment of $250,000. One-half of 1 per cent. would be $1,250, or $5 a year for each householder. Or, if his house were worth more, he would pay more; if less, the assessment would be smaller. This would make an incentive for good men to seek the job, and the knowledge that such a man was around would have a tendency to deter these crooks and rowdies from playing their games. I doubt if any resident would object to so little outlay for such large benefit.

A JUSTICE OF THE PEACE.

MOUNT PLEASANT, September 3.

THE HON. C. E. MAGOON.

Some Observations Upon His Administration From the Panama Point of View.

From the Panama Star and Herald, August 13.

Here we have in a nutshell the secret of his popularity and success. He is courteous, even genial; and beneath these graces one imagines he perceives a real kindliness of disposition. There is no intention of underrating his abilities, but it may truthfully be declared that no small share of the Governor's success is due to his qualities of heart. With regard to his intellectual attainments little need be said, as the fruits of these are daily in evidence. One has only to refer to the legal code of the Canal Zone and the smoothness of the running of the Government machinery for proof of Gov. Magoon's ability as a jurist, organizer and administrator.

For the time that Gov. Magoon has been on the Isthmus he has done invaluable work. He has devised a code of laws for the Canal Zone adapted to local needs, established a stable system of government and, as head of the administration, has been largely instrumental in bringing about the change for the better in sanitary conditions which is so noticeable a feature of the Isthmus today. At some future date we may give the result of his labors more in detail, but the above brief generalization alone shows a good record, and the Governor may well be proud of his work. He has achieved that for which he was sent here and will be removed to a wider field. In the Philippines he will find enough to engross his energies, but there is no fear as to his ability to cope with the situation there. The same ability and urbanity which have enabled him to work such good results here will stand him well in his new sphere and after he has departed from our midst we shall watch his career with interest. In the meantime we tender him our congratulations on his promotion, coupled as it is with regret at his early departure, and we believe that in saying this we voice the feelings of the great majority in this community.

STENOGRAPHERS' WAGES.

Skilled Labor Not Paid Enough, in the Opinion of a Veteran.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I note with interest in THE SUN of August 30 a letter written by Mrs. H. Smith under the heading "A Stenographer's Complaint." I am heartily in sympathy with the principle set forth in it, and being head stenographer in a large corporation in New York, where I come in contact with all kinds of stenographers and so-called stenographers, I can fully appreciate Mrs. Smith's argument.

The time will come, and I think that time is not far distant, when the business man will open his eyes and will then see that the employment of second rate stenographers costs him far more in the long run and causes him more annoyance and trouble than the employment of stenographers who are competent and able to be of actual assistance to him.

It is shameful that good stenographers have to accept such small salaries. Why is this the case? Can it not be remedied? In other lines of work brains cannot be bought cheap. Why does this not hold good with regard to stenography? STENO.

BROOKLYN, September 3.

Sullivan for Taggart's Job.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is high time for the Democratic party to be looking around for a national chairman to succeed Taggart of Indiana. There is need of a chairman broad of mind, clear of character, strong of determination. Such a man we find in the Hon. Roger C. Sullivan of Illinois.

This rising star inspires pure Democracy with hope. The signs of the times point toward his election in 1908. The Chicagoan's distinguished recent Illinois career and clear and clean record are above reproach. In Illinois they call him a man of destiny; throughout the South and West he is considered the Moses who could unite the forces of Democracy and lead the party out from the wilderness into the Promised Land. His star has risen above the horizon with great consideration. His strength and popularity would make him a great leader to success, and being possessed of stanch, able, conservative, fearless, representative, unquestioned, full fledged Democracy at all times and under all circumstances, he would preside in such a manner that all great men of our party would rally to his support for harmony and elect the next Democratic nominee to the Presidency of the United States. J. L. WOODS MERRILL.

KANSAS CITY, Mo., September 1.

Trial by Jury Losing Ground.

From the London Law Journal.

Trial by jury continues to decline in popularity in the county courts, notwithstanding the numerical change in the jury and the increase in the more important cases. The number of actions determined in 1905 was 875,280 and only 848 were tried by juries. This is the lowest number of which there is any record in the returns. Juries have never been much in request in the county courts. The demand for their services has actually diminished as the business of the courts has increased: 1875, 1,080; 1885, 1,150; 1895, 1,186; 1905, 848.

There were ten circuits in 1905 on which the number of cases tried by juries did not exceed three. On the circuit which includes Bolton, Wigan and Oldham not a single case was tried by a jury during the year. In the employment of jurors, as in the treatment of debtors, the views of County Court Judges differ. The decline of trial by jury in the county courts may be attributed not so much to an increasing want of faith in the institution on the part of litigants as to the strong prejudice which some County Court Judges exhibit against it.

The Grammarian's Funeral.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Perchance your correspondent is behind the times, especially when the speeches of "The Peerless One" are allowed to appear in type in all their aboriginal misuse of "shall" and "will," and similar citrine tributes (?) to Goold Brown. ALLEN B. LEROY.

NEW YORK, September 3.