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The Awakening of China.

We have already heard of the military preparations which China, in a very unobtrusive way, has recently undertaken. It is not generally known, however, that the movement is the subject of the undivided solicitude of the Chinese Government and is gradually capturing the enthusiastic approval and cooperation of the Chinese people. Indeed, all thoughtful and well informed observers of events in that part of the world now understand that a national spirit is taking definite form in the once heterogeneous empire. The forces leading to a well defined and effective patriotism are already hard at work.

China is not only assembling, equipping, drilling and instructing armies; China is also educating her youth to the military idea and habit. Hitherto the pathway to official station and preferment has been floored with a poetic philosophy and hedged by mere scholasticism. To-day the test is no longer that of proficiency in the classics and familiarity with the colorless and invertebrate dreamings of the schools. Playing up to the militant and practical departure from ancient landmarks, the Chinese Government has ordered the whole student body of the empire into uniform and proclaimed warlike, scientific and modern instruction generally as the dominating feature of the reformed curriculum. Henceforth the aspirant for promotion in the public service will not be examined with reference to philosophy, metaphysics and the art of abstract disputation. He will have to exhibit readiness in "Western" learning—that is to say, in arms, in progressive statesmanship and in practical equipment for the real affairs of life.

The Chinese Government is going even further. The ruling class has ordained a gradual suppression of the opium trade—forced upon China by England through the agency of war—and they have also decided to refuse further concessions to foreigners to repurchase existing concessions whenever it may be possible, and to cancel the same whenever the smallest default on contract shall permit. In other words, China is putting off the garment of a misguided indifference and getting ready to assert her dignity. We have in this country statesmen, writers and essayists who think it well to ridicule China's demonstrations of pride and self-respect. Unfortunately, there is the unthinking multitude to applaud these inopportune and misplaced sneers; but China has learned much since 1900 A. D., and now the giant has stirred from his slumbers.

Opinions may differ as regards the importance of China in our national scheme of political, commercial and imperial evolution. Considering the prevalent ignorance in these respects we are not inclined to wonder at the situation; but it has been held by some wise men that China offers to us one of the most promising and fruitful fields of industrial exploitation in all the world.

Is JOHN HAY so soon forgotten?

The Improved Position of Russia's National Assembly.

For some time after the convocation of the new Duma there was reason to apprehend that it would refuse to recognize the limitations imposed by the sovereign on its authority, and that therefore, like its predecessor, it would be quickly dissolved. Fortunately for the durability of the constitutional régime the Constitutional Democrats, who with the Octobrists, the Polish Nationalists and the Group of Toil compose a majority, have profited by experience and desire to establish a *modus vivendi* with the Stolypin Cabinet, postponing the demand for Ministerial responsibility.

What we have witnessed during the last week in the Duma indicates acquiescence on the part of the dominant element in the theory that the legal status of Russia's national assembly corresponds pretty closely to that of the Reichstag as regards its relations to the executive department of government. In one important exception, however, its powers are more circumscribed than are those of its German counterpart. By an imperial decree the Executive has reserved to itself all measures relating to the national defence and security. Hence, when a resolution was offered the other day abolishing the drumhead courts-martial which in many parts of the empire have been substituted for the normal tribunals, Premier STOLYPIN pointed out that such an act would transcend the sphere of the assembly's competence. He went on, however, to say that while the Government could not permit itself to be shorn of the power to deal summarily with disorder, it would recur as speedily as possible to the regular methods of administering justice.

Another significant incident occurred on March 28, when the Social Democrats insisted that the Duma should undertake the relief of the famine stricken rural districts, together with the relief of the unemployed in cities. The Minister of Commerce, Mr. FILOSSOFOFF, announced that while the Government could not accept the Socialists' proposal to send a committee of the Legislature to investigate the famine conditions in the interior, it would cheerfully support the resolution of the Constitutional Democrats providing for the appointment of a commission to consider relief measures. That is to say, so long as the Duma refrains from arrogating executive functions its right to initiate legislation concerning all matters except those expressly reserved to the Crown will be recognized.

It is possible that in spite of the inexperience of its members the first Duma, like the second, would have evinced the self-restraint and caution needed to avoid a collision with the Executive had not a mistaken impression with regard to the scope of its authority been uncorrected, and even encouraged, when preparations were making for the first election. There is some ground for believing that Count WITTE was accountable for the extravagant expectations. He was reported to have replied to the question whether the Ministers would be responsible to the people's representatives that the latter, in all likelihood, would ultimately secure that concession if they insisted upon it. By "ultimately" he may have meant that in the course of years the power of the purse would probably prove irresistible in Russia, as it has proved in other countries. There is, indeed, reason to believe that such will be the outcome if the present Duma is not dissolved, and the grant of representative institutions revoked.

