The Sun.

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 1, 1909.

Entered at the Post Office at New York as Second Class Mail Matter.

Subscriptions by Mail, Postpaid.

DAILY, Per Month	$0 50
DAILY, Per Year	6 00
SUNDAY, Per Year	2 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Year	8 00
DAILY AND SUNDAY, Per Month	70

Postage to foreign countries added.

All checks, money orders, &c., to be made payable to THE SUN.

Published by the Sun Printing and Publishing Association at 170 Nassau street, in the Borough of Manhattan, New York. President of the Association, William M. Laffan, 170 Nassau street; Treasurer of the Association, M. F. Laffan, 170 Nassau street; Secretary of the Association, D. W. Quinn, 170 Nassau street.

London office, Effingham House, 1 Arundel street, Strand. The daily and Sunday SUN are on sale in London at the American and Colonial Exchange, Carlton street, Regent street, and Daw's Steamship Agency, 17 Green street, Leicester Square.

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

If our friends who favor us with manuscripts for publication wish to have rejected articles returned they must in all cases send stamps for that purpose.

A Famous Victory.

To the Legislature assembled in extraordinary session on his call Governor HUGHES on June 8, 1908, addressed a special message in which he made two interesting and significant statements, which we quote:

"Racetrack gambling exists not because it is hidden or elusive but as an organized business shielded by legislative discrimination. * * * The question is neither as to sport nor as to horse breeding, but as to the enforcement of the constitutional provision in its application to a plainly preventable evil, the continuance of which outrages the moral sentiment of the State and does violence to our respect for law and order."

Three days later the Legislature passed the Agnew-Hart bill, which abolished forever by statute the "plainly preventable evil" of racetrack gambling, and the Governor then made the further public announcement:

"I am deeply gratified at the result. It is a victory for law and order the importance of which cannot be overestimated."

We take the following extract from the news columns of the *Evening Post* of Monday night, in which is described a portion of the happenings at the recent Futurity:

"Betting occupied the greater share of attention, however, the early part of the afternoon. The grounds were placarded with posters in large type saying that bookmaking or gambling in any form was prohibited and giving the text of the law passed by the Legislature last year. The notice was signed by the secretary of the Jockey Club.

"In the big railroad-station-like structure which the Jockey Club provides to shelter the 'prohibited' practices the bookmakers were on hand early. They carried large bundles of bills between their fingers and recorded bets just as of yore, their clients handing them money as fast as they could take it. One after another came the clever young man who has read 'past performances' and thinks he has picked a winner, the seedy looking person who has a system, the man with the inside tip from the owners, the prosperous looking middle aged man who can afford to lose, and the obliging man who is merely acting as messenger for the women in the stand."

One further quotation, this time from the editorial columns of the *Evening Post*, seems to us significant on the situation:

"Governor HUGHES is now in the field explaining and urging his plan for the reform of party government. His speech at Syracuse last night was applauded throughout by a large audience."

We shall be forgiven, we trust, if we fall back upon the familiar interrogation:

"'But what good came of it at last?'
Quoth little PETERKIN.
'Why, that I cannot tell,' said he;
'But 'twas a famous victory.'"

A Contemporary Columbus.

This is the age of gallant discoverers and reckless travellers. Only the other day BLÉRIOT crossed from Gaul to Britain in an air craft, and not to be outdone the Hon. HENRY W. HILL promptly follows by a descent of the Erie Canal from Tonawanda to ultimate Cohoes. Mr. HILL's experiences are not less interesting than those of the equally gallant Frenchman, for HILL, be it remembered, is the original canal man, the quasi-inventor of the $101,000,000 device. As an author of that voluminous document "Waterways and Canal Construction in New York State" Mr. HILL has unquestionably contributed more meaningless matter to the archives of the State Library than any other public man of his time.

"The Erie Canal [that is, the new barge canal] is more difficult to construct than the Panama Canal," observes Mr. HILL as he leaps from the deck of the good ship Cruiser, which has carried him safely over so many miles. "It involves so many problems of hydraulic and engineering difficulty." All these Mr. HILL sets forth with the true gusto of a man of many, very many words. Viaducts over the marshes of Montezuma, rock cuts at Lockport, above all the problem of the Mohawk, beside which the Chagres is but a trout brook in a meadow land.

On the subject of these difficulties Mr. HILL grows eloquent. He tells the sad story of contractors compelled to construct two plants on one job, to remodel machinery. In fact so moved is Mr. HILL that he almost expresses an opinion. This approximate or near opinion is that it will be four years—at least—before the canal work is done. Indeed, we will not prophesy about this, for are not some of the final surveys still to be made? Are not quicksands newly discovered yawning at the feet of unhappy contractors? Let us not, moreover, omit to mention Irondequoit Creek Valley; there is a problem to be proud of.

On one subject alone the Hon. HENRY W. HILL is silent. It is a minor matter, of course. In fact it is nothing but the cost. Quicksands, marshes, the remorseless Mohawk, these are matters to talk about. Think of the pride, the honest pride, we all must feel to know that Panama itself is but a drainage ditch compared with our great undertaking! Bigger than Panama, then of course more expensive, but what of that? Was it to be expected that this great State would forever rest contented with Gowanus?

