The Sun.

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No Backward Step!

From President Roosevelt's annual message of 1903.

Whenever either corporation, *labor union* or individual disregards the law or acts in a spirit of arbitrary and tyrannous interference with the rights of others, whether corporations or individuals, then where the Federal Government has jurisdiction it will see to it that the misconduct is stopped, paying not the slightest heed to the position or power of the corporation, *the union* or the individual, but only to one vital fact—that is, the question whether or not the conduct of the individual or aggregate of individuals is in accordance with the law of the land.

Every man must be guaranteed his liberty and his right to do as he likes with his property or his labor, so long as he does not infringe the rights of others. No man is above the law and no man is below it; nor do we ask any man's permission when we require him to obey it. Obedience to the law is demanded as a right, not asked as a favor.

We have cause as a nation to be thankful for the steps that have been so successfully taken to put these principles into effect. The progress has been by evolution, not by revolution. Nothing radical has been done; the action has been both moderate and resolute. Therefore the work will stand. *There shall be no backward step.*

An Obvious Duty.

A correspondent writes to THE SUN as follows:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In at least two editorial articles you have impliedly called upon the counsel in the Buck's Stove and the Danbury Hat cases to follow up his victory by filing appropriate charges against the American Federation of Labor with the Attorney-General. I fail to see why Mr. JAMES M. BECK should take this step, for the duty of enforcing the law does not seem to me to devolve upon him as much as upon the Federal officials, who have taken an oath to execute the laws of the United States without fear, favor or affection. As I may be wrong in this, I should be glad to have the opinion of THE SUN as to whether it is Mr. BECK's duty to enforce the Federal law against the American Federation of Labor or that of the President of the United States and his law advisers. An answer in your columns will greatly interest not only myself but many other readers who have followed with deep interest this profoundly interesting development in contemporary politics. C.

"NEW YORK, February 14."

Our correspondent is right. In the two cases referred to Mr. BECK represented clients who had sustained special injury by reason of unquestioned and indeed admitted violations of law. Primarily he must act for them, and the very purpose of the suits is to obtain redress for special injuries done to the plaintiffs and not to safeguard the interests of the entire people. The interests of the latter are in other hands, and if there is to be a failure to enforce the plain provisions of the Sherman Anti-Trust law, as now finally and authoritatively interpreted by the highest court of the land, it is of public interest to know where the responsibility will lie. To state such responsibility is to state elementary law: but in these later days, when the Executive power is used to reward friends and punish enemies, it may be well to remind our fellow citizens as to the plain—but somewhat forgotten—provisions of the Constitution. They are as follows:

"ARTICLE II., SECTION 1. Before he [the President] enter on the execution of his office he shall take the following oath or affirmation:

"'I do solemnly swear that I will *faithfully execute* the office of President of the United States and will to the best of my ability preserve, protect and defend the Constitution of the United States.'

"SECTION 3. He [the President] shall take care that the laws be *faithfully executed*, and shall commission all the officers of the United States."

The Sherman Anti-Trust law provides as follows:

"It shall be the duty of the several District Attorneys of the United States in their respective districts, under the direction of the Attorney-General, to institute proceedings in equity to prevent and restrain such violations."

Apart, therefore, from the general constitutional mandate that the President "shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed," there is the specific statutory provision of the Sherman Anti-Trust law that its execution shall not be left to the initiative of individual citizens who may be injured by its violation, but that the Attorney-General of the United States, through his subordinates, shall, not as matter of discretion but as matter of "duty," proceed in behalf of the entire people to enjoin any combination which is in violation of such law.

To enable the Attorney-General to do this Congress appropriated a large sum for incidental expenses and further furnished him an efficient and potent auxiliary in the Department of Commerce and Labor, which was entrusted with inquisitorial powers of a drastic character. The Attorney-General, however, needs neither money nor inquisitorial process to execute the laws. Both law and facts are now admitted. By filing a bill in the courts of the District of Columbia, where the executive council of the Federation has its headquarters and from which it issues its edicts against commerce and trade, the Attorney-General can effectually protect the interests of every American manufacturer and the liberty of every American working man from the ruthless invasion of the illegal boycott.

The duty of the present occupant of the White House does not rest, however, upon either constitutional or statutory proceedings. He has already on innumerable occasions, by formal message and spoken speech, pledged his honor to his countrymen that he would execute the laws, as our correspondent says, "without fear, favor or affection." In a sentence from his message of 1903, which we have reproduced in our columns on several occasions lately and again commend to special attention, he has even with greater particularity pledged his word that if a "labor union" should violate the laws he would proceed against it with as much alacrity as against the despised railroad official and the equally accursed officer of an industrial corporation. It is true that the Government has at times proceeded against those who have violated the Sherman Anti-Trust law, upon complaints of individual citizens and after investigation; but in many other cases, such as the recent suit by the Government against the Union Pacific Railroad, the President has proceeded, through his Attorney-General, on his own initiative and under that power and duty, to see that the laws were "faithfully executed."

