The Sun.

SUNDAY, MAY 26, 1907.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by The Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York.

Paris office, 32 Rue Louis le Grand. The daily and Sunday editions are on sale at Kiosque 12, near the Grand Hotel; Kiosques 14 and 77, Boulevard des Capucines, and Kiosque 19, Boulevard des Italiens.

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

A Friendly Visitor.

We should like to reject as inventions of the enemies—or the stupid friends—of the Mayor all current reports representing that gentleman as still determined to resist in every possible way the attempt to dispose, by conclusive investigation, of Mr. WILLIAM R. HEARST'S pernicious pretensions to the office which Mr. McCLELLAN holds, as we believe, by an honest title.

Opportunity is kinder to Mayor McCLELLAN than it is to some men. There are those to whom its golden visits are never repeated.

A Ghost of the Simplified.

On Wednesday, May 22, the postmaster at Asbury Park addressed to an estimable citizen of New Jersey an official postal card of the Post Office Department, Form 3548, containing this revolutionary statement:

"A piece of mail (letter) addrest to you is held for 2 cents postage."

Our friend sends to us in haste and manifest perturbation of spirit this evidence that the shadow of the Simplified is still upon the land.

On the twelfth of December of last year the House of Representatives declared, by a vote of 142 to 25, that no money appropriated by the Legislative, Executive and Judicial bill should be paid for salaries in connection with the printing of documents authorized by law or ordered by Congress unless in the spelling thereof the Public Printer "followed the orthography recognized and established by generally accepted dictionaries of the English language."

The next day, December 13, 1906, the House, without a dissenting vote, passed a resolution declaring it to be the sense of that body that in documents emanating from "any executive department" the printers should "observe and adhere to the standard of orthography prescribed in generally accepted dictionaries of the English language." The President thereupon announced, through Representative LANDIS, that he accepted the decision of Congress and would issue a new order to the Public Printer directing the exclusive use of the old or pre-Carnegian form of spelling.

We do not think our correspondent need be alarmed. This official postal card, Form 3548, may be nothing more than an accidental remainder of the old stock and a reminder of the awful days when THEODORE ROOSEVELT bossed the nation's proofreading.

The Law's Delay in England.

We are getting just a least bit tired of the persistent laudation of criminal procedure in England as compared with the conduct of prosecutions for crime in this country. The Thaw trial is used as a text not only by newspaper writers but also by clergymen, lawyers, other public speakers and even by some American Judges, who ought to know better, to illustrate the proposition that dilatory methods are characteristic of our courts; and this case has been compared again and again with that of RAYNER in England, where the prisoner was arraigned, tried, convicted and sentenced to death in a single day.

It might be supposed from comparisons such as these that the undue prolongation of a criminal prosecution was unknown in England. Nevertheless, there ought still to be a few persons living who are able to remember the second Tichborne trial. After the claimant to the Tichborne baronetcy, pretending to be Sir ROGER TICHBORNE, had failed in a civil suit which he instituted to recover the estates, he was indicted for perjury in having sworn that he was in fact Sir ROGER TICHBORNE and in denying under oath that he was ARTHUR ORTON; and the trial of this indictment is, we think, unparalleled in the history of American jurisprudence for the needless length of time consumed in its conduct.

The trial began in April, 1873. At that time there existed a special provision of law in England which permitted criminal trials of exceptional importance to be presided over by three Judges instead of only one. Under this law the court consisted of Sir ALEXANDER COCKBURN, then Lord Chief Justice of England, and Justices MELLOR and LUSH. Sir HENRY HAWKINS, afterward for many years a distinguished Judge himself, was the leading counsel for the prosecution, being assisted by CHARLES BOWEN, one of the most accomplished lawyers in England, who subsequently became a Lord Justice of Appeal but died after a short and brilliant career on the bench. The claimant was defended by Dr. KENEALY, a fine classical scholar and eloquent speaker, who derived his title from his honorary degree as a doctor of laws. The case for the prosecution lasted through April, June and July until July 21, when Dr. KENEALY began his opening address in behalf of the defendant, concluding it just a month later, on August 21. The evidence for the defendant then occupied the court until October 27, 1873, when an adjournment was taken in order to obtain evidence for the prosecution from South America and Australia; and it was not until December that all the evidence was finally put in. On the second day of that month Dr. KENEALY began his address to the jury. This continued during the remainder of the year 1873 and until January 14, 1874. On the following day Mr. HAWKINS rose to reply and his speech lasted a fortnight. Then came the charge to the jury by the Lord Chief Justice. This address occupied eighteen sittings of the court; and as evidence of the keen interest which the case excited in the public mind the biographer of Lord BOWEN states that "the report of the Judge's charge in the London *Times* occupied no less than 180 columns of that paper." The case was finally submitted to the jury on February 28, 1874, having lasted through 188 actual working days!