It is true that Germany, which has had a Parliament for forty years, has not yet induced her sovereign to accept the principle of Ministerial accountability which obtains in Great Britain, France and Italy, but the voluntary delegation to a national assembly of such extensive powers as are exercised by the Reichstag would have seemed almost incredible to Russian patriots as lately as two years ago. It is true that in practice the chief function of the Reichstag is the consideration of bills prepared by the Chancellor and the Bundesrath; that its activity is negative rather than positive, and that it cannot be said to control the policy of the German Empire, either in legislation or administration. On the other hand, all laws require its consent, and so do the budget, all loans and all treaties which involve matters falling within the domain of legislation. It has, moreover, a right to initiate legislation, to ask the Government for reports and to express its opinion on affairs of State. These powers are really enormous compared with those possessed by the Russian people up to the issuance of the reform manifesto of October 30, 1905. The moral influence attaching to the depositary of such powers and the fact that its assent is requisite for loans, foreign or domestic, should if sagaciously turned to account extort concession after concession from the sovereign.

The leaders of the present Duma seem to be taking a common sense view of the situation. They are not going to play into the hands of the Reactionists. They see that not only is half a loaf much better than no bread at all, but that in the long run the half is apt to lead to possession of the whole.

The Source of His Happiness.

Millions of eyes will grow moist at the thought of the Hon. ANDREW CARNEGIE'S unhappiness. For he is unhappy. He says so. He finds that wealth decreases happiness. In spite of the immortal literary works that bear his name, in spite of the library buildings with which he has blessed his country he is still rich, voluminously, impossibly, ridiculously rich; and if rich, unhappy. Sobs shake the bosom of humanity. Its friend, benefactor, little brother is not happy.

Distinguish, however. There may be something of the Scotch metaphysician in Mr. CARNEGIE. At any rate he has an eye for bookkeeping. Has wealth, whatever its effect upon mankind in general, brought him more of unhappiness than happiness? Clearly it has not. Riches may have a sordid and vulgarizing effect on common natures. They can but refine a choice and precious vessel like Mr. CARNEGIE.

See what privileges Mr. CARNEGIE has obtained from his golden numbers. They enable him to fill Skibo Castle with select representatives of the nobility and gentry, of politics, literature and science. If he had been poor would "Triumphant Democracy" ever have triumphed? Grub street can't afford private secretaries. Would Archbishops and Cabinet Ministers have been his familiars if he had had to stick to the cool, sequestered vales of life? Could he have imported belted earls and bigwigs of many titles to grace his festival if he had not stored such a stock of the root of all evil? Surely it is his only happiness, barring association with the great and the expression of his opinions, to do good. Without that bunch of bonds how could he do it? The springs of beneficent intention would still bubble in him, even if he were poor; but, unable to issue in action, they would make him moody, disappointed, cankered by failure instead of being the happiest little man that ever came forward.

Good men are confident that Mr. CARNEGIE will yet buy the Philippines, as he once offered to do, and have his works translated into every language and dialect of those many peopled islands. Is he not happy in the thought? When the doves murmur in his Temple of Peace, when his simple spellers lug off superfluous vowels and consonants, is he not happy? Penniless, he could not have averted war or reformed orthography. His high thoughts and words would have been just as valuable as now, but the world would have let them die. Now few Emperors and only one President are spread upon the record as often and as much.

If Mr. CARNEGIE has a fault it is his seeming inability to understand the value of his reputation as a friend of humanity, a deep thinker, a world statesman. Without this reputation he couldn't have been happy; and without the money, coarse as this vehicle is for so ethereal a spirit, he couldn't have got the reputation. Here are two thoughts, of several emitted by him in Washington after a visit to the clearing house of wisdom:

> "President ROOSEVELT is the most zealous and powerful friend and protector the railroads of the country have."
>
> "The President is a real conservative."

It makes Mr. CARNEGIE happy to have these aureate words published. It makes millions happy, or at least surprised, to read them. Of course Mr. CARNEGIE is sure that he would have been loved for himself alone, without the convenient glittering accidents that accompany. But his countrymen wouldn't have known him. They couldn't have loved him and loved to listen to him, as they do. A mute, inglorious ANDREW: there are fifty hells in the thought.

Three Months After.

On taking office Governor HUGHES declared with manifest sincerity of purpose that, inasmuch as he had not been elected to the Legislature of the State, he should not assume any of the duties of a Senator or an Assemblyman, or attempt to usurp any of the functions of any member of either house, or bear any of the burdens or responsibilities of the legislative department. The drafting of bills is not the exclusive privilege of any officer or citizen, and therefore the Governor's part in the preparation of the Public Utilities act cannot be regarded as an infraction of the rule he laid down three months ago.

Now, however, the Governor has been asked to "bring pressure" to bear upon the Legislature "to carry out his views." The temptation must be great. The Governor has got nothing yet from the Legislature, eager though the Assembly has seemed to hold up his hands. He asked for ballot reform, and the only bill that has passed either house would preserve the present ballot and add a new iniquity to it. He wanted the National Guard investigated, and the measure designed for that purpose has been killed in committee. He wanted OTTO KELSEY removed from office, and KELSEY is still in his place. His Public Utilities bill is in danger. Almost to the first of April, with three-quarters of the session probably past, the Governor has had nothing but rebuffs from the Legislature, particularly the Senate.

