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The West and the Forest Policy.

We hereby acknowledge the debt of the entire East to the editor of the Rico News for his able exposition of the forestry and land question from the point of view of the entire West.

Notwithstanding Mr. LINTHICUM's forceful presentation of the matter as he sees it, we are not yet ready to withdraw our approval of the President's policy regarding the forests and the public lands.

Student Freedom.

The eloquent discourse on academic freedom delivered before the Phi Beta Kappa of Cornell University by President CHARLES WILLIAM ELIOT, and printed in full in a recent Harvard Bulletin, will surely arouse discussion, not on account of the obvious truth of the generalizations, but for what will be read between the lines.

There is no hint, for instance, in the discussion about the free choice of studies that the elective system as administered at Harvard is in danger of collapsing, or that under it the students' choices have not been wholly satisfactory.

It is to the matter of the student's personal freedom, however, that we wish to call attention now. What is desirable could not be put better than in Dr. ELIOT's words: "The student ought to find himself free to determine the method of his daily life with no more restrictions than the habits and customs of civilized society necessarily impose."

With the idea of freedom of choice of studies was bound up the idea that the student should be free to apportion his own time to them. Marking at recitations and compulsory attendance were done away with and teacher and student were left free to deal with their subject on broad lines.

Next the Boston Brahmins became alarmed at the rate their weaker hopefuls were being eliminated by natural processes, and the demand came for "frequent tests," that once more turned the minds of teachers and students from scholarships to marks.

simply to boost along the personal advantages of men whose only trade is politics. There are many complaints, too, about the laxity of the management of the park which permits a very large proportion of loafers, loafers and cheap grafters to make their headquarters there, jolling on the benches, ogling respectable women who take their children out for an airing, and soiling the walks with filth from their mouths.

Charges have been made recently that a large proportion of the employees of the parks in all the boroughs of the city, who invariably get their jobs through political influence, are not making an adequate return to the public for the wages they get.

The one branch of the city government above all others that should be kept free from politics is the Park Department. Nothing is more precious to the people or more salutary for this overcrowded community than its open spaces, which represent such an enormous investment of the public funds.

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Curiously enough, the half dozen Harvard classes that were left free show more than their proportion of men who have attained distinction in their callings or in public life.

The result was that those who had permits for the City Hall Park received concessions from the city which gave them a great advantage over their competitors who had not been so fortunate in obtaining privileges for free space in the park.

Now that Commissioner HERMAN has made a start in this direction it would be well for him to continue the good work in other city parks.

and the plunge into the realities of life put off till the wiser age of twenty-two. Distrusted even more by faculty and parents alike is the opportunity for scholarly leisure, stigmatized as "waste of time," which to many observers seems the best part of college life.

It would seem self-evident that the form of academic freedom which President ELIOT defines so clearly should be introduced into the larger universities of the East at least; the West, we imagine, possesses more of it. The continuance of the elective system on a scholarly basis, at any rate, seems to depend on the student's full command of his own time.

The New China.

Educated foreigners in China are writing with great hopefulness of the mighty transformation now in progress there. Changes all along the line will include extensive revision of the map of China, and it is interesting to read what the learned Father RICHARD reports of the present and the future maps in his recently published "Manuel de Géographie de la Chine."

He says that for the most part our map of China is what it was three centuries ago. It is incomplete and inexact. The further his studies progressed the better he realized that it is yet impossible to publish a scientific account of the geography of China.

The latest to speak favorably of the new educational system which China is putting into operation is Mr. WILLIAMS, secretary of the American Legation at Peking. He describes the various difficulties in spite of which the system has been inaugurated in every province and now bids fair to make rapid development.

Some Arkansasyer Words. It is easy to grow tired of words. Most men's vocabularies are scanty. Every professional writer must have a sense of working the same old treadmill.

