The Sun.

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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.

The Thief in Public Office.

The only embarrassment which attends a gentleman of parts and sagacity in his career as a devoted public servant is the remote contingency of removal from the office which a confiding public put in his charge. This removal is in the nature of an abrupt interruption of his activities and may be in a measure disconcerting; but it is not really much more than an inconvenience. He retires full of honor, distinguished by the jealousy of the many who have long envied him his opportunities and the immunity which attached to his position, and he remains in the full possession of his accumulations. No dishonor attaches to his name, his immediate contiguity is prouder of him than ever and he walks in exaltation and the consciousness of grace. How singular that there should be so many worthy but impressionable people, purely sentimental people perhaps, who cannot disabuse themselves of the feeling that he ought to be made to disgorge and that when he had spilled out the money stolen from the taxpayers he should pass from public view beneath the portals of the penitentiary!

A Macedonian Patriot.

In the regular course of Macedonian politics Mr. YANI SANDANSKI, patriot or brigand, has been shot by his opponents in the same manner as his rival patriot or brigand BORIS SARAFOFF was taken off a few months ago and as most Macedonian politicians who attain distinction in their native land are removed. Mr. SANDANSKI'S fame spread beyond Macedon when he carried off the American missionary Miss STONE and held her for ransom. His side of that story has just been told by Mr. ALBERT SONNICHSEN in a lively book which he calls "The Confessions of a Macedonian Brigand" and in which he throws clear light on Macedonian "outrages" and incidentally on the reasons for Mr. SANDANSKI'S taking off.

While Mr. SONNICHSEN may be prejudiced by sharing the views of the particular brand of Bulgar patriots among whom he lived there is no reason to doubt the accuracy of the conditions he observed in Macedonia. There Greeks and Bulgars, the real Macedonians, live side by side and hate each other worse than they do the Turks. The revolutionists, who are Bulgars and draw on Bulgaria for arms and money, have a complete territorial organization and each district leader is attended by an armed guard. These are outlaws, supported and sheltered by the native population, and the unconventionality of their political methods, which include pillage, assassination and attacks on towns, certainly seem to justify the application to them of the term "brigand," however lofty their ideals.

The Greek Church organization, according to Mr. SONNICHSEN, is the instigator of the outrages. It has armed bands at its disposal and systematically plunders and slays the Bulgar peasants. When the task is too great for its forces it makes false accusations to the Turks, the soldiery is sent out and whole villages are exterminated. The gentle Bulgars retort in the same manner when they get the chance, but cannot call in the Turkish troops. Unfortunately the Bulgar revolutionists are divided; some are Socialists and wish for an independent Macedonia, and of these Mr. SANDANSKI is a leader; others, of whom SARAFOFF was one, have yielded to the wiles and money of Czar FERDINAND, who dreams of a Greater Bulgaria that shall include Macedon. Their way of settling their differences is to cut each other's throats and thus leadership changes frequently.

It was this dissension within the party that led to Miss STONE'S adventure. The independents were in open revolt against FERDINAND'S emissaries, but the latter had the money, which is needed in revolution as much as in war. To obtain this SANDANSKI and his friends decided to carry off a wealthy Turk, but none was handy; then a student at the American school in Salonica suggested taking a missionary; they tried for a man, but as these were all out of the way and Miss STONE was there they took her. They wanted to be decent and so took also Mrs. TSILKA as a chaperon and were later burdened with her baby.

The bandit who confessed to Mr. SONNICHSEN was an educated man with a strong sense of humor. We can sympathize with his trials. "If you were older," he said, "and long married—— Have you ever found yourself in a position of strong opposition to a middle aged woman with a determined will all her own, she assuming the attitude that you are a brute and you feeling it?" After explaining that in order to hasten the ransom they got up dramatic scenes for Miss STONE'S benefit he confessed: "I was best at them—that's why I am the Bad Man. But YANI SANDANSKI has the instincts of a French dancing master. I've seen the perspiration stand out on his bald head with winter frost around us. I've seen him go off by himself among the trees and clench those big hands of his and grind his teeth. Well, he got his reward. He was handed down to history as the Good Man."

Perhaps Miss STONE may now commiserate her captors for their troubles and the end that has come to their leader. Some Bulgar of his faction will soon avenge him.

Magistrate Butts.

It is difficult to speak with patience of one BUTTS, a City Magistrate who frequently displays intelligence and knowledge and not a little learning in his treatment of prisoners. His attitude is so extraordinary, so completely at variance with the best traditions of his office that the greatest self-restraint must be exercised when his activities are under discussion.