In this situation the Governor has at hand a weapon that some of his predecessors have found mighty useful. He can "bring pressure to bear" in several ways. He can trade patronage for votes and barter approval of local bills for support of his own projects. He can use threats or promises with sure effect. Moreover, he is advised, even urged, to adopt some such course by men whose motives he knows to be honorable.

What will the Governor do? Will his faith in the stability of public opinion strengthen him to adhere to his original resolution? Or will he recur to the methods of his "practical" predecessors and attempt to reestablish the relations between Executive and Legislature that existed up to this year?

The question for the Governor is not a simple one. The answer is more or less involved with another question, What is the present attitude of the disinterested public toward CHARLES E. HUGHES?

A Belated Exposure.

When Treasurer WILLIAM H. BERRY in the recent campaign in Pennsylvania made the welkin ring with his charge that there had been prodigious and impudent graft in the furnishing of the gorgeous new capitol at Harrisburg, and sought to hold the commission and the machine responsible for it, PENNYPACKER, the worthy orthodox Governor, was unaffectedly shocked, BERRY being an unregenerate Democrat; and the cynical said that it was only a campaign sensation to catch votes. There was really not time to go into the matter, but with a show of virtuous resentment the Republican Attorney-General challenged BERRY to the proof. The response was weak but vainglorious.

The legislative inquiry now going on justifies retrospectively the clamor of Treasurer BERRY. It appears that the people of Pennsylvania had to pay extortionate prices for their gilt and gewgaws. The electrical fixtures were covered with lacquer and not mercurial gold finish as set down in the audited bill; glass described as baccarat was moulded, and the charge of $139,000 would have been high for the glass the Commonwealth did not get; a bill of $349.60 was paid for the Lieutenant-Governor's mahogany desk, and the cost to the firm of JOHN H. SANDERSON & Co., which "scooped" the fat contract for "furnishings," was $130; desks for the Senate chamber and House were listed at $65 to $75 and the contractor turned in bills for $264.60 and $228.73; mahogany clothes trees costing $10 apiece were quoted to the State at $73.60; an elegant mahogany case in the Senate barber shop could be duplicated for $325, but the charge to the State was $3,256.80; a sub-contractor did the wainscoting for $6,145, but the State paid $62,486.40 for it.

There seems to be about as much interest in these painful disclosures as there is in a last year's bird's nest; but if the facts had not been covered up last October and the machine had not stood guard over them the Hon. EDWIN S. STUART would not be Governor now: his plurality was a small one for Republican Pennsylvania, only 48,436 in a total vote of 1,006,445.

Every man who has worked for THE SUN in the last thirty years mourns a personal friend in FRANK PATTON. Those who came close to him knew what curious and great learning his modesty concealed; his gentleness and helpful kindness gave courage to all beginners and were rarely forgotten. A great heart and a gentle soul, for which men loved him.

> I have been a member of the bar for fifteen years, and my police experience lasted ten months, but I can frankly say that the average honesty of the force is higher than that of the law profession.—*Ex-Deputy Police Commissioner* MATHOT.

Is the bar so bad, or was the open hearted MATHOT too short a time with the force to compute its moral average?

Senator MACHEN of Alexandria has introduced in the Virginia Legislature a bill to legalize the "unwritten law" which provides that where a homicide has been committed and it is proved that the victim had been guilty of "a wrong" upon the person of the wife, mother, sister or daughter of the accused, the jury may find a verdict of acquittal. At first blush this proposed enactment of the "unwritten law" seems superfluous in a State where juries find no difficulty in acquitting mankillers in spite of the written law, but perhaps if the unwritten law were put into cold type between sheepskin covers the occupation of emotional jury lawyers would be gone and juries would require exact and complete proof of the wrong which provoked the defendant to murder. While the Virginia legislators are about it, had they better not overhaul the definitions of homicide on the statute book if they mean to enact the "unwritten law."

No doubt the Hon. JOHN MITCHELL and the Hon. SAMUEL GOMPERS will work like beavers at the foundations of industrial peace.

According to the figures given out by the Director of the Census, the population of New York outside this city is 4,153,947, and the population of this city is 4,113,043. The difference is 40,904 in favor of the country. Since the decennial census in 1900 the population of this city has increased 675,841, and the population of the State outside this city has increased 522,255, the difference in favor of the city being 153,586. It is not to be doubted that when the census of 1910 is taken the majority of the inhabitants of the Empire State will be found within the limits of the metropolis.

A bill before the Senate of Arkansas seeks to amend the motto of that State by the substitution of "Regnat Populus" for "Regnant Populi." These niceties of Latin disturbed Mr. RUFF, who moved to make "The People Rule" in English. Mr. QUINN would substitute "The Gang of Politicians Rule." Latin is distinctly and unforgivably monarchical, but if a motto suited to existing facts was desired this would do: "Præses Regnat."

