The Sun.

THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 1908.

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. President and Treasurer of the Association, William M. Laffan, 170 Nassau street; Secretary of the Association, Franklin Bartlett, 5 Nassau street.

Paris office, 32 Rue Louis le Grand. The daily and Sunday editions are on sale at Kiosque 12, near the Grand Hotel; Kiosque 77, Boulevard des Capucines, corner Place de l'Opéra, and Kiosque 19, Boulevard des Italiens, corner Rue Louis le Grand.

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.

Affairs in Cuba.

While we extend our compliments to Governor MAGOON on his apparent popularity in Cuba we beg leave to express the hope that he will not allow himself to be misled by "spontaneous" demonstrations of popular approval and affection. Some difficulty is experienced in getting up an extensive Cuban revolution. There is no trouble in arranging an extensive *demostracion*. Nor is it well for the American people to accept such exhibitions as a full proof of approval of our policy in the island.

There can be no doubt that some, and perhaps a large part, of the exuberance displayed at the time of Mr. MAGOON'S departure from Havana was genuine. He is in high favor with many. He has steered a middle course in his treatment of Cuban affairs. He has perhaps been overcareful lest he give offence, overconsiderate to some to whom little or no consideration should be shown. Many are indebted to him for political favors, and others live in hope for favors yet to come. These with their friends are material for a huge demonstration. It should not be said that Mr. MAGOON'S popularity is only a fruitage of political favors to certain groups or individuals, but that phase of the situation cannot wisely be disregarded. Much of his work commands unqualified approval. As a nation builder he has really done more in fifteen months than LEONARD WOOD did in twice that time.

We recall the occasion of General WOOD'S departure on May 20, 1902. The streets of the city, the balconies, the housetops were packed with enthusiastic people; the harbor was crowded with boats, steam whistles shrieked and cannon roared; the air was rent with cheers. To-day that "splendid administrator" is criticised, condemned or forgotten. He built a house of punk on a foundation of sand. TOMAS ESTRADA PALMA received a royal welcome when he reached Havana on May 11, 1902. Few gathered to bid him farewell when he left that city on October 2, 1906.

The demonstration of last Monday was a display of a Cuban characteristic if not of a Cuban habit, but it presents only one side of the situation. There is another side from which no sound is heard. Those who are familiar with the island have missed from recent notices of its affairs references to a considerable number of Cubans whose names were written large in Cuban history from 1895 to 1906. We believe that MENDEZ CAPOTE, RUIS RIVERA, DIEGO TAMAYO, PEDRO BETANCOURT, ANTONIO BRAVO and others are still living. Their permanent withdrawal from public life and political leadership is doubtful. There is always a crowd that will shout for the man in power, and there is usually another group that is silent.

Our work in Cuba is yet to be tried out. The organic laws which have recently been framed and others which are now being drafted will be the new foundation of the new Cuba. During the Palma régime THE SUN many times criticised the Cubans for their failure to draft such laws for themselves. Without them the success of their Government was impossible. With the equipment now prepared and now being prepared Cuba's chances of stable government and enduring independence are excellent if it is not prematurely left entirely to its own devices. If Cuba is to live, *libre y independiente*, the United States must have its part in building the framework as well as in laying the foundation. This is a fact which cannot be changed by Presidential edicts.

Governor MAGOON and the American people will do well to avoid an excessive elation due to noise and shoutings. It is pleasant to know that the work he has done meets with approval and recognition, but an avalanche of *vivas*, now or a year from now, is no guarantee that there has yet been established, or that a year hence there will have been established, that moral peace upon which a Cuban Government must rest if it is to endure.

The Cruises of the Galilee.

It is well known that the yacht Galilee, in the service of the department of terrestrial magnetism of the Carnegie Institution, has for two years and a half been making a magnetic survey of the Pacific Ocean. She will finish her work about May 1 next. Dr. L. A. BAUER, director of that department, announces that it is now intended to build a vessel especially designed and adapted for magnetic work. Such a vessel, in the construction of which metals that would deflect the compass needle will be practically eliminated, will greatly reduce the time consumed in the observational service and also the amount of office work required to put the results in form for publication.

The Galilee is supposed to have left New Zealand for Callao, Peru, a few days ago. Upon her return to San Francisco she will have completed her third cruise since August 1, 1905. Her three voyages, covering about 65,000 miles, embrace the Pacific Ocean from America to Asia and from the Aleutian Islands to New Zealand. In this vast region hitherto there have been very few carefully executed magnetic observations.

But along the Galilee's routes Dr. PETERS and his associates have secured a complete determination of magnetic declination, magnetic inclination and intensity of magnetic forces about every 200 to 250 miles. A chart has been prepared showing what has actually been accomplished and how far our knowledge of the distribution of the magnetic forces over the Pacific has been advanced by the cruises of the Galilee.