Very recently two detectives, following the time honored precedents of their craft, invaded the living rooms of an East Broadway saloon keeper and arrested therein eleven men who were engaged in a contest of skill and fortune in the game called poker. These eleven and the saloon keeper were taken before Magistrate BUTTS, the eleven charged with being common gamblers and their host with running a gambling house. Upon hearing the evidence the Magistrate discharged the prisoners and said:

"If these men, in a private apartment, at an hour that is not unseemly, and never before seen gambling, can be arrested, there is no private residence in the city the police may not enter without warrant and arrest and drag those found to prison."

This is revolutionary. It strikes at the very heart of the police system of the town. Were the policy outlined by the Magistrate adopted generally, the opportunities for oppression would be greatly curtailed, the number of policemen available for the plebeian duty of maintaining public order would be increased and the facilities for private vengeance would be decreased most amazingly. These things possibly occurred to Magistrate BUTTS as he disposed of the cases of the twelve gamblers. He is an undisciplined person, and the proper characterization of his act will undoubtedly present itself immediately to every person who reads of his conduct.

Faith and Facts.

We have received the subjoined communication:

"TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Be fair in your opposition to the direct primary idea. Don't insult the intelligence of many of your readers who understand fully the Hughes plan and how materially it differs from any law in force in any Western State. The committee's censure of the Hughes plan practically eliminates the possibility of a minority faction securing the nomination for any office. P. R. THOMPSON.

"BROOKLYN, August 30."

We are glad to be permitted to print this admirable document in the direct nominations case. Not only is the exceeding good temper and good taste of its tone characteristic to our mind of the side of the debate it presents, but also its utter unfamiliarity with the actual provisions of the Hinman-Green bill, of which it speaks in tones of ultimate authority, is to our mind typical in the extreme of the triumph of faith over experience and credulity over knowledge which so marks the champions of the Governor's plan.

Let us, however, examine the actual provisions of the Hinman-Green bill to ascertain to what extent "the committee feature practically eliminates the possibility of a minority faction securing the nomination for any office." Our reference is to Senate Reprint 1097, the final print, we believe, of the Hinman-Green bill, Article III., entitled "Designation of candidates for party nominations." In this article two methods of nomination for the primary ballot are provided, that by party committee and that by nominating petition. We shall take the case of Governor because it is typical, and the discussion will be simplified by the use of a single example, although the same method obtains in the case of all State officers.

Party committee designations for place on the primary ballot are made by the State committee in the case of the Governor. On a fixed day the State committee holds public session and ballots until the votes of a majority are cast for one candidate, who then becomes the party committee nominee; his name is placed at the head of the list of candidates for Governor, and is indicated by proper sign to be the party committee's nominee. Nominations by petition (Article III., section 28) are made thus: "Petitions for the designation of candidates for party nomination shall be signed respectively as follows: For any office to be filled by the voters of the entire State by not less than 1,000, of which number of signers there shall be not less than fifty from each of ten counties resident therein respectively." Such nominations appear on the primary ballot in the order of their filing, with the proper authority. Such is the Hinman-Green bill ruling on this matter of designation.

How will it work? Let us suppose that at the next State election or prior to the next State primary the State committee, acting under these provisions, should designate the Hon. JAMES W. WADSWORTH, Jr., as party candidate. The Hughes faction would naturally nominate by petition a man in sympathy with their cause; let us say the Hon. HARVEY D. HINMAN, introducer of the bill. The friends of the Hon. EDGAR TRUMAN BRACKETT, a perennial Gubernatorial candidate, would doubtless name him. To divide the reform camp the machine, following the usual precedent in such cases, would doubtless name some available independent; for example, the Hon. DEMOSTHENES DAVENPORT of Oneida. Several other favorite sons might naturally be expected to get the petition indorsement of friends.

On primary day, then, WADSWORTH, HINMAN, BRACKETT, DAVENPORT and several minor candidates would be voted for. Let us suppose WADSWORTH, backed by the influence and money of the State machine, to receive 40 per cent. of the vote; HINMAN, supported by the unorganized independents, 35 per cent.; BRACKETT, 10 per cent.; DAVENPORT, 5 per cent., and the remaining 10 per cent. to be lost among minor candidates and spoiled ballots. Under the Hinman-Green bill WADSWORTH would be nominated, despite the fact that 60 per cent. of the vote was cast for other candidates. Such is the unmistakable possibility of the Hinman-Green bill. But let us carry the thing to its ultimate conclusion. Forty per cent. of the party vote is a high figure for a primary day fall of the ballots; frequently not more than 20 per cent. of the party voters go to the primary polls in States under the direct nominations system. Mr. WADSWORTH'S 40 per cent. of the vote cast at the primary ballot would then represent but 16 per cent. of the actual party enrolment. This, we respectfully submit, would make him a genuine minority candidate.