A report made by B. R. RICHARDS, a director of the bacteriological laboratory of the Health Department in Boston, ought to catch the eye of consumers of shellfish. Clams collected along the coast from Digby, N. S., to the shoulder of Cape Cod, were tested for sewage organisms, and only those dug at Yarmouth, Mass., were found to be free from infection. The percentage of poison discovered ranged from 30 to 70. Oysters, most of them brought from Cape Cod, made a better showing. In no case was the infection greater than 30 per cent., and in most of the samples it was insignificant. Maine lobsters were in a healthy state, except those that had come by land and had been packed and handled carelessly.

The report gives some advice about the sterilization of shellfish by cooking, which minimizes if it does not banish the fear of ptomaine poisoning. Infected clams can be eaten with little risk after fifteen minutes of steaming and four minutes of frying in fat. Oysters stewed or roasted can be consumed without apprehension. No matter what the bacteriologists say, boiled and broiled lobsters will be eaten, for their devotees defy the germ theory; but the New England conscience working in Director RICHARDS impels him to sound this warning: "It is a question whether shellfish taken from sewage polluted waters are safe articles of food, even if all infectious organisms have been killed by cooking."

> Mr. BRYCE told of an experience he had in Ireland, when he found it necessary to buy some horses and carried on the conversation in Latin.—*Ottawa despatch to* THE SUN.

It is odd that so accomplished a dialectician should tumble into hysteron-proteron. Any freshman could have told Mr. BRYCE that if he bought the pony first the Latin would follow easily.

THE THERAPEUTIC COCKTAIL.

Healthful Properties of Aromatic Bitters in Alcohol.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It would appear that your correspondents are working at cross purposes with respect to the origin of the cocktail. The inquiry, as I take it, relates not to the name but to the origin of a class of drinks having for their base a bitter property which tends to promote the appetite and stimulate the activity of the digestive functions.

In medicine the therapeutic value of simple or aromatic bitters has long been recognized. The introduction of a bitter element highly aromatic in its nature, such as the Siegert invention, was due to this widely accepted principle among medical men as well as the laity as to the value of aromatic bitters administered in its most delightful form, viz., as a cocktail.

The bitters act upon the saliva glands as well as upon the secretions of the stomach, stimulating both to a greater degree of activity, and their usefulness is augmented by the aromatics, including the alcohol. The French have long recognized the value of the bitter element in their celebrated tonic wines, which generally contain cinchona or other barks of a similar nature. Nux vomica, for instance, a powerful stomachic, is intensely bitter.

It is not likely that the cocktail mentioned by Irving contained this characteristic; and in so far as Dr. Siegert's preparation gave rise to the use of aromatic bitters with liquor as an appetizer he may be said to have originated the cocktail, unless it can be shown that the drinks known by that name in previous periods were in reality appetizers, i. e., aromatic bitters, and not merely a mixture of beverages such as shandygaff, stone fence and the like.

Of all alcoholic drinks the cocktail undoubtedly has the greatest therapeutic value.

ATLANTIC CITY, N. J., March 28. PHYSICIAN.

And, as the Cock Crowed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The plumage of the cocktail unites with striking effect with that of the great bird of freedom. They flock together. The name of the cocktail discloses its origin; always the salutation to the morn.

Its components may have undergone the changes common to all objects of taste. The plain [cauda galli of the Romans and the modern cocktail have the blithe, crowing sound of the early bird, the rude forefather of the omelet.

From the morning bracer the cocktail has come to be the appetite persuader. The wise invite its powerful aid to remove the causes that may becloud the dinner. Persons bereft of a sense of proportion accompany the dinner with a second. Pagans take a postprandial. Only the first is a real cocktail. The cocktail must be prelusive.

AN OLD SUB.

ST. AUGUSTINE, Fla., March 27.

Shaved the Statue.

From the Washington Herald.

Near the entrance of beautiful Oak Hill Cemetery, Georgetown, where reposes the dust of James G. Blaine, Edward M. Stanton and other great Americans, stands a fine statue of John Howard Payne, author of "Home, Sweet Home." The bringing home of the remains of this famous American, who died at his post in Africa generations ago, when he was serving there as United States Consul, was the occasion of a great national function more than twenty years ago.

The late William Corcoran, the Washington banker and philanthropist, defrayed all of the expenses and also paid for the monument and statue of Payne which mark his resting place in Oak Hill. The sculptor who executed the life size statue had palmed off on him as a picture of John Howard Payne the photograph of a man whose face was completely covered with a luxuriant growth of whiskers. Accordingly he faithfully reproduced the whiskers in marble. Soon after the statue was set up in Oak Hill it was discovered that John Howard Payne had never worn a beard.

The sculptor, enraged and undaunted, proceeded forthwith to chisel the whiskers off of the marble image of the immortal author of "Home, Sweet Home," so that to-day the visitor to Georgetown's historic old cemetery beholds the classic face in marble of John Howard Payne *sans* whiskers except for a mustache.