Here we have a great criminal trial before the most eminent Judges in England in which the parties were represented by the ablest counsel. If any men on the bench or at the bar ought to have been zealous to conduct the case in such a manner as to avoid just reproach, such men were engaged in this cause. No doubt the complicated nature of the proofs and the evidence to be sifted in order to present the issues intelligibly to the jury justified a certain degree of prolixity in the proceedings; but after the conclusion of the trial it was freely conceded even by friendly critics in England that the waste of time was enormous and to some extent discreditable to the bench and bar. We now recall the leading incidents of this celebrated litigation to the attention of the public in order to show that the recent unfavorable comparison of American criminal procedure with the conduct of criminal trials in England is not wholly warranted by the facts of judicial history.

We have no disposition to defend the law's delay wherever it is unnecessary; but criticism of dilatory procedure in the criminal courts in this country, however justifiable in itself, should not be supported by reference to a supposed superiority in England which does not exist when the comparison is made between cases of like character.

A Practicable Programme for the Hague Congress.

It was a sensible conclusion which was reached on May 24 by the Lake Mohonk conference on international arbitration with reference to the programme to be submitted to the Peace Congress at The Hague. After an earnest debate in which a proposal to limit armaments was advocated by Dr. EDWARD EVERETT HALE, Dr. CHARLES FOGNANI of the Union Theological Seminary and Mr. EDWIN D. MEAD of Boston, and opposed with equal vigor by Mr. JOHN D. LONG, formerly Secretary of the Navy, and President ELIOT of Harvard University, the conference decided not to jeopard the accomplishment of its primary object by adopting a recommendation known to be hopeless at this time by reason of the position taken by Germany, Austria and Italy. The programme which was finally agreed upon and which will be submitted to the Hague Congress embodies six recommendations, two at least of which are likely to be accepted.

For instance, we may take for granted that the Hague Congress will approve of the suggestion that hereafter it will meet periodically at dates fixed beforehand. We do not expect to see much if any opposition to the proposal that such changes be made in the Hague court as may be needed to establish a definite judicial tribunal always open for the adjudication of international questions. There is more doubt about the assent of the Hague Congress to a modified form of the Drago Doctrine, providing that hereafter there shall be no armed intervention for the collection of private claims when the debtor nation is willing to submit such claims to arbitration. Señor DRAGO himself would not make an agreement for arbitration an indispensable condition of immunity from the forcible collection of contractual debts, but without the stipulation named it would be difficult to secure an indorsement of the principle by Great Britain, Germany and Italy, which took part in the bombardment of Venezuelan seaports and subsequently obtained from the Hague tribunal a judgment declaring them preferred creditors.

The fourth proposal included in the programme framed by the Lake Mohonk conference, that the inviolability of innocent private property at sea in time of war shall be proclaimed a fundamental principle of international law, is sure to be supported warmly by the United States. As long ago as 1856 our Federal Government offered to subscribe to the Declaration of Paris, by which privateering was abolished, provided the inviolability of private property at sea (not contraband of war), even when carried under an enemy's flag, should be established. England and the Continental Powers were willing to renounce privateering because they counted on their ability to destroy an enemy's merchant navy by means of fast cruisers and commerce destroyers. It is obvious that if the proposal mentioned should be adopted most of such vessels would lose their principal reason for existence.

A similar aim is contemplated by the sixth recommendation sanctioned by the Mohonk conference, that certain ocean trade routes should be neutralized. This suggestion also would have met with but little favor in Great Britain fifty years ago, but now, when famine can only be averted in the United Kingdom by the uninterrupted importation of breadstuffs it seems probable that British statesmen may take a different view of their nation's interests. If the inviolability of private property at sea in war time were recognized, or if definite trade routes were neutralized, Great Britain would escape not only the danger of famine but also the unwelcome alternative of seeing her ocean carrying trade pass under a neutral flag. As our own experience has shown, such carrying trade once lost is not easily recovered.

The recommendation of the Lake Mohonk conference that the Hague conference shall agree upon a general arbitration treaty for the settlement of all international disputes has, we regret to say, no prospect of adoption. Señor ENRIQUE C. CREEL, Mexican Ambassador to the United States, was undoubtedly right in affirming that the time is not yet ripe for unrestricted arbitration. When three great nations refuse even to discuss a reduction of their military armaments it would be idle to ask them to accept a general arbitration treaty. The two things if they come at all will come together. Meanwhile, however, it should be possible to extend the scope of arbitration by improving the facilities for a resort to it.

Japan's International Relations.

The rapidity of Japan's ascension from obscurity to the front rank of world powers may well seem marvellous to contemporary onlookers, but it is by no means without a precedent in the history of Asia, which from time immemorial has been the cradle of quickly developing empires.