How, then, does the party committee feature eliminate the choice of a minority candidate? Not at all, unless it be assumed that the superior machinery of the State committee will insure continual victory, and so discourage nomination by petition that it will die out and leave the party committee practically unopposed. This is the belief of many friends of real direct nominations who oppose the Hughes-Hinman plan. But this is vehemently denied by the friends of the scheme, who are confident that the petition alternative will always be effectually used by the people. Concede that the party committee designation will always triumph and it becomes a fatal defect, admitted by the champions of the bill themselves.

It is perfectly clear, then, that under the provisions of the Hughes-Hinman bill minority nominations are quite as possible as in Indiana, Maryland or California. Friends of the measure, to be sure, believe that it will not be so. So long as they frankly concede that faith, not fact, is theirs there can be no quarrel. But when they deliberately mislead people, as our vehement correspondent has been misled, by partial truths and complete lies, then it is time to protest. The truth is, of course, that the Hughes plan is only one of fifty experiments, and forty-nine have worked badly. It has all the possibilities of bad working that the others have and one or two of its own. In a word, it is one of an infinite variety of patent medicines advertised to cure a recognized disease. It may cure, but neither the evidence nor the experience of the public with similar concoctions warrants credulity.

Embarrassing for Mr. Taft.

Probably Mr. ORMSBY MCHARG, the Assistant Secretary of the Department of Commerce and Labor, did not expect to be recognized as an authority upon forestry and water power conservation when he threw that brick. It seems that he had accepted the post with an understanding that he would be allowed to retire at the expiration of six months, and when his time was almost up he discharged a broadside of criticism at the aims and performance of the forestry service, which is attached to another Department. A few days before Mr. MCHARG took a hand in the Ballinger-Pinchot controversy he sent in his resignation, to take effect on September 4. In short, Mr. MCHARG did not care what the consequences were to himself, having drawn their sting.

For Mr. MCHARG it is said that he was provoked to the act of insubordination by the charge thrown in the teeth of appointees under the new Administration that they were not loyal to the Roosevelt policies. So the Assistant Secretary in the Department presided over by one of those appointees constituted himself their champion and incidentally took occasion to reflect the views of the opponents of the Roosevelt-Pinchot policy of conserving the national resources by Executive order. If Mr. MCHARG, going out of his way to assail the conduct of business in another Department, has accomplished nothing else he has lit up the row in President TAFT'S official family as with a searchlight. Forester PINCHOT began it by questioning the official acts of the Secretary of the Interior, who is not the head of the Department to which the forestry service is attached. The Hon. RICHARD A. BALLINGER naturally defended his official acts, and it will be for President TAFT to decide who is at fault and whether he shall sustain a member of the Cabinet by his own appointment or the impulsive gentleman whom he inherited from Mr. ROOSEVELT'S administration. It was loyalty to his former chief that fired Forester PINCHOT to go up and down the land proclaiming that the Roosevelt method of conserving the national resources must not be tampered with and arraigning Secretary BALLINGER for breach of faith and contempt of court. The feud must have eaten deep, like a corrosive acid, into discipline in the Departments, for no sooner did the hardy MCHARG throw his brick than one of Forester PINCHOT'S assistants "hurled" the missile back with a ferocious gesture. Acting Forester OVERTON W. PRICE will no doubt be duly certified as loyal to the Roosevelt policies.

Mr. TAFT'S position is one of obvious embarrassment. If he is a sensitive man he may be shivering with the dread of hearing that he will be called to account if he fails to sustain the Roosevelt policy of conservation by Executive decree. The charge of disloyalty is one which he may have to face sooner or later; but for the present his duty is clear—he must enforce discipline in his own official household. It is rather hard on Mr. TAFT, because he inherited with Forester PINCHOT the practice of permitting subordinates to stump the country for the policies as proclaimed, and this license has been the cause of the family row which Mr. TAFT now has to settle. Probably he reflects with some feeling that the forester whom he took over from the last Administration might at least have waited until the new President addressed Congress upon conservation before starting the row.

Facts About the Smithsonian.

The Washington *Post* of August 26 contains a verbose defence of the Smithsonian Institution, showing that solemn official reports are made annually to the Board of Regents, that thousands of numbers of publications are sent out somewhere and that other thousands are at the service and open to the inspection of anybody who can find them. These go to libraries mostly, some are technical, and still others are histories of the wonderful specimens on exhibition.

Mr. SMITHSON bequeathed his fortune to be used for the diffusion of knowledge among the people. To-day we find that yearly reports are made to the Board of Regents—an honorary band of illustrious gentlemen who know perhaps a trifle less of the Smithsonian's affairs than they do of the nebular hypothesis—and we are told besides that the publications regularly produced by beneficiaries of the mutual admiration society can be had by those who can afford to buy them or have the Ariadne's web which will lead them through the labyrinth to the dim cloisters in which they are concealed. "The diffusion of knowledge among the people" is as far from the present scheme and purpose of the Smithsonian Institution as pinochle is remote from the philosophy of the white Mahatmas.