This work has already provided one result of much practical importance. The data supplied to the United States Hydrographic Office made it advisable to issue a new chart of magnetic declination, showing the amount of deflection from the true north of the compass needle at hundreds of ascertained positions in the Pacific. It was found that along some of the well travelled routes the error in the existing charts amounted to from one to five degrees. These are corrections of considerable importance to navigators, to say nothing of the advance of our knowledge along purely scientific lines.

It was found also that the values of the magnetic dip over the Pacific Ocean as given by the existing charts were in general too small by about one to three degrees, and the values of horizontal intensity too high by about one-twenty-fifth part. The Hydrographic Office is now preparing from the new data charts showing the lines of equal magnetic dip and equal magnetic intensity.

The department does not undertake magnetic work in regions where other institutions are carrying out the desired investigations. But such observations as the Galilee has made in the Pacific are to be extended over the other oceans, and it is expected that the new vessel will engage in this service. The department will also begin systematic work in Africa next year in association with some of the European Governments. Magnetic observations have been conducted with great energy in our own continent, and this department of the Carnegie Institution is certainly giving a great impetus to the complete resurvey of the magnetic forces all over the world.

The Future of the Metropolitan.

New Yorkers have always felt uncommon pride in the Metropolitan Opera House. It has been known over the world as the institution to which the greatest singers of the world were most eager to come. No other operatic theatre has been so international and at the same time so consistent in its demand that only the best singers of every nation should appear there. It was not sufficient that only the most famous Italian artists should be engaged; the Wagner repertory must also be entrusted to none other than the best of the German singers. Whatever may have been their success, the foremost singers of Paris were brought here to interpret the few operas of the French school acceptable to New York audiences. Thus the Metropolitan came to be not only the opera house that possessed the services of the eminent singers of the world but one in which every school was represented. Only the performances at Covent Garden in London have been conducted on this same liberal plan, but they possess no such brilliancy in detail as those of our New York opera house.

It was MAURICE GRAU who introduced this cosmopolitan character at the Metropolitan, and his successor endeavored to continue it. Neither was a man of decided sympathies with any school. Both had received their training in New York, and when they did the best for the Metropolitan it was with no foreign example in mind. They had only to live up to the best traditions of our own opera house. Whether a French impresario would have shown the same liberality to the works of other countries is no more certain than that a German manager would have been as liberal toward the operas of the Italian school. The Metropolitan has retained its unique character because it has never been under the direction of any impresario with decided national prejudices; to that is due its preeminence among the opera houses of the world.

In view of this fact it is interesting to read that the directors of the Conried Metropolitan Opera Company contemplate handing over their theatre to an impresario of a training that is provincial in comparison with the sort of experience necessary in New York. La Scala may be the first opera house of Italy, but its achievements are unimportant in comparison with the problem that confronts the direction of the Metropolitan. At the historic Italian opera house there are performed during a season of four months about eight or nine operas. In the same period here approximately thirty are sung. At La Scala the operas are all given in Italian, whatever the source of their authorship may be. Here it is the rule to perform an opera in the language of its original libretto. The Milan method of prolonging a season to four months with such a limited repertory to draw from consists in repeating as often as possible the work that meets with most public favor. Such a classic repertory as is always maintained from season to season at the Metropolitan, with novelties to vary it, is unknown at La Scala. A few operas, old and new, are chosen, and from them the programme for the four months is made up.

Just how international such a scheme of management is can readily be seen. How ten years of such experience, with an annual deficit as the material result, could prepare a manager to struggle with the problems of the Metropolitan and restore it to its former preeminence is not so evident. The effort to hand over the opera house to a firm of Italian opera publishers was luckily frustrated, but the desire of the directors to select an Italian impresario will evidently lead them to find the necessary qualifications in any candidate with the requisite nationality. There are no other apparent recommendations for the impresario who has been mentioned as a probable successor of Mr. CONRIED. It would be interesting to know who would be most astonished at the selection of the Milan manager—those aware of his accomplishments and the fact that the control of the richest opera house in the world had been offered to him, or the impresario himself when he suddenly found himself the choice of the Conried company's directors.

Luckily the destinies of the theatre do not rest altogether with the directors of the Conried Metropolitan Opera Company. There are some other influential gentlemen who may object to seeing the Metropolitan reduced to the level of a provincial Italian opera house. They happen to compose the directorate of the Metropolitan Opera and Real Estate Company, which owns the building. Their word is, fortunately, not without weight; and most fortunate of all for those who take pride in the institution's traditions, their concurrence is necessary in any such important step as the selection of an impresario.

Mr. Bryan Takes Charge.