Considerably less than half a century elapsed, for instance, between the date when CYRUS the Great emerged from his highland principality of Persia proper, and the death of his son CAMBYSES, yet in that interval was created a monarchy which was destined to endure for upward of two centuries and which spread from Samarkand to Smyrna and from the Caspian to the Second Cataract of the Nile. Less than fifty years was needed to erect upon the ruins of the Hellenistic kingdoms founded by ALEXANDER'S successors the immense Parthian realm which stretched from the Euphrates to the Indus, and which in historical fact as well as in the imaginative picture drawn by MILTON in "Paradise Regained" remained for centuries the unconquerable counterpoise of the Roman world. Within less than seven decades after the death of MOHAMMED the sway of the Caliphs reached from the Hindu Koosh to the Pyrennees, and in less than two generations the enormous dominion evolved by GENGHIS KHAN and his descendants extended from the neighborhood of the Vistula to the China Sea. When we keep in view these precedents our astonishment at the development of Japan in prestige and influence within the short span of forty years is considerably qualified.

That Japan would beat China to the ground in the war of 1894-95 might have been taken for granted from the moment that the former Power adopted the military and naval methods and the perfected weapons of the West. But that the island empire of the Pacific, which as lately as 1867 had no war fleet and whose warriors were still limited for weapons of offence to the sword and the bow, should have been able in the war of 1904-05 to defeat on land and sea the most colossal of European Powers was undoubtedly an achievement which under all the circumstances must be pronounced unparalleled in the history of the Western world. Even before the outcome of her contest with Russia had justified Japan's claim to a place in the first rank of nations the demonstration of military and naval efficiency made by her in the war with China had led the Western Powers to relieve her from the odious régime of exterritoriality by which China and Turkey are still humiliated. Not until August 12, 1905, however, had any Christian State entered into an agreement based on the assumption that Japan would have quite as much to give an ally as she could receive. The Anglo-Japanese treaty, signed on the date just named, was based on that assumption, and it has been followed by negotiations for similar though not identical compacts with Russia and France.

When the signatures have been attached to these negotiations we shall witness the amazing spectacle of a nation which forty years ago was centuries behind Europe or the United States in the arts of offensive and defensive warfare linked by treaties not merely commercial, but political, to some of the most enlightened and mighty States on earth.

The Anæsthesia Submarine.

Painless naval warfare is the invention of a Massachusetts man, Mr. CARL M. WHEATON of Newtonville. If the Government should adopt his submarine, bulletins of victory in our future wars would read like this:

"We have put the enemy to sleep, and they are ours."

OLIVER HAZARD PERRY used canister, grape, ball and scrap iron in the battle of Lake Erie, and decks ran blood. Mr. WHEATON'S weapon would be an anæsthetic, and the enemy without running away would live to fight another day. There would be no horrors of war; no dead, and therefore no widows and orphans; no wounded, and therefore no need of pensions, except such as the politicians could obtain for needy veterans of one or more campaigns of anæsthesia. Mr. WHEATON gives the following account of his boat and the process of putting a Dreadnought out of action:

"The boat is equipped with a tank capable of standing a pressure of 500 pounds to the square inch, fitted with tubes and other means for rapid heating, which would contain (say) fifty gallons of a non-explosive anæsthetic, with further supply from which to draw, and connected by strong tubing with a puncturing gun (entirely new) which fires a tube up through the outer and inner bottoms of the ship attacked. To this the flexible tubing is attached and the anæsthetic turned on. If injected under heavy pressure in the form of steam it will permeate the ship as far as clear openings will permit, and if administered anywhere between the masts (or about 200 feet in ships of the New Jersey class) it will effectually put out of action the men operating the boilers and engines, thereby putting the ship practically out of commission, as all functions on shipboard depend directly or indirectly on steam supply for operation."

Mr. WHEATON prefers his stupor inducing method of warfare, in which he is supported by Mr. MOORFIELD STORY'S Anti-Imperialist Society and by ex-Secretary LONG'S peace society, but the Wheaton submarine is also equipped with a bomb with a time fuse which can be attached to the bottom of a war vessel, and which is calculated to blow to smithereens combatants who refuse to surrender after their engineer force has been put to sleep. The Wheaton submarines cost $200,000 apiece, and in groups of six ($1,200,000) the inventor believes that they would make short work of a $10,000,000 battleship.

During the period of excitement preceding the war with Spain a New England artist, who had been puzzled by the invisibility of trout in still sunlit waters, bethought him of imitating nature, and he produced a miniature warship so cunningly painted as to be as invisible on the surface of the ocean as the trout is in the pool. At least he was thoroughly convinced of it himself. He took his model to Washington, put it in a tank with gray painted sister ships, and asked a cornered officer of the Bureau of Construction how many vessels there were in the water. The count was wrong and the inventor triumphantly indicated the invisible ship. It was impossible, however, to interest a red tape department in the trout ship, and we went to war with the old kind.