Testing the Insane.

From the London Evening Standard.

Sir Douglas Straight told an amusing story at the dinner of the Journeymen Hairdressers' Trade Society. He remembered, when a young barrister, going into a barber's shop to be shaved. He was a little startled to see the lady behind the counter staring at him from time to time through the glass door. When he got outside the shop a policeman said: "I am very glad to find you have come out," explaining that his anxiety was due to the fact that the barber came out of a lunatic asylum the previous week, and his relatives were wondering whether they would have to send him back again.

THE TASHI LAMA OF TIBET.

In the later account of his recent journey across Tibet Dr. Sven Hedin tells of his meeting with the Tashi Lama, who succeeded to the spiritual functions and dignities of the Dalai Lama when the latter fled before the British from Lhasa. The recent doings of the Tashi Lama illustrate better than anything else the wonderful transformation that is coming over his people, who for ages have repelled foreigners and sought exclusion from the rest of the world.

The Tashi Lama gave Dr. Sven Hedin a very hearty welcome at the great monastery where he lives in Shigatse, 150 miles west of Lhasa. He overwhelmed the explorer with kindness and presents of pack animals and provisions, and allowed him to sketch and photograph everywhere. Dr. Sven Hedin describes the Tashi Lama as a most wonderful and sympathetic man.

In August, 1904, the Chinese Government declared that the Dalai Lama, "the Reincarnation of Buddha," because of his flight to Mongolia should be reduced to the state of a private individual, and that the Tashi Lama should succeed to his spiritual and temporal rights. With the Tashi Lama's accession to the Buddhist papacy, however, a division was effected between the spiritual and the temporal powers, the latter devolving upon a priestly Council of Regency at Lhasa. The Tashi Lama has little or nothing to do with the political administration. His undoubtedly great influence in Tibet depends largely upon his own personal reputation for sanctity. He is the head of the Tibetan Buddhists; and when, in January last year, for the first time in the history of the chiefs of Tibetan Buddhism he visited a foreign country, the event was regarded as having much religious importance. He visited India, in whose eastern section, Burma, 9,000,000 Buddhists are living, and to them the visit had great significance. It was not without other importance, for his appearance in Calcutta was a striking illustration of the collapse of the walled exclusion that had hemmed in Tibet. The Indian people were deeply impressed by his arrival. In Calcutta he paid his respects to the Prince of Wales, to whom he brought many presents. He was more than two months away from his home at Tashilumpo, the largest lamasery in Tibet.

The few white men whom he has met have had nothing but praises for the Tashi Lama. He is now about 25 years old, and Capt. Rawling in his recent book describes him as having "a most prepossessing face, with high cheek bones and finely chiselled features bespeaking the Mongolian race and aristocratic lineage. His voice is low, and while speaking a perpetual smile plays about his face."

Rawling was the first European that the Tashi Lama ever saw, and his manner indicated some nervousness, but he impressed upon his visitor the conviction that gentleness, goodness and bland innocence of the ways of the world were his chief characteristics. Rawling saw the man as he was in 1904, while he was still uninfluenced by contact with the outer world. The Lama has now seen the wonders of Western civilization which his country so persistently repelled. He has shown the deepest interest in the new things. The turn of events is bringing more of the world within his range of vision. There is no influence in Tibet so strong as that of the Tashi Lama to bring his people gradually to the view that after all there are inestimable advantages in international intercourse, and that the nations confer blessings one upon another.

HELP HIM OUT!

Colonel Reade Would Like His Regimental Camp at Jamestown Properly Named.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* What ought the name of the Twenty-third Infantry regimental camp at the tercentennial Jamestown exposition to be?

Answering my own question I submit that the name should be associated with the aborigines of that region and preferably be that of a chieftain or warrior.

No such name as "Robert E. Lee" should be given the camp. Such names as Camp Washington and Camp Mount Vernon savor of a period posterior to Colonial occupancy.

The names of Powhatan and Pocahontas have already been appropriated in connection with the exposition. Such names as Opequam, Roanoke, &c., are not as fitting as personal names like Opecancanough, the Pontiac and Tecumseh of his period.

If the duty devolves upon the undersigned of naming the area where his regiment is to encamp from April 24 to November 30 he would like to give to the camp a name of historic accuracy and appropriateness. Help me out.

PHILIP READE,
Colonel Twenty-third Infantry.

MADISON BARRACKS, Sacket Harbor, N. Y., March 28.

The Busy East.

Moro province, Philippine Islands, is prospering. An enterprising American colony is planted there, centring at Zamboanga. That place has just been made a port of call by the China Navigation Company. The recent Zamboanga industrial and agricultural fair—the first ever held in the province—was a marked success.

Bank clearings in Tokio reached $1,750,000,000 in 1906, an increase of $500,000,000 over 1905.

The Kawasaki Dockyard Company of Japan will also make steam engines, railway carriages, tires, axles, electric motors, military arms and steel.

Direct trade has been opened between Japan and Austria.