Turn about is fair play. If Mr. ROOSEVELT walked off with the clothing of Mr. BRYAN, that adaptive statesman seems to be borrowing the whole Roosevelt properties, barring the scowl and swagger. Mr. BRYAN bathes Washington in his unctuous smile and holds the Democrats in Congress with his glittering eye. They watch him in fascination. He swallows them with neatness and despatch. He swallows the Democratic party. It is incorporated, if a word so suggestive of iniquity may be forgiven, in his abounding person. He personally conducts the Democrats in Congress as he did the Democrats of the Senate in 1899. Mr. BRYAN inspires the Democratic view of financial legislation. Mr. BRYAN, like his White House original, overrules the Supreme Court. Mr. BRYAN informs the Democratic Senators that the Democratic party must and will stand for Mr. ROOSEVELT'S policies.

Mr. BRYAN dares to be a Roosevelt and commands the Democratic party to become a Roosevelt party; and it makes as much and successful resistance as a broken backed meadow mole in a tom cat's mouth. The Republican party has a master, and the Democratic party has a master; one master under two names.

To be sure, the Democracy has the happy art of assimilating dead issues and discredited policies. There may be something genuinely "Jeffersonian" in its cuddling up to Papa BRYAN at the very moment when the other Father's family is leaving the house and inclined to throw bricks at that too drastic parent. Whenever you see an opportunity kick it: that is a sacred "Jeffersonian" saw.

It is possible, of course, that the hypnotized Democracy may come out of its charmed sleep, possible that it may yet discover the bewraying ears of the *Bottom* whom it worships. Meanwhile, that god of its idolatry believes himself metamorphosed into Roosevelt and the Roosevelt platform is transformed into the Democratic. This state of bedevilment can hardly last. While it does, even the obedient Theodorophilists may be puzzled. Which is the authentic heir? Which BILL is the true one? Three ROOSEVELTS! Can this orb o' the earth contain them?

"The Better for Us All."

We agree with the esteemed *News Leader* of Richmond in deploring the action of the Georgia Daughters of the Confederacy in connection with the Wirz monument. We are quite sure that the survivors of the Southern fighting contingent will share the view of the matter which is frankly expressed in the letter from a Confederate soldier which we print this morning. Certain it is that our Richmond contemporary strikes the right note when it says:

"The more we concentrate our thought on the heroism, the magnanimity, the valor, the glory, the military prowess and the manliness of both sides of the civil war, and the more faithfully we strive to bury the horrors, treacheries, cruelties, pillage, outrage and shame, the better it will be for us all."

The Wirz monument, together with its feverish inscriptions, is a mistake.

The Usual Rising Against the Usurper.

Why the Hon. JOSEPH G. CANNON should care to be President when he makes the laws of the country is beyond the average man's comprehension. As President he could only recommend legislation, as Speaker of the House he legislates—at least, we gather that he does from the lips of Representative DORSEY W. SHACKLEFORD of Missouri, who arose once more in the House a few days ago "to challenge the autocratic authority which the Speaker has asserted over the deliberations of this body." Everybody knows that Mr. CANNON appoints—Mr. SHACKLEFORD prefers the word packs—the House committees and sees to it that the Ways and Means, the Appropriations, and particularly the Rules, are in the hands of men of kindred views and aims. Hence the failure of Mr. SHACKLEFORD, an unrecognized Democrat and almost unrecognizable when taken with his periodic fit of cannonitis, to make headway with his bill to abolish the duty on wood pulp. Two years ago when Mr. SHACKLEFORD rose alone and undismayed, as his habit is, he related an experience common to both Republican and Democratic members:

"When I ask recognition to call up a bill the Speaker looks over toward me with that benignant smile that always graces his face and says the gentleman cannot be recognized for that purpose."

It is bad enough for the Speaker to smile and smile and be a usurper still, but when Mr. SHACKLEFORD pauses for him "to tell us by what authority he assumes that he became responsible for the legislation here enacted by being elected Speaker" and your Uncle JOE grins derision, as if the gentleman from Jefferson City were elaborately wasting his time and making a comic sight of himself, the wonder is that Mr. SHACKLEFORD can be so nice in his personal references to Mr. CANNON. When the Missourian arose in 1906 he said that "in an ethical sense there is not a better man than Speaker CANNON." This year, assailing the Speaker as a ruthless despot, as he does, Mr. SHACKLEFORD is even more complimentary:

"So impressed have I been with the successful career of this wonderful man that I have adorned the walls of my home with his picture, that there may be kept constantly before my boy and the boys of my neighbors the sublime heights which may be reached by one of such inflexible purpose as has possessed this man of iron. As an individual he is most lovable. Generous, companionable, intellectual, resourceful, persistent, and above all courageous, he stands a giant among men."

Sublime heights! What in thunder does Uncle JOE want to be President for? He not only has the privilege of making the laws but he enjoys the love, reverence and even the awe of every member of the House. If the House could elect the President his name would be JOSEPH G. CANNON. In that event there would be another Republican Speaker, and the presumption is that DORSEY W. SHACKLEFORD would still revolt against the rules biennially and call Mr. CANNON'S successor an absolutist and an aristocrat. It may be noted that only the Democrats applaud Mr. SHACKLEFORD.