Mr. WHEATON'S invention is certainly an improvement on the conceit of the New England artist, for it was no part of the artist's plan to eliminate carnage, but to make it surer and safe. Assuming that Mr. WHEATON'S puncturing gun with the tube attachment for spraying engine rooms satisfies the tests of the department's experts and is accepted by the Government, it should follow that any nation depending on Dreadnoughts and obsolete submarines would face bankruptcy if it went to war with the United States. Dr. NICHOLAS MURRAY BUTLER advocates an international police to enforce decrees of the Hague tribunal. In some quarters the idea excites scepticism, but it will no longer be derided if the submarine rapid fire anæsthetic gun does the execution claimed for it by the inventor. Mr. WILLIAM T. STEAD, if allowed the floor at the Hague conference, would no doubt be glad to bring it forward as a solution of the peace problem.

Railway Killings.

In Accident Bulletin 22, covering the months of October, November and December of last year, the Interstate Commerce Commission publishes a table showing the number of passengers killed in each quarter since that beginning with October, 1903, which indicates how difficult it is to make any intelligent generalization on this subject:

Quarter ended	*Killed.*
December, 1906	180
September, 1906	52
June, 1906	27
March, 1906	62
December, 1905	50
September, 1905	48
June, 1905	41
March, 1905	28
December, 1904	53
September, 1904	228
June, 1904	23
March, 1904	40
December, 1903	147

The number of killed in the last quarter of 1903 was three times the average of the nine preceding quarters, the commission says. The uselessness of an "average" when the figures rise from 23 in one period to 228 in another is obvious. A study of the table will show how little effect the seasons have on railroad accidents. The fatalities for the last quarter of 1906 were 180; for the corresponding period of 1905 they were 50. In July, August and September, 1904, the season of most frequent holiday excursions, 228 persons were killed; no other year recorded in the table shows anything like such a total. In April, May and June of 1906 27 persons were killed; in the same quarter of 1905 the fatalities were 41, and in 1904 only 23. There is nothing to be gained from the study of statistics when the records show such a lack of uniformity as is presented here.

To several correspondents in Brooklyn and elsewhere: THE SUN respectfully declines the use of its columns for the reopening of the main question involved in the Beecher-Tilton scandal of a third of a century ago.

A noticeable feature of the beginning of this year's cricket season in England is the preponderance of paid professionals in first class matches. In the past gentlemen and paid players have played side by side, but the former have usually equalled or surpassed the number of the latter. This year Yorkshire has been playing ten professionals on its eleven; Surrey, Kent and Lancashire nine each, and most of the other counties a majority of paid players.

It looks as if the automobile and golf and other sports that make less demands on time were drawing away amateurs from the national game. Possibly the desire to gain the championship may have something to do with it, though hitherto the gentlemen have generally been as serviceable members of the team as the professionals.

The Hon. WILLIAM E. CHANDLER, who is taking a hand in the Eddy litigation at Concord, N. H., was flatly contradicted by General STREETER, counsel for the trustees, the other day, but there was no bloodshed, Mr. CHANDLER saying calmly:

"I can take the lie from General STREETER. I have taken it from persons even higher in station than he."

This was the reply of a man who realized that after being distinguished by the President he himself conferred distinction on any lesser person who imitated that illustrious example.

The island of Dominica is only about thirty miles long and sixteen wide, and COLUMBUS discovered and named it on his second voyage to the Antilles. Now that Africa has been pretty well explored there seems to be an opportunity for pioneer travellers to turn their attention to small but virgin fields in Dominica.

More than a year ago Mr. GRIEVE, a Scottish naturalist, decided to go to Dominica to make a study of its flora and fauna. The Edinburgh Chamber of Commerce heard of the project and informed Mr. GRIEVE that as the most contradictory statements had been circulated as to the prospects and capabilities of Dominica he would have a fine opportunity to study the island as a field for British settlers. He promised to do so, and the chamber enlisted the aid of the Colonial Office, which ordered the officials of Dominica to afford the explorer every facility.

Arriving at the island, Mr. GRIEVE informed the officials that he wished to explore the interior. They shook their heads dubiously and told him they were very doubtful if he could carry out so arduous an undertaking, as the interior was almost entirely without roads and covered with primeval tropical forest.

He hewed his way through the forest, however, his negro porters mowing the underbrush with their machetes. He climbed the mountains, looked down into the boiling lakes and encountered the severest earthquake Dominica has enjoyed for many years just as he reached the middle of a river, riding pick-a-back on the shoulders of a black man; and he contracted a violent dislike for a variety of tree fern covered with sharp spines, which tore his clothes and can scarcely be avoided.

The authorities told him he had done wonders, but he is not at all satisfied with the map he made, and excuses its many shortcomings on the ground that he was compelled to impose his material upon a map of the island made in 1776. The attention of the Royal Geographical Society should be drawn to this neglected corner of the world.

SOCIAL EVOLUTION.