To us it seems immaterial, therefore, whether the litigants in the Buck's Stove and the Danbury Hat cases filed formal complaint with the Department of Justice or not. The fact remains that in the latter case the American Federation of Labor was allowed to intervene as the substantial defendant upon a petition which made the following express admissions:

"That the *constitution* of said American Federation of Labor, petitioner, *makes special provision for the prosecution of boycotts*, so called, when instituted by a constituent or affiliated organization as is described in the complaint filed in the District Court by the plaintiff in error herein, *through the agency* and pursuant to the approval *of the executive council* of petitioner.

"*That under the provisions of said constitution many so-called boycotts have been and several are now being prosecuted by petitioner pursuant to approval of its said executive council.*"

The facts, therefore, are not in dispute, and since the unanimous opinion of the Supreme Court it is equally clear that the executive committee of the Federation, in maintaining in the past and prosecuting in the present—as it admits—many boycotts against the interstate trade of manufacturers, had violated the Sherman Anti-Trust law, and such violation becomes the more reprehensible because it equally offends both the civil and criminal laws of nearly every State in the Union.

The interesting question therefore remains, whether the President can descend to the depths of self-stultification by ignoring his plain and obvious duty in the premises. If so, while he may escape the condemnation of the present hour, swept as it is with hysterical enthusiasm for his picturesque personality, yet he cannot escape the stern judgment of posterity, at whose bar he will infallibly be judged.

If by present inaction he shows that the Big Stick is only for those who have few votes and no popularity, and that the brotherless spear will never be raised against an organization which noisily alleges the power to deliver a million votes to those who give it immunity, then the future historian will no longer be deceived by sounding phrases and hypocritical professions. Will he not then be "a fixed figure for the time of scorn to point his slow unmoving finger at"?

For the honor of our country, we should prefer that such were not the case.

The Debt Creating Power and the Growth of New York's Debt.

The commission of 1896 which framed the Greater New York Charter believed that the constitutional limitation on the debt creating power of cities in this State was "too large to be in itself an adequate restriction." The limitation referred to was contained in Section 10 of Article VIII. of the State Constitution. It provided that no county or city should be allowed to become indebted for any purpose or in any manner to an amount which, including existing indebtedness, should exceed 10 per cent. of the assessed real estate of the county or city subject to taxation as it appeared by the assessment rolls of the county or city on the last assessment for State or county taxes.

To guard against extravagances under this provision the commission "devised and imposed" additional "checks upon the debt creating power of the greater city." The commission, however, apparently made the natural error of assuming that it would cost no more to govern the greater city than it had cost to govern the constituent municipalities and other local bodies separately. How important the error was may be inferred from the circumstance that merely to equalize salaries $12,500,000 was added to the budget.

The charter revision commission of 1900 found it necessary to recommend a change in the Constitution, excluding from the 10 per cent. debt restriction "indebtedness hereafter to be incurred by the city of New York for purposes of water supply. The justification for this exception is the profit incidental to municipal ownership of the water supply." The amendment was subsequently adopted, and water bonds issued since January 1, 1904, are not included in the debt as computed with reference to the borrowing power of the city.

But before any relief could be obtained from this source the borrowing capacity had been so far encroached upon that Mayor Low in 1902 was constrained to advocate assessing real estate at "full value." If this were done, he concluded, "the city will have to raise less money by taxation than now, and at the same time it will be able to carry forward its public work as the needs of the hour require. That is to say, the city ought to have and can have at the same time a smaller tax levy and a larger working capital. Unless this policy is pursued the city must either forego for the time being the great public improvements that it demands or continue to pinch itself indefinitely as to its current needs." Accordingly the assessed valuation was raised a year later by $1,400,000,000.

Nevertheless the charter revision commission of 1907 found itself obliged to urge that the "Constitution of the State should be so amended as to exclude from the computation of the city's debt limit all bonds or evidences of indebtedness issued for purposes which produce revenues in excess of their maintenance charges." Meanwhile, according to a high official of the Finance Department, the water supply has ceased to be self-supporting.

In ten years the net funded debt, excluding water bonds issued since January 1, 1904, has increased 118 per cent. The real estate valuation has been advanced 146 per cent. The budget has risen from $90,000,000 in 1900 to $143,000,000 in 1908. The amount appropriated for salaries and wages in 1908 is $76,000,000, while $24,000,000 is called for to pay interest on the city debt.

The Neglected Battleship.