The Lord help Mr. CANNON and Mr. SERENO PAYNE and Mr. JOHN DALZELL if the Democrats get control of the Sixty-first Congress. Those gentlemen will be cut dead by the Democratic Speaker and their influence will be nil with the Committee on Rules and the other committees that report the big bills. The boot being on the other leg, the protestants against usurpation will be Republicans no less robust and eloquent than Mr. SHACKLEFORD of Missouri. By the way, we notice a resignation on the part of Mr. CRUMPACKER to the high handed conduct of the Speaker. No more is heard of paring his powers and of an enlarged Committee on Rules to give gentlemen with wood pulp bills more latitude.

Neglected Opportunities.

Lieutenant WAKEFIELD, the policeman in whose care the experiment with dogs is being worked out in the Police Department, seems to be a most remarkable and unusual public servant. His eccentricities are displayed in the expense account which he has filed for payment with the Comptroller to cover the cost of his dog collecting expedition to Europe last summer. It is entirely unlike the ordinary bill of a public officer or employee sent away from home.

This policeman spent $132 in steamship fares, $48 for board for four weeks, $50 for dogs, $50 for freight and $10 customs duties on them, $6.60 for crates, $2.65 for a book on training the dogs and $65.50 on railway fares and incidental expenses incurred on his six weeks trip. In all he asks for an allowance of $364.84. Comptroller METZ fears that this lieutenant of police will find himself unpopular because of his moderation and the unusual precedent he has established.

There will be many, indeed, who will feel that Lieutenant WAKEFIELD neglected a most excellent opportunity to gouge the city. His board bill might have been doubled, at least, without attracting attention. He must have had many chances to swell the total of "incidentals." His mind seems to have been occupied entirely with the official object of his excursion, for it is evident that he spent little time in sightseeing or merry-making. A singular man, as travellers at municipal expense go; can he be of such peculiar nature that he aspires to share with MOSES W. CORTRIGHT the distinction of being known as "The Honest Cop"?

Our confidence in the authenticity of a "wonderful photograph of a buck jumping contest in Wyoming" which occupies the middle pages of a current weekly periodical is considerably shaken by the circumstance that the alleged American flag therein depicted as an ornament to the spectators' stand shows seven white and six red stripes below the canton.

In a publication which purports to print the text of the formal order for the removal of JOHN F. AHEARN from the office of President of the Borough of Manhattan the authentication of the document is given thus:

"Given under my hand and the private seal of the State at the Capitol in the city of Albany, this ninth day of December, in the year of our Lord one thousand nine hundred and seven.

"By the Governor. CHARLES E. HUGHES.
"ROBERT H. FULLER, Secretary to the Governor."

In the Revised Statutes provision is made for "the privy seal of the Governor" and for "the great seal of the State of New York." But the "private seal of the State"?

It is not surprising that J. EDWARD SIMMONS should resign from the Board of Water Supply. It will be a surprise if so good a man as he can be found to fill the vacancy.

Six Hundred Millions Worth of Floods Yearly.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is estimated by the United States Geological Survey that floods cost the American people $100,000,000 a year in loss of property, while the mere menace of these floods prevents the development of thousands of square miles of otherwise valuable property and limits the usefulness of a far greater area. Great as is the annual destruction of property, greater still is the loss by the waste of the water itself. A conservative estimate places the water loss at five times the value of the property loss. If the flood water of the United States could be stored for future use it would be worth $500,000,000 a year to us. Therefore it is safe to say that, directly and indirectly, floods cost the American people a total of $600,000,000 a year.

To prevent or minimize this great loss the engineers of the water resources branch of the Geological Survey have been for a number of years making systematic studies of flood conditions on many streams throughout the country, and several of their reports have been published. Attention is now drawn to Water Supply Papers Nos. 88, 92, 96, 147 and 162. Renewed impetus was given to the work by the great flood in the Ohio River basin in March, 1907, which was one of the two greatest in a hundred years, the other having occurred in 1884.

The ideal remedy for floods, according to the engineers of the Survey, is the keeping of the earth's surface in a porous condition, so that the water will be absorbed and held as by a sponge, and allowed to pass slowly into the streams. Vegetation is the great agent that produces porosity of soil, and the most effective form of vegetation for the retardation of surface flow is forest cover. Forestation, therefore, is the prime requisite for the prevention of the needless waste caused by floods.

The next requisite is the construction of reservoirs to hold the waters so that they may be made useful during seasons of low water. Nearly all American rivers can be readily controlled by the construction of storage reservoirs on the headwater streams. The cost of such work, though heavy, would be as nothing compared with the enormous benefits to water power and irrigation, as well as to flood prevention and navigation.

WALTER J. BALLARD.
LOS ANGELES, Cal., January 24.