Man's Moral Nature and Material Progress Explained by Environment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It will doubtless be granted that the physical conformation of man is the result of his material environment. He stood up on his hind feet, and his front feet became changed into hands because he had to get himself a living, and he could get a better living as a biped than as a quadruped. Though there are no men now living at that low stage when the observer would be in grave doubt as to whether they are men or an improved kind of gorilla, yet nobody will now doubt that at one time there were such ancestors. They had no fire, no speech, no tools deliberately fashioned and formed. They had no society, much less a family. Among such beings where was "the moral nature," or the power of forming ideals?

When, however, in order to get a better living the horde was formed, living together in promiscuity, something like a moral nature began to form, the virtue of courage for the benefit of others; something like a mind began to form from the necessity of communication by manual and vocal gesture. Inventions were painfully and slowly made, of the way to kindle fire and the way to chip a flint so as to make a tool, all the way along, step by step to what are recognized to be mechanical inventions, while growing out of these mechanical inventions were social inventions serving the same purpose, to make a better living. If from the sound "pt" representing the noise of some swiftly flying creature we get the word "petition," as Prof. Greenough has proved, it is not impossible to see that the mind of man developed in much the same way as his body, from very inconsiderable beginnings, each advance being not merely an addition to its predecessors but a multiplier of them. Within the last century we have seen a gesture language grow from rudimentary signs expressing nothing but the simplest concrete notions to signs expressing the most abstract and religious concepts. I mean the sign language of the non-hearing, which is not English or anything like English. What power of idealization could the congenitally deaf have had before the Abbé de L'Epée?

Is there a moral precept which is not a social precept? What is "my duty" if it is not "my duty toward my neighbor"? The one "toward God" is entirely the obligation to respect as authoritative the command to fulfil "my duty toward my neighbor." The human race was well along toward emerging from the status of barbarism when it invented gods who gave sanction to socially beneficial conduct and disapproval of that which is "wicked," which is the same thing as "wasteful." The battle ground of to-day is this: We have attained a plane of civilization in advance of our institutions. Conscience, which is the social sense, is struggling with selfishness, which is the individual sense. We know that the society is more than the individual, and we know which sense will get the ultimate victory. It is precisely the same problem which has come up so many times in the past, and has always been solved in the same way. The society that did not yield to the social sense perished. Our savage ancestor did not want to give up certain conjugal rights any more than the multi-millionaire wants to give up his riches, but he had to, or the evil of inbreeding would have destroyed the race.

It seems to me quite apparent that "the moral nature" and the power to form ideals are the results of social environment, just as the physical conformation of man is the result of the world about him. The struggle for existence in one case, as in the other, is a sufficient explanation of both problems. Of both? They are the same. E. W.

BROOKLYN, May 25.

Is This Another Question for The Hague?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why can't we arrange by treaties with the foreign Powers the rate of speed which Ambassadors, Ministers, Chargés d'Affaires, Consul-Generals and Consuls may travel in automobiles, and whether the rate of speed shall apply to the other automobiles of the party of such representative than the one he is in, and end this trouble which is continually arising?

NEW YORK, May 25. QUIDNUNC.

A Distinguished Band for the Hall of Fame.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In pre-Rooseveltian and less exciting days a band of Swedes settled stolidly on the banks of the limpid Christiania, which purls contiguous to Wilmington. Descendants of said Swedes have built a great city, celebrated for its gunpowder and its glazed kid and morocco leathers. Here also dwell in peace and harmony:

E. Roop, looper; A. Savage Roop, foreman; William D. Stoops, notary (with trained seal); thirty-six Hoopes, as per directory, from Abner, mgr., to W. W., clerk, together with a few Hoopers, Hootens, Hoovers, Hoovens, &c.

I claim membership for all and sundry in THE SUN'S Hall of Fame, and if it is not granted I will make a noise like an oop till just recognition is shown. H. F.

WILMINGTON, May 24.

The Pittsburg Wealthstick.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A friend who has been absent from Pittsburg, his boyhood home, for fifteen years, returned a few months ago.

He was surprised to find many of his young manhood friends and acquaintances wealthy.

He told me he had finally gauged their wealth by their manner of greeting him. If a man smiled and addressed him by his first name and seemed pleased to be called Tom or Bill he knew he was worth less than $50,000. If he spoke condescendingly and addressed him as Mister he felt he must be worth at least a hundred thousand, but if he passed him without recognition at all he knew he was a millionaire. KINGWOOD.

PITTSBURG, Pa., May 24.

Reform in Boston.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* At last the grammatical sensibilities of Boston's public are being considered. Until within a few days motormen and conductors on the Boston elevated have been in the habit of announcing "Leave by the nearest door" on arriving at the Park street terminus. Now they announce "Leave by the nearer door," and a great content sweeps over "Funnel" Hall and rests with dovelike flutter upon "Josh" Quincy's genealogical tree. K. P.

BOSTON, May 24.

The Imperishable Union.