Japan's peanut crop for 1906 is above the average, reaching 146,000,000 pounds. The nuts are exported to Hongkong, Canada and the United States chiefly.

In three years the population of the Australian State of Victoria has increased by 29,000, imports by 41 per cent., and exports by 47 per cent. The railway budget has changed from a deficit of $1,825,000 to a surplus of $1,000,000. Since 1851 the total gold yield in Victoria has been $1,380,000,000. Savings bank deposits aggregate $60,000,000, one th three of the total population being depositors.

Domestic servants in New Zealand are unionized under the Arbitration act and demand 25 cents an hour for all work on holidays; work on Mondays, Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays to cease at 7:30 P. M.; on Thursdays and Sundays at 2 P. M., and on Wednesdays at 10 P. M. Leave on Thursdays is to be from 2 P. M. till midnight.

According to the *Indian Trade Journal* the British Consul-General at Azerbaijan reports that the Russian road from Julfa to Tabriz is now practically completed, and will result in an increase of Russian trade with Persia. When, however, the railway now building reaches Julfa, as it will in a few months, the Russian gain will be far greater. Russian manufactures will then reach the frontier entirely by rail, and will be within eighty miles of the market of Tabriz.

India has its car shortage. For want of coal two mills at Howrah have closed down. The reduction in the railway budget of 1906-07 from $50,000,000 to $40,000,000 will make things worse.

Coming to the Point.

Stella—In what period is your parlor furnished?
Bella—None, except that the sofa is planned for an interrogation point.

The Avenues of the President.

WASHINGTON, March 27.—Many of the householders along fashionable Sixteenth street have lately taken to styling it "The Avenue of the President."

"The Avenue of the President"
Grandiloquent sounds, and neat,
But why should that great man be confined
To merely a single street?

In Wall Street he is authority
And boss of the wicked lot;
They have a panic each time he thinks,
Another when he does not.

Is not Fifth avenue his indeed,
To mould as a piece of wax?
To punish the fortunes swollen fat
By means of an income tax?

Yet after his thunders have all gone forth
Against superfluous pelf,
We may take notice that Easy Street
Is where he resides himself.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

COMMERCE IS TRANSPORTATION

And the Constitution Intended That the People Themselves Should Regulate It.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In a recent letter to THE SUN I stated that the word "regulate" as applied to the regulation of commerce at the time of the adoption of the Constitution signified augmentation or development along a steady course. The word is so used by Dr. Adam Smith throughout his famous "Wealth of Nations." His remarks in Book IV., chapter 2, are very significant in these times, when there is rife a mania for legislative regulation of all capital except the Government's own system of plunder and translation of the people's money. In a second letter I stated that the term "commerce among" the States means simply "domestic commerce" of the States forming the Federation, with no authority to make distinctions of inter and intra State; and further that the word "commerce" signifies merely the transfer or "passage" of merchandise through the agency of the merchant, and does not include in the term any action coming under the designation of transportation. The Latins used the word *traditio* to designate this exchange. This matter is enlarged upon by Savigny on "Possession," Book II., sections 16 and 17.

In this letter I desire to show that, as in the case of "regulate," the influence of the French language upon our first Ambassadors has brought about a new signification of the word "commerce." Thus M. Say, in his treatise on "Political Economy," Book I., chapter 2, approves the definition of the Count de Verri: "Commerce is in fact nothing more than the transport of goods from one place to another." However, in chapter 9 he goes back to the Latin terms and describes commerce as the modification which the trader employs to place within our reach objects of want which would otherwise be beyond reach; that is to say, that of transport or conveyance. He then declares:

> In fact, the transport of products cannot be effected without the concurrence of a variety of means, which have each an intrinsic value of their own, and of which the actual transport itself, in the literal and confined sense of the term, is commonly not the most chargeable. There must be one commercial establishment at the place where the products are collected; another at the place it is transported to; besides package and warehousing. There must be an advance of capital equivalent to the value transported. Moreover, there are agents, insurers and brokers to be paid. All these are really productive occupations, since, without their agency, the consumer can never enjoy the product; and supposing their remuneration to be reduced by competition to the lowest rate possible, he can be in no way cheaper supplied. In commercial as well as manufacturing industry the discovery of a more economical or more expeditious process, the more skilful employment of natural agents, the substitution, for instance, of a canal in place of a road, or the removal of a difficulty interposed by nature or by human institutions, reduces the cost of production, and procures a gain to the consumer, without any consequent loss to the producer.

By actual transport he means exchange, while transportation he classes as industry. And further, the industry of transportation in its relation to commerce has established its place in history as one of the economic or useful arts, and is not therefore a business of barter.