As according to the latest telegrams no fewer than 20,000 soldiers have been despatched from the north to Languedoc in addition to the large force already assembled there, there should be no doubt of the Government's ability to restore and maintain order in Narbonne, Montpellier, Perpignan and the other centres of disturbance, provided, of course, a spirit of disaffection should not spread among the troops.

Until the excitement in the southern Departments has died away entirely and the Mayors and other functionaries who resigned shall have returned to duty or been replaced by trustworthy officials, there will remain the danger of a bloody collision between the troops and the rioters that may have calamitous results.

When we recall what gray and prolonged trouble was caused by the uprisings in Brittany and La Vendée against the Convention, we must recognize that the present republican régime will de-

serve much credit if what almost amounts to an insurrection in three Departments shall have been quelled in a fortnight. Among the interesting efforts to obviate the grosser abuses to which the Italian immigrants are subjected on reaching this sort of work of the Labor Information for Italians at 56 Lafayette street deserves attention.

The valuable gift of books which Kaiser WILHELM has made to Harvard and to Columbia is notable as giving further evidence of his keen personal interest in spreading German ideals in the United States. It is interesting to read what the learned Father RICHARD reports of the present and the future maps in his recently published "Manuel de Géographie de la Chine."

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THE CREED OF TO-MORROW.

Mr. George S. Merriam's Conception of a Dawning Religion. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—In the lucid and suggestive letters of Professor Goldwin Smith to THE SUN the question recurs: In the inevitable waning of respect for miracles, authority and dogma, what is to be the new religion for a religion to work and live by?

The doctrines of the Christian Church, however composite in their origin, are one aspect of the expression—somehow crude; if you please, somewhat outgrown—of experience in human lives which have lasting and vital significance. Let us try to distinguish the kernel from the shell.

It is a cold and barren proposition until by action it is translated into terms of life. That was always the aim of real Christianity. It is the aim of all true religion—to create and foster a holy life.

So again the deification of Christ has as its inner meaning that it offers a sublime and inspiring ideal of the holy life. Give up the miracle story, from the birth to the resurrection, and you have still, in the character represented to the world's imagination and heart by the name of Christ, an embodiment of moral nobility, of service and tenderness.

Perhaps all the great doctrines of the Church have some such vital core. Prayer is just the conscious setting of the will in a supreme pursuit of the highest kind. Fasting is the realization, oftenest by the help of some human hand and heart, that the worst evil may be sloughed off and left behind.

The last century has discovered evolution. That amazing process acts and does not favor the individual. As observed, it does not favor an easy optimism. The seeming sacrifice of the individual to the type, the fallen lying always before the victors, hushes and humbles the beholder.

It is a sentiment, delicate and profound, so sacred that it lives for the most part in silence. It is the inspiration of Dante; it is the theme of "In Memoriam"; it is part of the message which makes Browning dear. It has been whispered by many dead and living, and it is being heard in closest communion with us—a reality too profound for word or thought, but an incomparable source of energy and peace, of hope and joy.

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Other phases of mankind's new spiritual development crowd upon the pen. There is the effort to conceive and realize daily toil not as slavery or drudgery, but as education, as character building force, as social service. There is that sympathy with all sentient life which takes even the brute creation into full sympathy. We need not prolong the depiction.

Our outlook upon the world is by right incomparably more cheerful than that of our fathers. We have learned that growth is a law of the universe. The Divine Energy is recognized as working in and through ourselves. "With the great gifts of God we encompass the earth." We see that evil, however perplexing to the intellect, is a perpetual challenge to the will. The com-

bat exacts a heavy price, but offers great prizes—fortitude, sympathy, tenderness, spiritual victory. In a world so friendly as ours we are not to be led by the nose. We accept humor as an essential trait of manhood. When the hero's battle cry has led to triumph we are glad that he should be at ease and his lungs should draw like chandelier's.