To-day is the tenth anniversary of the destruction of the battleship Maine. For ten years the hull of that ill fated vessel has been a nuisance to shipping in a foreign harbor and a reproach to the country whose flag she bore.

An engineer of experience and recognized standing, fully conversant with the condition of the ship, has recently said that for a sum not exceeding $300,000 it would be possible to lift the hull from the harbor bottom and tow it to sea for burial in the deep water of the Florida Straits. Such should be its disposition, whether the expense to the nation is $300,000 or $3,000,000.

The President might well make this the subject of a special message to Congress, and the Congress might well recognize the tenth anniversary of the war with Spain by an appropriation that would remove from sight the most lamentable reminder of the quarrel. The foremast of the vessel should be brought to Arlington and set up as a monument over the graves of the dead seamen. If guns or other equipment suitable for such use could be recovered they also might be used for the same purpose there or elsewhere. The ship should have decent sepulture. If we do not care to do this as a matter of national honor we should at least do it as a matter of courtesy to a friendly neighbor in whose principal harbor the wreck constitutes a nuisance and a menace to shipping and an obstacle to projected harbor improvement.

The joint resolution which directed and empowered President MCKINLEY to use the entire land and naval forces of the United States to compel the immediate relinquishment of Spanish authority and government in Cuba was passed on April 20, 1898. Before that date this year provision should be made for the honorable interment of the vessel whose destruction was one of the exciting causes of the war.

Helping the Ohio Democrats.

In accordance with Senator FORAKER'S prediction the Hon. BEMAN GATES DAWES, Representative in Congress from the Fifteenth Ohio district, has not been renominated. His allegiance, whether voluntary or forced, to Mr. TAFT, has lost him a renomination. There seems to be a reasonable probability, if not a presumption, that the Taft proscription of FORAKER will cost the Republicans the loss of a seat in the Sixty-first Congress from this district. Mr. DAWES was elected to the Fifty-ninth Congress by a plurality of 532; to the Sixtieth Congress, thanks to the then unexhausted Roosevelt furor, by a plurality of 1,189. Less than 600 votes to "turn the district over." The tomahawk and scalping knife canvass for TAFT has already laid out poor DAWES; and now the "Taft men" can be depended upon to keep his Forakerish supplanter, the Hon. JAMES JOYCE, out of the Sixty-first Congress.

These factional afterclaps are likely to hurt the Buckeye Republicans hard in other Congress districts as well. Sullen resentments not easily to be healed have already been formed; and yet the Ohio Republican party cannot afford anything but peace and unanimity. Suppose, if the effort is not too violent, that the Democratic party should be comparatively of sound mind in its next platform. Then look at the Republican feeble kneed plurality in certain Ohio Congress districts in the Congress election of 1906: Second, 1,961; Third, 1,730; Eleventh, 1,333; Thirteenth, 273. It is true that the Democratic pluralities in the Fifth, Sixth, Ninth (41) and Seventeenth districts were as small or smaller; but, even without the Taft-Foraker feud, the prospects of the Democrats in those doubtful Democratic districts are best. There is a natural reaction against the party in power; there are the special causes of dissatisfaction with the Administration; there is the Brownsville vote, and so on.

It will not be the fault of the mismanagers of the Taft candidacy if a majority of the Ohio delegation in the next House of Representatives is not Democratic.

A Brave Man.

The high reputation of the firemen of this country has been made by men like Deputy Chief KRUGER, who died yesterday in the performance of his duty. Fearless, loyal, tireless men, like him do their work with death always in sight, and do it cheerfully and unselfishly.

Their command is "Come with me!" not "Go on!" KRUGER died at the head of his men, when he might have been in a place of comparative safety.

Of the Kruger kind were the five firemen who died in two recent fires in this city. Of his kind are the great majority of the men in the stations to-day.

One fact in connection with the White Establishment has been a matter of comment at the national capital this winter. It has been noticed that obeisance to the Executive is no longer regarded as the daily duty of loyal Congressmen. For several years it has been the habit of dozens of Senators and scores of Representatives to present themselves at the White House frequently, if not daily, to "pay their respects," to make known their wants and to receive advice and instruction from the great head of the nation. There has been a striking change in the habit this winter.

We venture no explanation of the situation; we merely note the fact. The Washington *Star* recognizes the fact and comments as follows:

"The evident determination of Congress to give practically no attention to the reform recommendations of the President, as made known in his last message to Congress, naturally puts a stop to many conferences. Last session when railroad rate legislation was under consideration the President had all the boys on the hill jogging down to tell him that things were going all right or to explain that it was all a mistake that they were opposed to him. Since he got out of the Presidential race many of these visits have ceased."

It is not to be understood that the President is ostracized or that the White House has been politically quarantined. There is still a little band of the faithful, and there are always constituents to be piloted and introduced by their Congressmen.

