The Sun.

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1907.

Entered at the Postoffice at New York as Second Class Matter.

Subscriptions Will Prepaid:

Daily, per month $0 50
Daily, per year 6 00
DOMINICA, per year 1 00
Daily, foreign countries, per year 6 00
Daily, single copies, each 1c
Postage to foreign countries added.

Published by the Publisher and Proprietor Charles A. Dana, President, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York, Frederick Seward, Treasurer, of the Corporation, Frederick Seward, 1 Spruce street.

Home Office of the Sun Building. The Sun and Evening Sun offices are on file at Washington in care the Postal Telegraph Co. Tourists and non-residents in Washington can have The Sun and Evening Sun delivered at any address in the city by the Postal Telegraph Co.

If any people who have money to invest in enterprises wish to have it misapplied they should go to some other paper than The Sun.

An Inquiry as to the Morals of the Invincible Pacific Project.

An attempt to trace the workings of a mind in its relation to the unfortunate idea of concentrating practically the entire naval force of the United States in the Western Ocean will be found in the following paragraphs, accompanied by the necessary citations.

In the crowded chronology of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S activities, it is scarcely remembered now that he spent two weeks of the spring of 1903 in haranguing the citizens of California upon the duties, opportunities and destinies. Between May 7 and May 20 of that year the President delivered in that State no fewer than fifty-two carefully prepared addresses, to say nothing of the uncounted incidental remarks to the people from cars and carriage. In the volume of oratory and in the variety and novelty of the policies conceived under the inspiration of new surroundings and a nervously stimulating atmosphere, we are not sure that the record of that fortnight has ever been surpassed, even by Mr. ROOSEVELT himself. This question, however, is immaterial.

At the Mechanics' Pavilion in San Francisco, on May 13, Mr. ROOSEVELT first outlined that theory of the future domination of the Pacific which hitherto to the western coast and his constant desire to say things locally agreeable and productive of immediate applause had suggested to his mind while writing this speech. He then said:

"Before I came to the Pacific Slope I was an expansionist (applause), and after having been here I fail to understand how any man conscious of his country's greatness and glad that his country should challenge with proud confidence the mighty future can be anything but an expansionist. (Applause.) In the century that is opening the commerce and the command of the Pacific will be factors of incalculable moment in the world's history."

The President then briefly recited the history of the transfer of sea power from Tyre and Sidon to Athens and Rome and Venice and Genoa in the Mediterranean; to the cities of the Netherlands and the Hanseatic ports; to England, Spain, Portugal and France, making the Atlantic Ocean to the greater modern world what the Mediterranean had been to the lesser world of antiquity; and he went on to say:

"Now, men and women of California, in our own day the greatest of all the oceans, of all the seas, and the last to be used on a large scale by civilized man, bids fair to become in its turn the first in importance. (Applause.) The empire that shifted from the Mediterranean will in the lifetime of those now children bid fair to shift once more westward to the Pacific. * * * America's geographical position on the Pacific is such as to insure our peaceful domination of its waters in the future if only we grasp with sufficient resolution the advantages of that position."

It will be observed that up to this point Mr. ROOSEVELT had been speaking exclusively of the victories of commerce, of the fleets of a mercantile navy, of the "peaceful" domination of the Pacific; and his programme had not differed much from that which the late JOHN HAY, with infinite patience and remarkable diplomatic skill, had devoted so much of his official life to promoting along the line of peaceful development. But Mr. HAY probably thought less about battleships and gunpowder in ten years than Mr. ROOSEVELT thinks or dreams about them every ten minutes of his existence, awake or asleep. It is entirely characteristic of the President's mental processes that the mention of a "peaceful domination" of Pacific waters should suggest to his mind the inevitable alternative. We accordingly find him saying in the very next breath:

"Unless we show ourselves weak, unless we show ourselves degenerate sons of the sires from whose loins we sprang, we must go on with the work we have undertaken. (Applause.) I most earnestly hope that this work will ever be of a peaceful character. We infinitely desire peace, and the surest way of obtaining it is to show that we are not afraid of war. We should deal in a spirit of justice and fairness with weaker nations, and we should show to the strongest that we are able to maintain our rights. Such showing cannot be made by bluster, for bluster merely invites contempt. * * * We must keep on building and maintaining a thoroughly efficient navy, with plenty of the best and most formidable ships, with an ample supply of officers and men, and with those officers and men trained in the most efficient fashion to perform their duties. Only thus can we assure our position in the world at large. It behooves all men of lofty soul fit and proud to belong to a mighty nation to see to it that we keep our position in the world; for our proper place is with the great expanding peoples, with the peoples that dare to be great, that accept with confidence a plan of leadership in the world. All our people should take that position, but especially you of California, you of the Pacific Slope, for much of our expansion must go through the Golden Gate. (Applause.) And inevitably you who are seated by the Pacific must take the lead in and must profit by the growth of American influence along the coasts and among the islands of that mighty ocean, when East and West finally become one."