The Smithsonian is like every other institution that falls into the ungoverned hands of high scientists. It has become a medium for the interchange of profound and in the main inconsequent adumbrations of highly learned gentlemen who may possibly understand each other—though we seriously doubt it—and who care about as much for "the people" as the latter do for them. We have no sort of doubt that the indignant "refutation" published by a sub-official in the institution will serve to represent the establishment itself and the Board of Regents that sometimes assembles, though not often; but when it comes to the "public" for whose benefit the fund was instituted we venture to assert that ninety-nine-hundredths of them have never heard of it and that the rest of them are still awaiting the consciousness of that "diffusion" nominated in the bond, which so far they have not experienced.

It is a well known fact that the laborious volumes issued by the institution—many of them copied from foreign sources and the others paid for out of the Treasury—are distributed among a small coterie of exalted persons, libraries, &c., and that in a majority of cases the volumes have to be bought and paid for. The publications issued by the Smithsonian are no more within the reach of the general public and no more adapted to their understanding, when procured, than so many oracles of Delphi or Dodona.

So far as can be seen, the Smithsonian fund is employed almost if not quite exclusively for the maintenance and delectation of a very constricted coterie of highly superior persons, and "the people" at large have about as much knowledge of or sympathy with it as though it were a cuneiform inscription or a still buried scroll.

The Governor's legal adviser states that even though the Legislature did put an unconstitutional clause into the stock transfer law it will not invalidate the law and prevent the collection of the transfer tax. What sort of work must the Legislature's committee have done in reporting such a law?—*Buffalo Commercial.*

Is not a word of praise due to the vigilance of the Executive who signed the law?

We refer him to the subjoined utterance apparently volunteered this month at the Irrigation Congress at Spokane by Dr. W. J. MCGEE, secretary of the Inland Waterways Commission.—*The New York Times.*

Dr. W J MCGEE should be protected against this disfigurement of his historic and interesting name.

The Woman Who Constituted Herself an S. P. C. A. Society.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A freight train with three cattle cars attached pulled into the Big Moose station the other day with so many animals in one car that several of them were obliged to stand on their unfortunate travelling companions. One more creature was on the verge of being crushed by the weight of two huge steers when a New York woman who was waiting for a train took hold of matters. "Mere man" stood aside while she, risking all penalties, ordered the car opened and the animal dragged out and set free.

It was shameful to see full grown men stand there and laugh, probably because they hadn't "nerve" enough to do anything, and watch a woman come to the rescue of a carload of poor dumb animals. G. M. M.

BIG MOOSE, August 28.

Because of the Rain.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Why wasn't the commissary department of the army that was recently defending Boston left to the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company?

JAMES D. DEWELL, JR.

NEW HAVEN, Conn., August 29.

Housekeeping in the Subway.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* As rowdies, microbes and germs have been considered, would it not be well to give some attention to the handrails of the subway station stairs? Soap and water might do wonders in this matter.

BROOKLYN, August 30. NOM.

A Bit of Nostalgia.

I'm in the hills and much enjoy the trees,
The little vales and pretty silver rills.
I like the scent of woodland on the breeze,
And hark with joy the while the songbird trills.
I love the creaking wheels of yonder mills,
I love the song of gander and of goose,
And yet with pain my inner nature thrills—
I miss my little Ocean like the deuce!

A vista fair it is my vision sees
As I recline upon the piney spills,
And dream of fairy neighbors at their ease
Who little know of pressing earthly ills,
Like politics and motor cars and bills
And things wherewith the cities o'er seduce,
And yet despite the pleasure it distills
I miss my little Ocean like the deuce!

Who loves the ocean and its mysteries,
Who dotes upon its moods, its shalls and wills,
Who knows its joys in rich varieties,
And loves it e'en in anger, when it chills;
E'en when its awful turbulency kills
And calls for tribute with no hope of truce,
Will understand why in the peaceful hills
I miss my little Ocean like the deuce!

ENVOY.

Prince, make of hills your principalities—
Believe me, to their charms I'm not obtuse—
I love them too, but in the midst of these
I miss my little Ocean like the deuce!

J. E. B.

EMERGENCY CHICKENS.

A Southern Woman's Grateful Memories of Old Times.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The amusing editorial article in THE SUN on the emergency chicken was so realistic a picture of Southern rural life, so true to the time honored hospitalities of the native resident of that semi-tropical country, that memories of my childhood sprang to the front, and laughter even to tears came at its bidding.