The Indiana delegation is going to Chicago for FAIRBANKS.—*The Hon.* ALBERT JEREMIAH BEVERIDGE.

The Grand Young Man doth protest too much. The wicked say that his favorite historical passage, next to his own speeches, is the nomination of General GARFIELD.

Mr. ROOSEVELT, Mr. BRYAN and the other foes of government by injunction cannot but view with alarm and horror that Boston lawyer who has enjoined, and doubtless vainly enjoined, a woman from talking. How far and how long will this fell proceeding of the enemies of the people be carried? But, thank all favorable stars, there are mouths too mighty to be stopped by a writ. It may be that the immedicable *cacoëthes loquendi* of an ordinary and common scold can be so restrained. It may be despotic courts will seek to muzzle speech. Two pairs of eloquent lips will not cease to work, Sundays and holidays included. If all other language perished from a world grown mute, perpetual motion and emotion would still be secured, and all the ears of mankind would be chock full and running over with vehement noise.

"The truth is, gentlemen," said Mr. TAFT at Detroit, "that we have not quite enough regulation of railways." "We" is the purple, imperial "we," the style royal of Mr. TAFT'S principal.

A few seconds later Mr. TAFT asserts very unnecessarily that we are not going to have a "business millennium."

Conservative Democracy.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The coming national Democratic convention will fulfil its duty by nominating a conservative Democratic statesman, reaffirming the time honored principles of the party and calling for prompt and merciless excision of the thousand and one enactments that under Republican administrations have built up and intrenched great selfish interests whose enormities have justly awakened patriotic solicitude lest, uncurbed, they subvert the Government itself.

It is equally important that the convention specifically condemn and repudiate many recent acts of the present Administration that violate Democratic tenets. New York State can be carried with such a man on such a platform and no other way.

The Democracy of New York is marking time just now, awaiting the bugle call of a real leader. It cherishes the memory of Wright, Marcy, Seymour and Tilden, and points with pride to the record of their successor in its affections, Grover Cleveland. It will not under any circumstances consent to an abandonment of the eternal principles of right for which they contended to follow the red flag of disorder.

From its birth the Democratic party had advocated generous treatment of the unfortunate and oppressed of other lands that have sought refuge and protection under our flag; but it is, nevertheless, thoroughly American in spirit, and abhors and abjures the miserable theories that are nightly preached from barrel heads at street corners by foreign born zealots, recently emboldened in their lawless speech by frothy diatribes in high places against established order and honored usage. Because they are representatives of races that have been bastinadoed down the centuries we may accord them our commiseration, but we are not ready to abandon our system of government for the proposed substitutes of these harebrained doctrinaires. To engraft their vagaries in the platform of the party will arouse that latent but ever present spirit of Americanism that will sweep everything before it.

The party that bids for the support of the mob will not carry the State of New York this year. B.

NEW YORK, February 14.

A Portrait.

From "King John," Act II., Scene II.

Here's a large mouth, indeed,
That spits forth death, and mountains, rocks
and seas;
Talks as familiarly of roaring lions,
As maids of thirteen do of puppy dogs!
What cannoneer begot this lusty blood?
He speaks plain cannon, fire and smoke and
bounce;
He gives the bastinado with his tongue;
Our ears are cudgel'd.

The Grand Nominator.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why not let Mr. Roosevelt name the Republican candidate for the rest of his life? Thus time and money would be saved both parties.

NEW YORK, February 14. B. W. H.

Roosevelt Prosperity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* If "prosperity" keeps up its present gait how long will it take for expenses to wipe out profits in the average small business?

NEWARK, N. J., February 14. STUNG.

A Hymn to Bacchus.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why try to throttle the great god Bacchus by seeking to eliminate the saloon—that firmly established institution of consolation, companionship and conviviality? Have any of these "short haired women and long haired men" who advocate a doomed cause ever tasted a morning cocktail or an evening hot Scotch? Do they know the intellectual exaltation of several highballs, or the sane and satisfying optimism of numerous beers? In literature the rum power is unceasingly praised from Horace to Henley. Man will continue to drink and to get drunk despite all foolish acts of legislation, for the doctrines of Omar are deeply implanted in his breast and have their foundation in the philosophy and psychology of the race. In his hours of dejection or elation spirituous liquor is one of his most precious gifts, and the saloon is its dispensary. Fanatical zeal will never uproot it, nor will carrie-nationalized communities hasten Utopia.

PHILADELPHIA, February 13. AXEROS.

Joe and J. Franklin.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:*

We want a fighting ticket, boys, that nobody can
lick,
As strong as flawless steel and stone, not weak as
crumbly brick.
In the West's a monster Cannon, in New Jersey
there's a Fort—
What chance on earth 'gainst them could have the
Democrats' cohort?

Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! Hurrah! For Cannon
and for Fort!
The Fort will brave all onslaughts, the Cannon
fierce retort;
And when the smoke of battle clears and the grimy
sweat we mop
The Fort, all who'e, will grandly loom, with the
Cannon still on top.

ILLINOIS JERSEYITE.

EAST ORANGE, N. J., February 14.

STATE RAILROAD RATES AND THE ELEVENTH AMENDMENT.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The State officials in some sections of the country have been indulging recently in a curious fallacy concerning their claims to establish the prices of transportation. They seek to be practically untrammelled by the courts in the exercise of a power to experiment upon these properties with legislative rates of fare and freight. They rest this concrete position upon the immunity afforded by the Eleventh Amendment from suit by an individual or a corporation against a State of the Union. Upon this theory their legislation has aggressively injected the executive and judicial action of officers of these States into the enforcement of their rate enactments. They assert that the provisions for summary arrests and fines by these officials interpose the State itself as the acting party in these prosecutions. Upon this basis they disclaim the power of the United States courts to enjoin those proceedings by the State administrative or magisterial incumbents.

The Eleventh Amendment is certainly a stain upon our constitutional history, and by assisting States to repudiate their debts has furnished an example for much of our corporate delinquencies. But the amendment cannot be made available for the purposes now attempted. Such efforts have been made in the past and have invariably failed.

The principle governing this subject has been summarized in this phrase: The Eleventh Amendment may be used by the States as a shield of defence but not as a weapon of attack. This basic principle, controlling the qualified immunity from suit, has been applied to the United States Government. In the famous Arlington case the Supreme Court held that the officers in charge of the Lee property possessed it as individuals and could not justify their trespass upon the estate by falling back upon the orders of the War Department or of any other branch of the Federal Government. The execution of a writ of ejectment was prevented only by compromise.

The logic of this rule cleaves through the superfine effort of Legislatures to interpose the weight of their bodies politic against the assertion of constitutional rights. In the view of Federal law it is John Smith and John Jones who arrest a railroad agent for not selling tickets at the legislative prices, though those individuals may be supported by all the majesty of Alabama represented by her commissioners or sheriffs or justices. Upon this principle injunctions have been granted against the imposition of reduced rates shown to be deprivative of property. And where the railroads have been tenacious of their rights no evasion or obstruction of the Federal court orders has been allowed to prevail. The claim that the United States is impotent to interfere with criminal proceedings by a State has been overruled when those proceedings involve rights of property protected by the Fourteenth Amendment. The same fate pertains to the suggestion that the railroads must first run the gamut of the State courts before proceeding to Washington. The United States determines its own course of judicial procedure, and pursuant to that power Congress has authorized preliminary injunctions. When the Judges hold that the experiment of the legislative tariff for railroads appears prima facie to be illegal, no device is available for the States to interpose their non-justiciable character. While the State officials are nominally defendants, they are substantive plaintiffs, engaged in aggressive measures, for assisting which the Eleventh Amendment is non-available.

It is true that the absence of the Eleventh Amendment would enable the United States courts to enjoin the States by name, including all their agents, from executing an invalid statute. The campaign which has been recently inaugurated in some States to embarrass the execution of Federal protest has rested merely upon physical control of the roads and their employees, and upon the omnipresent location of State officials. The necessity of resorting to injunctions against these numerous individual officials does involve delay and embarrassment. But with the determination of the Supreme Court in one test case this disgraceful species of petty legal warfare will be annulled. EDWARD L. ANDREWS.

NEW YORK, February 14.

"Rebuilt at Sea."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The tale of the ship whose engines were "rebuilt at sea" contains so many technical errors that I take the liberty to correct them. It is not unusual for triple engines to lose the aid of the intermediate engine from one cause or another, but it occasions very little delay and no reconstruction of any sort. It is only necessary to disconnect the "big end" of the connecting rod from the crank pin, swing it out from the shaft and trice it up strongly to the frame, shore up the crosshead in the guides top and bottom at half stroke, make all fast and go ahead.

The engine will then function just as well as if the intermediate was not disabled. Its valve gear being in place admits steam as before into the intermediate and exhausts into the compound through the same ports—I say "compound," but really into the low pressure cylinder, which makes it compound. The consumption of steam will be much greater than before, but there is no reconstruction needed and nothing like ten days expended in doing the work.

It is possible that the engineer used the word "disconnected" in speaking of his engine and it was misconstrued into "reconstructed." This refers to the common form of triple, but in some engines the sequences of the cylinders are different.

EGBERT P. WATSON.

ELIZABETH, N. J., February 13.