The *North American Review* for February opens with a discussion of the financial situation in which Lyman J. Gage, William B. Ridgely, Charles A. Conant and Charles B. Macdonald participate. Lord Rosebery writes on bookish statesmen, Prof. Briggs on the Pope's encyclical on modernism, Prof. B. Matthews on the closet drama, Mr. T. W. Rolleston on Irish affairs, and Prof. Munroe Smith criticises the newspapers. There are other articles on timely topics, signed book reviews and the usual summaries of current events.

THE COAL CLAUSE OF THE HEPBURN ACT.

This Assertion of Federal Power Tested by Letter and Spirit of the Constitution.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Has Congress the power to prohibit State corporations from transporting coal or other commodities in the production of which they are lawfully interested? Is such a statute a regulation of commerce among the several States within the meaning of the Constitution? The merest outline of reply is permissible.

It is obvious that the effect of this legislation is to obstruct the flow of large products of industry into the volume of interstate commerce. If the power of regulation conferred upon Congress was intended to operate solely upon commerce it would naturally take effect only after that commerce is constituted—after productions have become subjects of commerce by entry into the channels of trade. While certain objects may be excluded by Federal authority from the avenues of transportation upon sanitary or analogous grounds, this exclusion proceeds upon the doctrine that those objects are not proper components of commerce at all. But the commodity provision of the Hepburn act operates upon coal or other products—unquestionably subjects of commerce—and stops them at its gateways. This is an attempted extension of the subject matter of the commerce clause—of the appropriate field for the exercise of Congressional action.

The essential nature of the power asserted in this enactment does not correspond with the power to regulate commerce—the right to prohibit cannot be coordinated with the power to regulate commerce. This legislation is apparently based upon the idea that the transportation by these companies of their own or their controlled products renders it more difficult to prevent discrimination against independent producers. It thereupon proceeds to cut the Gordian knot by prohibiting the carriage of the controlled products by the corporation at bar. But upon this theory, carried to its logical conclusion, all regulation would be facilitated by a general prohibition of trading among the States—thus leaving nothing to regulate. When Congress enacted such prohibitions in reference to commerce with foreign nations—known as embargoes—they were defended solely as incidents of the war or treaty powers. This recent prohibition is no more attributable to the category of regulation of commerce, as it would constitute a *reductio ad absurdum* to substitute partial or total annulment of internal commerce for its regulation. A power given to Congress for the liberation and promotion of commerce among the States would thus be converted into a detrimental power.

This commodity clause is also the assertion of authority over State corporations, not implied in the commerce clause, and which clashes with the reserved powers of the States. The creation and distribution of corporate titles and powers are primarily within the domestic economy of the States. As the States have seen fit to confer powers to mine and transport coal upon the same corporations, or through holding companies, has Congress power to change these arrangements through the operation of the commerce clause? Such implication is not necessary for the exercise of the commerce power, as it cannot be truly said that such systems of corporate administration prevent or interfere with Congressional regulation of commerce. They may well coexist with the most effective regulation of commerce among the States, as Congress may concurrently provide detailed arrangements in reference to trackage, schedules and car supply—constituting veritable regulation tending to prevent discrimination and insure equality of facilities. All this may properly be accomplished without prohibition of the exercise of corporate powers conferred by the States. Congress cannot utilize the substantive and independent power over property, belonging to the States, as an incident of the power over interstate commerce, as this course would impair the distribution of powers under our dual system.

Even genuine regulations of commerce are subject to constitutional limitations. The Fifth Amendment supplies a later qualification of all Federal powers—preventing Congress from depriving any person of property without due process of law. If it be conceded that the power to establish the prices of transportation subsists under the commerce clause it must be subordinated in its exercise to that amendment. But what to be thought of this assertion of power to take away the right of transportation itself? It attempts to deprive certain corporations of their main business. On its face this is a deprivation of property and trespasses the limits assigned to Congressional action by the specific restrictions of the Federal charter.

EDWARD L. ANDREWS.
NEW YORK, January 28.

Mr. Burbank Gives Thanks.

From the Sandwich Independent.

To the ones who so faithfully, earnestly and unflinchingly worked for my interest at the fire of Friday night, January 3, 1908, I extend my deepest appreciation, which I am unable to frame into words. During the conflagration, unquestionably the right hand of Divine Providence was ruling in the midst of this God fearing community, giving courage, strength and wisdom in the fighting of the fiery elements, preventing destruction of adjoining property and the saving of the stock of goods from a burning building of a fellow townsman.

The young messenger boy who travelled the road to my house in the lonely hours of the night deserves commendable praise.

Nearly eighteen years have I been a servant to the people of this town, always trying to best serve their interests, and in return they have indeed faithfully served me.

To C. Driscoll (to me an entire stranger), who offered me shelter in the Donovan Building for my goods, immediately after the fire, and to the generosity and kindness of Frank O. Ellis, in inviting me to accept his corner building, has enabled me to continue in business without interruption.