The emergency chicken was again before me in very truth. Every one knows that ice does not make itself in that delectable country. No "cold storage" chicken of several years freezing could or would be put before the guest who rides up and asks "a bite to eat." Oh, no! The real thing only, pure and sound, fresh from the slaughter, or of yesterday's killing, now hanging in the cool "smoke house" or "out under the shed," is for him.

This is a memory picture which I seem to see called up by your article; it is one of my father's sketching: In the early '20s, the date; a country house in a county of Mississippi where his first ministerial work lay, the place. A well to do planter sits on the shady side of his front gallery, the old fashioned wooden chair tipped back, his feet upon the railing, contentedly surveying that section of his many acres, the home plantation, that lies before him. A long carriage road, a quarter of a mile at least, leads from the main road to the house. An approaching guest, either by horse or carriage, could be plainly descried from his point of view. On nearer approach the guest would become known and the usual supposition as to an additional member of the dinner circle quickly decided upon—the host, anticipating the acceptance to stay to dinner before the guest had reached out to the inevitable factotum or "boy" somewhere within hearing: "Bob, slaughter a chicken." This in addition to those presumably already frizzling on the frying pan.

Then would begin the lively chase, as described in your article, of Bob and Tige in and out of the shrubbery, around the house and finally under the house, until the fated "dominica" is captured. Its neck is quickly wrung by skilled hands, the chicken hung up for a short time, and then begins the work of preparation.

Now who shall say that this emergency work is not plainly necessary where hospitality must present to the stranger guest, as well as the old familiar friend, the favorite dish, even though a trifle hurried its transfer from the grassy lawns to the spattering frying pan? Did not Abraham, that just and good man of old, set the seal of approval and example when as he sat in the door of his tent in the heat of the day and saw approaching guests he bade them rest, and while they rested he ran to the herd and killed and dressed a tender and good calf, and set it before them to eat ere they passed on?

Old customs are not easily thrown over in the sunny South. This also is a sketch from life in the '60s, brought to memory by that "emergency chicken" article. The time is during the civil war, just about two years before its close; the place the same neighborhood of Bob, Tige, the chicken and the placid unruffled planter.

Things have changed; a new generation now. War rages, famine threatens; but for the unfailing, continuous supply of the ever ready country breed, the hardy "dominica chicken," how could those home keepers, the old men and the women, have lived to tell the tale of privation and heroic endurance?

Our home was one of many where the inmates uncomplainingly did without those things which one by one vanished with the using. The old silently anxious, the young hopeful and making fun out of every fleeting joy. In that home too the invaluable chicken found his place and use. At times the feathered flock would be large; at times extremely small. There was one vigorous young member of this fluctuating number which though often marked and sought as a suitable "sacrifice" on an "emergency" occasion, managed to elude the swiftest young African runner or the most confusing chase of Tige. So often did this occur that we named this wily chicken Harvey Birch. There seemed really a reason for his being spared, a charm about his life.

But alas for our Harvey Birch! His days of safety and freedom were numbered. In spite of our growing interest, which was beginning to be affection and tenderness toward him, the great emergency came, and he, feeling perhaps a certain patriotic duty thrill—for no doubt that unexpected guest was a young soldier whose allegiance was pledged to his mother State, his home—land—after a few vain efforts to escape his pursuers gave himself up and duly appeared upon the table at the midday meal. It is superfluous to say not one save the uninitiated could touch a morsel of that last member of the depleted poultry yard.

Our Harvey Birch emergency chicken had served his time in that day of war and was honored at the last with the pity and regret of those who knew. E. P. M.

ELIZABETH, N. J., August 30.

The Indian Cent.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I had in my possession the original of Sarah Longacre (Mrs. Keene) taken after she was grown, which even then showed the same type of feature as the childish profile which was used on the Indian head cent.

It may be of interest to know how the designing of the initial cent piece was regarded by the Congress of the United States in the time of Washington.

Our second Congress experienced great concern and no little trouble in determining designs and inscriptions for our coinage in its formative period as it was considered highly influential in the direction of public education. The first bill passed by the Senate provided that the head of the President for the time, with his last name in full and succession numerically indicated, should be used.

This was bitterly opposed in the House as showing the tendency on the part of the Senate toward a monarchical form of government. The motion was therefore made to strike out the Senate provision and substitute the word and emblem of "Liberty" and date of coinage, and this motion was adopted.

Copper coins struck at the national Mint, which had just been established at Philadelphia, bore the head of Washington. Of this he highly disapproved, suggesting the subsequent substitution of the head of Liberty, since which time until this recent change in the design not one of our national coins has ever displayed the head of an individual.

