The Sun.

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IS THERE A SANTA CLAUS?

Reprinted on this Christmas morning at the request of many friends of THE SUN, *of Santa Claus, of the little Virginias of yesterday and to-day, and of the author of the essay, the late F. P. Church.*

We take pleasure in answering at once and thus prominently the communication below, expressing at the same time our great gratification that its faithful author is numbered among the friends of THE SUN:

DEAR EDITOR: I am 8 years old.
Some of my little friends say there is no Santa Claus.
Papa says "If you see it in THE SUN it's so."
Please tell me the truth; is there a Santa Claus?
VIRGINIA O'HANLON.
115 WEST NINETY-FIFTH STREET.

Virginia, your little friends are wrong. They have been affected by the scepticism of a sceptical age. They do not believe except they see. They think that nothing can be which is not comprehensible by their little minds. All minds, Virginia, whether they be men's or children's, are little. In this great universe of ours man is a mere insect, an ant, in his intellect, as compared with the boundless world about him, as measured by the intelligence capable of grasping the whole of truth and knowledge.

Yes, Virginia, there is a Santa Claus. He exists as certainly as love and generosity and devotion exist, and you know that they abound and give to your life its highest beauty and joy. Alas! how dreary would be the world if there were no Santa Claus! It would be as dreary as if there were no Virginias. There would be no childlike faith then, no poetry, no romance to make tolerable this existence. We should have no enjoyment, except in sense and sight. The eternal light with which childhood fills the world would be extinguished.

Not believe in Santa Claus! You might as well not believe in fairies! You might get your papa to hire men to watch in all the chimneys on Christmas Eve to catch Santa Claus, but even if they did not see Santa Claus coming down, what would that prove? Nobody sees Santa Claus, but that is no sign that there is no Santa Claus. The most real things in the world are those that neither children nor men can see. Did you ever see fairies dancing on the lawn? Of course not, but that's no proof that they are not there. Nobody can conceive or imagine all the wonders there are unseen and unseeable in the world.

You may tear apart the baby's rattle and see what makes the noise inside, but there is a veil covering the unseen world which not the strongest man, nor even the united strength of all the strongest men that ever lived, could tear apart. Only faith, fancy, poetry, love, romance, can push aside that curtain and view and picture the supernal beauty and glory beyond. Is it all real? Ah, Virginia, in all this world there is nothing else real and abiding.

No Santa Claus! Thank God! he lives, and he lives forever. A thousand years from now, Virginia, nay, ten times ten thousand years from now, he will continue to make glad the heart of childhood.

Is the United States a World Power?

An interesting discussion has been started by an article that appeared in the *North American Review*, the author of which, signing himself "Ignotus," raised the question whether Americans are entitled to speak of their country as a "world Power" because they gained an easy victory over decrepit Spain. He answered the question in the negative on the ground that, as experience had shown at New Orleans and at San Francisco, our Government is unable to enforce treaty obligations and therefore is not qualified to deal on equal terms with the world Powers which are competent and accustomed to execute their agreements.

As WHATELY used to tell us in his "Logic," there would seldom be much room for disputation if disputants would begin by concurring in a definition of terms. This "Ignotus" omitted to do, but it is evident that he must have in mind a different conception of what constitutes a "world Power" from that held by those who reject his conclusion. We ourselves should say that a country has reached the status of a world Power when foreign States, universally acknowledged to deserve the title, invite it to confer with them on equal terms, to contract treaties with it and to enter into the most cordial relations attainable. Great Britain, Germany, Russia and France have given the clearest proofs that, in their opinion, the friendship of the United States is in the highest degree desirable. It is certain that the opinion is shared by Italy, in spite of the failure of our Federal Government to punish the murder of Italian subjects at New Orleans, and nobody, we imagine, would assert that Japan has any doubt upon the subject. In other words, the question whether a given country may correctly be classed as a world Power can be answered only by the world Powers themselves. In the case of the United States they have all answered the question in the affirmative.

The idea that the possession of a unified instead of a Federal form of government is needed to constitute a world Power will scarcely bear examination. The fact that the treaty making power of a Federal State might be limited by its Federal Constitution is known, of course, to foreign nations, and when these, nevertheless, seek to conclude a treaty with that State they are supposed to do so with a full recognition of the limitations. There is no ambiguity about the second clause of the sixth article of our Federal organic law, which provides that "treaties made *under the authority* of the United States shall be the supreme law of the land." "The authority of the United States!" Whence does the United States, as distinguished from the constituent States, derive authority? From the Constitution itself, by which (Amendment X.) the powers not delegated to the United States, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people. It remains to be determined by a judicial decision in a case now pending whether California's exclusive right to make regulations for her public schools is one of the powers reserved to the States or to the people. We do not of course presume to forecast that decision, but it is obvious that the clause just quoted should suffice to warn a foreign Government that in making a treaty the United States cannot transcend the authority vested in it by our Constitution.