Thanking everybody who in any way aided or assisted me during this exciting period, I remain, very respectfully, GEORGE E. BURBANK.
SANDWICH, Mass.

Sic (Rapid) Transit.

I mailed a note to Isabel,
At Fulton street or thereabouts,
And followed it next day, pell mell,
Lest she might lose my whereabouts.

Behind my letter, Bronxward bent,
Behold me in my "bubble" car—
A puncture taught me as I went
That it may be a trouble car.

And so I grabbed the phone, to pant:
"My dear, I'm all in all to you";
And heard the cheerful "Central" chant:
"They're busy, shall I call to you?"

Jove's lightnings I essayed to snatch,
"O Mercury, awake for me;
Hot footed youth, with all despatch,
This telegram pray take for me."

Yes, love will find the subway. Lo!
Earth yawned to speed me straight to her;
Two changes, and a stop or so—
I come—a trifle late—to her.

'Tis Janus greets me at the door
(The "lift" is on the blink again)—
"Miss Jones lives on the nineteenth floor,
But she's gone out, I think, again."

He phones the nineteenth floor to see
If she is still awaiting me.
Among a thousand tenants she;
Ah, will she be berating me?

O necromancy of the now!
Comes telegram; a letter, too.
I've beat them both! And so I bow
Before the Fates: 'twere better so.

WILLIAM THOWNSDOS LARNED.

THE WIRZ MONUMENT.

The Incident Deplored From the Point of View of an Ex-Confederate.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Southerners generally believe that Wirz was put to death very much as the ancients used to offer human sacrifice to their bloody gods, but they realize also the almost hysterical fury caused by the infamous assassination of Abraham Lincoln in 1865. After all, it was not so different from the feeling which animated the cruel and abhorrent persecution of the so-called Tories which followed the War of the Revolution, nor, indeed, in any special way unlike the manifestation of human passion bred in every land and age by fratricidal strife. If anything, the reprisals that ensued upon the collapse of the Southern Confederacy were distinguished by a temperance and qualified by a noble and compassionate sympathy quite without precedent in the history of war and conquest.

My impression is that at least nine out of every ten men who bore arms, risked death and endured the poignant hardships of the stupendous conflict of 1861-65 understand fully that the horrors of the Andersonville prison pen were merely the logical result of a situation and not the deliberate contrivance of Confederate cruelty. The South could not feed its own armies in the field, could not house, clothe or furnish them with medical attention. As early as the spring of 1862 Beauregard's encampment at Corinth, Miss., with 65,000 men reduced to drinking seepage water and eating "mule meat" and bread made of rice flour, was a theatre of disease and suffering surpassed only by the Black Hole of Calcutta. It was the same story throughout the South so far as concerned the fields of military operation. The land was desolate, the Confederate commissariat degenerated into a *facon de parler*. Coffee made of okra or sweet potatoes, milk from castles in Spain, ragout of field rats, with a very occasional *pièce de résistance* of gopher, ground hog or raccoon—these tidbits, irregularly accessible and at rare intervals enriched by "parched corn" in season, represented the food supply of the men who fought under Lee, Johnston, Bragg, Beauregard and Kirby Smith. "Fighting Joe" Wheeler's raiders scorched the collateral neighborhoods of his devastating march and loosened their Homeric belts on the spoils of beehives, smokehouses and corncribs throughout the piney wood districts. Stephen D. Lee, Hood, Butler and the rest of the real soldiers of that day and neighborhood were left to glean the ravaged fields.

If the prisoners at Andersonville were any better fed than the Confederate soldiers of that era and vicinity, the records are mighty barren of evidence in that respect.

But there was no need to revive those abominable memories, no need to challenge and indict the action of General Grant, who sought to close the tragedy by refusing an exchange of prisoners. He considered—he had to consider—the ultimate result. He could not hope to mitigate the horrors of war by prolonging its activities. The hateful crop of bitterness and rancor that sprang up in riotous luxuriance afterward was no harvest of his sowing. Assuming the "martyrdom" of Wirz, dreadful though it may seem to the most conscientious partisans, the fact remains that the South owes eternal gratitude to the men and the policies that ushered in the reign of peace.

The Wirz monument is a blunder. These are not matters for women; they should be left to warriors. R.

NEW YORK, January 29.

Shall the Small Offender Therefore Go Free?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I observed yesterday an item headed: "Scores Complainant. Court Asked Him to Withdraw Charge. He Refused." It appears that, according to the account, an intoxicated person broke a plate glass window and acknowledged it. The Magistrate thereupon urged that the charge be withdrawn because "so many persons are being sent to prison for serious crimes," and reproved the complainant for refusing, very properly, to comply with his unseemly request.