We invite the attention of our fellow citizens to the significant statements of this distinguished traveller. From the picture he paints of the suffering contractors no one can turn away with dry eyes. The difficulties, too; they are of the sort to make the patriotic citizen proud of his own State. He cannot fail to feel grateful to the Governor and the Legislature for their wisdom at the last session in adding two more canals to the grand total of our magnificent waterways. Here are Panama and Suez paling before our own gaze; Kiel and Corinth are only to be compared to sections, mere fractions of our colossal triumph, still incomplete, still susceptible of infinite extension.

Senator HILL says nothing about cost, and only a word about delay. Why should we, why should anybody? Is $200,000,000 too much to pay for primacy, even in fatuity? Of course not. Thanks are due from us all to the Hon. HENRY W. HILL. If, unlike most canal champions, he has told a little truth, it will do no harm, the proportion is too small. What are delay and increased expense? The delay is nothing but a pledge of greater cost. The expense is nothing but the final evidence of Governmental wisdom. Meantime, let us all give thanks that the present canal did its duty so nobly and despite age and decrepitude floated the newest Henry Hudson from Half Moon to the Niagara.

A Chief Justice at the Circus.

The court of last resort of the State of Texas has just decided that a Wild West show is not a circus.

It might be supposed at first blush that such a question was hardly important enough to merit the attention of the highest tribunal in a great Commonwealth, but the litigation in which it arose was conducted in behalf of the prosecution by the Attorney-General of the State. The defendant was Colonel WILLIAM F. CODY, and the peculiarity of the case was that the Chief Justice of Texas, who wrote the opinion, based his decision not wholly on the testimony of the witnesses before the trial court as contained in the record, but upon his own personal knowledge as to what a circus was and is. In other words, the Court took judicial notice of the constituents which make up a circus in the legal meaning of that word.

A Texas statute exacts a license fee of $250 for "every circus wherein equestrian or acrobatic feats or performances are exhibited." It contains no further explanation or exposition of the meaning of the word "circus." The Court was therefore bound to assume that the Legislature used the word in its common and ordinary acceptation. As is well known, Buffalo BILL's Wild West Show attempts to portray incidents and events in frontier life which actually occurred and which have some basis in history or fact. It is also designed to represent the skill of cowboys and other rough riders; successful and unsuccessful attempts at the highway robbery of overland stages; fights between the Indians and frontiersmen, and furnishes striking examples of accurate marksmanship in shooting with the revolver and rifle.

These incidents are not characteristic of the old fashioned circus. Chief Justice FISHER, being impressed with the difference by reason of his early recollections, says that in some mysterious way he managed to raise money sufficient to procure a ticket to a circus which recently arrived in town and that his observations at the performance which he then witnessed confirmed his conviction that the Wild West show was not a circus. In the first place there was no ring in the Wild West show. In fact, a ring would have interfered with the performance, whereas a ring is essential to a true circus. The Chief Justice emphasizes the distinction by a striking series of negations, as follows:

"There was an absence of the lady with the paucity of garments, the gentleman in spike tail coat with whip in hand, the clown that tries to be funny and often fails, the trick pig or hog, but both doubtless to be found in the audience; the trained animals, bareback riders, high and lofty tumblers, the trapeze performers, rope walkers, chariot races and many others, and last but not least the genial artist that delights my soul in obligingly taking the photographs of my country cousins as they appear upon the scene."

The doctrine of judicial notice is one of the most interesting branches of the law of evidence. It deals with the circumstances which warrant a court in assuming the existence of certain facts without taking any proof in the particular case that such facts exist. Familiar examples relate to time, place and historical events. To illustrate, a court will take judicial cognizance of the hour of sunrise or sunset on a given day, the distance of one city in the State from another city, and the date when the civil war ended. There is a constant tendency to extend this doctrine of judicial notice and to enlarge the number of classes to which it is applicable. This Texas case, however, goes to the limit, we think, in holding that a court may take judicial notice of what constitutes a circus.

British Melodrama Again.

The first Drury Lane melodrama seen in this country since "The Great Ruby" temporarily restored the fortunes of AUGUSTIN DALY was performed last night at a Broadway theatre. If there is any stage product more elaborate in its processes of construction than a London musical comedy it is the English melodrama. There may not be quite so many contributing authors as in the musical plays, but it is a syndicate that constructs the plot, contributes the great scene, suggests the subject for the sensational element, and injects the humor, which is about as mechanical as the spectacular effects. Not all these workers appear on the programme with the frankness of acknowledgment customary in the musical pieces.

Opposed as this school of drama is to the vivacious spirit of American audiences, rarely since LESTER WALLACK introduced these plays with "The World" has our stage been so long without a specimen of it. That successful melodrama, with an expertly mechanical scene showing a raft at sea as its crowning sensation, was the first of a long line of similar pieces. "The Lights of London," "Youth," "The Romany Rye"—these were earlier specimens of the kind that for several years overran the stage of this country. The extent to which the public was supposed in the early '80s to hunger for melodrama of British pattern may be understood from the abandonment of his regular New York mélanges of Irish and negro comedy by EDWARD HARRIGAN in order to devote the talents of his company to the prevailing style of drama. At one time the stage of every high class New York theatre was dedicated to some melodrama of transatlantic origin.