The world Powers know what we can't do, and they also know what we can do. What we can do is of so great importance in their eyes that every one of them would like to enter into a close alliance with us. Failing to secure that, they want our friendship, and to this end are careful to treat this country as itself constituting a world Power of the first magnitude.

"Ignotus" compares international diplomacy to a game of cards. The simile is apt enough. It is for the players already seated at the table to say whether an outsider shall join them. The world Powers have repeatedly invited the United States to "cut in."

"Strong Armed Reform" Still Dominant in Russia.

It is settled that the election of the next Duma is to take place on February 19, and we shall know, therefore, in the course of a few weeks whether it is possible for the Government to secure a majority of that body. Meanwhile the evidence accumulates that Premier STOLYPIN is supported by the Czar in the determination to make substantial concessions to reform, while at the same time taking energetic measures to repress disorder.

The resolve of the present Government to extirpate the dishonesty which for years has pervaded the bureaucracy, from its highest to its lowest ranks, is attested by the rigor with which the Assistant Secretary of the Interior has been prosecuted for malversation of the famine relief fund. The punishment of an offender so high placed should prove an effective warning to the whole Administration, and will tend to lessen the exasperation caused among the peasantry in the afflicted provinces by the delay in the distribution of grain. That for the moment the Reactionists are almost powerless at court may be inferred from the Czar's approval on December 18 of a bill submitted by the Council of Ministers which to a large extent removes the disabilities of Hebrews. That is to say, it permits them, within the so-called Pale, to live in the rural districts as well as in the cities, and abolishes the restrictions hitherto imposed on Hebrew merchants and artisans in cities outside the Pale. Moreover, the provincial Governors, many of whom were formerly suspected of connivance in the plots of the Black Hundreds, have been taught that the present Government will not tolerate a repetition of the atrocities committed in Odessa and other places which witnessed not long ago organized uprisings against the Jews. On the other hand, the Premier has proceeded with equal severity against the revolutionists and has succeeded in arresting so many of their leaders that the activity of their propaganda has been sensibly checked. Of mutiny in the army and navy there are no longer any signs; in Poland, and even in the Caucasus, order seems to have been restored; and in the sections of the Volga region which suffer most grievously from famine the formidable upheaval which was predicted has not occurred.

Premier STOLYPIN, then, has shown himself the possessor of a "strong arm," and he has also evinced an intention of keeping his promises of reform. It is nevertheless doubtful whether the Constitutional Democrats and other avowed opponents of the existing régime can be prevented from securing preponderance in the next national assembly. There are indications, however, that they have been sobered by adversity and that they are inclined to adopt different tactics from those followed when they made their first parliamentary experiment. They have been warned, indeed, that if they postpone constructive legislation for the welfare of the Russian people and demand, as a condition precedent to such work, the recognition of the principle of Ministerial responsibility, the new Duma will be quickly dissolved. At a recent meeting of their leaders the opinion prevailed that it behooved them to gain the confidence of the peasants by passing beneficent laws before insisting that the Czar's Ministers should be accountable to the people's representatives.

There is no doubt that if Russian reformers had been told two years ago that the Czar was willing to concede to them a national assembly which should be the counterpart of the Reichstag they would have been temporarily satisfied. For, although the Reichstag has never succeeded in establishing the principle of Ministerial responsibility, and although it may be dissolved at any hour by the Emperor, acting in conjunction with the Bundesrath, it has a right to initiate legislation, to ask the Government for reports, and to express its opinion on the management of affairs. Moreover, all laws require its consent, and so do the budget, all loans and all treaties which involve matters falling within the domain of legislation. Such a legislative body would obviously constitute an immense improvement on the autocracy from which Russia has long sought to emerge. Unfortunately Count WITTE and the other advisers of the Czar at the time when representative institutions were proclaimed do not seem to have made up their minds promptly and clearly as to what type of legislature should be granted. On the one hand, the fact that the new Council of the Empire was invested with most of the powers of the Bundesrath seemed to indicate that the German model would be copied; but, on the other hand, Count WITTE was credited with saying that if Ministerial responsibility should be demanded by the Duma it would be conceded. Had he taken a firm stand at the outset with regard to the limitations of the forthcoming assembly, and had he at the same time striven to secure a Government majority, it is unlikely that the Duma would have undertaken to carry things with so high a hand. But, as we have said, there is reason to think that Count WITTE had not formulated distinctly the relation which under Russia's peculiar conditions ought to exist between the people's representatives and the sovereign.

Premier STOLYPIN, on the other hand, knows exactly what he wants, and how far he means to go. He has made no secret of his intentions, either, and the new Duma will do well to take them into account if it wants to be a long lived assembly.

The Short Session.