If the report is correct—and I sincerely hope that it is not—what a commentary on the maladministration of justice in this community! We are to submit meekly, forsooth, to criminal outrages of a minor order because there are so many persons who commit serious crimes. Then why not repeal all laws relating to lesser offences? Why not permit drunken people to commit petit larceny and assaults with impunity? I can scarcely credit this statement of the conduct of a sworn judicial officer.

The street railways of this city are systematically robbed by conductors, who steal, as it is estimated, about fifteen or twenty per cent. of the fares. Attempts to convict the thieves before our local Magistrates have been ignominiously unsuccessful, because—well, because of such logic as was used by the Court in the plate glass case. It is another instance of the wretched indifference to property rights which characterizes the conduct of the individuals who are supposed to protect them. STOCKHOLDER.

NEW YORK, January 29.

The Unavailability of James J. Hill.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As "Old Line Democrat" says, James J. Hill, "mighty doer and small talker," would be a model candidate for President in whose support sane Americans of every political party could join. Unfortunately, however, we cannot have Mr. Hill for President unless we amend the Constitution, for he is not a native of the United States and he was not a citizen of the country at the time of the adoption of that instrument.

It is a curious coincidence that Canada's greatest railroad man, Sir William Van Horne, is a native of the United States and that the greatest railroad builder of the United States, Mr. Hill, is a native of the Dominion.

YONKERS, January 29. JABEZ L. PERKINS.

Sex Equality.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In your issue of January 23 E. L. Prizer attempts to controvert the position urged in the book "Sex Equality," and suggests that the present inequalities between men and women are useful adaptations to the need of a high social organization. This critic urges in support of this contention that "such a division of labor was unquestionably of value during past ages." This is true, but the same can be said of slavery, feudalism, aristocracy and social differentiations generally. The philosophical upholder of democracy can easily show that useful as these institutions and conditions have been in the past, they are not adapted to the higher and more desirable social organization now in process of evolution, founded upon democracy as a basis.

"Sex Equality" contends, and adduces many reasons in support, that the flower of civilization is seen in the companionship and comradeship of a man and a woman of equal powers and aspirations; and that such an ideal is impossible where either the man or the woman is inferior to the other. "Sex Equality" maintains that this is a question that cannot be justly settled from a man's standpoint or a woman's; that a correct solution can only be reached from a human basis. It is further contended that it is just as natural and desirable that a woman should aspire to financial independence as it is for a man, and that she should have the same aspiration to acquire knowledge and culture and express her ideal in art, literature, science, exploration and commerce as the man; and that the highest social organization is impossible until woman has equal opportunities with man in education, work and the unrestrained enjoyment of the fruits of her labors.

We have outgrown slavery and feudalism and are on the way to outgrow our aristocracy of wealth; and "Sex Equality" contends that all opinions, customs and institutions that relegate woman to an inferior place under pretence that man is the natural breadwinner, and that woman's function is to beautify the home, are relics of barbarism.

NEW YORK, January 29. EMMET DENSMORE.

Police of Seoul.

From the Korea Daily News.

Spring heeled Jack is around again and we can no longer sleep soundly. The burglar is bad enough, but we are not sure that the policemen ("Pirates of Penzance" type) are not worse. They patrol foreigners' compounds and clank their swords and talk loudly to keep their courage up. So far as our personal experience goes these policemen are not only no use but are "nouisances."

Wiping Out an Army.

From the London Standard.

The entire standing army of the Tonga Islands has just been disbanded, it having been decided that an army is of no further use in the kingdom. The army consisted of six officers and thirty men.

DEADHEADS.

Still Whining for Passes and Threatening to "Hold Up" the Railroads.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The public service law provides that no railroad company shall issue free passes or any other form of gratuitous transportation to any but its employees, agents, physicians and such charitable organizations as are specifically mentioned in the law. Violation of this section is made punishable by heavy fines.

This particular section of the law was intended to prevent the pernicious practice of subsidizing public officials and others of influence by the generous distribution of passes. The Legislature intended in this way to take from the railroads a device used for years to placate politicians whose ambition for public approbation has assisted them in the conception of a new and original means of embarrassing the public service corporations. The success attained in erecting barriers in the path of railroad progress is a tribute to the ingenuity of modern politicians. The pass has been the natural and most convenient weapon of self-defence, in some cases being offered to prevent active oppression, at other times tendered for the purpose of creating a moral obligation amounting to passive indifference in complying with the terms of this new law public service corporations have been confronted with a condition which was either not anticipated or for some unobvious reason not provided against in the enactment of the statute.

It is safe to say that the railroads were not displeased to find themselves in a position where they were able with the utmost impartiality and for the best possible reasons to discontinue a practice which year by year had been growing more burdensome. But how about the beneficiaries of the old pass system? Did they accept the heartless withdrawal of the pass privilege as the inevitable, and did they hold the railroads blameless for the new order of things? Did they bow resignedly to the majesty of the law, thank the railroads for past favors and wish them the compliments of the season? Most certainly not.