On May 14, at the dedication of the navy memorial monument in San Francisco, Mr. ROOSEVELT took up the thread of his remarks of the preceding day upon naval preparedness for peaceful domination of the Pacific:

"If we want our children to have the chance of dedicating monuments of this kind in the event of war, we must see that the navy is made ready in advance. (Applause.) And good though it is to erect this monument, it is better still to go on with the building up of the navy which gave the monument to us, and which, if we ever give it a fair chance, can be relied upon to do its part in any needed contingency. * * * The citizens of the Pacific Coast, and all our citizens, should make it a matter of prime duty to see that there is no halt in the work, the next Congress, and the Congress after that, and the Congress after that go right on with providing formidable war ships, whose unswerving guns hold out destiny to the right."

Perhaps we have made these extracts long enough to indicate how it may have been that in Mr. ROOSEVELT'S mind, as he stood upon the Slope gazing out upon the eastern ocean and listening to the applause of his California admirers, the idea of a purely commercial domination of the Pacific became inextricably tangled with thoughts of a plenty of battleships of the most formidable kind, and plenty of hammering guns. Some Hay or intellect had mixed altogether the relation between commercial expansion and a terrifying display of armed force for the instruction of other Powers bordering upon the ocean which it was proposed to dominate.

Are we mistaken in supposing that here were the beginnings of the insensate project to strip the Atlantic coast of its naval safeguards in order to go swaggering around the Pacific, in a Presidential year, with a practically useless and probably provocative "object lesson" of sea power?

Mexico and Venezuela.

Apropos of the recent revival of an old and somewhat tiresome quarrel with Venezuela, or rather with President CASTRO, it is interesting to consider for a moment the vast difference between this nation's attitude toward PORFIRIO DIAZ in 1877 and its attitude a quarter of a century later toward CIPRIANO CASTRO. In the first mentioned instance the United States Government went out of its way to discover and to arrest a conspiracy against DIAZ. The Escobedo-Mexia expedition was halted on the Texas side of the Rio Grande, the arms, munitions, &c., procured in New York were turned back, and in fact the entire enterprise was effectually crushed. In the case of Venezuela, although the conspiracy against CASTRO was quite as notorious and perhaps even more formidable, the United States winked industriously at everything.

Thus PORFIRIO DIAZ, protected by our solicitude against domestic agitation and possessed of a native genius of construction, was enabled to build up Mexico and make it the splendid, opulent and homogeneous nation it is to-day. On the other hand CIPRIANO CASTRO, perhaps as wise a man as DIAZ, as passionate a patriot and as competent a soldier, has been harassed by intestine agitations of purely exotic contrivance with the United States Government looking on in sardonic pretence of impartiality. The Matos revolution was inspired and financed in New York city by the Bermudez Asphalt Company. The Escobedo-Mexia expedition of 1877 was not inspired but to a certain extent it was financed in this same town. The difference is that our highly remarkable Government in 1902 exhibited a spirit of connivance which the stupid, old fashioned Government of 1877 seemed to regard with suspicion and disapproval. To put it in a nutshell, so to speak, our official authorities were at one time ready to conspire against a foreign Government, whereas at another time they disclosed a perfectly proper and admirable hostility to such connivance. So it happens that in the philosophy of our generation PORFIRIO DIAZ is a great man and CIPRIANO CASTRO a pestiferous disturber.

Thirty years ago the United States Government employed its activities and exerted its vast power in the interest of peace, tranquillity and beneficence. Under that dispensation Mexico was redeemed from barbarism and lifted to a proud place in the council of the nations. During the last six years our Government has lent itself to incendiary agitation in Venezuela, a nation with which we are on presumably friendly terms and it whose welfare we are or should be equally concerned.

Why befriend Mexico and help to persecute Venezuela? Is this a Government of principle or a Government of impulse and caprice?

Signs of Change in China.

According to a telegram from Pekin dated September 4 the Empress Dowager, who has had two apoplectic strokes, has determined to do what she can in the short remnant of life at her disposal to improve the foreign relations and the internal condition of China. With these ends in view YUAN SHI KAI, at present Viceroy of the province of Chili, has been made a member of the Board of Foreign Affairs and a Grand Councillor of the Fourth Class. CHANG CHI TUNG, the principal representative of the throne in the Yangtse region, has also been appointed a Grand Councillor of the Fourth Class. Both of these magnates were lately summoned to the capital to consult with the Empress Regent concerning the method of checking the alarming growth of anti-Manchu sentiment in the Middle Kingdom.