Is the short session of Congress long enough? The Hon. CHAMP CLARK of Missouri answers with a stentorian No. Like JOHN WESLEY GAINES, who wants to dock absentees thirteen dollars and some odd cents a day, the gentleman from Bowling Green is a glutton for work. He would like to do more of it for his salary—more talking, more private bill passing, more appropriating for expositions, which the Hon. SERENO PAYNE, with a coarse sense of humor, alludes to as town fairs. The short session, Mr. CLARK insists, must be lengthened, but the process is not so easy.

Each Congress has to die on March 4 of its second year, and unless called in extra session it meets the first Monday in December; but Congress may "by law" appoint a different meeting day. Being an iconoclast as well as a glutton for work, Mr. CLARK has found a way to crowd more working days into the short session without making it longer. "The session could be lengthened," he told the House on Wednesday, "by cutting out this Christmas holiday performance"; by which he meant the adoption of the annual resolution to adjourn for two weeks. Mr. CLARK was probably talking to a corporal's guard of members, for the Christmas holidays of most Congressmen are not limited to the time appropriation they vote themselves, when he said:

"I understand that people have to go home sometimes to look after their private affairs, but to grant two weeks every year regularly for a Christmas holiday is a sort of childish performance."

This has a fine heroic, faithful-public-servant ring. But:

"Mr. PAYNE—May I ask the gentleman a question?"

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—Yes.

"Mr. PAYNE—Did you ever vote against the resolution to adjourn over the Christmas holidays?"

"Mr. CLARK of Missouri—I always do. I never go home during the Christmas holidays.

No Christmas joys and foolish sentimental cheer for the Hon. CHAMP CLARK. Only unremitting toil and fierce endeavor in the committee room, with reading of the *Congressional Record* as his one relaxation. But others are weak vessels and crave the good things of the table, wassail, song and all kinds of seasonable indulgences. They have no conscientious scruples about joining in what the busy CLARK calls a "childish performance."

At first blush this public spirited man seems to be right. Two weeks is a long time to take out of the short session for Christmas, but if it be granted that a member of Congress ought to be allowed to go home to play Santa Claus to his children the Pacific Coast men must have two weeks to go and come, and the time they take out others must accept, all but the inflexibly secular CLARK. The real trouble is not that Congressmen vote themselves a two weeks holiday, but that many of them crib time at both ends —so many in fact that the public business is neglected for almost two weeks more. As to whether the short session should be longer there may be two opinions and both sound. If no new laws are needed the session is long enough already; when there is really useful work to do it may be much too short. We are inclined to think that when the party leaders in Congress complain that the session is long enough only to pass appropriation bills they have no desire, for reasons purely political, to do anything else. The short session would be longer if Congress were to take off its coat and go to work resolutely.

The Bloodhound as a Humorist.

The bloodhound is the representative of the ancient British and early European fauna in which little wanton boys, familiar with peripatetic "Uncle Tom's Cabin" shows take, or used to take, the keenest interest. Something in the name "bloodhound" scatters thrills and chills just as the thought of "apple toddy" warms the heart. Nobler game is his than the bears and stags his ancestors used to hunt. Man is his quarry. As a sleuthhound he can scent and pursue man as LA FOLLETTE smells and chases a corporation. When the victim is up a tree this detective raises triumphant tongue. He is Punishment, sure to catch up with Crime, if there is not too much water on the journey. In the minds of Americans of the North he once connotated runaway slaves. Now Arkansas City in Kansas, speeding and no longer bleeding Kansas, many of whose early assisted immigrants abhorred the bloodhound as the foe of fugitive slaves —has an Anti-Horsethief Association, which is to buy a couple of bloodhounds and use them in its business.

Most of us have a romantic veneration for the bloodhound. His historical position is interesting even if his capabilities and achievements have given rise to legends. He is an imposing beast to look at. Who can doubt the intellect in that massive head? For the benefit of the Arkansas City hue and cry, however, we must repeat some lessons in sleuthhound lore given by a Tar Heel master, the Charlotte *News and Observer*. Kansas knows most things intuitively, but she may be willing to accept instruction, as to manhunting dogs, from North Carolina, which has studied them long. Here is part of the record of the canine posse:

"Who can forget that a year or two ago several prisoners escaped from jail at Asheville, that an officer made instant pursuit and that other officers followed with a bloodhound? The bloodhound overtook the first officer, ran him up a tree and kept him mounted on a limb all night. Not long ago a convict escaped from the work on the Wilkesboro-Jefferson turnpike; two officers followed him with a bloodhound; the animal 'took up' with the convict, and when the officers arrived the bloodhound turned on them so savagely that they had to kill him. Meantime the convict escaped again. Just after the Lyerly murder in Rowan they 'sent for bloodhounds,' as the phrase goes; the beasts got on the track of a rabbit and their owner liked never to have found them. And they failed to catch the rabbit. Mr. CY WATSON had a case in court in which a bloodhound was a chief witness. It was a case of arson. The bloodhound was put on the trail of the criminal and treed the principal witness for the prosecution. Mr. WATSON's remarks are not printable."