["The time has now come, in the evolution of sentiment and feeling, under the providence of God, when in the spirit of fraternity we should share with you in the care of the graves of the Confederate soldiers."—*From President McKinley's Atlanta address.*]

Brave words and true! From lips now stilled forever
The message comes to us with added force;
To influence hope, to strengthen our endeavor,
And shape our course.

The angel Peace, with glad congratulation,
Offers thy words to the recording pen;
And the great heart of a united nation
Responds, Amen!

Two score of years the tears of heaven descending
Have bathed the ashes of our common dead;
Two score of years the flowers above them bending
Their bloom have shed.

And shall we be less lenient than Nature,
Who weaves o'er each, impartially, her shroud?
True chivalry asks no obnoxious feature
When hearts are bowed.

Let us remember they were still our brothers;
Admire their courage, and their fame recall;
The soil is sacred where true men meet others
And heroes fall!

And from these fields that heard the bugle ringing,
That knew the carnage and the shock of war,
Whose harvests freshen, and whose grass is springing
Greener therefor,

We can together raise our thanks in chorus,
Above the dust of brave men here enshrined;
Our task made plain—the future lies before us,
The past behind!

Joint heirs to freedom's heritage; invited
By her to suffer and together rise;
Firm in our faith that in one cause united
Our greatness lies;

Let the dead teach us how, fraternal, loyal,
In love and harmony at last we may
Garland their graves who wore with honors royal
The Blue, the Gray.

D. LOUIS BODEN.

A REPLY.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I was sorry that last week I had too much on my hands to reply at once to "J. M.," who did me the honor to notice my last letter.

The Darwinian hypothesis I reverently accept at the hands of its illustrious author and the other chiefs of science, so far as the special phenomena which it embraces are concerned; though all grand discoveries are apt to hurry us too far and one cannot help remarking that during the long tract of time during which the course of animal life has been witnessed by man no instance apparently of evolution proper, or of visible tendency to it, has been observed, all the changes in animals that have taken place having been brought about in other ways. I only plead for consideration not of the physical evolution alone but of all the phenomena of humanity.

I do not maintain but on the contrary have disclaimed any denial of the continuity of human development or assertion of a miraculous genesis of conscience. The matrix of conscience may have been the sense of social utility and the necessity of conformity to social law. Yet the ultimate outcome may be something more spiritual and looking up to a higher tribunal. Miracles we know there are none, but of marvels surely none can be greater than the evolution of even the lower organs and functions of human life out of the germ.

"J. M.'s" tone is pessimistic, as at times perhaps is the tone of us all. In his estimate of human history he seems to leave progress out of sight. Progress essentially distinguishes man from other animals and his history from theirs. It continues, though slowly and fitfully, in spite of all impediments and relapses. Apparently it points to some consummation in which conceivably all who have furthered its coming may have an interest. Life is a mystery. The universe is a mystery. The existence of evil is the darkest of mysteries. Yet not otherwise than through the struggle with evil, so far as we can see, could be formed the excellence of character which is our highest conception of good. The mystery of physical evil, in one of its phases at least, Christianity frankly faces when it admits that those on whom the tower of Siloam falls are not the greatest of sinners. It is strikingly contrasted on this point with the impotent conclusion of the Book of Job.

I cannot say too often that I presume not to advance any theory. I only plead, as I have said, for recognition of all the phenomena, moral as well as material, and for perfect freedom of inquiry, unfettered by clerical tests, as the sole guarantee for truth. The case is pressing. That the religious foundations of society are shaken is shown in many ways: by the falling off of attendance at churches, by the increased intensity of the struggle for this world's goods, and even by the proneness to embrace such beliefs as spiritualism by way of substitutes for religious faith. We cannot afford to keep learning and conscience mute. GOLDWIN SMITH.

Supplementary Remarks by the Correspondent "J. M."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I desire to make this addendum to remarks which, unsupplemented, might be subject to unwarrantable inferences. The words which need supplementing are: "Thus not only is history a melancholy record of futile struggle, when looked at from the standpoint that all must end in meaningless oblivion, but it is an appalling spectacle to all who would find in life evidence of those attributes of supreme power and supreme beneficence which men are wont to ascribe to an author of the world."

No one can dispute the logic of John Stuart Mill's assertion that the author of the Sermon on the Mount was more benignant than the author of nature.

But while it is true that the existence of suffering in life, on grounds of reason, is irreconcilable with conceptions of a supremely powerful and supremely beneficent Creator, and while it is further true that the employment of evil agencies such as wars and struggles to evolve more desirable conditions is inconsistent with ideas of a supremely powerful and supremely beneficent Creator; yet good outweighs evil in life and happiness predominates over wretchedness.

On a preponderance of evidence, therefore, while the part strife, poverty and wretchedness play in effecting desirable conditions must forever baffle attempts to justify completely conceptions of a supremely powerful and beneficent author, yet as history is a record of the gradual betterment of human conditions through incessant struggles and turmoils, natural evidences justify faith in a power that "makes for righteousness."