Naturally the reaction came, but before that time a new species of drama had been introduced here and had taken root in the American theatre. There was rarely a season in the following years that did not bring forward one or two pieces in which canvas and costumes outbid the ingenuity and originality that had first made them interesting. They were foreign to the spirit of our audiences in their slow movement, the mechanical humor of their situations and their long drawn out heroics. Their sensations rarely failed of effect, however, for long practice in building these plays developed in their authors almost unfailing skill in these details. Their spectacle was always chosen from interesting originals, and they were frequently based on actual incidents that had more eloquence for their first audiences than for those in this country, but imparted an echo of reality to the scenes. The gradual increase in this local color deprived many of these melodramas of their interest for American audiences, and they have gradually ceased to be regular incidents of the theatrical year. Now only the most notably successful of these plays is selected for importation, and that is likely to remain the rule. As the native supply continues large and there has been no diminution in the British appetite for plays of this kind, there will probably be for some years to come an occasional renaissance of dramas of this type.

Business and Literature.

The passing of Sir THEODORE MARTIN and the reminder that he was able to combine literature with the activities of a parliamentary lawyer inspire the London *Times* to reflect ponderously on writing in general and the novel in particular. "The art of composition is an art of address. The writer of whatever kind has an audience whose ear it is his business to gain; and a training in some kind of business other than pure literature is likely to be very useful in teaching him this art of address." An obvious truism, which the Thunderer backs up with well known instances: MILTON was Latin secretary, SHAKESPEARE a theatre manager, and among the novelists FIELDING was a barrister and police magistrate, RICHARDSON a printer, DEFOE a jack of all trades, SMOLLETT a surgeon, STERNE a parson, and Sir WALTER SCOTT a lawyer. Mighty shades to be evoked by the name of the Prince Consort's amiable biographer.

The *Times's* list might have been expanded easily with more modern examples: WILLIAM MORRIS the decorator, DANTE GABRIEL ROSSETTI the painter, GEORGE DU MAURIER the illustrator, E. C. STEDMAN the broker, BRYANT the journalist, OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES the physician, a multitude more of varying merit. But is not the tally of good writers with no training but that of the pen fully as long, and were these not able to understand life just as well without professional or business training? ROBERT BURNS, SHELLEY, KEATS, POE, WALT WHITMAN; or if poets, being born, are barred, take the novelists alone, DICKENS, THACKERAY, ANTHONY TROLLOPE, WILKIE COLLINS, MEREDITH, HOWELLS, HENRY JAMES. Not to speak of the women or the tribe of "best sellers" that writes intuitively from the cradle without need of knowledge.

It is interesting to know that ROGERS was a banker, or LONGFELLOW a professor, or BLACKMORE a gardener, or OLIVER GOLDSMITH and S. WEIR MITCHELL physicians, but what has it to do with their writings?

After the frequenter of the saloon has taken his last drink in Boston, if he goes out on the Boston and Albany Railroad, it is a sixty-seven mile ride before he finds an open saloon. If on the Boston and Maine, it is sixty miles.—*Temperance*

We wonder what differential is allowed to the Albany commuter?

COW GILL for Governor.—*Kansas City Star.*

Make it unanimous.

The Secret of Szasz.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Three or four years ago there was a small shoe store on Fulton street, Brooklyn, just below the bridge terminal, kept by a Mr. Szasz. Mark how it is spelled, please, Szasz. I used to try to pronounce that name as I rode by in the cars, but finally gave it up as a bad job.

One day while walking up the street I noticed several gentlemen standing in front of Mr. Szasz's store making strenuous efforts at pronouncing his name, which was in large letters on the store window. After a good deal of hissing and sizzing one of them suggested that they had not yet got outside of enough booze to make a success of it and that they repair to the nearest boozorium and booze up, which they did and then returned to the attack.

This process was repeated several times, but they finally gave it up and went back to the boozorium for good. Before going away one of them said he was going to "wri' to ze Shun" and offer Mr. Szasz as a candidate for election to the hall of fame. What I want to know is, did Mr. Szasz get in; and if he did, can anybody say it?

SOUTH NORWALK, Conn., August 31. W. S. J.

Arteriosclerosis.

From the New York Medical Journal.

It is very generally felt that the high pressure conditions of city life, the immoderate use of alcoholic stimulants and tobacco, and impure foods, combined with worry and the increased demands which are everywhere made upon the individual to-day, are factors which are producing earlier arterial degeneration and consequent premature senility. It is no uncommon thing to meet with well marked cases of atheromatous arteries in New York in men who are nearer the fourth than the fifth decade of life. This is in marked contrast to countries like Norway, where simple, patriarchal living is still practised, and where men in the seventies and eighties not infrequently preserve the soft, elastic arteries of youth.

THE ALASKA COAL QUESTION.

WASHINGTON, Aug. 31.—A few years ago large areas of excellent coal were discovered in Alaska. As the law stood prior to May, 1908, individual holdings of coal lands in Alaska were limited to 160 acres. Because of repeated assertions that under the conditions existing in Alaska it was impossible to operate successfully areas so small, a bill was passed by the Congress providing for a consolidation of entries.