We appear as chorus only to remark that the case of the rabbit proves the bloodhound's fondness for innocent and healthful recreation. Even Mr. BRYAN hunts jackrabbits when he is tired of hunting the octopus. The other cases reveal the unsuspected sense of humor of the bloodhound and must greatly increase his reputation for high intelligence. For 'tis the sport to have the officer hoist with his own bloodhound.

In the next scene the bloodhound satirizes the methods of two-legged detectives:

"At Wilson a few nights ago a burglary was committed. The good offices of a bloodhound were invoked, and out of a crowd of negroes he selected GARRETT DUPREE, who had not been within three miles of the scene of the crime, but who was arrested and, of course, discharged."

The bloodhound did exactly what a New York detective would have done. Somebody must be arrested, some innocent person. That arrest will make the guilty person believe that suspicion is barking up the wrong tree. The next instance is really irrelevant:

"Chief W. S. ORR of the Charlotte fire department gave $250 for two bloodhound pups, trained them ten years and spent $1,000 on them. One of them went deaf in both ears and was killed. The other he gave to a country nigger, who presently brought him back, saying that he wouldn't even tree squirrels, and wasn't—to quote the nigger exactly—'worth a hurrah in hell.'"

A bloodhound is subject to human infirmities. A deaf, dumb and blind bloodhound would be a perfect detective. Chief ORR should have sold his treasure to the police. The hound that wouldn't tree squirrels deserved praise, not blame. His finer instincts had been cultivated. He hated cruelty to animals. Probably he would have no objections to hunting with a camera.

The Charlotte cynic says that "instances could be multiplied." Multiply them by a million, and they would be no discouragement to the Arkansas City horsethief hunters. The bloodhound is a keen humorist. We hope those Kansans are good climbers.

The Saint and the Post Office.

It was the Dead Letter Office for the mail addressed to Santa Claus and Kris Kringle. Appeals to the saint by the little people who believe in him were not delivered to societies and individuals who craved permission to respond to their appeals in the spirit of the season and keep alive the beautiful faith of childhood.

The mail of the saint is heavy at this time of open hearts and purses. His correspondents do not write very plain, but they are tremendously in earnest and there's no mistaking what they want. Sometimes it is pathetically little and curious, a tiny toy or something to wear that no child should be without. The writers address the saint as if all the grownups knew him and the postman would surely find him; but they seldom tell him where he can find them or sign their full names, for they suppose he knows all about them. And they never harbor a doubt that what they ask for the saint will send them. There is sometimes, although there ought not to be, a cruel awakening, and the little people cry themselves to sleep because their good friend has forgotten them. The letter written in the cramped hand and in the simplified spelling with so much hopeful labor lies in the Dead Letter Office and will never come back —let us hope not, although the sender has been neglected. If the address of him or her was enclosed it would be a stupid postman or a hard hearted parent who should place the message that failed in the faltering hand of young innocence. But according to the rules of the Post Office Department the letter must go back if the saint's petitioner was practical enough to enclose name and address.

The Department itself must be very practical and it hasn't time, nor is it its province, to sit in judgment. No postmaster can be authorized to turn over the saint's mail to whom he likes, for this is a world of wiles as well as of charity. There are some people wicked enough to "work" the Department for their own selfish ends, and they ought not to be allowed to put their unhallowed hands upon the sacred tradition. Then there must be no tampering with the faith of childhood; it is a proper principle that the names of the saint's correspondents shall not be revealed to a curious world. There are some sordid souls who would coin the simple confidence into money. So the benevolent who would play Santa Claus truly must be disappointed. They cannot be sifted out from the designing by any inevitable process.

We have read with delight the long monograph which General RUSH C. HAWKINS has published in the *Times* on the subject of the Metropolitan Museum of Art. It is both edifying and agreeable to have this revelation of General HAWKINS, however long deferred, in his capacity as a censor on questions of art. He writes with great force and in apparent English. The catholicity of his scope is even more impressive than his wide erudition, although we confess that we are most affected by the authoritative stamp of his diction. We recall that in Chicago in 1893 there was erected on Michigan avenue a certain imposing and majestic statue of CHRISTOPHER COLUMBUS. A violent discussion of its quality as art was precipitated in the public journals and everywhere else, and it became necessary for the æsthetic authorities of the city to take cognizance of the matter. In the memorable meeting held for that purpose the most eminent patron of and authority in the arts, indeed, one of Chicago's chiefest intellectual ornaments, brought the agitation to a dignified close by informing the assemblage that there could be no serious question of the high artistic merits of the statue; he had, he said, "that very morning talked with the policeman on the beat and from what he had gathered he was satisfied that the matter could be safely dismissed."