Dangers of the Great City.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The Police Commissioner does not enforce the sidewalk cleaning ordinance. There are streets in New York from the sidewalks of which the snow and ice have not been removed since the first snowstorm, and you take a chance in walking on them.

As for the crosswalks, the new Street Cleaning Commissioner forgot to look up the Waring and Woodbury rules. They gave the crosswalks attention for the people's comfort. If the Commissioner doesn't wake up half of the people will have broken limbs. READER.

NEW YORK, February 14.

The Third Term.

You'd better write a message
As often as you can
And snuggle up to labor
And whack the wealthy man.
The times are very troublous,
There isn't any doubt;
The Bogy Term won't git you
Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out.

You'd better thrice refuse it,
As Cæsar used to do,
And make the mooted project
More prominent to view;
You'd better stick to limelight
And watch what you're about;
The Bogy Term won't git you
Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out.

And then to clinch the matter
When it is getting hot
Just travel to Chicago
And be right on the spot.
That vigilant procedure
Will raise a joyful shout—
The Bogy Term won't git you
Ef you
Don't
Watch
Out.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

CELTIC NAMES.

Some Remarks by a Friend of Their Anglo-Saxonification.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* An Irishman named James McGillicuddy recently applied to some court in this city to have his name changed to McGill. In my opinion this Irishman has evidently become imbued with sound Anglo-Saxon common sense, but he should have gone the whole gamut and dropped the foreign and unmeaning "Mc." It is utterly impossible for an English speaking man to pronounce two consonants such as "Mc"—that is, unless he has a hare lip.

The Irish people (whether they like it or not) are part and parcel of the great Anglo-Saxon race, the Irish being the gainers thereby; and the sooner they realize this fact and rid themselves of their abominable brogue and their (to them as well as to their fellow citizens) nonsensical and unpronounceable names, the better for all concerned.

It is typical of the so-called Celt—particularly the will-o'-the-wisp hunting Irish brand—to jump from one extreme to another. A feather brained individual named James Shields has endeavored to have himself enrolled in Columbia University as Seumas O'Sheel. The Columbia authorities have rightly forbidden such absurd nonsense. This young man evidently imagines that the name "Seumas" is Irish, while the fact is that it is merely a Gaelicized form of "James," the barbarous and (even to the present day) uncivilized Gaelic speaking peasantry of Ireland and the Scottish Highlands not being able to pronounce the sound of the letter "j," for which they substitute the sound "sh," or "I," as in "Jesus," which they pronounce "Iosa."

As to the name "O'Sheel," it is as unmeaning to its possessor in that form as under the guise of "Shields." It is evident that the collegian knows little or nothing about the guttural Irish language or he would not be so anxious to see his name spelled or hear it pronounced according to the rules of Irish orthography. When the letter "h" is inserted in Gaelic names the preceding consonant undergoes a change—especially if it should be, as in the name under discussion, an initial consonant. According to the orthography of the language, which the enthusiastic Mr. Shields is evidently ignorant of, his patronymic would and ought to be pronounced "O'Heel"—that is, his phonetic spelling of the name "Shields." What he should do would be to adopt the original Gaelic form, in all its hideous unpronounceableness, or else wear a literal translation of it, and therefore make it euphonic and easy for his fellow Anglo-Saxon students.

My humble opinion is Mr. McGillicuddy's action was sensible and in accordance with our superior Anglo-Saxon ideas of euphony and brevity, while Mr. James Shields's or O'Sheel's or O'Heel's action was nonsensical and thoroughly in keeping with the effervescent and chimerical Gaelic character.

J. L. SULLIVAN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

The Two Pedlers.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Let these words of Governor Black in his Boston speech go to the head of every conservative newspaper in the country and remain there for the public good until after the two national conventions are held:

The two great political parties, once so proud and militant, are playthings in the hands of two men whom the intelligence of the country rejects.

Deafened by the competitive clamor of these pedlers of political nostrums we are forgetting everything else. They are like the rival shoemakers who sought to bring trade by novel signs. The struggle went on until one, through a friendly professor, sought to stump his adversary with the announcement:

Bill Smith—Shoemaker—Mens Conscia Recti.

That seemed a poser until the following counterstroke appeared:

Ted Jones—Shoemaker—Mens and Womens Conscia Recti.

Then the crowd sided with Ted. And so the bidding 'twixt Bill and Ted goes on. "How long, O Lord, shall thy servants be afflicted?"

TWENTY YEARS A DEMOCRAT AND TWENTY YEARS A REPUBLICAN.

NEW YORK, February 14.

Is Mr. W. L. Garrison Humorless?