The law of May, 1908, was entitled "An act to encourage the development of coal deposits in the Territory of Alaska." It provided for the consolidation of locations made in good faith prior to November 12, 1906, or in accordance with the terms of a circular of instruction issued by the Secretary of the Interior and dated May 16, 1907. Provision was made for the consolidation of claims or locations or purchases into a single holding "not to exceed 2,560 acres of contiguous lands," provided that "no corporation shall be permitted to consolidate its claims under this act unless 75 per cent. of its stock shall be held by persons qualified to enter coal lands in Alaska." Assuming the existence of a four foot vein of coal on a 2,560 acre tract, it is estimated that the yield would be 10,000,000 tons, a quantity regarded as sufficient to justify operation.

The obvious purpose of the law of May, 1908, was to permit the development of the Alaskan veins while prohibiting a monopoly of the industry. Section 3 of the law declares:

That if any of the lands or deposits purchased under the provisions of this act shall be owned, leased, trusteed, possessed, or controlled by any device permanently, temporarily, directly, indirectly, tacitly, or in any manner whatsoever so that they form part of, or in any way effect any combination, or are in any wise controlled by any combination in the form of an unlawful trust, or form the subject of any contract or conspiracy in restraint of trade in the mining or selling of coal, or of any holding of such lands by any individual, partnership, association, corporation, mortgage, stock ownership, or control in excess of 2,560 acres in the district of Alaska, the title thereto shall be forfeited to the United States by proceedings instituted by the Attorney-General of the United States in the courts for that purpose.

This appears to be an earnest effort to prevent any monopoly or effective control of the Alaskan coal deposits. The success of the effort remains for determination. The areas of special importance are not yet available for commercial purposes because of the present lack of transportation facilities. Work on railways running into the coal districts has been suspended, and it is fair to assume that the cause of suspension was the uncertainty of titles in the coal districts. Within the last few days this matter has been brought to public attention. The law of 1908 provides for the consolidation of their locations by original entrymen, their heirs or assigns. The charge is made that some and perhaps many of the entries were illegally made, that they were "dummy" entries, or that they were made under some arrangement for subsequent transfer to an association or corporation. Titles are of course defective if the original entries were not made in conformity with the law, and Attorney-General Wickersham has expressed his opinion that entries would be illegal if made under any agreement or contract on the part of entrymen which would have "vested in one association or corporation the title to the lands embraced in several entries."

The purpose of the law of 1908 is highly meritorious. The value of these properties is beyond question enormous. They belonged originally to the Government; that is, to the people of the United States. Their transfer to organizations or to an organization of monopolistic power or even with controlling influence would be an outrage. Under the law the Government sells Alaskan coal land at a flat rate of $10 an acre, or $25,600 for a 2,560 acre tract. If such a tract carries 10,000,000 tons of coal marketable at $3 to $4 a ton in competition with dutiable coal from the Vancouver Island mines, the opportunity for a gross abuse of privilege is obvious. Better a little delay and a safe conclusion of the matter than a hasty decision and wholesale robbery.

A Needed Lesson in the Etiquette of Patriotism.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I very recently visited the Capitol of your State at Albany, and while there was in the room containing the flags carried by New York State regiments during the civil and Spanish-American wars. One thing that impressed me very deeply was the fact that so few men removed their hats when in that room; in fact the man who did so was the exception. It seems to me that if there is one place above another where men should show their respect and reverence it is in the presence of such emblems. Failure to stand during the playing of our national air is nothing compared to the disrespect shown by a man who keeps his hat on in a room which contains those battle scarred flags, many of which show they were in from twenty to thirty engagements.

I cannot understand how a man can carelessly walk through that room. I can only have sympathy for those who feel no emotion at the sight there presented.

At places like Grant's Tomb, as you know, persons who are so lacking in respect for the place and the memory of the great commander as to keep their hats on are asked to remove them, and I believe the lesson would not be lost on many men if they were told to uncover while in the flag room of your Capitol.

SON OF A VETERAN.

SCRANTON, Pa., August 30.

Card From Judge Parker.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Replying to your editorial inquiry of to-day, I agree with THE SUN that the report of the committee on admissions to the bar of the New York County Lawyers Association is too sweeping and too undiscriminating. I presume its author, as well as every other member of the committee, also agrees, now that attention is called to its sweeping character. Each one of them doubtless entertains a sincere admiration and warm personal regard for the Judges you mention and for others as well. However, it should be borne in mind that the report has not been adopted by the New York County Lawyers Association, nor has it been considered by that body. The high esteem in which its members hold the Judges named by you and the judiciary generally was strongly evidenced on the occasion of their recent dinner to the Appellate Division.

ESOPUS, August 30. ALTON B. PARKER.

The Fighting Parson.

From Baily's Magazine.

When the great-grandfather of the present Duke of Norfolk was engaged in any of his electioneering contests he was always attended by his chaplain, an athletic man and one who had made such good use of his hands on several occasions that he acquired the name of "The Fighting Parson." Mr. Dauncey, an eminent counsel, having once to examine him as a witness during a trial, asked "whether he was not the gentleman called 'The Fighting Parson.'" "I believe I am, sir," the divine replied; "but if you require any more positive proof and will do me the favor to step out of court I will give it to you under my own hand." No further evidence was taken.

Vindicated.