When the law of Egypt obliging the son to adopt the profession of the father was general, there was no need of transportation other than on a hand to mouth standard. It was performed without the agency of wheels, and may therefore be dismissed from further attention. When the laws of Rome gave to certain of her citizens the rights of *commercium*—the power of holding property and making contracts—transportation became a necessity. If required merely to make a transfer of farm products for the necessary food and clothing, it was classed with agriculture; if required to assemble raw materials and store away finished products, it was classed with manufacture; if utilized by the trader, it was classed with commerce or "transport." These distinctions in transportation are made to this day in cases where the producer or merchant is the owner of the transportation equipment, and may be made in other cases in spite of the complexity of the industry, but this involves the principle of agency and its establishment.

The land service has seen many improvements from the time when transportation was merely sledging across lots to the transcontinental railways which now are its chief instruments in a business far in excess of that of governments. The advance to wagons on graded roads was made only through the assistance of the feudal barons on authority of the king. With roads hardly passable, never safe from highwaymen, and passage always entailing the payment of any tax the baron chose to levy on the merchandise, the transportation interests strove for and secured enfranchisement, first of towns, and later that of the country. In such cases every class of producers was secure in the fruits of its industry, including the transportation industry itself.

When the State no longer maintained the highways, the producers were obliged to do so, and to build turnpikes or plank roads at their own expense. This required a return to the feudal system of tolls from those using the turnpike—the State itself authorizing the collection of tolls, and itself exacting a tax on both the improvement and the tolls. When turnpikes became inadequate owing to the expansion of commerce, tramways upon which the public used its own vehicles by paying a toll for the use of the way were authorized by the State. Later railways were built by companies under State charters to furnish the way and power; and lastly the companies furnished the entire equipment under the right of the State to take tolls not in excess of those stipulated in the charter of each company at the time of contract.

The State having provided for the private ownership and control of railroads under the countenance of the general government, and individuals having invested their earnings in such railroads in faith of that provision of the State, it follows that the State has no right to confiscate their property by revolutionary act and destroy for the individual owner the economic values which it has itself created. The State has no one to blame but itself if the barons have fought for and won these highways, and then fortified them to make every one passing pay toll—especially if in doing so the barons have been obliged to fight lone handed the awful greed of commerce, and have themselves supplied the service upon which the toll is exacted. Her position is not the more justified if she herself turns baron. "The mistakes of individuals in private life," it has been said, "can never ruin but a small number of families, while those of princes and ministers spread desolation over a whole country."

It follows that the true place of transportation in politics is where the Constitution left it—with the people. If the Government will not set the pace of transferring the revenues of the people to the pole, to Cuba, to Panama, or to the far off Philippines, with a faint prospect of a long distant future return, the superiority of the United States in all business will remain where De Tocqueville found it a century ago, "wholly attributable to their moral and intellectual qualities. Nations, as well as men, almost always betray the most prominent features of their future destiny in their earliest years." Possibly he was right, too, in saying: "Nor will bad laws, revolutions and anarchy be able to obliterate that love of prosperity and that spirit of enterprise which seem to be the distinctive characteristics of their race, or to extinguish that knowledge which guides them on their way." It is well to bear in mind, however, that "the soundest principles are not at all times applicable. The essential object is to know, then, how such as are applicable and desirable can be adopted."

JNO. I. RIEGEL.

SCRANTON, Pa., March 28.

A Semi-Socialist Afterthought.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The letter of B. F. Carpenter, which you justly and advisedly print as the leading editorial this morning, is certainly a sockdolager. It is something worth while thinking of, just that one point: "Supposing the railroads for thirty days should hold up their payrolls, how many million people would lack bread?"

But the trouble with sockdolagers is that the confounded things prove too much. The railroads do undoubtedly hold the lives of millions dependent upon their payrolls, and the inevitable and irrepressible afterthought is:

Ought such really governmental powers over life to be in the entire control of private persons whose main desire is dividends? E. W.

BROOKLYN, March 29.

Duck Creek Neighborhood.

Correspondence Emporia Gazette.

Mr. and Mrs. Daily Fitts and family took dinner at Jim Gorden's Sunday.

Lute Lipsey has a very sore eye.

Jesse Gunkle has a fine new wagon.

Osmber Upham has returned from Junction where he had gone to visit relatives.

Mr. Trot and family will leave this week for Garden City.

Miss Little Lamb spent Saturday night at Miss Blanche Vaiyer's.

This week looks very much like the first week of March. Neighbors are coming in and going out every day.

NEW BOOKS.

Lover Socialists in a Cage.

We shared the apprehensions of Anne at page 11 of Charlotte Teller's story of "The Cage" (D. Appleton & Co.). Anne was told that an Austrian Socialist was coming to supper, whereupon she said "Oh!" in such a manner that "it was clear that Anne had no idea of finding him interesting." We thought immediately of "The Jungle" and other similarly dreary tales. The Socialist may be full of justification; the world seems to be trying to learn whether he is or not; but we have yet to discover that it is his province to make fiction more scintillating. This Socialist from Austria, Eugene Harden, proved to be a good deal like some others that the novelists have provided for us. If Hercules is to be judged from his foot, we may consider Harden from what is said of his hand. He had laid his hand on Frederica Hartwell's hand at supper. It was the first time she had ever set eyes on him, and she may well have received impressions. Concerning her impressions and observations at this point we read: "No hand had ever felt like the one which had just closed over hers; she would never have believed that any hand had so much sympathy—no, it was more than sympathy—so much intimacy in it. She fancied she could still feel his fingers. Covertly she watched his hands now instead of his face; they were not unusual, they were closely knit, moderately large and darker skinned than his face. In spite of the conventional white cuffs and the carefully kept nails, they were savage hands. It may have been the fine black hair on them which made them seem so; her father's were as smooth as a woman's, and she had never noticed any other man's."