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* In to-day's SUN is a letter from the secretary of the American Free Trade League, who after quoting from Mr. H. E. Miles, chairman of the tariff committee of the National Association of Manufacturers, that "the duties are mysteriously incorporated in the price; the added price adds not a cent to the value, not a mill to the Government, but forever swells the total of the profits of the manufacturers"; and from the Young Man Eloquent in the Senate, that "the [importing] industries thus affected have been confused, disturbed and uncertain, and far worse than all this put together, the whole cost must fall upon the entire body of the American people, from whom the revenue is raised to pay the expenses of the Government," adds, in spite of the thoroughness with which they have dissembled their friendship: "To this indictment of the tariff by its friends." It is submitted that nothing but hereditary wrongheadedness could have prevented Mr. Garrison seeing the humor of such a juxtaposition.

If the secretary of the Free Trade League had relied more on observation and less on introspection he would have known that no prosperous manufacturer could be a business friend of the Dingley tariff, the intent of which is to encourage the financing of a rival establishment, which by the aid of the latest improvements in machinery would successfully cut into the vitals of his profits.

NEW YORK, February 13. N.

Railroad Into Libyan Desert.

From the Pall Mall Gazette.

The new railway which is to bring the ancient Oases of Kharga into close relation with Egypt has been opened to the public. The line, which is some 200 kilometers in length, and has been constructed under the auspices of the Corporation of Western Egypt, starts from Kharga Junction, which is some five miles from Naga-Hamadi, the celebrated sugar centre, and proceeds through the most barren country. On the way one passes countless Roman ruins, and the scenery right along is of the most bold, fascinating and varying type. For most of the journey the line follows the old caravan route. A great deal of difficulty was encountered during the construction, owing to the presence of limestone and rocks. In several places the embankment had to be built up to the level of the rocks. This was due to the fact that if the line had pierced the rocks it would have been rendered impassable at certain periods of the year on account of the sand, which drifts with the wind and covers up all apertures on the face of the desert. The work will result in the addition of a new province—that of Western Egypt—to Egypt.

The new province is a most fertile one, and rich in mineral and stone deposits, and although far removed from the usual irrigation area, it is provided with an inexhaustible supply of pure water. Very shortly the corporation will start the construction of a railway to the neighboring Oasis of Dakhla, where equally valuable products have been found, and where the agricultural prospects are equally encouraging.

The Oasis of Kharga was in ancient times called the Oasis of Kenemet, and is best known as the Great Oasis. It boasts a ruined Egyptian temple, consecrated to the god Amen Ra, which was founded by Darius I. Hystaspes in the fifth century B. C. Political offenders were banished to the oases during the Roman occupation, and there are numerous ruins of Roman buildings. There are also the remains of a Roman fort.

It is almost impossible to tell to what extent the two oases will be able to be developed. It is estimated that the Oasis of Kharga has 460,000 feddans (a feddan equals 5,082 square yards) and the Oasis of Dakhla 27,000 feddans of land available for cultivation.

French Family Statistics.

From République Française.

The number of French families, that is to say households with or without children, is estimated at 11,315,000. Of this total 1,804,720 families have no children, 2,966,171 have one child, 2,661,978 have two children, 1,643,425 have three, 987,392 have four, 566,768 have five, 327,241 have six, 182,998 have seven, 94,729 have eight, 44,728 have nine, 20,639 have ten, 8,305 have eleven, 3,505 have twelve, 1,437 have thirteen, 554 have fourteen, 249 have fifteen, 79 have sixteen, 34 have seventeen, and finally 45 families have eighteen or more.

Lancets to Treat Snakebites.

From the South China Post.

In view of the large number of deaths caused annually in Burma by snakebite it has been decided to distribute as widely as possible through the province the lancets designed by Sir Lauder Brunton for the treatment of snakebite with permanganate of potash, the efficacy of which, if the treatment is at once applied, is now established.

The Finish of Muggins.

From the Somerset Democrat.

Muggins Fisher, who went to New York to attend a finishing school, does not finish very readily and he will probably be returned to his Somerset home.

NEW BOOKS.

A Harvard Professor in France.

Prof. Barrett Wendell of Harvard, whose impressions, gathered during the year that he was a lecturer at the French universities, are published under the title of "The France of To-day" (Charles Scribner's Sons), tells us what happened to him when he presented himself, shortly after his arrival in Paris, to a professor of the Sorbonne. The French educator received him with marked kindness, greeting him as "cher collègue" (an assurance to the visitor that he was regarded as an academic equal) and conducting him immediately to his study, where Prof. Wendell's eye was fascinated by a large blackboard chalked over with an intricate design that reminded him of the maps explanatory of Dante's wanderings in Paradise and in the darker places. The American professor records: "This likeness, indeed, was so marked that, forgetting what my friend's branch of learning might be, I was disposed to take for granted that he was occupied with some minute study of Dante." Such, however, was not at all the case. Though the chalkings looked as though they belonged to Dante, they had another and perhaps equally important purpose. The Sorbonne professor had duly prepared for his brother from over the sea. The brother in question further records: "Rightly assuming that I could not find my way in France without a clear knowledge of where I belonged there, he had prepared it [the chalk diagram] to illustrate a concise little discourse on the present structure and constitution of the French universities."