Physician—You should not see more than one person at a time.

Patient—I don't; I never touch a drop.

THE DEFENCE OF DICKENS.

The Novelist's Characters Described as True to Life.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* "Poor Dickens," says Oliver Cram. I am tempted to say "Poor Cram." Where has he lived, and under what conditions of restraint, that he should have failed in everyday life to meet numerous Betsy Trotwoods as well as Mr. Micawbers?

Dickens as an accurate and intelligent student of human nature has had few equals. His character studies are generally so real, so adroitly pictured that they not only convince but become at once irresistible and charming. Only a genius endowed with remarkably keen perception could have created them.

Were Mr. Cram a cave dweller his narrow acquaintance with life and "the passing show" might be explained.

O. F. MALCOLM.

NEW YORK, August 31.

His Lost Opportunity.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Along comes Oliver Cram, whose Dickens letter points out to benighted millions the error of their reading and lack of education. Like Moses he shows the way out of the Dickens land of bondage and ignorance into the sweet Beulah fields of light and erudition. How Dickens would have enjoyed meeting Oliver Cram! He was very kind and just to Oliver Twist, and our Rochester Oliver would certainly have received equal consideration. Perhaps the Rochester Oliver is angry because Dickens portrayed him so cleverly in one of the very works to which Mr. Cram refers.

Oliver Cram says himself he dotes on "the profound treatment of life," which is "flub-dub" with the ignorant millions who are scratching along and are mainly concerned with its "actualities." So they read and will continue to read Dickens.

Take all of the authors mentioned by Oliver Cram; did they all collectively write a single book read by more people than either "David Copperfield," the sweetest story ever told; "Pickwick Papers," filled with more innocent and genuine humor than any other English publication, or "The Tale of Two Cities," the greatest novel and work of genius in the English language?

CHARLES H. SCHOTT.

BROOKLYN, August 31.

In London Only.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* It has been very painful for "Poor Dickens" and myself that such an article appeared in the columns of your paper.

The hyperbolical statements made by this literary cynic are absolutely untrue, for his characters are typical, true and original London characters, to be found in London only.

I firmly believe that in reality I have met with such men as Rogue Riderhood and Silas Wegg. SOCKY.

ST. GEORGE, Staten Island, August 31.

A Teacher of Good.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* When during our civil war General Lee had disconcerted the plans and defeated the armies of one Northern General after another the bitter cry went up that Lee violated all the rules of war; he did not play fair. When the Pope said to Cellini, "Those rules were not meant for such as Benvenuto," he went to the root of the matter. Some minds cannot entertain the fact that rules are made not to fetter genius, but as guides for respectable mediocrity. With all due respect for Mr. Cram, it is not for him to give the route. There are a number of critics by direct nomination ever ready to pull out their pocket code and to try to condemn any work not conforming to their pet ideas. Everything in this world, sacred and profane, is an object of legitimate criticism, but denunciation is not criticism. John Dennis has been long dead.

Mr. Cram says of "Bleak House": "The entire chancery portion of this novel is caricature." While I make no doubt Mr. Cram has read the book, he seems to be unfamiliar with the preface, in which Dickens says: "At the present moment [August, 1853] there is a suit before the court which was commenced nearly twenty years ago, in which from thirty to forty counsel have been known to appear at one time; in which costs have been incurred to the amount of £70,000; which is a friendly suit, and which is (I am assured) no nearer to its termination now than when it was begun." It was to expose this outrageous state of affairs and endeavor to secure reform that the book was written. It was purely and simply a tract, and gave the advocates of law reform a powerful weapon inasmuch as it set the facts before the public. Of course so simple a thought could not be expected to occupy the subtle mind of Mr. Cram. All of Dickens's books expose some evil, and they were all instrumental in effecting a change for the better.

I am inclined to accept as substantially correct Mr. Cram's view of Dickens's heroes and villains, but it is with the minor characters that the true Dickens lover mostly concerns himself. When I pass in review that long gallery of masterly portraits, drawn with so much humor, and good humor, there is not one that I would wish effaced; when I consider that wonderful group of kindly eccentrics, one or more of whom appear in each of his works, there is not one face I would not miss if it were absent, not one friend from whom I would willingly part. In particular I resent the assault on William Micawber, Esq., and Wegg, the literary man with a wooden leg.

"The scene at Dijon between Carker and Dombey's wife," says Mr. Cram, "is pure transpontine drama." Good solid British melodrama, complete with all the unities, I grant you; but why "transpontine"? If by the mysterious epithet Mr. Cram means French he has paid Dickens a compliment perhaps not wholly deserved. But Mr. Cram condemns it not as bad drama but as simply drama. Does he expect polite comedy? Dickens does not deal in such wares.

I once in a letter to a dear friend, a tender hearted, clear eyed woman who knows the world of men and books, said I liked all Dickens but the pathos, saying it appeared to be somewhat overdone and coming more from the pen than the heart. I may be permitted to quote a line from her reply—I am sure she will not object: "It was never Dickens's pathos that held me. It is his humor and humanness—not humanity; something more living and vital. Dick Swiveller, the Marchioness, Peggotty, Betsy Trotwood, Cap'n Cuttle, Weller—all of them are to me as alive as you or I."