It would seem then that the adoption of the "Lincoln design" is more than an innovation and involves what was considered a question of principle of sufficient importance to our first President and the cofounders of our Government to require earnest consideration and a prompt and radical remedy. RED CENT.

NEW YORK, August 30.

From a Jersey Farmer.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* The editorial in THE SUN of August 23 on cost of foodstuffs properly points out that farmers ought to adopt better business methods. It is doubtful, however, if the day will ever arrive when "the farm will be as much of a business enterprise as the store or the factory." The conditions on a farm are altogether different from those in a factory. For a given amount of human and mechanical energy in a factory definite results can be obtained. The output of a factory can be controlled. Not so with a farm. Crops are subject to attacks from a variety of insects, to say nothing of the difficulties arising from weather conditions. The result, therefore, of effort on a farm is an unknown quantity. No amount of business experience on the part of a farmer will prevent a drought from destroying his crops or a flood from washing them out.

In that part of New Jersey in which I reside there has not been a good crop of potatoes raised for several years. It has happened each year that just about the time the potatoes are in blossom a drought has caught them. No matter how flourishing a crop of potatoes may be a drought when they are in blossom will seriously injure or even destroy them. Other crops of the farmer are attacked in various ways. It will be seen, therefore, that while the cost of the product of a factory may be calculated to a nicety, the cost of any given crop cannot be estimated until that particular crop has been harvested.

Still, as you say, much can be done to improve conditions by better business methods.

NEW YORK, August 27. AMATEUR FARMER.

Yorkshire Pudding.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Who can unlock the mystery of making good Yorkshire pudding? Not the kind, of course, that one gets in any cook book, but the real thing.

NEW YORK, August 30. E. A. B.

In the Culinary Annex.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Do you think that Mrs. Etta Cake would be admitted to a modest place in the hall? E.

BOSTON, August 30.

Identification.

Knicker—Did you recognize my voice on the phone?

Mrs. Knicker—No, I recognized the excuse.

THE FUTURE OF CUBA.

Pessimistic Views of a Resident Who Wishes the Country Well.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* So far as my information goes THE SUN has dealt with Cuban affairs in a just and intelligent way, sadly lacking in too many of its contemporaries.

The Cuban Minister to the United States and the newspapers that support the Government will not allow that there is anything at all wrong with the state of Cuba now, or any cause for apprehension or anxiety as to the future. According to them the entire Government from the President downward is actuated by the loftiest and most unselfish patriotism and pursues an enlightened policy with energy and wisdom. They will assure you that there are no longer Miguelistas and Zayistas, no longer any rent or rivalry in the Liberal party, but that all are now one happy and enthusiastic family, devoted to the interests of their country and animated by the purest and most noble motives.

On the other hand there are persons who find fault with everything the Government has done, and as severely blame it for what it has left undone. They will point out on every side instances of graft and corruption from highest to lowest, appointments made of utterly incompetent men or else of criminals and persons of the worst repute. They will tell you of poverty and distress, of widespread discontent, of dissensions and jealousies between the Miguelista and Zayista factions of the Liberal party in spite of the alleged fusion.

The vast majority of people, little concerned with politics, naturally believe that there must be something wrong with the Government when they listen to these conflicting statements. Unfortunately the only result is to drive them further away from any participation in the struggle for a purer, a more intelligent and stronger administration.

The greater number of the electors in Cuba are wholly uneducated, cannot even read and write. How can they possibly judge what is the best policy for the country and who are fittest to carry it out?

That General Gomez was chosen President is evidence sufficient to show how incapable of sound judgment in such matters are the bulk of the Cuban people. Here is a man with a considerable strain of the colored race in his blood, who has had only a rudimentary education, speaks no English, and has had no experience or training whatever for the position he holds. As a guerrilla chief or as an agriculturist he is no doubt a capable man, and in his personal character estimable; but as a statesman, as the ruler of a country which has diplomatic and commercial relations with every civilized nation, he is cruelly out of place. It is as though Mr. Taft were placed in command of the Spanish troops in Morocco or the Emperor William made manager of the Coney Island shows.

It is a tragic spectacle to see Cuba, laden with treasure as she is, like some ship drifting blindly on, whither she knows not, nor greatly cares, with torn canvas and battered hull, while the officers gamble and carouse in the cabin, the crew make careless merriment, and the watch lie asleep about the decks. Meanwhile the United States Government looks on with assumed satisfaction, but cynical indifference really, while the vessel launched and manned under its supervision goes to its inevitable doom.

CAMAGUEY, August 24. B.

A New Judgment of Solomon Needed.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* And so a league will be formed at Albany to further the adoption of a Federal income tax law!

And lo! Mr. William Jennings Bryan will be there, in person or in spirit, as a master mover of the furtherance!