Divesting the deadheads of that mystic card possession of which is considered an indication of influence placed the railroad officials in a position requiring the utmost tact. It was beyond the comprehension of the free riders that any up to date railroad intended to adopt the attitude of a weakling and comply with the terms of a mere law. The withdrawal notices sent out by railroads, although couched in the most diplomatic language and fully explaining and quoting the law, were taken in a great many cases as a personal affront, and the attitude of the companies has been described as unnecessarily arbitrary. Public officials have argued the possibility of the railroads finding a way to violate this law without discovery, and if caught escaping conviction through some technicality. The argument, "it's against the law, gentlemen," is considered no excuse in the eyes of certain politicians, who look at virtue and honesty through inverted binoculars. Threats of increasing taxes have been made and other retaliatory measures are intimated. The railroads are told of similar laws in other States which are being violated surreptitiously, with the result that passes are issued through underground channels.

In the spirit of self-preservation, some railroads may succumb to the temptation forced upon them: others, adhering steadfastly to the spirit and letter of the law, may be subjected to persecution. Is such a condition fair to the railroads? The withdrawal of the passes with the hope of securing for the community more equitable and honest dealings between railroads and public officials is to be commended, but inasmuch as the law makes only one of the two parties to any violation amenable to fine it stands to-day as a fair sample of the non-equitability of railroad legislation.

The remedy is obvious: Why not subject the recipient of pass privileges to the same penalties confronting the railroads? Would not this dampen the ardor of pass fiends and would they not be less likely to continue their threats and rôle of the tempter? What objection is there to such an amendment, and are the railroads not entitled to this consideration?

It seems that this is a matter of sufficient importance to be taken up at the present session of the Legislature. A corrective measure would be most welcome to many railroad officials, who at the present time are placed in the position of not daring to place their signature to such an article as this through fear of incurring political wrath and subjecting their company to the inimical schemes of the powers that be. R. R.

BUFFALO, January 29.

HUNT FOR A COWBOY.

Adventurous Briton of Ancient Lineage for Whom Search Is Made.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When I was on the Afghan frontier we had in a cavalry regiment a young man who had enlisted in the line as a private soldier, but who bore the ancient and somewhat ponderous name of Genille Cave-Brown-Cave, and who was a veritable sensational novel in himself. This gentleman is now a cowboy in Colorado and is wanted to take his place in the vacant mansion of Stretton-en-le-Field, near Ashby-de-la-Zouch in Leicestershire, England, for the old baronet is dead. Sir Myles Cave-Brown-Cave, C. B., died a short time ago at 88, and Genille, the Colorado cowboy, his only son, is heir to the baronetcy, which dates from the time of King Charles I., by whom it was conferred on the Cave family in the year 1641 for special service rendered to Mary Queen of Scots when she was imprisoned for a time in the old castle at Ashby.

When he was in the cavalry regiment on the northwest frontier of India, Genille, who was a tall, broad shouldered, blue eyed, manly "ranker," was not only an excellent boxer but was exceedingly popular among both officers and men for his dare-devil character. He was a brave fellow and had a hand to hand encounter with an Afghan by whom he was taken prisoner, and only escaped from his prison house through the kindness shown him by an Afghan dervish. He used to astonish us even then with the story of his eventful life, and during the last twenty or thirty years he has added many a chapter to the interesting volume.

He was only a boy when his elder brother was killed, and as he was regarded by his father as a regular scapegrace he was sent to sea. He served as Captain's boy on a gunboat in the British navy on the Australian coast. He soon got tired of nautical life, and much to his father's chagrin he left her Majesty's navy and enlisted as a private in a Highland regiment. Feeling that the position of a "clodhopper" was somewhat undignified for a Cave-Brown-Cave of Stretton-en-le-Field of Ashby-de-la-Zouch, Genille took a step upward by enlisting in a cavalry regiment, and was present at the battle of Tel-el-Kebir in Egypt under Lord Wolseley and afterward served in Afghanistan. Then Genille appeared in England and became popular in the West End of London among a certain set and was well known at the "Cocoa Tree Club," but he soon got into debt and had a quarrel with his father. Sir Myles Cave-Brown-Cave gave him a small yearly allowance and ordered him to leave the country. It was then that Genille came over to the land noted for the reburnishing of tarnished reputations and was commissioned by a New York firm to kill tigers and other big game for the furrier market. He made some money in Burmah, but squandered it in extravagance. After making a name for himself in Hongkong he passed through Yokohama and eventually found his way to San Francisco. In Frisco he was immensely popular, and it was said he had a matrimonial future before him. But he suddenly skipped and was next heard of in Kansas City, where he worked as a day laborer in paving the streets. From Kansas he went to Arizona, and then to Texas. Finding the life of the "wild and woolly" West congenial he became a cowboy. It is said that his last