To me Dickens teaches that one must face the fact of the wickedness and misery of the world, but at the same time see the good as well. To see good, to do good and to try to be good seems to me the essence of his teaching. EDWIN W. THOMAS.

NEW YORK, August 30.

Mr. Cram Returns.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Well might I repeat the words of Dickens's great countryman whose existence more than atones for the atrocities of the Cockney breed of writers: "What's in a name? A rose by any other name would smell as sweet." Suppose, for example, my name had been Oliver Cromwell instead of Oliver Cram, would it not at least be acknowledged that I was a great Englishman, or the spook of one? My critics, all hailing from New York or from that home of Pickwickian culture, Brooklyn—I presume it is not identical with Gotham—are indignant that a Rochesterian with the monosyllabic name of Cram should have dared to speak of Dickens as vulgar. Now that is just what Dickens is, and I am glad that Edwin W. Thomas shrinks from denying this so-called novelist's vulgarity. He is quite wrong, however, in describing Samuel Johnson as a Cockney. The lexicographer was born in Lichfield and only lived in London in his maturer years. As for Charles Lamb, I recognize in him a Londoner but not a Cockney. The word "Cockney" connotes an ignorant and uncultured inhabitant of the British metropolis. There is a distinction which every dictionary will probably show.

The weakness of Dickens's plots is not his worst fault. His ridiculous misinterpretation of life and character is what will ultimately consign his books to the limbo of the critically damned. I know how unenviable is the task of exposing the worthlessness of a popular favorite; but popularity is no criterion of excellence in literature any more than it is in politics. Mr. Thomas shows his absence of the critical faculty when he called Cervantes a "caricaturist." I notice that he has not had the audacity to apply the term to Fielding or to Thackeray. As for "Boxiana," that surely is not literature? Possibly the man who likes Pierce Egan will also like Dickens.

"Mr. Chadband's" letter is worthy of the name. It was Chadband who, seeing that his inebriation caused the audience to grin, exclaimed: "This meeting is drunk." "Mr. Chadband" of Brooklyn thinks that I and all the others who regard Dickens as an overrated writer of fiction must be drunk. However, George Meredith, who according to C. C. Hiscoe must be a dead ass if I am a live one, was not the only prominent man of letters to condemn Dickens. William Dean Howells has pointed out his shortcomings as an artist. George Eliot declared that Dickens described only externals. Even George Gissing admits the unfinished and meretricious character of many of Dickens's books. Now among critics only that genuine type of the "live ass" G. K. Chesterton admires him.

It is really true that it is the vulgar minded and the uneducated who at this hour of day mainly read Dickens. He is the literary idol of the English public house, just as he may be for aught I know, in spite of his "American Notes" and of "Martin Chuzzlewit," the demigod of the Chicago hog killer.

A living English novelist once said that Dickens's success was to him an inexplicable puzzle; but the explanation is very simple. In every country the vast majority of readers cannot tell good fiction from bad, and most popular favorites among writers of fiction have produced works which in spite of their temporary success have been found by competent critics to be mere pinchbeck. Regardless then of the abuse of my critics and of their poor attempts at sarcasm on account of my unillustrious name, I adhere to the opinions I expressed in my first letter and maintain that the time is fast approaching when the ignorant admirers of Dickens will learn wisdom from those who know what ephemeral literature is, and will cease to read books which a less exacting generation tolerantly laughed at just as they laughed at the street exhibition known as "Punch and Judy" and at the clown's sorry jokes in the circus.

OLIVER CRAM.

ROCHESTER, August 30.

A Mawkish Sentimentalist.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I am glad to see one man rise in revolt against the Dickens cult, and I honor Mr. Oliver Cram for the courage of his convictions. As a boy of 16 I read Dickens pretty thoroughly (some books I could not read, "Hard Cash" for instance), but later when I read Scott, Irving, Bulwer Lytton and others I came to see the impossible characters and the mawkish sentimentality of Dickens. There is a certain broad humor in "Pickwick Papers," and the "Tale of Two Cities" may be called a strong story; beyond these there is nothing worth while.

There are several books which I read about once in two years and which are ever new. I will mention two: Irving's "Knickerbocker's History of New York" and Stevenson's "Master of Ballantrae." Charles Dickens could never approach the delicate humor of the one nor the strong meat of the other. C. G. MACURDA.

NEW YORK, August 31.

LET CUBA ALONE.

Only Insidious Influences From Without Threaten Her Independence.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Denied the privilege of vituperation through their Havana mediums, because they were ordered under penalty of the law to tell the truth, the enemies of Cuban freedom are seeking to use the press of America to foment discontent and eventually bring about intervention and annexation. The greater part of a communication signed "B" and printed in THE SUN of August 31 is made out of the whole cloth, and the statement that the United States looks on with "assumed satisfaction" has no foundation. President Taft knows to an iota the exact political, physical and financial situation in Cuba, and he wishes the present course of the present Government to continue. No man knows better than he when Cuba is well governed, because he has been in personal touch with the island for years.