There is no doubt that since the loss of the Liaotung peninsula and Formosa, the renunciation of China's historic suzerainty over Corea and the establishment of Japanese and Russian spheres of influence in Manchuria the prestige of the Manchu dynasty, which has ruled the Chinese for about two and a half centuries, has almost disappeared and there is a widespread desire for its dethronement and expulsion. In the hope of rehabilitating it in the eyes of its subjects the Empress Dowager now contemplates, it is said, an amalgamation of the Chinese with the Manchus, who have been kept carefully distinct ever since the latter followed their princes to the conquest of the Celestial Empire. Suggestions as to the best mode of attaining this object were recently called for by the acting sovereign, and we are told that a number of them have been adopted. Of the proposed innovations the chief are: First, the disbandment of the Manchu Banner Troops, which hitherto have always constituted a separate organization; the abolition of their pensions, which have long been a burden on the imperial exchequer, and the submersion of their officers in the regular army. Secondly, making the daughters of Chinamen of the upper classes eligible to marry into the imperial family, the promise of a future Chinese-Manchu Emperor being held out. In the third place Chinese women are no longer to be permitted to bind up their feet, so that the difference in appearance between them and Manchu women may be effaced. Finally, Manchus are to be required to take surnames, like Chinamen. It is probable enough that if the measures are carried out Manchus and Chinese will in the course of a generation become amalgamatingly kissable to the eye, though a much longer period will doubtless be needed to endow the relatively backward Manchus with equal aptitude for education and civilization. The attempt, however, is worth making, with the aim of averting the racial war which for some time has seemed imminent.

As regards the scheme of government, the Empress Regent proposes, we are informed, to recast the departments of central administration, to transform the Grand Secretariat, which has been purely decorative since the days of the Ming dynasty, into a modern Cabinet, and finally, to prepare China for a constitution and for the gradual admission of the Chinese people to the enjoyment of representative institutions.

If this plan of political reform has really commended itself to the Empress Regent she could not have a better coadjutor than YUAN SHI KAI, who in his administration of the viceroyalty of Chili has shown himself the most liberal and progressive of Chinese statesmen and who for that reason and because he has at his disposal a large and disciplined army was at one time fixed upon for the task of restoring Chinese authority in the three Manchurian provinces. He would be still more useful at the centre of affairs, and at the last moment the Empress Regent seems to have recognized this fact. Her other new councillor, CHANG CHI TUNG, has long been the most influential official in the vast Yangtse Valley, and as a consummate master of Confucian, Mencian and other classical lore commands the respect and deference of all the *literati*. He is therefore peculiarly qualified to overcome the opposition of the more conservative Chinese to drastic changes in the system of education and administration. He believes in the partial adoption of Western ideas and methods, but he is no headlong reformer and therefore is likely to prove a useful yoke fellow to YUAN SHI KAI, who if left to himself might be disposed to go too fast and too far.

If these political and social reforms are pushed energetically we may expect soon to witness a good deal of progress toward the consolidation and regeneration of China. Suspicion and jealousy of the designs of the Tokio Government seem to have been the impelling motives of the trenchant change in the attitude of the Empress Dowager. Her pride, like that of her subjects, revolts at the possibility of gradual absorption within the dominions of Japan, in their eyes a *parvenu* among civilized countries.

Nantucket Should Be Spared the Automobile.

The corresponding secretary of the Civic League of Nantucket, resenting an aspersion that the off shore people are old fogies because they will not have devil wagons racing up and down their one little strip of macadam between "the old gray town" and Sconset, declares that, on the contrary, the Nantucketers are ahead of the times and want airships. They already have wireless telegraphy. The corresponding secretary waxes eloquent on the subject of aerial navigation. He says:

"Nantucketers are impatiently waiting for the passing of the automobile and the coming into general use of the airship. They can readily see what a boon it will be to them when it comes. Nantucket may not only appear upon the maps as a prominent station between New York and Paris and Berlin, but it will see an end of its isolation. No longer will it have to worry over ice embargoes, no longer to depend upon a steamboat monopoly that cares little for its welfare and comfort. The airship has for its people great promise; and as yet they have not begun seriously to dread the troubles which the airhog may let drop upon them. Indeed, such a boon will aerial navigators prove to the island that its people stand ready to welcome the airship's general utilization at the earliest moment; but now and always they will oppose the introduction of a machine for which they have no use."

Nantucket has had two stages of development. For a century and more its hardy sons hunted the whale in the seven seas; and in the little museum tacked onto the Quaker meeting house you shall see the tokens of their prowess duly exhibited and catalogued. After the rise and fall of sperm oil and the by-products of the whale came the summer boarder era, and the boom is still on. Ten thousand Americans, more or less, visit Nantucket and sojourn there between June and October of each year, filling its narrow lanes, picking blooms on its moors, laving in its waters warmed by the Gulf Stream, and snapshotting the town crier. Nantucketers will always have with them the summer boarders from the American mainland and will entertain him at prices that defy competition, for Wood's Hole is thirty miles away. Enter the airship, inaugurating a third period of prosperity.