These elements, old and new, of the religion visibly dawning among men—it is strange that in their wealth and variety they have not compressed and formulated into neat little verbal symbols? And shall we be mistaken in the instrumentalities for their practical expression take time in the evening—even in busiest New York and under the shadow of the Vatican we can see the new life moulding its organs? Already chaotic as the times may seem, the loyal will and aspiring soul not and infinite soil and genial climates. Already, though across decades or centuries, we can see the universal religion into which the older creeds dissolve—"as morning drinks the morning star."

ERROR OF A REVOLUTIONIST. Minas Geraes Not a Promising Place for a Revolt. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—It appears that several banking houses of this city have received a typewritten circular sent by a certain De Magalhães, who states his purpose of capturing the State of Minas Geraes, Brazil, and that the revolution should throw its superior authorities. I have read very carefully the fantastic proposals of De Magalhães and enjoyed very much the good humor and conclusion of your paper when you say that the banks and the State of Minas Geraes, Brazil, are not to be taken into consideration by them by this new fashioned filibuster. No doubt he will be the laughing stock of the bankers troubled by his nonsensical propositions.

It happens that a great number of capitalists of this country are not familiar with the true conditions of Brazil, a nation that is coming forward with deliberate and patriotic energy. I feel inclined to inform your readers that the State of Minas Geraes, Brazil, is not a promising place for a revolution. The enterprise of De Magalhães is the most populated State of the Brazilian republic, having more than 5,000,000 people, and besides ranks as one of the best administered sections of the country. De Magalhães has not informed us of the police garrisons of the State. He thinks there are only eighty-five police troops, but when he sees that the police of the State number effectively 1,900 men, no doubt he will end his circular by saying that he has asked the State of Minas Geraes for 100 to 2,000 at least. De Magalhães must think, too, of the State militia and the Federal troops garrisoned there.

The Neglect of Alcoholism. TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN:—The remarks on alcoholism by Dr. M. S. Gregory, the resident alienist of Bellevue, and by Dr. S. T. Armstrong, the resident alienist of St. Elizabeth's, are well known. They know, and their simple statements cover conditions that cannot well be put in words. Alcoholism in its various forms is not only the most difficult to perpetrate problem with which you have dealt in New York, but alcoholism in its various stages is the most vital problem affecting humanity. It is the curse of the world, and it is not only neglected as a disease but it is unwittingly and carelessly treated. It is a disease and one that is spreading, and might well be called the most dreadful infectious and contagious disease, compared with which the other great scourges are but trifles. It is a disease which is spreading, and might well be called the most dreadful infectious and contagious disease, compared with which the other great scourges are but trifles. It is a disease which is spreading, and might well be called the most dreadful infectious and contagious disease, compared with which the other great scourges are but trifles.

White Paint for the White House. From the Washington Post. The annual cleaning of the White House is under way. A large force of painters is now at work on the structure, and pretty much all of the four months the President is absent will be utilized in renovating and cleaning the exterior of the old building.

Birds Cutting Away Court House Pillars. Widespread correspondence Indianapolis News. Birds are cutting away the pillars of the Federal county Court House, which has long been regarded as one of the most handsome county capital buildings in the State. The exterior is constructed of limestone, and the interior of brick. The birds are pecking into the stone for gravel. In consequence many of the pillars on the second and third floors have been found to be hollow. Several hundred pigeons have made their homes in the belfry for years. The County Commissioners will take some action at the next regular session to limit the danger of porters of the building falling down.

Can Candidate Will Be No. 13. Ashford City correspondent Niles American. In the race for County Register, to succeed Dr. I. B. Walton, who was buried last Sunday, there are just an even dozen candidates up to date, and it is said that other announcements will be made by the County Court at its July term. However, the so-called voters and magicians have given it out that there will be no other announcements for the reason that the next name to announce would be the thirteenth candidate, and "bad luck" to him. The "dark horses" that are tied out in the business will no doubt remain where they are, since it is afraid to mention the name of the candidate who would be labelled "No. 13."

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