Frederica fell in love with the Austrian Socialist immediately. She was full of ready emotions. They fairly spilled out of her. He was utterly good and noble. The story tells of their joint career in the "cage," which is that part of Chicago where the "workers" or wage earners live. We may report one of the things that Harden said to Frederica one evening when the two were out walking at the hour when the spent and grimy toilers were thronging home from their work. She had remarked: "It's like a horrible picture. Men fighting, fighting, and going into darkness!" Thereupon he said: "Not going into darkness, Frederica. This is only the dawn of the world—grand and sombre, yet with flashes of a great light now and then; not enough to show the way, but enough to light the faces of the men who are struggling in this dawn—of the men and a few women." His hand came into play again. "He turned and put his hand on her shoulder. 'You are one of the women. You are going to suffer, child!' 'I do now,' she said." But she was also happy, for there was his hand, and he had called her child and Frederica.

The Haymarket riot is in the story. We read that the so-called "conspiracy" was the invention of a police officer. The novelist says: "The vanity of one man in the police force was to result in the murder by the State of seven innocent men. But Chicago, like a hysterical woman, wanted the excitement which his vanity was ready to offer. He would have revealed himself involuntarily to any but a maddened mob. He had bits of shell and packages of dynamite hidden about the West Side, under sidewalks, in old houses, in the park, and then he would send his men to discover these evidences of a far reaching conspiracy." The press told yellow, unfounded stories, the work of reporters "whose week's wages depended upon their getting the most startling news possible."

But Frederica and her Socialist came out happy. At the last she put her cheek against his shoulder and there was a "great surging warmth of life which swept through every cell in her body and swept through every nerve in his." So, in spite of ourselves, does happiness come. In fairness, however, it must be said that Eugene and Frederica struggled hard against it.

The Secret of the Silent Door.

Florence Wilkinson's story of "The Silent Door" (McClure, Phillips & Co.) is involved in an atmosphere of considerable sadness. The door characterized in the title was in Penrith House in the village of Joppa, which village lies at the edge of the Jerusalem River, not far from Pisgah, in a "sweet country green and fair," distant several hours by rail from the city of New York. Little Rue, a child who managed to be fairly cheerful in the face of much that was calculated to depress the spirits, tried to unlock the silent door, and failing in this used to peek through the keyhole. One day she was discovered by her grandfather. He was Justinian Penrith, an indomitable old man with a consuming sorrow. He was "a scholar, a theologian, a traveller," who "had ridden on muleback in the Holy Land, bringing back with him pressed flowers from Jericho and an olive wood paper cutter from Bethlehem." Two copies of his book, "My Travels in the Ægean Isles," had been exposed for sale for many years in Mr. Burdick's store in Joppa.

Rue was on her knees talking through the keyhole of the silent door when her grandfather discovered her. "What are you doing?" he asked in an awful voice. She replied: "I was only comforting the poor lady inside." Her grandfather was deeply affected. The story speaks of the "terrible lines deepening in his ashen face." He demanded: "What poor lady?" Rue replied: "The lady who lives behind that silent door. She is so hungry and so lonely and so shut in." She sobbed. Her grandfather caught her to his breast. He said: "There is no lady behind that closed door. The room is empty, quite, quite empty." Nothing more was said. "Rue's wet cheek felt a tear. She was not sure whether it was her own or Grandfather's." There are pleasantries in the description, but the sadness of the general tone will be perceived.

After a time Mr. Penrith went to New York to learn what had become of his daughter, Rue's mother. The beautiful Danae Penrith had been wayward. She had run away from home. She had lived the bohemian life in New York. Rue's father was an artist who had tired of even a slight measure of domesticity and flitted away to Paris. Danae was satisfied to be rid of him. She went on the stage. She had the artistic temperament. But she pined for her home—for Joppa, for Penrith House, for the room of her maidenly days behind the silent door. Frederick Droll loved Danae. He was deformed, horribly ugly; though he was good, there was no hope for him. Joseph Beak, the powerful theatrical manager, also loved her. One night in New York Justinian Penrith and Frederick Droll saw a phantom. In an arm chair in Droll's artistically furnished apartment "sat a quiet figure before the sinking red coals. It was a woman's graceful figure in an attitude of deep meditation. The shoulders were white wrapped, one hand supported the head, the hair fell across the bosom and made a background for the delicate profile. The gaze was turned intently, sorrowfully, upon the dying fire. Some subtle light from