So here was the American professor going to school again and drinking in knowledge before a blackboard. The idea of Dante persisted, though the comedy was new. The essayist tells us further of the Sorbonne professor and his instruction: "His subject, I may add, proved really analogous to Dante's scheme of futurity. For in French universities—and for that matter one is tempted to say throughout French society—every one seems to have a place as definite as that of any denizen of any circle in all the hundred cantos. My own—obviously unusual—began to define itself while my friend, chalk in hand, proceeded with his exposition; and with the process came to me my first clear conception of the extraordinarily systematic nature of the surroundings amid which I was to find my way during the months to come, and of the precise point of view from which I was to observe other aspects of French life."

There is a phrase "walk by the chalk," of which we are inevitably reminded as we read Prof. Wendell's account of the French universities and of his association with them. It was no easy matter to go through the mazes of the system with accuracy and creditably. The journeyman (and plainly our greatest might reasonably be accounted journeymen there) has need to proceed with circumspection. He must not be timid and he cannot be bold. Something of the wisdom of the serpent would seem to be calculated to be of service to him. Prof. Wendell tells us: "So far as degrees went—though I had the prudence not to mention the circumstance—I was only a Harvard bachelor of arts; I had never troubled myself with the task, practically superfluous at home, of studying for anything nominally higher. Yet, as a professor delegated from Harvard to lecture in France, I was temporarily the equal of professors in the University of Paris, addressed by them as collègue and by inferior university officials as maître." Pleasant indeed, but there was more to do than merely to revel in the agreeable feeling. The honored and happy associate needed to look alive. "In order to regulate my behavior it was necessary that I should understand my status, almost as if my position had been in a diplomatic system or a military." Hence the generous educational act with the chalk designs. "This was why my cordial colleague with the blackboard devoted the first hour of our intercourse to the lecture which I have tried to remember and to summarize." We read again that the result was fortunate and far reaching. "No friendly service could have been more opportune. Throughout my stay in France it threw constant light on my official relations and duties."

Prof. Wendell found lecturing attended by a pleasant ceremony. The arrangements, he tells us, were refreshingly pleasanter than anything he had known before. Little provisions and observances, though inexpensive and it may be superfluous in cases, make a body feel as though he amounted to something. A stern and intensely democratic nature might scorn them, but they are calculated generally to be agreeable. "A comfortable little room," Prof. Wendell tells us, "is at the disposal of the lecturer, where he is expected to arrive, in frock coat and black cravat, a few minutes before the hour named for his public appearance." He is not left to confront this trying moment coldly and alone. "At precisely the hour in question an impressive being in dress clothes, with a silver chain about his neck, presents himself, holding a tray on which are a glass, a spoon, a decanter of water and a saucer containing a few lumps of sugar. With these in hand he precedes the lecturer to the platform of the hall where the audience is already assembled. He places the sugar and water on the desk—and as I did not personally have recourse to this refreshment it is possible that the ingredients remained unchanged from November till March—and he withdraws for an hour. At precisely the end of the hour the appariteur, as this functionary is called, reappears at the little door behind the platform. You thereupon bring your lecture to a close. Whether he have authority, in other event, to remove you forcibly I never ventured to inquire. At New Year's time I gave him five francs, by the counsel of one of my colleagues, who represented that he would be displeased with less and disconcerted with more."

We have known persons who have been in France many times and still have never seen Frenchmen drinking sugar water. The blindness of these has always surprised and disturbed us. They seem often to be possessed with unbelief, as well as with an inability to see, and in such cases they are wonderfully provoking. We are glad that Prof. Wendell, though he did not use it himself, has borne clear and deliberate witness that the French do drink sugar water. It is a good drink, and even if you do not care for it internally, it is picturesque and pleasant, as Prof. Wendell seems to be aware, to have it borne before you on a tray by a functionary ceremoniously attired and wearing a silver chain.

The Harvard professor is readily humorous in relating his impressions. Speaking of the complicated grounds on which promotions are made in the French universities he says: "Sound scholarship, brilliant publication, efficient teaching count for much. Personal qualities count for something, and so at times do political and religious considerations. During the Empire, I have been told, a professor of doubtful orthodoxy was apt to have little favor; and during the period when the government of the Republic has been engaged in disestablishing the Church, obvious devotion to the Catholic faith has not been thought wholly favorable