It is just as well that Americans should know now that Cuba is having no easy time in retaining the freedom for which she gave blood and kindred for fifty years, and this is not for any internal reason. Nationally Cuba is as peaceful as any place on earth—her political troubles, so called, are about on a par with our election district squabbles. She has a strong, diplomatic man at her helm, no matter whether he is Choctaw, Piute or Esquimau, and his Cabinet is composed of strong, able, progressive men. They are honest men, and the history of Cuba of the last two weeks shows that they do not countenance graft or dishonesty in any form.

Were it not for outside efforts Cuba would view nothing on her horizon but peace and prosperity; but great interests, affected by trade conditions, are always looking toward annexation, the first step toward which is intervention. These interests, with their enormous money power, are always ready to show America why she should intervene for the good of Cuba and incidentally for the commercial benefit of some of the interveners.

Cuba's fiscal statement shows a good living balance on the right side of her ledger above her budget needs, and the revenue from her lottery will increase this balance. That she has negotiated a loan means nothing. That was an inheritance from the last intervention. Cuba doesn't need money. The garbled news of the island we once wept over does not come to America any more because President Gomez has demanded the truth.

Let Cuba alone for a while! Anybody with half a sense can see that Gomez is making his way into a position of strength with strong surroundings. Every newspaper in America should know who "knocks" and why in such a crisis as this. A. B. C.

NEW YORK, August 31.

OFFENSIVE PUBLIC SERVANTS.

Custom House Espionage in Aggravated Form Has Become Intolerable.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Really, we are a thoroughly tame and long suffering people, though bold and assertive enough when abroad, and not compelled to defend ourselves, for we put up with indignities and insults from public servants which would not for a moment be tolerated in any older country. As it is, many of us are obliged to sue meekly and humbly for our ordinary rights, and more or less to kowtow to waiters in hotels and restaurants, street car conductors, municipal servants and others. The spirit of absurd equality and bumptiousness and the craze for power and its unjust exercise by petty officials is a survival of Rooseveltism and is borne with resignation by individuals and tolerated by the press.

Passing over many forms of petty tyranny which are just now so rampant, attention may be directed to the outrageous espionage of the customs officials and the immigration department of the port of New York. When all incoming passengers who carry overcoats are stripped and searched and the officers of foreign steamships are held up on the gangways of their vessels by the subordinates of the energetic young Collector, it is time for some protest to be made. Even in Italy and Turkey no such abuse of personal rights is met with, and this stringent hunt for smuggling just now is peculiarly offensive to those who have watched the enactment of the new tariff and who must abide by its unfair provisions. Again, the unwarranted exercise of moral censorship upon the part of the authorities at Ellis Island to deport people for alleged ethical irregularities which are not considered criminal elsewhere, to deport queerly dressed or hysterical females, or to detain women who smoke cigarettes, is not only silly and provincial, making us ridiculous as a nation in the eyes of the rest of the world, but it is conduct which calls for indignant protest. AN OLD AMERICAN.

NEW YORK, August 30.

To Oliver H. Yale, Jr.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Please insert in your paper the following: The mother and father of Oliver H. Yale, Jr., of Saugerties, R. F. D., Ulster county, N. Y., who left his home on August 3, are heartbroken and beg him to return or let them hear from him. He took with him his high school diploma of Kingston, also his diploma of Spencer Business School.

A HEARTBROKEN MOTHER AND FATHER.

SAUGERTIES, August 30.

Dentistry in Greece.

From Daily Consular and Trade Reports.

In Athens there are three foreign dentists—two Englishmen and one German—who have modern equipments, charge high prices, and have so many clients that they are obliged to turn some of them away. There are also sixty native dentists. However, outside of Athens dentistry is usually a function of the barber, who only draws teeth.

The Homecomer.

We welcome now with gusto
A long lost absentee,
One who has spent his exile
Three months upon the sea.
Through every day of parting
Our hearts have vainly yearned,
So we rejoice our loved one
In health has now returned.

We scarce command the patience
To wait for a caress
While to the form we cherish
Our eager lips we press.
The countless friends are thronging,
A happy race of men,
Who all with deep affection
The oyster hail again.

MCLANDBURGH WILSON.

A UNIFORM JUDICIAL SYSTEM

Neither Desirable Nor Safe for the States of the Union.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* I read with pleasure the article in THE SUN disapproving the proposition of the committee of the American Bar Association at Detroit recommending a "uniform judicial system for all the States." When you say that "the strength and indissolubility of the Union depend largely on the independence of the States in their domestic affairs" you touch the fundamentally radical character of this proposed innovation.

The framers of the Constitution, said Douglas in 1858, "never conceived the idea that uniformity in the domestic institutions of the different States was either desirable or possible. They well understood that the laws and institutions which would be well adapted to the granite hills of New Hampshire would be unfit for the rice plantations of South Carolina; they well understood that each one of the thirteen States had distinct and separate interests and required distinct and separate local laws and local institutions."

A nation as vast as the American republic poised upon a system of uniform laws would break to pieces of its own weight. The Union achieves its chief glory within the sphere of its purpose. Where uniformity is desirable, as in our dealings with the external world, in matters of war, peace, negotiation, and foreign commerce; or in facilitating interstate dealings, matters of coin, weights and measures, postal regulations, and bankruptcy, we have the full measure of Federal power necessary for uniformity. In fact, the constant tendency is to extend the domain of uniformity by "new interpretations" and amendments of the Constitution. But the reserved powers of the States, says Madison, "concern the lives, liberties and properties of the people, and the internal order, improvement and prosperity of the State."