How now, William (Bryan and Taft); what of the plaudits of the multitude? What of the honors?

Was there not once a wise though despotic ruler who to quell a contest of two female claimants of one infant directed that the infant should be cloven in twain to test their motherhood?

Must history so cruelly repeat itself for the sake of justice? X.

NEW YORK, August 30.

Popular Weather Signs.

From the London Globe.

Men of science tell us in some cases what are characterized old women's stories are practically correct. For instance, counting numbers from the lightning flash to the sound of thunder locates in miles the seat of the disturbance. The approach of rain is signalled, so say the observant country folk, in many ways: The swifts and the swallows skim close to the ground; the cat washes his face, and the chaffinch has a sad and plaintive note; the farmyard goose runs about and shows general restlessness; the peacock utters frequent cries; the woodpecker moans or sighs; the parrot chatters, the guinea-fowl perches; the frog remains silent; the toad walks about; flowers have a stronger odor and many among them close up.

There are also other signs none the less sure for prognosticating fine weather. The birds twitter; the redthroat sings on the top of the highest trees; the swallow flies into the clouds; the lark rises from the ground and mounts into the air singing; the cricket makes his cry heard; the tree frog climbs the trees, and the flowers open. Finally there are a few varied observations which will complete these signs. An everlasting flower hung on a wall opens in fine weather and closes when it will be rain. When the spider leaves off working at its web it is a sign of rain. If it continues or recommences its weaving during the night it is a sign that the good weather will return. When rain begins to fall, if the hens do not hide themselves, but continue to look for their food, it means that the rain will not cease all day. If they take refuge at the first drop of rain it is a sign that it will not last. When only one magpie leaves its nest it is a sign of rain. If the father and mother quit it together it is a sign of good weather.

Motor Vehicles in Germany.

From the Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

In the German Empire the number of motor machines for passenger service is given as 30,475, of which 20,028 were motorcycles. For the transportation of goods 2,252 motor cars were registered, 248 of which were motorcycles. For use in business connected with passenger service 16,110 motor cars were registered; for pleasure and outing trips, 15,862; in the army and other Government service, 305; for public passenger traffic, 2,340; used by physicians, 4,641. Automobiles in general use for transportation of goods numbered 2,059; in Government service, 504; all other uses, 26.

In Alsace-Lorraine and the State of Baden combined the total number of machines is given as 2,441 automobiles and 1,806 motorcycles. Of these 1,733 were used for business connected with passenger service, 1,700 for pleasure and outing trips, 20 in the army and by public officials, 81 for public passenger traffic, and 374 by physicians in their practice. The number of automobiles in general use in the transportation of goods was 130; by the army and postal service, 7; agricultural and forestry service, 24; all other purposes, 78.

During the year ended September 30, 1908, the number of foreign made passenger automobiles temporarily in or passing through Alsace-Lorraine was 2,836, of which 2,355 were of French manufacture, 135 Swiss, and 118 American.

In the whole of Germany 141 persons were killed by automobiles and motorcycles during the year, 2,630 were injured, and 5,099 cases of damage were reported.

Schoolgirls Their Own Dressmakers.

From the London Standard.

A novel proposal made by a lady inspector has come under the consideration of the Romford school managers. It is that schoolgirls shall become their own dressmakers. Needlework in elementary schools is at present confined to odd pieces of miscellaneous cloth obtained at trifling cost. The inspectress proposes that the girls should be taught to mend clothes and to make complete garments suitable for their own wear. The idea is regarded as excellent; but the provision of material to make complete dresses would involve considerable expenditure. The view of the managers is that it would amount to giving the children free clothes, and this principle they are not prepared to adopt. It is probable a way out of the difficulty would be found if the parents provided the material.

Enterprising Kentucky Farmer.

From the Mayfield Messenger.

John Fred Sullivan brought a load of watermelons to the city this morning and stationed his wagon at the corner fronting the Farmers National Bank. He has been delivering political speeches, religious lectures and talks on various subjects from his wagon, and the cause, it is thought, is only one of his schemes to draw the crowd around his wagon, thinking that it would hasten the sale of his melons.

The Bubble Reputation.

Hudson had just discovered the stream.

"What's the use?" he cried; "Half the people will call it the North River."

Herewith he reflected on the bubble reputation.

LEGAL EDUCATION.

A Lawyer Asserts That a Three Years Course Should Be Required.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It is surprising that any reputable newspaper should oppose the movement to secure the better education of members of the bar, but when that paper is THE SUN we cry "Ichabod" indeed!