Runs to Nantucket from the Continent for clam, scallop, lobster and green cod suppers will become the fashion. Launched from a hundred story garage in New York, the trip will be made in one afternoon and the return before midnight with port and starboard lights lit. Immense modern caravansaries to feed the people who alight from the flocking airships will be built at Wauwinet, Muskeget, Sconset and Surfside, and real estate will sell at fabulous prices the front foot. The Pittsburg millionaire will then yield primacy to him of Nantucket. Big transatlantic liner airships will make a stopping place of Nantucket to drop off its plutocrats and take them up when outward bound. Rich mould will be brought from the mainland to transform Nantucket into an oasis in the bleak seas, and the oak forests of other days will be restored to her. Deer will roam her private parks and fountains play in the public squares of the seagirt Paris of the New World. In some nook or other of the Nantucket museum you will doubtless find all these glories predicted in the leaves of some Indian city of the seventeenth century.

But Nantucket will have none of the automobile, and who that knows her simple ways, her ancient customs and the delightful isolation which is her greatest charm can blame her? May the only honk ever heard in her cobbled streets and her great waste places be the cry of the migrating sea fowl.

The Hell So at His Feet.

President ROOSEVELT has much to find fault with in this hardheaded world, but surely he must approve the harmonious and stalwart loyalty of the organs. Ever since he made it known that he preferred the Hon. WILLIAM J. BRYAN of all others as the Democratic nominee for now those organs have ravished every ear with a chorus of unpassing symmetry. Republican organs in fine frenzy rolling have split the welkin at least once daily. "Independent" organs (or euphemism thereof) have been distanced only by a nose. And "Democratic" organs, such as the *Tennessean* of Nashville, the *Times-Democrat* of New Orleans, the *Trombone* of Jefferson, the *Bungstarter* of Frog Level and many others of quite equal worth play up to the imperial keynote with a zeal beyond description.

Colonel ROOSEVELT wants BRYAN as his antagonist, which is intelligible enough. There might be uncertainties and obstacles in any other case, but in the case of BRYAN it seems to be a cinch. And so the ranks close up in serried form.

This isn't all, though it ought to be enough. For while JACK ABERNATHY, who catches wolves with his hands, and BEN DANIELS, who did something funny with another man's horse, and GEORGE CURRY, who baffled the bloodthirsty Pulajanes by the simple expedient of taking to the tangled bush, and others too numerous to mention are swearing by the great horn spoon that THEODORE ROOSEVELT is the only human being who can save us from the Octopus, there are NORMAN E. MACK and the Hon. JIM GRIGGS and the still more Hon. Somebody Else who vow, promise and declare that WILLIAM J. BRYAN is the heaven born and only available champion of Democracy.

Immersed in the guarded security of Sagamore Hill Mr. THEODORE ROOSEVELT contemplates these tempestuous demonstrations with a contented eye. Apparently he can dictate both the Republican and the Democratic nominations. What more could the most godlike person ask?

We are not going to have Government ownership; we are not going to follow demagogues. In fact, we are not going to seriously interfere at all with the business of the railroads.—*The Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON.*

Mr. CANNON'S language seems to border on sedition.

Representative MCKINNEY of Illinois has returned from the Philippines with the following conviction:

"If the Filipinos would show half the enthusiasm about agriculture that they do about politics they would help to solve the problem of the future of the islands."

Secretary TAFT could tell Mr. MCKINNEY that enthusiasm about agriculture comes rather hard with a subjugated people whose agricultural products the Dingley law discriminates against.

We uncover cordially in the presence of JAMES BELLOWS MCGREGOR, that fine old gentleman who at the age of 106 sits at the head of the table in Mount Sunapee, N. H. He must be a puzzle to Dr. WILEY, who tells us how hygiene and sanitation have increased the span of life in the last decade or two; and Dr. OSLER must regard JAMES BELLOWS MCGREGOR as a survival of the unfittest. Born within a mile of where he lives, reading print without glasses, and remembering distinctly the inauguration of JAMES MADISON, he has fought the good fight against the deadly microbe and triumphed over all the ills that his flesh was heir to. Three times a day for more than a century he has emptied his plate without knowing whether he was taking enough proteids and carbohydrates into his system. Physical culture has been a blank to him. All his life that ignorant old man has been defying the laws of health as laid down by our popular specialists in hygiene and diet. There is no knowing how long he would live if he had always known how to live.

Sitting in the Circuit Court of Accomac county, Virginia, there is a Judge with the fine old professional name of BLACKSTONE, who, in open court, after denying a motion for a change of venue in the case of the negro UZZLE, charged with rioting, thus characterized the act of the Governor of Virginia in sending the militia to Onancock to keep the peace when the local authorities had made no requisition for them:

"It was the act of a spectacular Governor who is frequently given to spontaneous combustions."

Whether Judge BLACKSTONE is right or not about the ability of the Sheriff of Accomac to protect its citizens we shall not presume to say, but we submit that in a day when illustrious examples of spontaneous combustion are not uncommon BLACKSTONE, J., was rather hard on Governor SWANSON.