Hundreds of old bucks in the Indian Territory are literally dying from broken hearts because they are hedged about by too much civilization. They don't want to farm and they don't want to take allotments. They just want to fish and hunt. —*Commissioner* TAMS BIXBY.

This may be the best of all possible worlds, but it is most unsatisfying to some of us, white as well as red. There are white bucks who "just want to fish and hunt," but force of circumstances keeps them on the reservation, that is to say, in the store, the office and other prisons made necessary by civilization. We speak of it as "the call of the wild."

Civilization is comparative. To the red man it means an allotment and trousers; to the white man restraint of his liberty, at work which he would rather not do, with an occasional release "to fish and hunt." As the white man can have too much civilization, he sympathizes with the noble red who wants none. TAMS BIXBY proposes a 300,000 acre lot for the old bucks among his charges to fish and hunt in perpetually —no allotment, no store clothes, no garden tools, nothing but loafing. It is a rational idea for a man born an Indian who does not wish to be a white man. Perhaps it is not practicable; indeed, we think no genuine old buck would want to stay on a 300,000 acre lot always. It sounds confining to a child of nature. But in our far flung national domain, which was once the Indians', there ought to be room enough for the experiment.

THE BLACK EAGLE'S RESCUE.

A Scotsman Rhapsodizes Over the Unique Deed of Capt. Blakely.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was interested in the despatch printed a few days ago in THE SUN telling of the rescue of a black eagle at sea by the steamship Furnessia out of Glasgow. The magnificent bird followed the ship for four days, combating the storm of Atlantic winds, and finally sinking exhausted into the ocean.

Let us honor Capt. Blakely, whose sympathy for the noble creature's struggles caused him to stop a great liner in midocean for a rescue. All honor to the passengers of that ship, who commended him warmly for his deed of kindness.

Now the writer has a drop or two of Scotch blood in him and is proud of that eagle. It recognized no power greater than itself; it had triumphed over all things in its kingdom of the air and sky. It was a law unto itself; it would do as it pleased and go where it pleased. It defied the ocean tempest and failed.

As to the rescue the despatch says: "If there was ever a look of gratitude in any creature's eyes it was in the eyes of that poor, weak, dripping thing when lifted into the boat." This is pathetic. Poor, beaten king of the air, it had to acknowledge man's power and found itself constrained to accept help from a being which had seemed like one of the creeping things of the earth to the eagle in its eyry.

It matters not from what part of Scotia's rugged coast, barren mountains or shadowed glens it emerged, it typified the restless energy of that little country that has scattered her hardy sons over all the earth. Wherefore, being a Scotch eagle and following a Scotch vessel out of that solid Scotch city of Glasgow, and being rescued by the brave Blakely, whose ancestors must have been nurtured among the hills of the border, the writer submits that the eagle's name might appropriately be Sandy, or some other name indicating its nationality, provided, as stated in the despatch, it is to become a public exhibit.

F. D. MORTON.

ROCHESTER, N. Y., December 20.

THE MURDERERS AT LARGE.

In Dismissing the Negro Battalion the President Neglected a Duty to Society.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with much interest the various statements relative to the discharge from the army of the three companies of negro soldiers, but in none of them have I seen any reference to the rights of the community or to the duty that the President owed to the people in this case. As I understand the matter, there were a dozen, more or less, of men in those companies probably guilty of murder and mayhem. As members of the battalion they could not get away.

Was any attempt made by the President to detect the crime as crimes are usually detected? Were any secret service men sent to the locality with orders to run down the criminals? And, if not, has the President any right to turn loose on the community so many murderers without making an attempt to detect and apprehend them except the attempt to force their comrades to tell what they know about the affair? It seems to me that the ordinary methods for the detection of criminals should have been employed, and that the President owed a duty to society at large which could not be performed by wholesale punishment of a lot of innocent men.

I venture to believe that if the President had sent a few good detectives out, with authority and funds to carry on their work, it would not have required six weeks to secure incriminating evidence against the guilty men. Thus society would have been protected from men who are now at liberty to repeat their crime.

OBSERVER.

NEW YORK, December 23.

Christmas Day for the Climbers.

Sergeant Mingo Sanders, black as ace o' spades,
Thirty years in service, been on many raids;
Fought the feathered Indian, fought the Spanish don
Down at Santiago and at Sanny Wann;
Fought the Filipino—red or brown or white,
Sergeant Mingo Sanders never flunked a fight.

Somewhere 'round Manila,
Bullets whistling shrill,
Sergeant Mingo Sanders
Climbed Camansi Hill.

Colonel Teddy Roosevelt, sword and shoulder strap,
Thirty days in service, saw a Cuban scrap;
Home he came in glory, heralded afar
As the battle's hero—stock exceeded par;
Told us all about it, never seemed to balk;
Book and speech and so on—never flunked a talk.