A reference to the reports of the American Bar Association for the last eight or ten years shows that the hackneyed argument advanced in to-day's SUN has been met, as it has been advanced, time and time again. The requirement of three years study certainly would not have deterred Elihu Root or Joseph H. Choate from the lawyer's career, nor would it have been unreasonable; and the unbiased opinion of those eminent counsel of their own fitness for the practice of the law when admitted would be worth their present scale of fees to ascertain.

The argument is that these unusually gifted persons show that so long a training is unnecessary, but it would be as legitimate to conclude that no training at all is needed because William Wirt is reported inaccurately to have begun the study of law after his admission to the bar and to have had a retainer from an anxious but imprudent client before either, or because John Marshall's preparation was certainly meagre.

The reply is conclusive. The requirement is for the average man, and is absolutely necessary if the study of law is to continue to be a science. Judge Danaher, to whom you refer, has been one of the State Board of Law Examiners for many years, and his opinion is, as stated in your editorial, that at least many of the candidates are not properly prepared. The expert view should be accepted; they are not on the average Roots, Choates, Wirts or Marshalls, heretical as that view may seem to fond parents.

At present when the farmer, the tradesman, the Governor, the President, the physician not only demand the alteration of the statutory law but that they shall prepare the bills to effect it, some knowledge of the history and development of the law should be imparted in the schools; yet the two year course is not long enough to give an adequate knowledge of the law as it now stands. None so quick as THE SUN to deride an ignorant or even unsound judicial opinion—properly quick. Why then oppose that training which will at least minimize the errors which will occur under any system? Would it have been a public calamity if one-half of the present members of the New York bar had not been admitted until after a three years course, or, for that matter, at all? Ask a Judge of the Appellate Division.

THOMAS J. JOHNSTON.

NEW YORK, August 27.

THE NEW JERSEY CONSTITUTION.

Objections to the Proposed Judiciary Amendment.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Don't you think that you go too far when you state that the opposition to the proposed amendment to the New Jersey constitution "is mainly political" and that "in that respect it unblushingly disregards the interests of the people"? All summer we have been assailed with Judge written tracts and boiler plate interviews in behalf of the amendments, but opposition, whether political or not, has scarce dared raise its head.

There are defects in our present Constitution, but they are not as serious or as numerous as one would imagine from the reading of your article this morning. The proposed amendments may cure some of our ills, but they will inflict on us worse evils. It will change the names of our courts, but what do we gain by calling our Court of Errors and Appeals "Supreme Court, Appeals Division," or by calling our Chancery Court "Supreme Court, Chancery Division"?

One Judge presides over our county courts. One of those courts we call our County Court of Quarter Sessions, another we call our County Court of Common Pleas. Following the analogy used to preserve distinction in the Supreme Court, may we not expect if the amendment is adopted to have our county courts called our "County Court, Common Pleas Division," or our "County Court, Quarter Sessions Division"?

In this respect what do we gain by setting in motion the ponderous machinery of constitutional amendment?

Politicians may oppose the amendment upon the ground that it puts in the hands of Governor Fort the organization of the Appeals Division of the proposed Supreme Court—a dangerous power in one who is a possible candidate for the United States Senate—and who can blame them? From their point of view their objection is valid, although it perhaps does not consider the interests of the people.

But now I come to my objection, the objection of a meek attorney who knows a little of the present ills but fears what may come if the amendment is adopted. The amendment provides: "The jurisdiction shall be exercised in accordance with rules of practice prescribed by statute, or in the absence of statute by the Supreme Court."

Chapter 234, Laws of 1909, which is designed to carry the amendment into effect, provides: "The Supreme Court shall, by its rules * * * regulate the pleading and practice of the court, and to that end may change the statutory and other legal regulations of practice and procedure existing when this act takes effect."

It is my fear that under the amendment, and by that statute, the Legislature renouncing its own right, the court gets an absolute constitutional right to make rules and regulations and to repeal existing statutes regarding practice and procedure. The scheme is clearly a violation of our republican form of government, but being embodied in a constitution we shall have small chance of redress unless an appeal to the United States Supreme Court should result in the restoration of the original separation of the three departments of government. An amendment and a statute which is read into it which attempt to confer legislative powers on the judiciary come very near being a violation of that clause of the Federal Constitution which guarantees to each State a republican form of government.

This objection is entered in the interest of the people, regardless of the interest of the politicians. EDWARD O'BYRNE.

PATERSON, N. J., August 28.

Match Monopoly Reestablished in Venezuela.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

Consul Isaac A. Manning of La Guayra sends the information that the Federal Court and the Court of Cassation of Venezuela having confirmed the rights of the Venezuelan Match Company under the concession of 1905, the Government has prohibited the manufacture of matches in Venezuela.

The Government has also prohibited the importation of matches into the country, with the exception of Bengal lights. This will affect American trade considerably, the importation of matches from the United States during