The topographic map of New York State when completed will include 264 sheets, of which 211 have thus far been published. At the present rate of progress it will be years before the fifty-three remaining sheets are brought out, for the surveys upon which the sheets are based are advancing very slowly. In the coming year, for example, it is planned to complete only two sheets and to make progress with the surveys for only four other sheets.

Ohio's topographic survey, on the other hand, is making rapid headway, because the State is contributing liberally to the cost of it. Our Legislature, however, is not impressed with the need of making any haste in this matter, and as the Federal Survey will spend no more of its money to complete the mapping of New York than the State itself appropriates, the new sheets are not accumulating very fast.

We got along somehow for many years without a single map that showed our interior cities exactly in their proper places. It is certain, however, that a first rate, large scale wall or atlas map of New York can never be made until the great topographic map of the State is completed. The engineers who planned and the contractors who will materialize the Catskill addition to our city water supply have found the Catskill sheets a valuable accessory to their work; and every sheet of the completed map of the State will be practically useful.

A Necessity.

If Cupid and the summer girl
Continue with their flings
He'll need, before the season ends,
A clearing house for rings.

"A GOOD TIME TO DIE."

To THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: There is one definite result which "my policies" have already achieved. Within the area in our country in which death taxes, inheritance taxes and such things prevail "my policies" have brought it about that the present time is a good time in which to die.

Reputable mentors of the New York Stock Exchange have computed and lent to their customers a statement in defiance of the depreciation within the last seven months (only one month more than half a year) be it noted of security investments sold and bought on the Boston, New York and Philadelphia exchanges. The other great cities are not included. Nor are shares in banks and trust companies in the these cities or anywhere else. Real estate, shares and bonds of trusts, industrial corporations, department stores and the like are not mentioned.

The depreciation in the last seven months in the market value of only shares and bonds dealt in on the exchanges of only the three cities named amounts to three thousand millions of dollars!

No railway has been so honest, conservative, law respecting and wise as to have escaped. The inference is that banking corporations and all the industrial corporations, organized or enlarged after McKinley's inauguration in 1897, which flourished under the influence of the gold standard, the Dingley tariff, the laws then enacting and their execution by him have met a similar fate.

Ordinary intelligence must, it seems to me, be quite unable to take in the tremendous figures which express the total depreciation caused by "my policies."

However that may be, it is certainly, in the sense of death taxes, a good time to die, however hard a time it may be for the taxing States or the taxing nation.

Those taxes are a definite percentage of the fair market value of the property of the deceased appraised as of the date of death. On the estate of one dying to-day the taxes will be three-quarters, a half, or a quarter of what they would have been had death come three-quarters of a year ago.

Similarly it may be fairly assumed that if the Republican party leaders shall in the next Republican national convention thoroughly repudiate "my policies" and prevail in the elections of 1908, and a taxpayer's decease shall be postponed till the repudiation has had time to take effect, his death taxes will be greatly increased.

In any event this is for the taxpayer and in a taxing sense a good time to die, while "my policies" are in full fruition.

It is probable that in regard to "my policies" the percentage of Democrats—White House-Bryan Democrats—who favor them is about the same as the percentage of Republicans—Roosevelt-Taft Republicans—who really favor those policies.

The Democratic party as a party is quite negligible, as I forecast the political weather. Everything depends on the Republican party and its next national convention. If it upholds "my policies" the White House Democrats under Bryan will fall into the line, and the good time to die will continue. But if the next Republican national convention shall repudiate "my policies" and put in nomination candidates befitting such repudiation, then all Democrats not White House Democrats under Bryan will be likely to stand by the repudiation and there will come a good time in which to live.

TUXEDO, September 7. MORGAN POST.

BELIEF IN THE SOUL.

It Must Rest on Theological Teaching, Since Science Cannot Speak With Authority.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: In a letter to THE SUN of August 25, D.D., LL.D., commenting upon Goldwin Smith's recent communication upon the subject of immortality, says that "very little attention is given to the transit of the soul," which, explained by the illustrations given, might be interpreted as the development, suspension and reappearance of consciousness. The phrase is somewhat misleading in its assumption that the soul is a separate entity, apart from all other psychical functions.

In the same issue of THE SUN "Scientist" discusses various definitions of the soul, remarking that "the first part of the problem is to define soul. Truly—and a problem it is. Define soul scientifically and you will go far to settle the question of immortality" or the persistence of individuality after physical death.

What is "soul"—is it a figure of speech? The theologist defines it as an immortal entity, absolutely and entirely distinct from the material body, therefore not dependent upon its temporary association with that body, thus settling the immortality hypothesis to his entire satisfaction. He may be right, but no proof nor even evidence is offered.

The materialist—for instance, Haeckel—defines the soul as the sum of all psychical activity, incidentally proving to his satisfaction that the psychical is a part of the physical and indissolubly connected with the physical being, ergo, the soul must necessarily perish with the body.