In so far as the States have not a uniform judicial system each State differs from her sisters in having the judicial system she understands to meet her requirements.

WILLIAM JOHN BARR.

NEW YORK, August 31.

RAISING THE ROOF.

Male Suffragettes With an Ingenuity Almost Female.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* Since three suffragettes who had been excluded from a meeting were found roosting on the roof of the hall in the rain some opponents are claiming this as proof of the unfitness of women to vote. It has become a favorite method in England of persons who are barred out from a political meeting to take to the roof in order to interject questions through the roof windows.

The other day a Cabinet Minister was to address a public meeting in Rochester. The evening before a number of men scaled the roof of the Corn Exchange and lay there all night and all the next day till the meeting began. Then they rose to their feet for the first time in twenty-four hours, and through a window opening upon the roof they made speeches through a megaphone against taxation without representation and lowered into the hall a large woman suffrage flag, at the same time calling for three cheers for Mrs. Pankhurst and Mrs. Despard, which were loudly given by the audience.

Thirty men, with the help of two ladders and a long pole, succeeded after much trouble in forcing open a trap door and dislodging the suffrage sympathizers on the roof. When they at last got it open the interrupters jumped to another roof twelve feet below, and then slid sixty feet down a water pipe to the ground. All but one of them escaped.

Now that all women have been shut out of public meetings for fear of suffragettes, it is reported that men are interrupting the meetings on all sides with questions about votes for women; but the most ultra opponents do not claim this as proof of the utter unfitness of the male sex for suffrage. On the contrary in London papers members of the Men's League for Women's Suffrage boast that the men are now showing as much "courage and resource" in harassing the Cabinet Ministers as has been shown by the women. ALICE STONE BLACKWELL.

CHILMARK, Mass., August 31.

BUNYAN IN THE ABBEY.

A Memorial Window Soon to Be Placed in Westminster.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE SUN—*Sir:* A painted window to the memory of John Bunyan, the author of "The Pilgrim's Progress," will be placed in Westminster Abbey at the estimated cost of $7,000, to which I understand several Americans have already contributed. The work has been entrusted to J. M. Comper. It was the intention of Dean Stanley to erect a memorial to Bunyan in the abbey, and Mr. Sherlock, a prominent London churchman, relates the following incident: As far back as the year 1880 he took a party of workingmen from Bethnal Green to view the monuments of the abbey. Dean Stanley escorted them around the building, but before starting he said he hoped that any of the party would not hesitate to ask any question they liked. One of the men immediately said: "Mr. Dean, will you please show us John Bunyan's monument?" The dean replied in his gentle voice: "My friend, you have posed me at the start. We have no monument or memorial of any kind to John Bunyan, I am sorry to say. It is a matter very much on my mind, and the omission must be remedied."

But the illustrious dean died the following year. For some unknown reason Dean Bradley never took the matter in hand, and it is said that Dean Robinson was urged to do so by Dr. Davidson, Archbishop of Canterbury.

I understand the window will represent the "inspired dreamer," and so in artistic effigy the Baptist preacher who wrote against the English Church liturgy because "no two things had less affinity than the form of prayer and the spirit of prayer" will be compelled to listen to its strains at least twice a day. Bunyan, in a certain measure, belongs to London, for although he was born in Elstow and imprisoned in Bedford, he spent some of the closing years of his life in lodgings on Snow Hill, where he died, and his remains lie in an honored grave in the "Nonconformist Westminster" of Bunhill Fields; not under the fretted vaults of a consecrated abbey, but beneath the open canopy of heaven; not in the midst of kings, princes and statesmen whose characters are matters of historical investigation, but among "the saints" who, as Macaulay says, "begged with their dying breath that their coffins might be placed as near as possible to the coffin of the author of 'The Pilgrim's Progress.'"

John Bunyan's great work is probably not as much read as it was even fifty years ago, but no library is considered complete without it, and no education is complete without a thorough knowledge of its contents and of its inspired imagery.

The sum required for the memorial is not yet raised, and I have been requested to state that the Dean of Westminster will receive and acknowledge contributions from America. D.D., LL.D.

NEW YORK, August 31.

Imports This Year by Months.

Each month of this year our imports have largely exceeded in value those of the corresponding month of last year, denoting a steady and considerable increase in business generally, particularly among our factories. Here is the Bureau of Statistics record:

Month.	1908.	1909.
January	$84,997,514	$103,576,501
February	84,752,851	118,653,526
March	89,113,807	132,873,926
April	87,437,827	122,167,675
May	84,042,628	116,060,535
June	92,106,928	124,665,129
July	86,435,495	112,290,196
Totals	$608,886,648	$830,287,488
Increase in 1909 seven months		$221,400,840

Exports Steadily Increasing.

Bureau of Statistics figures of our exports show a steady increase as compared with the same months of last year.

Here is the record:

Month.	1908.	1909.
May	$113,610,378	$123,322,778
June	115,369,280	117,419,589
July	102,199,576	109,452,334
Totals	$332,179,234	$350,194,701
Increase in 1909 three months		$18,015,467

These figures indicate the beginning of a return to normal conditions in our exports.