Nearing Santiago,
Fighting with a will,
Colonel Teddy Roosevelt
Also climbed a hill.

Sergeant Mingo Sanders, fifty years of age,
Growing old in service eager still to wage
Battle for his country, standing by his flag
For a hunk of bacon and a khaki rag;
Hoping still for service till he might retire
Honored in his papers—couldn't hope for higher.

Sergeant Mingo Sanders,
Thirty years on deck,
"For the good of service"
Gets it in the neck!

Colonel Teddy Roosevelt, chosen to command
All the nation's armies and to run the land;
Honored by his people, 'round the world proclaimed
As the great and mighty, feted, flaunted, famed;
Surely paid for service, got at least his rights;
Colonel Teddy Roosevelt still is climbing heights.

Poor old Sergeant Mingo,
I am one to dare
The remark, by Jingo!
That it's hardly fair.

ROBERTUS LOVE.

Revised Version.

I remember, I remember,
The house where I was born,
And also the janitor, bellboy, butcher boy, baker boy, bootblack, elevator man, grocer's boy
And newsboy Christmas morn.

ENGLAND'S INDEPENDENCE.

Our Foodstuffs Not Essential to Her Well Being.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I have read with great interest your two articles and the letter of Mr. R. W. Barkley on the probability and effect of a war between the United States and the Anglo-Japanese alliance, and would like to point out certain possibilities that you do not seem to have studied. Before doing so let me remark that such a conflict would be a blot upon civilization. The British nation, in such a case, would be justified in breaking a treaty that otherwise should be held sacred. We would rise above the law of nations to the law of nature, of kinship. We may in years past have fought each other, and have even received assistance in so doing from an alien—but that alien was a Caucasian, not an Asiatic, people.

Though it may seem peculiar, the Anglo-Japanese alliance acts as a bond of peace between Japan and America. Were a war between the two nations imminent the Japanese Government would not dare to rush into such a conflict without first ascertaining the attitude of the British Government, and by all the laws of reason that attitude would be against such a conflict and decidedly against cooperating therein. The Japanese would not then declare war single handed with America unless forced to, as the United States would emerge victorious owing to her far greater resources.

On the other hand, the possibility of the British Empire supporting Japan would also deter America from such a declaration, as she could not hope to prevail against the combined forces of Britain and Japan.

Putting all this aside, however, and assuming for the sake of argument that a conflict does take place between America, Japan and the British Empire, the sphere of action would be divided between the Pacific Ocean and British North America.

On the outbreak of hostilities, or very soon after, the greater part of the American navy would be out in the Pacific, engaging the combined forces of the British and Japanese fleets. Practically the whole of the small American army would be in the Philippines, either protecting them from invasion or seeking to reconquer them. The Americans would then be opposed to the overwhelming forces of the Japanese army. This would necessitate the rapid transportation to the Philippines of the American National Guard and special regiments raised as United States Volunteers. This force could only be safely despatched if the American squadrons had not suffered defeat.

The task of the invasion of Canada—to prevent food being shipped to England and otherwise to cripple the British—would then fall upon a skeleton force of regulars, a depleted one of the National Guard, and a huge force of hastily raised and untrained levies, United States Volunteers. This force would then at the commencement be held in check by the regulars and militia of Canada, a very efficient body, amounting on a war footing to 100,000 men, besides a large force of members of rifle clubs. I have seen it stated that Canada can place 500,000 marksmen in the field. This body at the outset would be superior in training and morale to any that could be opposed to it.

The military strength of the British Empire amounts roughly to 1,400,000 men. This force is made up of the Imperial Army, the Indian Army and the auxiliary troops of the United Kingdom, the colonies and dependencies. With her gigantic sea power England could insure quick transportation of imperial troops from home (a field force of 120,000 being maintained for oversea purposes) and before long three-quarters of the British army would be en route for Canada. In addition troops could be despatched from the Indian army, whose fighting quality is second to none, and 75,000 or 100,000 volunteers could be sent from Australia, New Zealand and South Africa. England could, therefore, in a comparatively short time, have an army of half a million trained warriors pitted against the raw material of American militia and volunteers. This would prevent invasion and enable us to keep open our lines of communication for the shipment of wheat from the interior to the sea, and thence its passage would be rendered safe by British squadrons.

Assuming, however, that the British were unable to obtain wheat from Canada, that would not, in spite also of the American embargo, reduce them to starvation or great suffering. Contrary to what is supposed, the empire no longer depends upon the United States for the greater part of its foodstuffs. She could derive an immense quantity of them from India, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa, Argentina and several European countries, and this supply would be protected by the British and Japanese navies.