Alfred Binet, perhaps the most searching of modern psychologists, in an attempt to define consciousness says:

Mind is endowed with an incomplete existence, it is like form which can only be realized by its application to matter of some kind.

In conclusion Binet says:

The idealist declares "Thought creates the world": the materialist answers, "The matter of the brain creates thought." Between these two extreme opinions, the one as unjustifiable as the other in the excesses it commits, we take up an intermediate position. Looking at the balance, we see no argument capable of being placed in the scale of consciousness which may not be neutralized by an argument placed in the scale of object, and if we had to give our final verdict we should say: The consciousness and matter have equal rights, thus leaving to every one the power to place in this conception of an equality of rights the hopes of a survival of which his heart has need.

It is evident from the above that Binet finds it beyond him to discover anything which might help us in our efforts to learn the truth we seek.

We have so far been unable to isolate a "soul" as an entity apart from pure consciousness, which in its turn depends upon our nerve currents and brain cells, and which it is difficult to imagine detached therefrom; therefore unbiased reason seems unable to concede its independent existence.

That all psychological activity, including the most abstract thought, is impossible except in intimate association with matter seems to be a fair hypothesis, not to say an established fact. If this be the case it is a reasonable conclusion that belief in a "soul" which shall survive the disintegration of the body, brain, consciousness, can be justified only by the acceptance of theological teaching which, right or wrong, is entirely apart from philosophic reasoning.

BROOKLYN, September 6. L. H. STARKEY.

White and Blue Cards.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: As Washington has set the pace for Newport, it is interesting to recall a similar incident in Australia.

The Duke of Abercorn, when Governor there, gave a reception to which blue and white cards for different doors were sent, according to the social status of the invited.

A certain man received a white card, his wife a blue one; but on presenting themselves, arm in arm, the Duke's aide-de-camp objected, saying: "White and blue can't go together. "Heavens!" exclaimed the wife, "do you take us for a seidlitz powder?"

They were admitted. RUSTICUS.

NEWPORT, September 7.

A Conjecture.

There's a wondrous fascination
In the study of the stars,
So we offer a solution
Of the mystery of Mars.

It is based upon assumption
That upon that planet warm
They have government like ours
In a more developed form.

Hence those lines which we have charted
And have made into a map
Aren't canals, as some imagine,
Stretching from each polar cap.

We ourselves shall have them some day!
They are footprints graven clear
Worn by Martian politicians
Trotting up and down the sphere.

DANTE'S HELL.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: If Dante's hell, as "Theologus" in the notion with which he honors my last letter tells me, is not eternal, what is the difference between Dante's purgatory and his hell?

We all know that Dante's poem is a work, and a magnificent work, of the imagination; but has it not had a disastrous effect on the imagination, and through the imagination on the belief, of Christendom?

GLOVERS FALLS.

THE MODERN BATTLESHIPS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The proposed transfer of seven of our first class battleships to the Pacific is a matter of great gravity. It makes people wonder. Not one of Mr. ROOSEVELT'S critics with whom I have talked on the subject can give even a good guess as to why the ships should go and. They feel a malicious and simple faith that Mr. ROOSEVELT knows what he is about.

When one stops to think that our greatest commercial interests and most of our people are cities are on the Atlantic side of the continent, and that if we need a navy at all we need it most there, the mind is filled with amazement at the design of Mr. ROOSEVELT. He has hacked and filed and fretted, fluctuated and vacillated on this matter with an ease of movement that indicates instability of character in our Chief Magistrate, a lack of certainty and precision that is at variance with popular conception.

If the object of the transfer is to exhibit our ships it is foolish, because those persons who would be affected by the display are of no importance to impress. Every one else knows we have the ships.

If the demonstration is misunderstood or distrusted in a certain quarter or apprehended, we may be called on for a declaration of the why and the wherefore. If there is any idea in that quarter that the move is intended as a show of power, what will there be to prevent a similar demonstration by Japan in the Atlantic by means of the Suez Canal route? What is more calculated to impress us, if we are going into the business of impressing others, than for Japan to send a powerful fleet to the Atlantic for our observation? She can do it.

In Atlantic waters we shall have a few old and new warships, about six in all, with several unfinished in the shipyards. Our eastern coast will be practically denuded of warships. Those who have played chess know that the other fellow can move some too.

If the design is to protect the Philippines, it is a sufficient answer that Japan could take and hold them in spite of anything we could do. In a few weeks she could throw an army into them that would outnumber any that we could send there in years. A Japanese army of occupation in those islands would be able to resist us forever. We have seen Japan's power demonstrated at her doors.

Napoleon Bonaparte fatuously led his legions to Moscow. Who in advance of his campaign would have had the temerity to predict a disastrous outcome? A great genius in war, a great conqueror, self-confident, bold and enterprising, he dazzled and delighted his followers, except when he got back to Paris and was warming his hands at a fire he said: "This is better than Moscow." Had he stayed in France history would tell another story. But he failed to reckon to the end of the chapter when he planned to invade Russia. E. R. D.