A recognition of the impenetrableness of the mystery concerning the origin of things is one to which the old quest of truth inevitably leads. With growing appreciation of how natural evidences only intensify the unalterable darkness in which all is shrouded, and of the futility of all efforts thus far to dispel the mystery, what men believe is gradually coming to be less and less regarded.

The most unwavering devotion to truth can never require denial of that which does not lie within the province of any to know of.

There is no justification for assuming that because history apparently fails to indicate an omnipotent and beneficent Creator, therefore such a hypothesis is untenable: over and over again it must be emphasized that the unknown cannot be sounded by nor interpreted in terms of the known.

It is wrong even to assert that the mystery concerning the origin of things is unknowable because it involves more knowledge than we have. J. M.

NEW YORK, May 23.

Lacroma Abbey, Near Ragusa.

From the London Standard.

The Pope has consented to the sale of the island of Lacroma, near Ragusa, which will shortly pass into the possession of Princess Elisabeth, granddaughter of the Emperor Francis Joseph. The Crown Prince Rudolf in his will left the island, when then belonged to him, to his daughter, but the Emperor, as guardian of the child and executor of the will, decided otherwise, and presented Lacroma, with its old abbey, to the Dominicans of Ragusa, giving the Princess £100,000 as equivalent. The friars took possession of the island, with its buildings and its magnificent park, early in the '90s and cultivated the park. Princess Elisabeth was kept in ignorance of her father's will till after her marriage, but as soon as she learned its dispositions she determined if possible to carry them out, and her efforts have at last been crowned with success.

Her mother, the Princess Stéphanie, now Countess Lonyay, was always very fond of the island, and wrote a little book on its history, beautifully illustrated by the landscape painter Perko. Lacroma passed from the Benedictines at the end of the eighteenth century, when the Senate of Ragusa, after the death of the last friar, sold it to local residents, who planted out the abbey grounds into vineyards and olive groves. At the time of the French blockade in the Adriatic the Archduke Ferdinand Max, later Emperor of Mexico, whose flagship Triton was wrecked by an explosion, landed on Lacroma, and erected a memorial cross there to the memory of the sailors who then lost their lives. Struck by the beauty of the place, he shortly afterward bought out the tenants, and partially restored the abbey, without, however, touching the beauty of the cloisters or the most picturesque ruined church, which was founded by Richard Cœur de Lion in 1193. After his death a Lieutenant Dumivich bought it, and then it was taken by a lawyer, who attempted to establish a sort of sanitorium there, but failed.

It was then that Prince Rudolf, in the course of an excursion from Abbazia, where he was staying, first saw Lacroma, and was so enchanted with its wild charms that as soon as it was in the market he bought it forthwith. The Crown Prince added some towers and bastions to the abbey, but left interior modern adaptation for later on. He was careful to leave in their original state the cloistered courts and the magnificent ruins of the Benedictine church (destroyed by earthquake in 1667). It is to be hoped that visitors may be admitted to the park and to the cloister walks, which used to be and probably still are a wilderness of pomegranates, oleanders and climbing roses.

CHRISTIAN SCIENCE AND LIFE INSURANCE.

A Remarkable Communication From the Manager of a New York Agency.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As the papers seem full of references to Christian Science, both for and against, it may not be amiss for one to make a contribution whose work for twenty-five years has been along statistical lines in connection with life insurance.

I was very much interested in reading in the morning papers articles pertaining to the low death rate among Christian Scientists. The Christian Science publication committee said recently:

"There are not less than 30,000 persons in New York State who rely wholly on Christian Science treatment for sickness. Since January 1, 1907, there have been less than ten deaths in the entire State under Christian Science treatment. The average death rate for the year among the Christian Science population, even including those who were not Christian Scientists and who turned to it only after the doctors had given them up, was only 1.04 a thousand, as against the average death rate of more than 8 for the entire State."

These figures are certainly astounding when analyzed by practical men who can take in their import and understand what they mean to mankind. The Christian Science publication very much understates the actual mortality of the State. In Greater New York, where most of the Christian Scientists reside, the mortality rate is more than double that given, or 20 in the thousand. For 30,000 persons this rate would mean 600 deaths for the year, as compared with 10 in five months under Christian Science treatment.

Life insurance companies take only those persons who pass a careful medical examination, and they are therefore supposed to show a lower mortality than that of the community in general. The death rate of 8 in the thousand given in the Christian Science article was doubtless taken from life insurance tables for New York State. It is much higher in the city.

It should be borne in mind that the Christian Science churches are receiving one class of people directly the opposite to those selected by the insurance companies: that is to say, "rejected cases." In fact, life insurance companies regard Christian Scientists as "extra hazardous risks," and therefore will not usually accept them. Most companies who take them limit them to small amounts of insurance.