In 1902 the United States exported 64,000,000 bushels of wheat to the United Kingdom, but in 1903 the supply had fallen to 27,000,000 bushels. In 1903, for the first time, the British dominions sent more wheat to the United Kingdom than the United States, the proportion being 31 per cent. for the colonies against 27 per cent. for the United States, and this same year India sent in more wheat than any other country, and Australia more than the United States. As to the shipment from Argentina being seriously interrupted by United States cruisers, as you suggest, that could not amount to much, for the greater part of the cruisers would be elsewhere than in South America, and as Mr. Barkley wrote: "The question of coaling would bother our cruisers and privateers not a little, I fancy, unless we could do what you admit we cannot do—make head against the English fleet in the Atlantic. * * * The English cruisers, as a rule, are a bit more speedy than our own, and their merchantmen capable of being turned into auxiliary cruisers are speedier than ours."

All this may be interesting as academic speculation, but it can never be anything else. The Anglo-American peoples are too advanced and too sensible to permit any such catastrophe to occur—on moral, natural, financial and commercial grounds. It is far more likely that the Anglo-Japanese alliance will continue to establish peace, as it is meant to do, for reasons above stated.

Let us hope, on the contrary, that when the time comes the united services of America and the British Empire will be found side by side, fighting the enemy, whoever he may be.

Although I was informed last year by some patriotic Americans, through your paper, that this country was no longer Anglo-Saxon, but an international cocktail, so to speak, I affirm that blood is thicker than water; and if the blood is not as thick as of yore, the feeling of brotherhood is growing thicker every year.

Therefore let the best of us stick to the motto of that officer of the American navy who without orders went to the aid of a British force, hard pressed by the Chinese during the opium war: "Blood is thicker than water."

CHARLES E. T. STUART-LINTON.

NEW YORK, December 24.

English Opinion of San Francisco Rebuilding.

From the London Times.

Returning here eight months after the earthquake and expecting to see considerable progress made in rebuilding the city, I find that in one or two thoroughfares a good deal has been done, but most of the burned district remains just as I described it last April. To San Francisco's shame many refugees are still living in tents. The rainy season is about to begin and their condition will be pitiful. The walls of hundreds of burned buildings still remain standing, a constant menace to life, though one would have thought that to raze them would be the first work undertaken by the authorities.

A boy was killed by the falling of part of the ruins of the Palace Hotel last week. In some cases wonderful things have been accomplished. For instance, the great Monadnock Building, which was in absolute ruin in April, has been reconstructed and is now occupied, and great progress has been made with other large buildings. But on the whole the situation seems very discouraging, and though what has already been done shows that the city will certainly be rebuilt in time, it looks as though that time were far distant. For this disappointment San Francisco has to thank the labor unions, which have broken all the promises they made after the fire. Even skilled workmen with union cards arriving from other parts of the United States have been refused permission to work there.

Ambiguous.

Mother—I am going to give Johnny a drum.
Father—Then I shall beat it.

The January number of *Country Life in America* presents many beautiful winter scenes in its illustrations. Appropriate to the season are the articles by Mary C. Dickerson on the woods in January and by T. D. Hatfield on hardy evergreens. There are besides articles on dolphin fishing, on big ranches, on overhauling the automobile, on fruit protection in Florida and on Lowestoft china.

TELL THE TRUTH.

Good Advice to Everybody Who Talks to a Reporter.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In the article in a recent SUN, "Chester Gillette's Appeal," occurs the following passage:

Do you mean that she said so, or that you saw it in the paper that she said so?
The reporter admitted that he had read it.
"Well, that does not necessarily mean that she said it," said Mr. Mills. "In fact, I should take it to mean that she didn't."

I heard a comic opera in Chicago recently in which there was a song with the refrain, "And what do you think of that?" The rest of the song was extremely frivolous. And the remark of former Senator Mills was extremely frivolous. You know as well as any editor in the United States that veracity is demanded of every reporter by the city editor of every reputable newspaper. Former Senator Mills said also:

During my twenty-five years experience I have never seen any matter in which I was interested correctly reported in the newspapers.

I wish your reporter had nailed Mr. Mills to particulars. The under dog generally whines. As an old newspaper man I know that accuracy is demanded of every reporter. Lack of accuracy has always been more than sufficient reason for the discharge of a reporter. I happen to know it is still so.

I have found that the severest critic of newspapers always had something to conceal; and when I was a reporter I made it a point to find out what the secret was. I often found that this concealment covered a fine story which, in some instances, was afterward denied in terms that might be put in the mouth of former Senator Mills.

May I give this advice to those who have real news to impart to the public through the medium of a reporter: "Tell the whole truth, and nothing but the truth," when a reporter asks for facts. Reporters want the whole truth, and nothing but the truth; and every man or woman who may for the nonce be in the public eye owes it to the public to be frank, always frank, truthful, in the information given to the representatives of the press. There would be deucedly little excuse for the existence of so-called "yellow journalism" if there was the proper regard for truth in the minds of the men or women who are perforce compelled to submit to interviews. The "yellow" papers draw on the imagination when facts are refused, or are given in abbreviated or expurgated form.