New York, September 8.

THE BISHOP OF LONDON HERE.

The Eminent Episcopalian a Plain Man of the John Wesley Type.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The arrival of the Right Hon. and Right Rev. Arthur Foley Winnington-Ingram, the one hundred and tenth Bishop of London, should be an event of peculiar interest to churchmen. When the charter which brought into existence the parish of Trinity Church in the city of New York was signed by Governor Fletcher on May 6, 1697, the Right Hon. and Right Rev. Henry Compton, Bishop of London, was named as the first rector of Trinity Church, and now, after a lapse of two hundred and ten years, Dr. Winnington-Ingram, who is sixteenth in descent from Bishop Compton, the first rector of Trinity, will occupy the pulpit of Old Trinity Church.

Bishop Compton was a nobleman by birth, being the youngest son of the Earl of Northampton. In the days of Charles II. he became a cornet in a regiment of cavalry. He quitted the Army for the Church and was made Bishop of Oxford in 1674 and translated the following year to London. A courtier, he was intrusted with the education of two Queens, the Princess Mary and the Princess Anne. A man of liberal views, he wanted to unite Dissenters with the Established Church. For his opposition to Romanism he was suspended from his seat in council and from his deanery in the Chapel Royal, but he lived to officiate at the consecration of his pupil Mary and her husband William, and to see his other royal pupil Queen of England in the person of Queen Anne. Hoping to become Archbishop of Canterbury his strong claims to the primacy were twice passed over.

In the days of Bishop Compton the Church of England was spiritually dead. It never occurred to the Bishop that he should cross the ocean to give an ordained ministry to the American people. And when in the next century an Irish Bishop in the person of Berkeley landed on these shores it did not occur to the Bishop of London to give him a commission to ordain men. Years afterward when Samuel Seabury came over to seek consecration as Bishop of Connecticut it was a Bishop of London who first opposed the making of a Bishop for the United States. No wonder the Methodists of those days turned aside in disgust and begged John Wesley to give them a Bishop of their own. In the person of the present Bishop of London we have a man having everything in common with that which is good among the Methodists. Only a few weeks ago the Bishop, in spite of opposition on the part of advanced churchmen, sent a representative delegation to the Methodist Conference in London to welcome the Methodists to his diocese. Bishop Ingram is called a high churchman and a ritualist, but he is a missionary by choice, an open air preacher, and a large hearted man who like John Wesley of old claims the world as his parish.

Dr. Winnington-Ingram is England's best gift to the American people at the present time. The "common people" will hear him gladly. He comes among us in the spirit of a Wesley and a Whitfield. Bishop Compton was a statesman and a courtier and tutor to two Queens of England. Bishop Winnington-Ingram is not even head of the Anglican communion. Outside his own diocese he is merely a preacher of the Gospel and a missionary. AN ANGLO-AMERICAN CLERGYMAN.

BROOKLYN, September 6.

An Imperial Rainmaker.

Decree translated for the Shanghai Mercury.

As there has not been enough rain in Pekin We personally attended Chiashengsu and offered incense and despatched Prince Li and others repeatedly to Takaotien and Prince Tsai Hsun and others to Shihyingkung and other temples and dedicated incense. We also held special ritual services at the temples praying for rain. Thus We have been favored with enough rain now, for which we feel thankful, and We hereby express our thanks for the favor. On the 26th July We despatch Prince Li to Takaotien on our behalf to offer incense, Prince Tsai Hsun to Shihyingkung, Prince Tsai Tao to Shaohsien-miao, Duke Tsai Tse to Hsuan jen miao, Prince Pu Lun to Yiho-mio on the same date to offer incense, and We also despatch Pu Cho, an Assistant Chamberlain, to Hehluagtan and Duke Tsai Tsao to Palungtan to offer incense, and thus perform the thanksgiving services. On the same day special tables will be prepared at Takaotien and Chaloshangsu for the service. We desire further response to prayers so as to console our people.

The Fate of the Explorers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: The published reports concerning the Arctic explorers of the Mikkelsen-Leffingwell expedition seem to be somewhat exaggerated. The schooner Duchess of Bedford may be lost, but the return of one of the dog teams is not sufficient evidence that the explorers have perished. There have been several reports forwarded from the North respecting disaster to the party, but all of them have proved to be untrue, and we believe the last report needs better confirmation before its truth can be accepted. Mikkelsen and Leffingwell had planned to leave the Duchess of Bedford this spring and make a northward journey over the ice, carrying with them ample supply of provisions for four or five months. We do not think there is any cause to fear for the safety of the explorers as yet.

B. S. OSBON.

ARCTIC CLUB, New York, September 7.

The Season.

Knicker—Any changes in Washington?
Bocker—Yes; it is time for the Tennis Cabinet to be replaced by a Football Cabinet.

EFFECTS OF IMMIGRANTS.