It is therefore evident that Christian Science has a larger task to perform in lowering its mortality than the life insurance companies have, for people taking Christian Science treatment usually do so as a last resort, because they have been unable to procure help from sources which have generally been supposed to supply the best methods of treatment. If, then, Christian Science treatment showed a mortality as high as that of the hospitals or homes for incurables it should not be censured, but should be considered as desirable as that of the medical fraternity.

The Christian Science death rate of 1.04 would be marvellous if the Christian Scientists selected their risks as the life insurance companies do, but how much more astounding is the record when the class of people taken into their ranks is considered, including risks that none of the life insurance companies would accept. Think of it! A 90 per cent. lower mortality record on "rejected cases" than is maintained by the life insurance companies on "approved risks"!

My personal experience has taught me to rely on the Christian Science method of healing as superior to any other, notwithstanding the fact that I hold the members of the medical fraternity in great respect, believing them to be noble men, who have sacrificed much for their calling and have done all they could to alleviate suffering and sickness.

In the light of the foregoing it seems to me unreasonable that Christian Science treatment should be censured in the case of Mrs. Corinne MacBride, when hundreds of patients are dying daily under materia medica without criticism of the doctors. Christian Scientists do not assert that they have attained a perfect understanding of the principle which "healeth all manner of diseases," but they do say, and can prove it, that with their present knowledge of the healing power of God they have been able to restore health and increase longevity in a greater proportion of cases than can be credited to any other system. CHARLES G. BLISS,

Manager Lower New York Branch Agency of the Northwestern Life Insurance Company.

NEW YORK, May 25.

WOMAN'S POLITICAL POWER.

A Protest Against the Idea of Legislation by Fascination.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It seems to be the general opinion of men and anti-suffrage women that women if allowed to vote would lose the respect of men and sister women; that the voting places are not desirable places for women to frequent, and that it is not proper for women to have ideas and opinions of how the government should be run, or what laws are necessary for good government. Woman's place, it is often said, is in the home, performing the drudgery of keeping house and supplying the country with properly brought up targets for its enemies. In that capacity she holds the respect of the world.

Recently women have come to believe that they have "political power"; so when a bill comes before the Legislature in which they are personally interested they go in mobs to the capital and hypnotize the Governor and Senators into passing or vetoing the bills, according to their wishes. They hold meetings, circulate petitions, act as lobbyists and storm the lawmakers and Mayors of the State and cities in such noisy and disorderly crowds that the police are called out to preserve order and to protect the men in the performance of their political duties. This condition of political rights for women is considered legitimate and respectable. THE SUN asked the other day:

Would even the triumphant schoolma'ams care to say that a mixed body of lawmakers, a Legislature composed in part of women elected by women, would have fallen victims so easily to their arguments and their charms?

It is my opinion that the women of the United States who are advocating political equality would much prefer that the bills which apply to women should be passed by the Legislatures on their merit and because of their justice rather than that their own feminine charms should dazzle susceptible lawmakers into voting for such bills. And I believe that they would consider it a great deal more respectable to go quietly and unostentatiously to the voting polls and drop a ballot for the candidate who would be most likely to work for their interests and represent them in the government of the country than to be held up in a mob by a regiment of New York police while trying to persuade the Mayor to sign a bill which is of vital interest to them. The "uncertain good that might come with political duties" would be considered simple justice by suffrage women and more desirable. No self-respecting suffrage woman would care to know that a bill had been voted for and passed, not because it was a just bill, but because the Senators had fallen victims to her feminine charms. No self-respecting American woman can be satisfied with such questionable "political powers."

Is not the American woman exercising the franchise as her right and in her own person, which is more in harmony with our American idea of independence, more to be respected and admired than the "spider woman" of the Marie Corelli type? GRACE L. MACDONALD.

MONTCLAIR, N. J., May 24.

Are the Seventh Avenue Elms in Danger?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is reported that Seventh avenue is to be stripped of all its fine elm trees from 110th street to the Harlem River in order to create a boulevard. Is it possible that New York will sit still and allow such an outrage to be perpetrated? A few years ago a great hue and cry was raised when two or three elms were removed at the Plaza Circle to make room for a better view of the Sherman statue. What shall be said when it is proposed to cut down all the trees along one of the broadest and finest avenues in the world, narrow the sidewalks, plant "bushes" in the middle and call the altered avenue a boulevard?

Look at Broadway to-day above Fifty-ninth street and think of what it was before the subway destroyed its beauty. That vandalism was excusable in a manner on account of the demand for better transit facilities, but here we have a diabolical scheme to obliterate a beautiful avenue on the pretence of improving it.

NEW YORK, May 25. A. H. HALLOCK.

Semi-Official.

Knicker—The *Review of Reviews* denies that the President is sick.

Bocker—But it can't deny that the rest of us are.

Roundabout.

Knicker—Did the gypsy tell your fortune?

Bocker—Yes, she said the President was going to make a speech.