NEW YORK, December 24. WEDGE.

AS IT SHOULD BE.

WASHINGTON, Dec. 24.—A review of the changes made in the diplomatic service during the present session of Congress shows that with few exceptions the appointments are either transfers or promotions. Most of them have been promotions. This is as it should be.

There has been no greater fault in the service than the common practice of shoving new people, inexperienced and too often quite unfit, into the higher places over the heads of men whose qualities have been tested by experience in minor posts or subordinate positions. The incentive to faithful endeavor which lies in the hope of promotion has been lacking; and the service has undoubtedly suffered by reason of its absence. The Consular Reorganization bill of last winter sought to make promotion a rule in that department, but the provision was cut out, mainly on the ground that it tended to a restriction of the right of appointment vested in the Executive. The same point would be raised in any attempt to introduce such a rule into the diplomatic service.

The choice between promoting deserving men already in the service and appointing inexperienced men in payment of political debts or for any other reason rests with the Executive. Out of eleven names sent in for confirmation within the last few weeks nine are promotions within the service. The other two are Mr. Fox, formerly director of the Bureau of Republics, who is to be Minister to Ecuador, and Mr. Squiers, formerly Minister to Cuba and now assigned to Panama. A similar practice appears in the appointment of nearly a score of men to secretaryships. Many of these appointments are promotions, and nearly if not quite all the others are transfers which will benefit the service by broadening the incumbents' experience.

The Nation's Property Value.

The census report just issued gives the estimated true value of Uncle Sam's property in 1904 as $107,104,211,917, compared with $88,517,306,775 in 1900, an increase in four years of $18,586,905,142, which is equal to an average yearly increase of $4,646,726,285. On the basis of 85,000,000 population the yearly increase is about $55 per capita.

By main classes of property the values for each of the years were:

	1904.	1900.
Real property and improvements	$62,341,492,134	$52,537,628,164
Live stock	4,073,791,136	3,306,473,728
Farm implements and machinery	844,980,863	749,775,970
Manufacturing machinery, tools and implements	3,297,754,180	2,541,046,639
Gold and silver coin and bullion	1,998,603,303	1,677,379,825
Railroads and equipment	11,244,752,000	9,035,732,000
Street railways, shipping, water works, &c.	4,840,546,909	3,495,228,350
All other property	18,462,281,792	15,174,042,540

In round millions of dollars the increases in values in 1904 were:

Real property and improvements	$9,804,000,000
Live stock	767,000,000
Farm implements and machinery	95,000,000
Manufacturing machinery, tools and implements	756,000,000
Gold and silver coin and bullion	322,000,000
Railroads and equipment	2,209,000,000
Street railways, shipping, water works, &c.	1,345,000,000
All other property	3,288,000,000

By geographical divisions of States the comparison of total property values is:

Divisions.	1904.	1900.
North Atlantic	$38,301,608,078	$32,306,482,253
South Atlantic	7,936,882,961	6,679,190,048
North Central	40,820,672,079	33,446,349,385
South Central	10,052,467,528	8,207,174,377
Western	9,992,581,271	7,877,510,713

The ten States having the largest value in property were:

New York	$14,679,042,207
Pennsylvania	11,473,620,306
Illinois	8,816,556,191
Ohio	5,946,969,466
Massachusetts	4,956,578,913
California	4,115,491,106
Iowa	4,048,516,076
Missouri	3,759,597,451
Minnesota	3,843,722,076
Michigan	3,282,419,117

These States have a property value of about $64,000,000,000, or about two-thirds of the whole value of all the property in all the States and Territories of the country.

The increased values in these ten States in the four years are:

New York	$2,264,000,000
Pennsylvania	2,158,000,000
Illinois	1,840,000,000
Ohio	927,000,000
Massachusetts	598,000,000
California	897,000,000
Iowa	681,000,000
Missouri	515,000,000
Minnesota	830,000,000
Michigan	628,000,000

English Athletes Improved by Exportation.

From the Spectator.

It is hardly to be doubted that residence, even for a short time only, in the drier climates gives an appreciable addition to the athletic activities of a native of these islands. Our golfers who have visited America are quite unanimous in asserting that they can drive a longer ball in that country than at home. The majority of our soldiers who did not suffer from severe wounds or fever in the South African war returned with greatly improved health and activity as the result of their sojourn in its relatively dry climate. If we watch an Australian eleven in the field we see all its members "throwing in like a horse kicking," as the phrase goes; whereas, of an English eleven almost every man over five-and-twenty years of age has "thrown his arm away" long ago, and can only send in the ball with a feeble underhand jerk. It is more than probable that a suspicion of rheumatism in the joints, perhaps not yet painfully apparent, is the reason for the relative futility of the Englishman.

Psychology of Crowds.

Stella—A crowd is always good natured.
Bella—Not when it is composed of three.