Do They Overcrowd American Children in the Public Schools?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: For years I have been noting a want of outlook in many Americans I meet in Europe. The English, when speaking to Americans of this deficiency, compare it to that of the peasantry, but among themselves they rate it with that of the provincial Babbitts.

Considering England as the mother country, they cannot understand how our children have retrogressed so far, but to the observant American the explanation is simple. The people of the large cities are not mostly children of the British Isles, but to a great extent the refuse of Italy, Sicily, Poland, Russia and Austro-Hungary. I have no criticism to make as to the people of those countries, for the fault not to be are as good as in other parts of Europe, but we do not get the better class here as we did those of Ireland, Germany and Scandinavia.

By association in the public schools our children of immigrants are benefited, but conversely the American children suffer all the low breeding and vulgarity of the immigrant's children. It is mistaking patriotism to endeavor to equip the ignorant immigrant's children at our honest to avoid equality with the American children of intelligent parentage, for the latter lose more than the former gain, and the gain is of doubtful value and probably detrimental, as it gives them an exalted idea of their own importance and a lower idea of others, and consequently, unfits them for the work which they should do for at least some years after leaving school. At present Miss Budapest will not be a cook or do housework for Mrs. Harlem, because she attended school with Mrs. Harlem's daughter and was her social equal and mental superior in the class room. No, she will be a school teacher or a stenographer, and if the worst comes at least a solicitor or factory, but a common servant girl, no!

Now, with all her mental abilities and antipathy to study, for which she deserves great credit, she is still without culture, possesses no sense of refinement, and does not even know how to handle a knife and fork at the table. Her parents, with whom she eats her meals, do all the work usually done with these utensils by the use of their fingers and a jackknife.

Americans wishing their children to be refined and a credit to them and their country when they travel should take them from the public schools and send them to good private schools according to their means. At present there are not enough of such schools for all, but if parents show a disposition to send their children to them they will quickly multiply. This will be genuine patriotism, for it will be exalting American children to their old place, and at the same time giving the immigrant's children a chance for a better education by relieving the congestion and thereby making smaller classes for the teachers. Botany and literature might be cut from the curriculum, and cookery and housework, including sewing, substituted.

These suggestions are intended only for the larger cities and towns where there are factories, mines, &c., and which have in consequence large foreign populations. For other places the public schools are all right, as they were at one time everywhere. Mrs. Bronx will say that upon her daughter's graduation from the public school she will send her to a finishing school, where she will get all the refinement necessary. This is a mistake, for what a girl learns when a child will make a deeper impression than what she can learn later, which will be only skin deep. It would be more sensible to send the girl first to a school of refinement and afterward to a public school, but for the best culture the child's education should be commenced in the cradle, and a few dollars a month should not be considered by the well to do in employing a governess or nurse girl.

Private schools might be affiliated with the public schools and pupils of both have the privilege of competing for the normal school and for teachers' positions.

On a tour this summer through Italy, Switzerland, Germany, France, Belgium, England and Ireland I attended a great many open air concerts given by military, naval and municipal bands and was very much pleased at hearing American airs at every concert. The latest number in St. Mark's Square in Venice played at least two American pieces every evening. One evening it played a medley including, among other pieces, "The Old Folks at Home," "Massa's in the Cold, Cold Ground," "Dixie Land," finishing with "The Star Spangled Banner," and the applause was the greatest I ever heard, and it was not given by Americans only but by the Italians, the Germans, the English and in fact by all, not only those near the stand but at the cafe tables and other places all over the square. Since my return I have attended four concerts in Central Park, and in not one have I heard an American air played. I understand this is done as a matter of courtesy to the foreigners who mostly compose the audiences, but it seems to me that there should be at least three American and one Irish or Scotch and one popular air played at each concert, making five, or half of the usual number on the programme. The other five might be of the so-called classic kind, but in the making of an American citizen music comes next to language, and therefore the people should be educated in American airs. At present I notice that the young people in New York are unacquainted with American, Irish and Scotch music, which is a pity. P. O'N.

NEW YORK, September 7.

The Parable of the Tares.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir*: It seems to me that the great Ruler might, with advantage to himself and his people, read and ponder to-day the following from the thirteenth chapter of the Gospel according to St. Matthew, beginning with the twenty-fourth verse:

24. Another parable put He forth unto them, saying: The kingdom of heaven is likened unto a man which sowed good seed in his field:

25. But while men slept, his enemy came and sowed tares among the wheat, and went his way.

26. But when the blade was sprung up and brought forth fruit, then appeared the tares also.

27. So the servants of the householder came and said unto him: Sir, didst not thou sow good seed in thy field? From whence then hath it tares?

28. He said unto them: An enemy hath done this. The servants said unto him: Wilt thou then that we go and gather them up?

29. But he said Nay; *lest while ye gather up the tares, ye root up also the wheat with them.*

30. Let both grow together until the harvest; and in the time of harvest I will say to the reapers; Gather ye together first the